

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Town is moving forward on broadband

Shutesbury Broadband Committee

This summer has been a busy time for the Broadband Committee and we're pleased to report lots of progress.

In June we hosted Lt. Governor Karyn Polito at our Town Hall, along with the leadership of four other neighboring towns. Lt. Governor Polito emphasized that municipal projects to bring broadband to residents have the full support of the state leadership under Governor Charlie Baker, and praised the towns for their dedication to get residents connected.

After the visit from the Lt. Governor, Shutesbury received \$360,000 from the state, representing the first payment of our state broadband grant.

In anticipation of the grant funds, the Broadband Committee had already been working throughout the spring preparing for the first milestone. In July we executed license agreements with National Grid, Ever-source, and Verizon, and submitted pole applications for all 1,508 utility poles in Shutesbury. This represents the first step in the "make-ready" process.

This fall the three utility companies will be evaluating the condition of each of their poles and begin the necessary work on the poles to repair, replace and/or move existing equipment to make room for our fiber optic cable. Unfortunately the timing of this aspect of the project is out of our control since it is performed by the utility companies or their contractors. Shutesbury was one of the first towns to submit their applications, so

we hope this will expedite our process.

While the make-ready work is happening, we'll be working with Westfield Gas & Electric on our design and engineering plan and construction bidding so that actual network construction can begin as soon as the make-ready work is complete. At this point we hope to see construction commence sometime in 2018.

Many people have asked which areas of town will be built first, but we are unable to answer this until after the design and engineering plan is complete. However, we will be working with the engineers on a build sequence that will allow us to "light up" areas as they are completed so residents don't have to wait for completion of the entire project before anyone gets service.

In early 2018 we'll be contacting every household with home installation information. In the meantime, the best resource for project updates and status is our website: <http://www.shutesbury.org/broadband>

Celebrate Shutesbury 2017 - All welcome!

On Saturday, September 16 we will celebrate our community by joining on the Town Common from 10am-2pm for fun, games, food and music!

BBQ by the Shutesbury Athletic Club, bounce house and face painting by the Shutesbury PTO, artists' wares sold by the Shutesbury Artists Collective, book sale by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, radar gun ball toss and K9 unit exhibition by the Shutesbury Police Department, emergency vehicles from the Shutesbury Fire Department, tours of Old Town Hall with the Historical Com-

mission, live music and entertainment and more!!

If you have an idea for an activity or booth or would like to distribute information about your group or committee, please contact **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at carlsonbelanger@gmail.com. Hope to see you there.

Sacred Stone Prayer Sites in Shutesbury and the Native Nations

An Educational Forum Saturday, September 23, 3pm - 5pm, Shutesbury Elementary School

The Select Board is sponsoring this presentation. The speakers will be Mr. Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Nation and **Rolf Cachat-Schilling**, Mohawk-Nipmuc local researcher. The culture and religion of the Nipmuc and our neighbors will be explained as it is reflected in sacred stone groupings on our landscape.

Native American Preservation Working Group/Charge and Composition

The Shutesbury Select Board has developed a committee charge for the Native American Preservation Working Group. The purpose of the Working Group is:

- to collect and evaluate information regarding Native American sacred sites and other Native American sites of significance on town-owned land, and
See Working Group, page 3

Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher

townclerk@shutesbury.org

413-259-1204

on the web @ www.shutesbury.org

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30 – 6pm

Tues. - Fri. 8:30 – 10:30am

Thurs. evenings 6:00 – 8:00pm

And other times by appointment

Greetings Shutesbury residents! As Town Clerk I'd like you to know the list of services I provide. I can get you forms for the census, voter registration, dog licensing, hand out trash bags, make up certificates for birth, marriage, death and DBA and show you around Town Hall. I am a Notary Public.

Our town website, www.shutesbury.org, is a good place to find information. For those who prefer humans or don't have Internet, call or drop by. I'm happy to help you get answers to your questions.

Shutesbury is a full-time town with mostly part-time workers. Volunteers make up the 36 or more Shutesbury committees that meet to listen, discuss and address the needs of the town. Nine of the Boards or Committees are filled by elected members, but much of town business is done by interested volunteers. Consider participating in your town government! You can find meeting agendas and minutes on the town website or in Town Hall so you can be apprised (and participate) in town affairs.

I am working on an explanation of how to file a Citizen Petition, a multi-step process that is most effective if it is started in the early winter. Please contact me for assistance if you are considering a Citizen petition for next year's Annual Town Meeting.

The next elections – the State primaries and Shutesbury Town Elections come in the early and late spring of 2018. I will put information about running for office, absentee voting and voter registration on the town website and in the Winter edition of *Our Town*. That's it for now; enjoy the gorgeous fall foliage in scenic Shutesbury!

Web Communication Committee

In June, the Web Communication Committee launched the updated

town website, www.shutesbury.org. The former version was no longer supported or secure. This gave us the opportunity to incorporate some features that make it easier to use for committees and citizens.

In a rural community with few central spaces and no newspaper, it can be hard to find out what activities, resources, and information are available. Although not every household has Internet (yet!), people at the workplace, libraries and on mobile devices can go to www.shutesbury.org to find the town calendar and agendas, minutes of past meetings and learn about the committees' mission, goals, services, forms, procedures and more.

We invite you to explore the town website and offer questions and comments. We are volunteers and this is a work in progress. We can use positive suggestions to improve the usability of the site. We are also VERY INTERESTED in a few new members for our committee for these efforts. We seek a diversity of perspectives and skills. Please contact the chair, **Jamie Malcolm Brown**, at 413-362-9996 or email web@shutesbury.org

Volunteer organizers needed for Community Clean-Up

Next spring the town could benefit from the 4th Community Clean-up Day. All that is needed is two community-minded people

take it on. A nicer-looking town and working together with neighbors have been the two main goals so far. You could use the previous general structure or you can work with the Recycling Committee to try some new ideas. For more information contact **Susie Mosher**, Town Clerk townclerk@shutesbury.org 413-259-1204. You can make a difference.



Our amazing, record-breaking volunteers!

Linda Avis Scott, *Administrative Secretary*

For those of you who are new to Shutesbury and those of you who may not know, behind the scenes for each issue of *Our Town* that arrives in your mailbox, **Janis Gray** edits and

lays out the content and other volunteers assemble the inserts, fold, and seal each newsletter.

In late April, there were two back-to-back town-wide mailings that needed to be collated, folded, and sealed. This was a massive job and was accomplished in record time because of the many volunteers who came out! Some people helped until the work was finished on both days.

Many, many thanks to the following people who helped compile the Spring 2017 issue of *Our Town* newsletter: **Sally and Andy Fairfield, Susie and Dave Mosher, Pat and Mike Vinskey, Susan Gomberg, Susan Millinger, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, David Dann, and Henasusha Schiffman.**

Many, many thanks, as well, to the volunteers who compiled the 2017 Town Meeting mailing: **Dave and Susie Mosher, Andy and Sally Fairfield, Mike and Pat Vinskey, Joan Hanson, JoAnn Bernhard, Elaine Puleo, Susan Rice, Susan Millinger, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil and Becky Torres.**

I also wish to thank the folks who wanted to volunteer, but, however, were unable to do so because we finished so fast! And, my regrets for anyone whose name I may have missed.

The volunteerism in our community is truly amazing. The arrival of your newsletter is dependent upon all of the folks who come together to get it ready for mailing.

If you would like to join in the fun of assembling our newsletter, please let me know by calling 259-6550 or emailing adminsecretary@shutesbury.org and I will add you to my list. When a new issue goes to print, I will call or email you with the date/time the folding will begin. Any amount of time is welcome.

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*
Linda Avis Scott, *Town Hall Liaison*



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Greetings from the Select Board

As we begin our new fiscal year (FY18) and the seasons change, we have been undertaking changes too. This July, we said goodbye to our 2016-2017 Chair, **Mike Vinskey**. Mike brought a passion for understanding details, fiscal responsibility, and the desire for greater transparency. We want to thank Mike for his three years of service to the town. We also wish to welcome Shutesbury newcomer **Tim Logan**. Tim brings enthusiasm and a thoughtful, questioning approach. Please join us in welcoming him.

The Select Board is extremely appreciative that our town “runs” on volunteers. If not for the generosity, passion and expertise of residents who volunteer their time, the Town of Shutesbury would not operate. We want to take this moment to appreciate the almost 200 people who participate in committees, help with projects, and much more. “Thank you!”

We invite everyone in town to consider how they can contribute – there are many ways to participate and also many ways to inquire. Look on the “help wanted” page of the website, call a committee chair, ask our Town Administrator, or ask a friend.

This year the Select Board has identified three areas of priority: Accountability; Community Engagement; and “Win-Win” Projects.

In terms of **accountability**, we will continue to strengthen our personnel procedures in collaboration with the Personnel Committee and we will work towards having more frequent financial audits for the town.

In regards to **community engagement**, we will be exploring ways to listen better and to make more documents (i.e. meeting minutes, agendas, and financial documents) available on our updated town website. We are also hoping to find ways to make Town Hall more physically inviting and healthy.

Our interest in identifying “**win-win**” projects is an effort to move the town forward in small, incremental ways while enhancing the sense of community. The idea is to find small ways that can put the town in a stronger position and also bring us closer together by having tangible successes. An example is renewing exploration of cell service in town –

which would meet the day-to-day needs of residents, potentially generate some income for the town, and make houses more marketable; the multiple benefits are the “win-win” we are trying for. If you have similar ideas, let us know at select-board@shutesbury.org.

Key issues coming up this year include making real progress towards the installation of broadband. After too many years of roadblocks and unnecessary delays, it seems like we are now well positioned for an early 2019 “go live” date. The Select Board will do all that it can to support the Broadband Committee and Municipal Lighting Plant Board. Read more about it on page 1 of this newsletter.

The Select Board also continues to work with the towns of Leverett, Pelham and Amherst to develop a revised formula for determining our regional school annual assessment (our bill for educating our secondary students).

This has been a multi-year project, but this summer the four-town group began working with a consultant to find a mutually agreeable approach that will include Shutesbury’s main concern of a town’s ability to pay. The four towns are looking for a formula that uses objective and timely data, allows for predictability, is fair, and most important, allows all four towns to support the regional school system at a manageable level so we can maintain the high quality we need and expect. We hope to have an agreement in place prior to developing the upcoming FY19 budget.

In terms of finances, our town is in solid financial health. Our current operating budget for the town is \$6,247,051. We also have \$941,771 in Free Cash (our town’s checking account of sorts) and \$260,222 in Stabilization (savings account) and \$722,083 in Capital Stabilization (savings account for capital projects). These numbers may seem high, the availability of adequate funds will enable the town to pay for large projects on the horizon – possible unexpected broadband costs, roof replacement for the elementary school, retiree commitments (OPEB), and capital projects identified by town committees. The Select Board will continue to work closely with the Finance Committee during this coming year as they develop our next annual

budget and manage our finances.

As always, we invite you to attend Select Board meetings. During the past year, the Select Board was joined in our meetings by Positive Presence – residents who took turns to observe, contribute and appreciate our meetings. This year, we hope more of you will join us. Meetings are usually every other Tuesday starting at 6:30pm in Town Hall. Agendas list the time topics will hopefully be addressed and are available on the town calendar on the website (www.shutesbury.org). Every Select Board meeting starts with public comment so if you want us to know something, feel free to stop by. If you can’t make a meeting, send us a letter or email at www.shutesbury.org. While legally we cannot respond in substance to your email (we are not allowed to deliberate outside of meetings), we welcome your comments.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our town.

Sincerely,

Your Select Board: Michael DeChiara, Chair; Melissa Makepeace-O’Neil, Vice Chair; Tim Logan

Working Group, cont. from page 1

- land where access is voluntarily granted in writing, within the borders of Shutesbury
- to identify and evaluate various approaches to preserving Native American sites
 - to submit a written report of the Working Group’s findings to the Select Board
 - to serve as a source of education for Shutesbury residents and committees interested in Native American preservation.

The Working Group will be comprised of 7 to 9 members selected on the basis of expertise, skills, knowledge or perspectives they bring to the group. An information sheet outlining the Working Group Charge in full as well the Member Qualifications and Process is included as an insert in this newsletter.

Interested parties should write a letter of interest to the Select Board to be submitted by October 2, 2017. The Select Board will review the letters and appoint members to the Working Group at their Select Board meeting on October 3, 2017.

FY18 REVALUATION

The state of Massachusetts requires towns and cities to value property at full and fair market value. Toward that end, the state requires towns to change its values accordingly as the market changes, in what is known as a revaluation. A revaluation is typically done once every three years where the Assessors update values under the supervision of the Department of Revenue. Since Shutesbury's last revaluation was in FY15, the town is again revaluing property for FY18, the current tax year which began on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2018.

The Board of Assessors, with the assistance of their consultant Roy Bishop, have been reviewing real estate sales for both 2015 and 2016, and have found there has been a small change in values since the last revaluation which warrants a slight increase to valuations. Inspections have been ongoing over the past two years in an effort to maintain accurate property records. Properties which have been improved will have additional value added according to the improvement.

Following preliminary approval of FY18 proposed values by the Department of Revenue, the results in the form of a listing of values for FY17 and FY18 for all properties will be made available to the public (on the town website, www.shutesbury.org, and in the town hall, library, and post office). You can expect to see an announcement on the Shutesbury website and on NextDoor Shutesbury sometime in September concerning the preliminary value approval. Out-of-town owners will be notified of changes via a mailing from the Assessors. A mandatory, usually 10-day, disclosure period follows the preliminary approval and out-of-town mailing to allow any preliminary errors to surface and to be corrected.

Following the disclosure period, the Department of Revenue will issue final approval of values for FY18 and the Assessors, Select Board, and other town officials, will move forward to set a tax rate for FY18 so that tax bills can be mailed prior to January 1. Final values will also be posted on the official town website. There will be a period of one month (the month of January) in which property owners can request an abatement should they feel that their

property is overvalued.

Any questions or concerns about the revaluation should be addressed to the Board of Assessors at assessor@shutesbury.org or call the office directly at 413-259-3790.

CHAPTER 61 REMINDER

It is nearing the October 1 deadline for providing the Assessors your Chapter 61 (every 10 years), 61A, and 61B (annual) applications and supporting documents. You know what we are referring to if you have any land classified as forestry, agricultural, or recreational. Applications are also available on the Shutesbury website (www.shutesbury.org).

Assessors Office Q & A on Shutesbury's Tax Rate

Curious about the Shutesbury tax rate and the role of the Assessors Office? Your Assessors Office sometimes hears concerns about the affordability of taxes, and the town's tax rate. Here are some questions and answers about the tax rate.

1- Does the Assessors Office come up with the taxes we have to pay?

No. Each year, the town's proposed spending, in a spreadsheet format, is prepared by the Finance Committee and mailed to townspeople in advance of the Annual and Open Town Meeting, traditionally held the first Saturday in May. At the Town Meeting, the budget is open for discussion and amendment, and voted on.

One of the best ways to get involved is to participate prior to Town Meeting, in the work of the committees that propose spending. Perhaps you might contribute some great ideas for saving money, or you might find that you agree with spending decisions and consider your tax dollars well spent.

In a small town with an open town meeting form of government, you can potentially have more influence on some of the spending decisions than at the state or federal level.

2 - What is the town's tax levy and how is it determined?

Once Town Meeting approves the spending, the accountant determines what revenues are available from non-property sources such as state aid and local receipts, for example,

auto excise taxes, and then the remainder is what must be paid for from our property taxes. This net amount to be raised is called the tax levy.

Based on spending approved at Town Meeting, the total amount of money we needed for our town's budget in fiscal year 2017 (FY17) was \$6,583,920. The amount of revenue from state aid, local receipts and other sources was determined and covered 24% of our expenses, leaving the remaining 76% or \$4,842,816 as our tax levy, to be raised through property taxes. Based on this, the Assessors Office calculates the tax rate, so that property owners can be assessed according to the value of their property.

3 - What is the tax rate, and how is the tax rate determined?

The tax rate is an amount of money to be paid in taxes per \$1000 of value in property owned, calculated in the following manner: \$4,842,816 (tax levy) ÷ \$212,759,920 (total value of taxable property) x \$1,000 = \$22.76. This means that for every \$1,000 your property is worth, you pay \$22.76 in taxes.

4 - Why is Shutesbury's tax rate so high, and would I be financially better off living elsewhere?

Shutesbury has one of the state's highest tax rates. One reason the rate is high is that the town services and spending must be paid for by a limited number of property owners, and Shutesbury does not have numerous businesses and industry to help reduce the tax rate. For a sense of perspective, there are only about 850 homeowners in town, as well as additional owners of land and other property.

Another factor in our taxes is the value of the properties that are taxed. All other things being equal, higher home values would mean lower rates per \$1,000, and vice versa. So towns with higher home values can have lower tax rates for similar services, such as Leverett, where you may get less home for the money.

What you actually end up paying in taxes may be of more practical importance to consider. So what is the average single family tax bill for FY17 in our neck of the woods?

Amherst: \$7,305

Pelham: \$6,415

See Q&A, page 5

Q&A, continued from page 4

Leverett: \$6,397
Shutesbury: \$5,529
New Salem: \$3573
Wendell: \$3,149

Across the state in FY15, the average single family tax bill was \$5,419.

5 - What is the primary role of the Assessors?

The Assessors Office is responsible for valuing property at full and fair value, thus dividing the tax burden among property owners in proportion to the value of their property. There are many state regulations, checkpoints, and oversights involved in this work. Meeting dates and times are posted.

Contact: **Ken Holmberg**, Assessor, 259-3790

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the fall approaching, so, too, is the mailing of the next installment of your real estate and personal property taxes. This will occur the end of September with a due date of November 1. If you have paid both the first and second quarter amount with your first quarter payment, you will not receive a bill for November.

If you do not receive a second quarter bill, please check the middle portion of your first quarter bill as your total bill may be too small to generate a second quarter bill.

If you pay bills with a banking program, please be aware that there is a paper check generated that can take the bank over a week to mail so please plan ahead. *It is imperative that you verify the bill number identifier you are using as a memo.* Your bill numbers change every year for all types of taxes and your failure to correct the bill number causes difficulty in recording your payment.

Please plan ahead when you mail your payments as it may take as much as a week for mail to arrive as the post office sorts mail in Connecticut.

Do NOT postdate your checks! I cannot accept such checks because they cannot be processed until the date on the check. They will be returned to you upon receipt.

“Why is the name of the previous

owner still on my real estate tax bill?” is a question we are frequently asked. Under Mass. General Laws, the name of the person who owned property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2018) that date is January 1, 2017. We highlight the “in care of” designation to make certain the bill is delivered to the new owner and not forwarded to the previous owner.

If you will be receiving your mail at a different address during the winter, please notify this office when you will be leaving so I can redirect your bills and ensure that they will be delivered promptly. Please make sure I have your alternate address.

This is also the time to verify all information on your auto registration, license, and insurance documents. Your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor Vehicles during the last quarter of the calendar year that provides the database from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills on vehicles registered on January 1 are generated.

It is essential that the place of garaging and both the mailing and residential addresses are absolutely correct to insure proper and prompt delivery of your bills. If you have an Amherst mailing address, that address should appear as the “mailing address” on your registration so it appears on your excise bill. Failure to have the correct mailing address may cause the bill to be returned as undeliverable and delays delivery.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should *not* be ignored even if it is on property you no longer own. The Town does not get notified if you dispose of an automobile, turn in your license plates, or dispose of personal property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address and place of garaging. Any registration that lists Shutesbury as a place of garaging will result in an excise tax bill being sent from Shutesbury.

Remember, your unpaid excise bills from any municipality *will* follow you through the data base at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and its compact with other states. Unpaid bills can result in

your inability to register a vehicle or renew your driver’s license and registration.

Have a good autumn.

Council on Aging updates

Free dinner and a presentation

The Council on Aging is planning a free dinner for the community at the Shutesbury Athletic Club on Friday, September 15. Dinner will be at 6pm. The menu will be pasta, sauces, salad, bread and dessert.

At 6pm there will be a presentation on Hospice by Terry Gaberson, executive director of Hospice of Franklin County. Hospice can bring comfort to families and patients, particularly when they are asked to help early in a person’s final illness.

Terry will tell us what services hospice offers and how best the nurses and caregivers can help. This service is open to all ages. Come and learn what Terry has to say. All members of the community are invited to the presentation, especially families.

Med Ride’s radius has grown!

The Med Ride service area has now been extended to the Athol/Orange area. If you are over 55 and need transportation to a medical appointment call the COA at 413-259-3796 to schedule a ride. Two weeks’ notice is appreciated.

Village Neighbors

Village Neighbors, the COA task force that has been working for a year to find ways for people in Shutesbury and the surrounding towns stay in their homes as they age, is in the process of getting formally organized as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation with by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Subcommittees are working on a brochure, a volunteer services handbook, membership parameters and governing structure.

The task force meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 -1:30pm in the Senior Lounge in Town Hall. It is an open meeting and if you would like to contribute or learn more about Village Neighbors, you are welcome to attend.



From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day Saturday, October 7!

Saturday, October 7 is Bulky Waste Day (BWD) at the Highway Department from 10:00am to 2:00pm for Shutesbury residents. Bring items that are too large for the trash, such as construction waste, mattresses, electronics, etc., etc. We must charge enough to cover the cost of disposing of these items, so bring some cash or your check book too. **DO NOT** bring hazardous waste or fluorescent bulbs to Bulky Waste Day.

We Need Bulky Waste Day Volunteers!

Please give the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee a hand that day if you can. We could use some strong volunteers to help things run smoothly at BWD. We have had several wonderful volunteers in the past, and their help made a huge difference. Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer, contact **Gary Bernhard** at 413-259-1235 or bernhard@uww.umass.edu or **Meryl Mandell** at 413-259-1282 or merylm@crocker.com.

Please Note!

- ◇ TVs — CRTs and flatscreens — 32 inches or less will be \$20.00. TVs larger than 32 inches will be \$40.00. Computer monitors — CRTs and flatscreens — will be \$10.00. All other electronics are free.
- ◇ All clean, white Styrofoam will be collected at no cost.
- ◇ Tires. Our new trash disposal contractor, United Material Management of Holyoke, charges \$10.00 per rimless tire and \$15.00 for tires on rims. Fortunately for Shutesbury residents, **Tom Clark** of Clark Auto Wrecking in Shutesbury will take tires brought to the Highway Garage on Bulky Waste Day for \$5.00 each, with or without rims! Thanks, Tom!
- ◇ Bulky rigid plastics (see below) will be collected separately and recycled at the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield. We will be charging between \$2 and \$5, depending upon the amount, to help cover the cost of hauling.

Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- Buckets *with* metal handles
- Milk/soda crates
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Landscape & microwave trays
- Totes — any size (*with metal*)
- Toys & Playhouses
- Pet carriers
- Coolers
- Shelving
- Closet organizers
- Dish drainers
- Flower pots (no soil)
- Traffic signs
- Recycling bins
- Garbage cans (any size)

- PVC & PET blister pack
- 5 gallon water bottles
- Plastic Auto Parts
 - Side-view mirrors
 - Headlights and taillights
 - Bumpers
 - Grills
 - Hubcaps

Not Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- PVC pipe/tubing
- Vinyl siding
- Plastic film (grocery bags, etc.)
- Flexible water hoses
- Flexible flower pots
- Other recyclable plastics
- Oil/gas/chemical containers

Free by the Side of the Road

The week before each Bulky Waste Day is “Free-By-the-Side-of-the-Road Week.” If you have items that you no longer need but might be useful to others, place them on the roadside during the week beginning Saturday, September 30. **NOTE: Items placed on the roadside that are NOT picked up before Bulky Waste Day must be removed at the end of the week. Put them in trash bags or bring them to Bulky Waste Day. Shutesbury has a “Littering and Dumping Bylaw” that addresses items left by the side of the road longer than two weeks. The text of the bylaw is on the Town website, here: <http://www.shutesbury.org/bylaws>**

Shutesbury residents can now use Leverett Transfer Station

Over the years, the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) has received many inquiries about disposal of bulky waste before or after Shutesbury's two Bulky Waste Days in June and October. We've received calls and emails from people who are moving; people who have bought new furniture and have to dispose of the old stuff; and people whose air conditioners, TV's, or dehumidifiers need replacement.

In the past, the best we could do was refer Shutesbury residents to professional haulers, who generally charge a lot to remove bulky items. Now, Shutesbury residents displaying a valid Leverett Transfer Station (LTS) sticker will be able to use the LTS to dispose of bulky waste any time during the year. In addition, Shutesbury residents will be able to take advantage of the “Take It or Leave It” feature of the LTS. You can bring good stuff that you no longer need, browse through books, toys, clothing, furniture, etc., and take what you want at no cost. There is a charge for bulky waste disposal; cash or checks are accepted. The LTS is located at 15 Cemetery Rd. in Leverett (off Still Corner/January Hills Road). If this new program continues to be successful for the town, we may be able to reduce or even eliminate future Bulky Waste Days.

Here's how it works:

The valid period for each sticker runs from July 1 through the following year's June 30 (the fiscal year). Shutesbury residents can purchase an LTS sticker for \$20.00. This sticker gives you access to bulky waste disposal and Take It or Leave It at the LTS. Disposal costs for various bulky items are listed at http://leverett.ma.us/files/Transfer_station_prices_no_scale.pdf

- Purchase LTS stickers at Shutesbury Town Hall during regular business hours from Town Clerk **Susie Mosher**, Administrative Secretary **Linda Avis Scott**, or Town Administrator **Becky Torres**. **Note: Shutesbury residents can NOT purchase stickers at the LTS.**

See LTS, page 7

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- Mount the LTS sticker on the front windshield of your car behind the rearview mirror.
- Hours of LTS operation: Saturday and Sunday 9:30 – 1:00. Beginning in January, Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 until daylight savings time in March, then 4:00 – 7:00. Hours may change, so confirm on the LTS website: <http://leverett.ma.us/p/53/Transfer-Station> before heading there.
- **Shutesbury residents may NOT dispose of trash or recycling at the LTS.** We have curbside pickup of trash and recycling; Leverett residents pay for each bag of trash disposed of at LTS.
- **No hazardous waste** accepted.
- Bring good, usable stuff for Take It or Leave It. No junk, please. The LTS can use additional volunteers, especially at Take It or Leave It. If you want first dibs on items that come in, you might consider volunteering (check with staff at LTS or the Shutesbury Recycling Coordinator if interested).

The Shutesbury RSWC: Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Karen Czerwonka, Ron Essig, Gail Fleischacker, Orson Jones, Liz Lacy, Meryl Mandell (Chair), Sue Quigley, Steve Rice, Peg Ross

Shutesbury Conservation Commission vacancies

Interested in volunteering? Do you love the unique natural beauty of Shutesbury? Would you like to help the town protect and nurture it?

We currently have two vacancies on the Conservation Commission (ConCom) and are actively seeking interested community members to fill them. We are a group of volunteers responsible for protecting the town's natural resources.

Through one to two monthly Thursday evening meetings and site visits all over town, the ConCom administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the town's Wetlands Bylaw, and manages town conservation land.

If you think this type of work might be for you, contact the Conservation Clerk, **Linda Avis Scott**, at 413-259-3792 or concom@shutesbury.org, and arrange to attend a meeting to see firsthand what the ConCom work is all about.

Household hazardous waste collection will take place on Sunday, September 24 at the Amherst Transfer Station on Rt. 9 from 9:00 to 12:00. Here's the chance to get rid of all the old pesticides, herbicides, oil-based paint, etc., etc. **Note: No latex or acrylic house paint will be accepted.**

Pre-registration is required and you can register online here: <http://www.amherstma.gov/FormCenter/Solid-Waste-and-Recycling-13/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Preregistratio-107> until September 13. Paper registration forms are available from Gary Bernhard, Shutesbury Recycling Coordinator (413-259-1235), for those without Internet access.

Shutesbury residents are responsible for covering the cost of hazardous waste disposal. Costs are \$20 for up to 3 gallons or pounds, \$30 for up to ten gallons or pounds, and \$50 for amounts over 10 but less than 25 gallons or pounds. Cash or checks (payable to Town of Amherst) will be accepted.

WHAT TO BRING

Substances labeled "caustic," "toxic," "corrosive," "poison," "flammable," "warning," "danger," "caution," such as:

antifreeze	gasoline	radiator flusher
arts & crafts supplies	gas treatments	refrigerants
asphalt sealer	herbicides	rodent killers
automobile batteries		roofing tar
batteries: button & re-chargeable	insect sprays	root killers
brake fluid	kerosene	rust proofers
carburetor cleaner	lighter fluid	sealants
chemistry kits	mercury thermometers	solvents
creosote	mercury thermostats	spot remover
degreasers	metal polish	toilet cleaners
drain cleaners	mothballs	transmission fluid
enamel paint	muriatic acid	upholstery cleaner
engine degreaser	no-pest strips	used motor oil
flea powder	oil-based or lead paint	varnish
fluorescent lights	oven cleaners	wood preservatives
fungicides	pesticides	wood stains
furniture polish	photo chemicals	wood stripper
	pool chemicals	

Do NOT Bring

asbestos
empty containers from hazardous products
explosives (including ammunition & fireworks)
gas cylinders
latex paint
medical/infectious waste
radioactive material

Nextdoor Shutesbury

Join "Nextdoor Shutesbury," the non-municipal website and email communication system for Shutesbury residents.

This is our virtual town bulletin board, where people exchange info, share recommendations, post lost pets or safety warnings, and give away or sell their used belongings.

Just Google "shutesburyma nextdoor" and choose sign in / sign up to start receiving and sharing info with more than 750 Shutesbury residents, and optionally, to reach out to an additional 635 neighbors in adjoining neighborhoods in Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Wendell.

If you have problems signing up, email **Paul Vlach**, a Nextdoor "Lead" at vlach@admin.umass.edu for help.

Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library note fundraising milestone

Kate Cell, *Chair, Library Trustees*

In June, the Friends, supporters, and Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library celebrated a significant milestone: We have now raised \$305,000 towards a new library for Shutesbury.

Approximately half of this money has been raised privately, and the rest through the continued generous annual support of Town Meeting. When Shutesbury is ready to begin the exciting and challenging work of imagining and planning a library the town can support and afford, this sum, and the funds we'll continue to raise, will form a big down payment that will lessen the increase in property tax.

To me, as important as the amount is the manner of the fundraising, which has been woven into the fabric of our town. The Friends serve a turkey dinner at the Shutesbury Athletic Club every fall, and it's one of the best-attended of the Friday Night Dinners.

Voting in November or at Town Meeting is made a little sweeter by the bake sale. It's fun to watch the regular updates during Valley Gives; this year three anonymous donors made a match pledge of \$4,000 which we not only met, but surpassed.

What could be better than the ice cream social and pop-up playground that kicks off our summer every year?

And I was touched beyond measure when the Spring Spruce Up crew were so kind as to donate their services to two families who had suffered the loss of loved ones during the past year, and the families in turn donated far more than we usually request for Spruce Ups to the new library.

There were some bitter words and hard feelings the last time we tried to build a new library. Recently someone asked me how we could consider building a new library when we haven't yet tried to rebuild our community. My answer is that we are doing both, simultaneously, every year. These fundraisers, and many others, are opportunities to bring us together.

Even if you don't support a new library, I hope that you join us at some of these annual events. You'll see your neighbors raking and pruning, or serving you a scoop of ice cream in the summer or turkey with all the fixings in the fall. You'll hear the "ding" of our

charming voting box and get a cookie. You'll see how hard we are working to reduce the tax burden, which was one big reason people couldn't support the

last proposal. And you'll find some of that sense of community which is one of the joys of living in Shutesbury.

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road
413-259-1213; www.mnspear.org
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

Open Every Day

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is open every day. Our hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00am - 1:00pm and 3:00 - 6:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday: 3:00 - 7:30pm
Friday: 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday: 3:00 - 6:00pm

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Readorama on Thursday, August 21! There were nearly 100 of us. I was thrilled that so many people were excited about participating in our Reading Flash Mob (photos below and on page 9).

It was a perfect evening with beautiful weather, a friendly gathering of readers and delicious desserts.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped make our Readorama a success! **Pam Ososky** made the delicious gluten-free cookies. **Becca Wheeler, Jen Taylor, Christine Robinson, Ashley Pyecroft, Susie**

and **Dave Mosher, Brad Foster** and teen volunteers **Tabor, Eduardo, Susannah** and **Rachel** all helped with set up, serving, clean up, and prize distribution.

Are you new to Shutesbury? Here is some basic info about our public library.

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is a member of C/W MARS, a consortium of about 145 libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts. There are about 12,000 items including books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines at the Spear, but your Shutesbury library card grants access to nearly nine million items via the online network.

Books and so much more!

The Library's collection includes most of the regular things one might expect at a library. In addition to these typical items, we have a handful of museum passes, including a pass to Mass MOCA and the Clark Museum, and we have three Mass Parks passes. We have Chemistry Kits for elementary-aged children and the library loans kayaks.

The Library also offers a rich variety of programming, from ongoing programs like the weekly Tales and Tunes storytime every Monday morn-

See Library, page 9





Library, cont. from page 8

ing, to gentle yoga on Wednesdays, to a monthly ukulele strum-along. We offer a family movie night monthly from October through May. Two book clubs are supported by the Library – Roadtown Reads and a Science Fiction (and sometimes fantasy) book club.

Programs are listed on our website, our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary/, and Nextdoor Shutesbury.

Do you need a library card?

To obtain a library card, please visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspemoriallibrary/>, click on the Library Card Application tab, print an application, complete it, bring it to the library with a photo ID and proof of address. From Monday to Friday, it takes 24 hours to process a library card application. Applications delivered on the weekends will be processed on Monday. Applications are also available at the Library.

Once you have a library card you can manage your account online. Shutesbury library patrons can log into their online library account to view items checked out, renew items, place holds, and even pay late fees.

How to log into your CW MARS account.

- Go to our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspemoriallibrary/>
- Click on the Card Catalog tab
- Click on Log into my account (top left of screen)
- Enter library card number or user name
- Enter password
- Click Log in

If you don't know or you forgot your password, you may click Forgot your password? Then enter your library card number and click Submit. You will receive an email with instructions

for resetting your password. If you prefer, you may call the library, 259-1213 and we will set a new password for you.

Return it in Shutesbury!

The Massachusetts Library System operates a statewide delivery system for the transportation of library materials across the Commonwealth. Holds, items requested through the C/W MARs online catalog or the Commonwealth Catalog arrive at the Spear via this service.

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

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 outgoing delivery bins and they are 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.

Friends of the Library book sale!

The Friends will be having their annual book sale during Celebrate Shutesbury on Saturday, September 16. We are already collecting books.

The most helpful way to donate books is to bring them on the morning (by 10am) of the sale. If you have books to donate but cannot wait until September 16, call the library, 259-1213 and we will make other arrangements. Thank you!





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

Return Service Requested

PRSR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #305
AMHERST MA 01002

Celebrate Shutesbury
September 16!

Resident
Shutesbury MA 01072

HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to 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
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Linda Avis Scott 259-6550	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts 259-1211	Dispatch 413-625-8200
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE George Arvanitis, Co-Chair 259-1348	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 259-1235
ANIMAL INSPECTORS Nancy Long 259-1279	Eric Stocker, Co-Chair 259-1250	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 259-1626
ASSESSORS Kenneth Holmberg 259-3790	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Fred Steinberg 259-9996
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Clerk 259-2122	or at home 259-1286	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Haggerty 413-423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Bob Groves 259-1200	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas 549-3710	SELECT BOARD Michael DeChiara, Chair 259-1059
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 259-1215	Timothy Logan
CEMETERY COMMISSION Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-1214	Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 256-0312
COUNCIL ON AGING Med-Ride Program 259-3796	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress 259-1905
Marilyn Tibbetts, Chair 259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell 259-9129	Asha Strazzero-Wild 413-478-8368
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-3792	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 259-1214	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 259-1615
CULTURAL COUNCIL Julie Stepanek, contact 387-5670	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 259-1584	TOWN CLERK Susie Mosher 259-1204
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik 772-1571	PERSONNEL BOARD April Stein 259-1074	TOWN MODERATOR Penelope Kim 259-1326
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 259-1279	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 259-1276	TREASURER Gabriele Voelker 259-1801
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 253-7505	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 367-0017	TREE WARDEN Leave inquiries at 259-1215
	POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911	WEB COMMITTEE Jamie Malcolm-Brown 413-362-9996
		ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare 549-5330