

**TA Report 11.26.10**

**Highway Dept. looking for experienced part-time snow plowing help.** If you have experience and are interested please call Tim Hunting, Highway Superintendent at 259-1215.

**TOWN HALL ATTIC** Insulation preparation has begun in town hall. As many simple projects this is turning out to be a bigger job than expected. This 60-year old building has gone through generations of upgrades. Three types of insulation cover the attic cross beams. A new leak, dripped during a recent rain/wind storm. Ceiling tiles gave way at the slightest touch when traversed in an effort to secure air leaks in the attic. It was discovered that the front section of the building is balloon wall construction with no insulation. In this icebox, the entry-way, Town Clerk's office, and copy room the walls are completely devoid of insulation. Not a surprise to anyone who have spent any time there. This old building has also needed a new paint job for along time. The Building Committee hopes this multi-phase facelift will be done by spring.

**EMIL DIHLMAN HONORED AS OLDEST SHUTESBURY RESIDENT** Long time resident, who also was born and grew up in Shutesbury, served in the military, worked at University of Massachusetts, raised a family and returned to Shutesbury is now at 93 years old, our oldest resident. A large group of family and friends gathered at the Tuesday Senior luncheon to honor him. Historical documents and photos covered the table detailing his family's long history and contributions to Shutesbury. Emil was surrounded by family members included Bob Dihlmann, who served our community as one of the best teachers Shutesbury ever had. They told stories of days long fishing trips, sledding, skating, hiking and a chicken manure explosion! A Historical Commission member, asked for an explanation of why the school records indicated that on one day young Emil was marked tardy from school? Emil remembered well that it was a day that he had fallen on the way to school and choked. During World War II, he, along with his four brothers all served in the military. He was an Air Force pilot. Below is a photo of Emil on leave in front of the Old Shutesbury Town Hall. We are so fortunate to have such community members in our midst. There is much we can appreciate and learn from each other.



**ASSESSORS RECLASSIFICATION HEARING and TAX RECP** Administrative Assessor, Ken Holmberg, came before the Selectboard on November 9 for a Reclassification Hearing. Each year the Selectboard reviews the town property classifications and determines if the town will

retain the single residential tax rate for that year or if it should select to change the to more than one tax rate. A few years ago the Assessors proposed adopting a second higher Commercial tax rate for Commercial property. Chapter 61 lands would also have been included in the higher rate. The Selectboard also has to option of taxing second homes at a higher rate than primary residences. Again this year as many, many years in the past, the Selectboard elected to continue the single flat tax rate for all classifications of property.

Excess levy capacity for 2010 is \$54,953.70. That means the tax rate could have been higher but is not. The tax recap sheet was submitted to Dept. of Revenue this week and our new tax rate will be certified in the upcoming days. It is anticipated the new tax rate will be \$19.22 per thousand dollars of property value. That is an increase from the current rate of \$18.76 per thousand dollars of property value.

**FLU CLINIC** at the Elementary School, Saturday November 13 was a solid success. Again it was extremely well organized by the Board of Health. There were 5 nurses operating four stations and a doctor on hand. Shots and flu mist were both available. The clinic was free to all who came. The doors opened at 10:00am and by 1pm, 113 people, children and adults were vaccinated. Thanks to Board of Health members, Bill Elliott, Ken Rotundi, Arlene Reed, and Catherine Hilton for organizing and being on hand. Fire Chief Tibbetts put together signage, wooden and cloth screens and volunteered hours in set up and breakdown of site.

**DAFODILS IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL** I want to thank the work party that spent part of a November Sunday afternoon digging and planting in front of town hall. As our 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration begins you will be greeted by 250 blooming daffodils when you come by the town hall this spring! Thanks to Meryl Mandel, Chris Warren, Penny Jacques, Chris Labich, and Rita Farrell for making this happen.



**SOLAR REPORT 4625.30 kWh produced in 1667 Hrs (of SUN light), 11/12/10 at 4:11pm**

Becky Torres,  
Shutesbury Town Administrator  
[townadmin@shutesbury.org](mailto:townadmin@shutesbury.org)  
413-259-1214