

TA Report 3.29.13

SENIOR POT LUCK LUNCHEON

55 AND UP

Yes, I qualify and you may too!

All of you who do not qualify stop counting your gray hairs and enjoy your sprightly knees! But if you want to dine with some wise old town residents join us. Noon, downstairs in the main room. Please call Marilyn ahead to tell her you are coming and what you are bringing so she can set the right amount of table settings. Some of the samplings to date are Bob's mashed potatoes, David's fresh green salad, Linda's carrot and beet dish, Marilyn's banana cream pie, Anna's butter cookies, Steve's chocolate cake, Becky's enchiladas, Joanna's chicken parmigiana, Muriel's Boston beans, Susan's macaroni and cheese, Gabe's carrot cake, Ellen's meatballs, apple salad and much more! Come bring your favorite dish to share.

Call Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976, by Monday, 4/1/13.

SHUTESBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE

The three members of the SRSDPC are remaining on the 12 member Regional School District Planning Committee. The 12 member board will be crafting a regional agreement for a three town preK-6 grade region. Shutesbury will not be a part of the 3 town regional agreement. But we are hopeful that provisions can be written to add Shutesbury at a later date if Shutesbury votes to do so. The RSDPB is also requesting the financial consultant craft assessment proposals for a 3 town and a 4 town region that reasonably distributes the savings of regionalizing. Elaine Puleo has stepped down as Vice Chair of the Board. We, board members from Shutesbury, Becky Torres, Elaine Puleo and Michael DeChiara will continue to attend meetings and give input. Our level of participation at meetings is under discussion and at this point undecided.

The grant funding to support the development of a regional agreement is good only through June 30, 2013. It is a tight timeline and a large amount of work needs to be done quickly.

The Shutesbury Regional School District Planning Committee is planning 3 workshops for Shutesbury residents. The topics will be Education, Finance, and Governance and will take place on May 7, 21 and 28. The SRSDPC will give a report at annual town meeting, May 4, at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

TOWN MEETING IS MAY 4, 2013, SATURDAY at 9:00am at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

Put it on your calendar. New England representative government at its best! Come learn about your town, participate and find a place to volunteer.

The Council on Aging's MED RIDE PROGRAM is up and running. Call 259-2123

The Med Ride Program is available to Shutesbury seniors age 55 and older who are unable to drive or have no means of transportation. Seniors needing rides will be matched with Shutesbury Council on Aging volunteer drivers. Drivers will wait for you during your appointment unless requested or arranged otherwise. Riders must be totally ambulatory;

no walkers or wheelchairs can be accommodated. If a person needs assistance or is hesitant about going alone, they may be accompanied by a friend, relative, aide or person of their choice. Council on Aging members David Dann and Linda Scott are administering the program. Call 259-2123 for information or with questions.

Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator, townadmin@shutesbury.org 259-1214

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Greenfield Senior Center and Hospice of Franklin County are collaborating to offer a bereavement support group for seniors who have lost a spouse or partner. The group will be offered at the Senior Center (Weldon Building, 54 High Street) on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to noon for 8 weeks from April 30, to June 18, 2013.

The group is open to anyone 55+ who has experienced the death of a spouse or partner. It is recommended that the death be at least 3 months prior to the start of the group. Membership is limited to 8 people. A phone interview is required to register for the group. To register, please call 774-2400 and speak with either Judy Allen or Winnie Ganshaw, HoFC Bereavement Coordinator by registration deadline 4/19/2013.

I will be retiring the middle of April from my position at Hospice of Franklin County - Winnie Ganshaw, who has been a chaplain with us for several years and has served in a bereavement capacity in other hospices, will be taking the position. Look for updates from her on our bereavement groups. If you have questions before 4/11, please direct them to me. If after that to Winnie Ganshaw.