

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Fire station gasoline leak cleanup update

Becky Torres, *Town Administrator*

In January the Selectboard met with the LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) recovery folks from Boston, who reasonably want their money back.

The LUST program funded our major contaminated soil removal project this summer at the fire station, at a cost \$200,000. Our problem is we don't yet know how much more work needs to be done. Due to our dilemma, the LUST fund recovery team has graciously agreed to give us a 12-month extension to figure this out.

So, we continue to evaluate our best options. We must go through a tough process of asking all questions relating to the fire station.

Do we have enough data?
Do we need more test results before we can make a decision?

Should we fund a SVE PILOT test at \$30,000? How do we know how much contaminated soil is under the fire station?

Does it make any sense to remove the fire station to remove the source material?

How would we be able to afford to do such a thing? The legislators indicate there is not currently any money

Fire station, continued on page 3

Thinking outside the box for Shutesbury's kids

By the *Shutesbury Education Study Committee*

Since the 1960s, Shutesbury has periodically re-examined the structure of its educational systems for school-aged children, the result of state initiatives to consolidate and regionalize school systems.

As recently as 1993, Shutesbury engaged in town-wide discussions of issues related to school reconfiguration to a K-12 regional system, but decided to keep its existing structure

Schools, continued on page 7

Important information about the Town's emergency phone notification system

Walter Tibbetts, *Emergency Management Director*

Most Shutesbury residents are probably familiar with the Town of Shutesbury's emergency phone notification system called Connect-CTY, but there may be some that are not or who have questions about the system.

This article is meant to inform those not familiar with the system and to try to answer some of the questions that have arisen from its use.

What is the system used for?

The Connect-CTY emergency phone notification system is a system that the town can use to send a pre-recorded message to every household and business in town in case of an emergency.

Examples of the types of emergencies could be: Severe Weather Conditions, Natural Disasters,

Hazardous Materials Incidents, Dam Safety Alerts, Public Health Emergencies, and the like.

Other examples of messages could include information about: Power Outages, Road Closures, Delayed Trash Pickup, Emergency School Closures, or Opening of Shelters.

The policy for the use of the system states that it **shall not** be used for general announcements, event reminders, non-emergency public service information or other similar announcements. The purpose of

this restriction is to keep the integrity of the system as an **emergency** notification system. We want people to **pay attention** to the messages being sent out, not to hang up on them as if they were a telemarketer.

What telephone number does it

call and how does it get that information?

The system can call up to three (3) telephone numbers for each resident. These may include your home phone as well as your cell phone. The system can also send you an e-mail at up to two (2) different addresses. It is important to realize that all this information is not magically or even automatically entered into the database.

Information is automatically imported into the system from a Verizon database for every resident that has a land-based phone, with a listed number, and an address in the Town of Shutesbury. The last name of the account holder, the listed address and the telephone number are the only information entered.

Any other information has to be manually entered. This can be done by going to the Town's web site and following the links, or by contacting

Emergency, continued on page 5

If you have an unlisted number or use only a cell phone and have not given the Fire Department its number, you will not receive any of the emergency messages.

Messages from the Town Clerk

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

Please complete and return your **local street list/census form** mailed to each household on December 30. If your household did not receive the annual street list mailing, please call the Town Clerk's office.

The street listing process conducted in accordance with Massachusetts statutes in all of the Commonwealth's cities and towns maintains your voter registration status and a legal record of your Shutesbury residency.

The information is also used in Shutesbury to verify eligibility for trash bags and timely delivery of informational mailings.

Thank you for voting in the November 2, 2010 election. Complete results for Shutesbury are posted at www.shutesbury.org on the Town Clerk's page.

Our Annual Town Meeting and Election will occur on Saturday, May 7 at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

Those seeking to run for public office must **submit nomination papers** to the town clerk's office by Saturday, March 19. Please call the Town Clerk (259-1204) or any member of the Board of Registrars if you may be thinking of running for office or if you have any questions concerning the election process.

If you are not already **registered to vote**, you must do so by Saturday, April 16, 2010 to be eligible to vote on May 7.

You can register to vote anytime before the deadline in person at the town clerk's office, or you can call to have a mail-in voter registration card sent to you, or to confirm your voter registration status.

Absentee ballots can be used by voters who cannot come to the polls between the hours of 8:00am and 2:00pm on May 7 due to health con-

Positions currently on the May 7 ballot

Board of Health	2 three-year positions
Cemetery Commission	1 three-year position
Constable position	1 one-year position
Board of Library Trustees	2 three-year positions 1 one-year position (due to a resignation)
Planning Board	3 three-year positions
School Committee	2 three-year positions
Board of Selectmen	1 three-year position.
Town Clerk	1 three-year position

More positions may open up due to resignations. Some officials may decide not to run again.

If becoming an elected official is of interest to you, please call the Town Clerk's office with any preliminary questions, or just stop in to sign a nomination form and to pick up other necessary paperwork. You need only collect 20 signatures of registered voters for your name to appear on the May 7th ballot. Completed nomination forms must be returned by Saturday, March 19.

cerns, religious restrictions or because they will be out of town.

Absentee ballots will be available approximately four weeks in advance of the election, through noon on Friday, May 6. You (or your relative on your behalf) may apply for an absentee ballot in person, or **request a ballot** by writing to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072.

Your request must include your residential address, the address to which you would like a ballot sent, and your signature. If you apply in person, you can choose to vote at that time or a ballot will be mailed to the location of your choice.

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

Notice to the voters of Shutesbury

As required by MGL Ch. 40§32 notice is hereby given that the Town of Shutesbury General bylaws revision, that being adoption of the Stretch Energy Code, approved at the

October 26, 2010 Special Town Meeting was approved by the Office of the Attorney General on February 10, 2011. This announcement and copies of the revisions are posted at the Locks Pond bulletin board, the Shutesbury Town Hall, the Shutesbury Post Office, Library, and Elementary School and are available for review or purchase at the Town Clerk's Office.

The general bylaw changes approved on October 26, 2010 and now in full effect are also available on the town website: www.shutesbury.org.

Leslie Bracebridge
Shutesbury Town Clerk

Our Town, published three times a year in January, 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*



PRINTED ON RECYCLED STOCK
30% POST CONSUMER WASTE

Town Hall insulation project had added benefits

Becky Torres, *Town Administrator*

The Town Hall insulation project in January evolved into a Town Hall face-lift. The attic now has R50 blown-in cellulose in it. The insulation was funded with a federal energy grant, the rest through the town building renovation line, now fully expended.

Shutesbury adopted the STRETCH code, a greener building code standard, in October of this fiscal year, as the project began. The Town Building Committee decided to apply the blow door test, a STRETCH code practice, as a learning experience. Evaluation of the attic was done. Air leaks in the attic were identified. Balloon framing of the north entryway walls was discovered. This was important because the exterior clapboards did not need to be removed to add insulation. The insulation could be blown directly into the walls from above!

Working in the attic, it became clear that the acoustical tiles in the hallway and in main offices, many water stained, would not support the additional weight of the insulation. The tiles, dotted with air holes, were also a major air leak.

The Building Committee determined that the ceilings had to be repaired before the insulation could be put in.

Eager to have the benefit of new insulation this winter, we moved ahead. To repair the ceiling, the rooms had to be emptied. This was no small task. Six of Town Hall's busiest professionals were relocated to the Senior Lounge downstairs. Phones, computers, desks and all their materials had to be temporarily moved. Despite living in the age of computers, many physical documents, official records, are properly stored and cared for in Town Hall offices. Moving them was a monumental task.

Once the rooms were empty, the 16-year-old worn carpets were hard to ignore. A compromise was reached where we went with a wool carpet, more expensive, more environmentally friendly, in the smaller front office and a commercial carpet, less envi-

ronmentally friendly, but much less expensive, in the large financial office. We have ventilated the commercial carpet room heavily but some off gassing will continue for years, so if you have concerns please avoid this room.

Thanks to our gracious, hardworking staff for all their work and to the many volunteers that manned dollies and carried boxes. The results are wonderful. Fuel energy-efficiencies have been gained as well as an improved working environment. The collapsing ceiling and walls of peeling paint are now things of the past.

Recycling news

Gary Bernhard, *Recycling Coordinator*

Composting at the School

The Shutesbury Elementary School has been composting all food waste, paper towels, napkins—in short, everything that can be composted—since September with tremendous success.

All compostable waste is collected in large buckets, which are picked up each week by Clearview Composting in Orange. (Clearview also picks up and composts waste from Swift River School up the road in New Salem.)

Lunch waste at SES has dwindled from 80–100 lbs. a week to a few plastic bags, less than a pound!

Composting Workshop in the Spring

As noted in the last town newsletter, the recycling and solid waste survey the Recycling Committee conducted last spring revealed a great deal of interest in a composting workshop.

Shutesbury has received two grants, one from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and one from the Western Mass Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), that will make it possible for the town to have a first-rate composting workshop in the spring.

The DEP grant is for technical assistance, and we'll be able to bring in a composting pro from the DEP to deliver the workshop.

The MRF grant is for almost \$1000 to purchase compost bins, which we can offer to participants at the work-

shop. We haven't got a date pinned down yet, but the workshop will probably be in March, either on a Saturday or on a weeknight. We'll let you know the date far in advance so you can plan.

2011-2012 Recycling Schedule

Please see the two-sided insert in this letter! It goes to the end of May 2012.

Our thanks to all who help bring the news to you!

The September issue of *Our Town* reached your mailbox with the help of folders and sealers **Joan and Dick Paczkowski, Julie Taylor, Marilyn Tibbetts, Johanna Hall and David Dann.**

The October 14 Selectboard mailing similarly benefited from the efforts of **Marilyn and Bob Tibbetts, Walter Tibbetts, Susan Millinger and Mary Anne Antonellis.**

If you would like to join one of the lively "folding parties" in the future, please call the Town Clerk's office at 259-1204.

Fire station, continued from page 1

available for fire stations or safety complexes. What are the best steps to take now to minimize future costs, for future generations?

We know that the construction of a new town facility is not something that can be done quickly.

The new library has gone through four years of planning in this current round, and has been under discussion for 15 years.

This has been a very careful, methodical, public process. Multiple forums have been held at every step. The project has been approved at each step by Town Meeting. A grant application has been submitted to Mass. Board of Library Commissioners; if approved it will fund 60% of the project. This is the right way to build a building.

So, like I said, we are in the process of evaluating our best options. We will continue to collect data, monitor and test, ask questions, and communicate with all of you about this very difficult issue.

From the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury residents,

The third quarter real estate tax bills were mailed out the end of December and were due no later than February 1 to avoid interest. This bill was probably a different amount than your first two quarters as it is based on your fiscal 2011 assessment and on the new tax rate. To calculate your total tax responsibility for the entire fiscal year, multiply your valuation on the third quarter bill by the new tax rate.

If you have any **questions on the value of your property** or if you wish to **apply for an abatement or exemption**, please contact the Board of Assessors at 259-3790.

The calendar 2011 **motor vehicle excise tax bills** on vehicles registered at the end of 2010 are usually received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles late in January.

If you received 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.

Our **on-line bill paying feature** allows you to pay your tax bills either directly from your checking or savings account with no fee, 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 2011 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.

If you purchased your property after January 1, 2010, 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.

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

Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Community Preservation Commission ponders first proposal

Donald Fletcher, *Chair, Community Preservation Committee*

A public hearing on Shutesbury's first application for Community Preservation Funding was held on February 24. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will vote in April on whether to recommend \$15,000 of Shutesbury's Community Preservation funding for the Historic Commission's proposed project to repair/replace sills at West Schoolhouse.

If recommended, the decision will be made in May by the Annual Town Meeting.

The CPC has prepared to make effective Community Preservation Funding recommendations with a year-long collaborative, deliberative and inclusive process.

Our goals are to ensure that Shutesbury's Community Preservation funds are spent wisely and are used only for projects that benefit the town.

To accomplish these goals, the CPC sought and received broad input about the town's needs, possibilities and resources regarding the community preservation areas of focus: historic preservation, open space, recreation and community housing.

CPC members attended trainings on the background, structure and legal requirements of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA), the Community Preservation program's enabling legislation.

Plans, processes and successful projects in other CPA communities were studied.

During the past year, the CPC consulted with Shutesbury's town committees and officials, town residents at a public hearing, and Town leaders at the fall All Town Boards meeting.

As a result of these efforts, the Community Preservation Committee developed guidelines to help those interested in sponsoring a community preservation project and a thoughtful and transparent two-tiered application and approval process.

Interested in reading the details? Just go to the *What's New* section at www.shutesbury.org and click on "Community Preservation Plan" or "Community Preservation Committee" to read Shutesbury's "Guidelines for Proposals," "Application and Approval Process," "Determination of Eligibility" and "Application for Funding."



Volunteer firefighter Stuart Richter playfully offers patrons at the February 5 Firefighters Pancake Breakfast a giant flapjack made by fellow firefighter George Davies.

Photo by Janis S. Gray

Emergency, continued from page 1

Emergency Management Director **Walter Tibbetts** at 259-1211 or by contacting Town Clerk **Leslie Bracebridge** at 259-1204.

If you have done away with your land-line-based phone and are using only a cellular phone, there is no way that we can know this without you telling us. If you do not, you will not receive any of the emergency messages.

If you have an unlisted number and you do not give us that information, again you will not receive emergency notifications.

If you make any changes to cell-phone numbers, e-mail addresses, work phones, secondary numbers, etc., you need to notify us so that we can make the changes in the database.

Also because there may be a lag time between Verizon updating or adding new information into its database and that being transferred to the Connect-CTY data base, if you have just recently moved into town or you are moving out of town, it would be best to contact us so the changes can be made in a timely fashion.

If I give you this information, is it secure or can anybody see it?

The company that developed and runs the system gives the highest priority to security of information. Below is an excerpt from the web site:

Connect-CTY™ is a service of The NTI Group, Inc. (NTI). NTI takes security and privacy concerns very seriously and does not sell, trade, lease or loan any data about our clients to any third party. From a technical perspective, we utilize multiple physical and virtual layers of firewalls to maintain data security. NTI only utilizes secure transmissions with its customers. No confidential information is ever transmitted between NTI and its customers using e-mail or FTP, but rather always utilizes either a VPN tunnel or SSL. Data is hosted in state-of-the-art facilities which require photo identification, thumb-print recognition, keyed access, and are manned 24/7 with full-security personnel. All data is encrypted prior to being placed on tape for offsite storage. NTI also

retains an external, independent security firm to perform annual security audits.

In addition there are only a limited number of town officials that are authorized users of the system, with different levels of access for different users. All information is treated as confidential.

How will I know if the call is actually from the Town's system?

First, if you have caller ID, the number will come up as Town of Shutesbury or simply show the Fire Department's telephone number 413-259-1211.

Next, the caller should identify him- or herself. Most but not all calls will be initiated by the Emergency Management Director and will start by stating "This is Walter Tibbetts, the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Shutesbury with an important message. Please listen carefully." If initiated by any other user, the message should start in a similar manner.

What if I didn't understand or missed part of the message?

If there was any part of the message that you missed or could not understand, wait till the message is finished and then press the star (*) button on your phone and the message will be repeated. Most all messages will be less than one minute long.

What if I was on the phone, or not at home when the message was sent out?

The system will try calling a number up to three times if the line is busy or there is no answer. After three times it will discontinue trying. A report will automatically be e-mailed to the Emergency Management Director and the message can be resent to any number that did not answer.

The system has a way of detecting answering machines and will not start delivering the message until the outgoing message of your answering machine is complete.

What action should I take after getting a message?

Some messages may be informa-

tional only and do not require you to do anything, such as a road closure. Some messages will contain specific information and instructions. An example would be a hazardous materials spill in which you may be instructed to evacuate an area or to shelter in place and close all windows etc.

The most frequently sent emergency messages are for severe weather.

The decision to send a message warning of severe weather is one that is not easily made. It is prompted by a combination of several things. It is usually initiated by a warning sent to the Fire Department and Emergency Management Director by the National Weather Service through the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) and by MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency). This usually prompts the Emergency Management Director to start closely monitoring the National Weather Service radar and other weather and emergency management sites.

If it appears that a storm cell is headed for our area, then an announcement will be sent out using the Connect-CTY system. This message will include a warning of the possibility of the storm hitting our area, what special hazards it might contain (high winds, severe lightning, hail, tornado, etc.), and if necessary what precaution may be taken.

These weather emergency announcements always instruct you to tune to your local weather station (radio and/or TV) for updates and further information. These warning should be treated the same as if you saw or heard the warning on radio and/or television. It is just another tool to warn you of possible impending situations.

If you are planning outdoor activities, you must use your better judgment as to whether you should continue with or cancel your plans. Keep in mind this is New England and weather can change drastically in a short amount of time. It is best to always be prepared and be aware of your surroundings.

If you have specific questions that are not answered here you can call the Fire Station at 259-1211.

SES offers rich education in challenging times

Michael DeChiara, *Chair, School Committee*

There continues to be much happening in the world of education—locally in Shutesbury, in our region, and in the state. Some of this is good (mostly local), some present challenges.

Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) continues to provide high-quality education to the children of residents despite the continued stress that has resulted from the down economy.

Following several years of constrained budgets, SES faces continued "belt-tightening" and operational cuts. Yet with the help of some grants and increased fundraising by the PTO and other school groups, the school has been able to fill some of the gaps and continue its strong tradition of offering rich education experiences that challenge and engage our children.

A perfect example is the Artist-In-Residence program, which has recently become a December tradition.

Although the funding for this was cut two years ago, SES was able to get private funds (grants and PTO) that made this school-wide cultural programming possible. With help from local performance artists Eshu Bumpus and Motoko Dworkin, all children from pre-school to 6th grade worked to create skits that culminated in an standing-room-only evening performance.

Another example of rich education at SES is the growing and vibrant collaboration between the classroom teachers and the technology specialist and librarian. This year, each class has a blog—some of which are authored by the students themselves—cataloging class projects, school trips, and daily activities through writing, photos, Power Point presentations, and more.

On another note, a group of parents—the LunchBunch—promoted healthier food choices and increased connections to local agriculture this year. The school now boasts a salad bar (grant funded) and is composting

and recycling (lunch trash from students has sometimes been reduced to the volume of a plastic sandwich bag).

In October, the LunchBunch hosted a delicious and widely enjoyed community meal that used donated local crops.

Recently, there have been the beginnings of increased collaboration between SES and the Amherst-Region Middle School. Interim Amherst Regional Superintendent **Maria Geryk** and Middle School Principal **Mike Hayes** presented to the Shutesbury School Committee and parents in December, providing an overview of the Middle School (now under new administration) and fielding questions from the community.

In addition, SES Principal **Bob Mahler** and Union #28 Superintendent **Joan Wickman** have been meeting with Amherst-Regional leadership about math coordination. This has been on Shutesbury's wish list for a long time and we are glad it is now happening.

Among the policies the School Committee has recently approved are a comprehensive anti-bullying policy and a revised wellness policy with updated focus on food quality.

By contrast, the region and state present an array of challenges, none of which is resolved and most of which require continued involvement and tracking by the School Committee and other town committees.

In December, the state Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education re-committed to its efforts to promote regionalization in education. As a result, 2011 promises to see increased pressure on small western Massachusetts communities like Shutesbury as we try to maintain the aspects of our education system that we hold dear.

Simultaneously a range of debates and discussions occurring in Amherst and Pelham require Shutesbury to take note, given our proximity and relationship via the Amherst Regional Public Schools.

This includes a review by Amherst

regarding moving its 6th graders to the Middle School (which it cannot do without Shutesbury Town Meeting consent), and ongoing discussions about the Amherst and Pelham Union #26 relationship.

The Amherst Region also searched for a new superintendent.

This may provide stability after last year's premature departure of the previous superintendent.

[Editor's note: Since this article was written, Interim Superintendent Maria Geryk has been named to the post.]

Given all this external activity, Shutesbury should be praised for taking proactive steps

last spring to determine what is best for our town, rather than have something decided for us.

The Shutesbury Select Board and School Committee created the Shutesbury Education Study Committee in anticipation of these external pressures. The committee has been working since June 2010 doing research and exploring options in order to craft a plan for a successful educational future for our town and its children.

Lastly, the School Committee has heard from our Finance Committee and local legislators that fiscal year 2012 promises to be another financially challenging year.

Along with the town, the School Committee and SES will struggle to retain quality education for our children in the face of another year of dwindling resources. While these repeated cuts have certainly had an impact, we continue to feel fortunate that we live in a town that supports education.

To find out more about SES, I encourage you to visit www.shutesburyschool.org. Members of the community are always welcome to attend School Committee meetings, usually the 3rd Thursday of each month.

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

Shutesbury should be praised for taking proactive steps last spring to determine what is best for our town, rather than have something decided for us. . . . We continue to feel fortunate that we live in a town that supports education.

Schools, continued from page 1

intact. This past year the discussion of Shutesbury's education structure has reemerged, a result of changes in legislation, increased pressures at the state level to institute changes for smaller school systems and interest at the community level to revisit the issue.

While many things change, there are several constancies for the town of Shutesbury including:

- 1) The Shutesbury Elementary School is a remarkable school with a history of rich, meaningful educational experiences for our children.
- 2) The school has attracted highly talented and dedicated staff committed to quality education.
- 3) The community historically has strongly supported its schools.
- 4) The issue of local control of education is essential.

Shutesbury, like our neighbor Leverett, is somewhat unique in its educational structure as it straddles two separate systems for its elementary aged students and its middle/high school students.

Our elementary schools are part of Supervisory Union #28, along with the communities of Erving, Wendell and New Salem, but our 7th–12th grade students are part of the Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle and High School system.

A regional agreement for the Amherst Regional School District formalizes functions of the district from funding formulas to oversight and representation, while the Union 28 lacks a similar formal but has a rather outdated set of District By-Laws (currently being revised and updated). This "non-conforming" two-system structure has been increasingly in the sights of the Department of Education and some state legislators who are interested in consolidation and standardization among community school systems. It is clear that changes may be thrust upon towns like Shutesbury, emphasizing the need to be proactive in determining future educational choices for our students.

On March 18, 2010 at a joint meet-

ing of the Shutesbury Select Board and the Shutesbury School Committee, a vote was taken to establish the Shutesbury Education Study Committee (SESC). The unanimous approval created a joint committee appointed by the two boards with a specific charge to:

1. Identify and clarify current and future goals for the Town of Shutesbury and its residents regarding:

- a. The delivery of quality educational services and education outcomes for school-aged children.
- b. The financing of education for Shutesbury's school-aged children.
- c. The governance of the educational system.
- d. The capacity to provide sustainable leadership and oversight of the educational system.

2. Recommend a plan that can best achieve the future goals for Shutesbury

The Committee members include Co-Chairs **Elaine Puleo** and **Clif Read** from the Select Board and School Committee respectively, **Michael DeChiara** (School Committee) **Becky Torres** (Shutes-

bury Town Administrator), **Patrick Callahan** (Finance Committee), **Jody Brush** (School Council), and **Gary Bernhard, Emily Bloch** and **Eric Stocker** (Community Representatives). The SESC convened its first meeting on June 1st and held a total of nine meetings through December, 2010.

Initial work of the committee focused on review of different studies and reports which had been generated for Union 28, the Amherst area schools, the Mahar Regional Schools, and Franklin County schools. From there the SESC generated a list of a dozen values, from quality education to financial sustainability and future realities of technology, for assessing different educational configurations. Thirteen different educational configurations were identified which fell into general categories of Regional, Union and Stand Alone options. These were matched up against the values list with a numerical rating assigned to each value. Through the process it became clear a "go it alone" approach was not feasible based on financial and sustainability issues.

A number of the regional and

Schools, continued on page 8

Union #28 Community Network for Children

The Community Network for Children (CNC) supports all families with children from birth through kindergarten and the early education and care and school age providers that care for them 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, new baby gift

bags and home visits, and newsletters with current programs and events. Our local CNC community council assists in the oversight of the grant funds. If you are interested in being on our mailing list to receive monthly newsletters of events and workshops, please call or email Gillian Budine, Coordinator, (978) 544-5157. You can also access information at our website: <http://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/>

Redeem coupon for a Welcome Baby Gift Bag!

We would like to extend a welcome to your new baby with a free Welcome Baby Gift Bag. Your bag will contain books, health and safety items and valuable information about local services for you and your new baby. Please call or email Gillian, CNC Coordinator, 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!



The Shutesbury Elementary PTO Annual Silent Auction is coming!!!

Mark your calendars for Friday evening, April 29, 2011.
Last year we raised over **\$7800** and we need your help to do it again.

Hand crafted items from the Shutesbury community and its friends are always welcome!
Donate Tickets to ANY Sporting Event, Concert, Dance or Theater Performance (Can't go? Donate!)
Contribute Great Gift Certificates of any kind! Restaurants! Stores! Services! E-Businesses!
Contributions of goods and services (fresh produce for the summer, carpentry, yard work,
financial advice, housekeeping, etc.)
Re-gifted new or like-new items

Have an idea? Be Creative! Drop the item off at the Shutesbury Elementary School (they will have a form for you to fill out) **by March 18** or contact **Melinda LeLacheur**, Donation Coordinator at 259-1525 or dragonflyconsult@yahoo.com.

When you're considering how you'll participate in the Shutesbury Elementary School PTO Auction (aside from attending, of course), you might like to know that all our students benefit from the funds raised. The PTO is an independent parent-teacher organization that is passionate about our students, our school and our community. Each year we volunteer throughout the school and sponsor and organize diverse activities that improve and enhance the world our children live and learn in. These programs include the First Day New Parent Reception, Back-to-school Potluck, K-6th Grade "Buddy Books," School Phone Directory, Children's Halloween Fair, Family Dance, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Field Day Snack Table, and the Artist in Residence Programs. The funds we raise also help to pay for Instrumental Music Scholarships, Field Trip fees for families in need and Child-Care during community meetings and events (Open House, Town Meeting). The funds also provide each school staff member with allotments that they may use to enhance their classrooms and support their curricula.

Thanks for your help!

Schools, continued from page 7

union options likewise were deemed unrealistic, which narrowed the potential options to creation of a union or a region with the communities of Leverett and Pelham for K-6 or K-8, or keeping the existing Union 28 structure for the elementary school and creating a new Union Agreement.

On October 19 the committee hosted a public forum at the Elementary School which featured a presentation and discussion with **Ron Berger**, Chief Program Officer from Expeditionary Learning. A resident of Shutesbury, Ron has a unique perspective on education, having taught in the Shutesbury Elementary School for many years and receiving national recognition for his project-based learning work.

In his current job he travels widely, working with schools across the country, so he brings the big picture view of quality education as well. Ron's inspirational presentation, which included many images and examples of his work at Shutesbury Elementary, helped frame the group discussion which ensued.

A series of meetings were then

held with school administrators, beginning with SES Principal **Bob Mahler**, then a joint meeting with **Mike Hayes** and **Mark Jackson**, Principals of the Amherst Regional Middle and High Schools respectively, followed by a meeting with Union 28 Superintendent **Joan Wickman**. A meeting with Amherst Regional Schools Superintendent **Maria Geryk** will also be scheduled. These meetings provided/will provide an opportunity to discuss the current educational configurations, the challenges in the respective structures, the visions administrators had for the schools five and ten years hence, and their perspectives on the different scenarios the committee was exploring.

In addition to Shutesbury, the communities of Leverett and Pelham have also formed similar education study committees. Because of the towns' similar size, proximity to Amherst and participation with the regional middle and high schools, there is great value for our three communities to engage in discussions about our respective educational futures.

As our respective committees move forward we will coordinate efforts and discussions where

appropriate. The committee will also engage the Shutesbury community with public forums in the coming months to discuss findings, receive input and help develop the report which will be presented to Town Meeting in May. These public meetings are an essential component of the process and the SESC encourages residents to participate in these discussions or use other forms of feedback to our group.

A special web site, <http://www.shutesburyeducation.info/>, has been created for the SESC where meeting minutes, documents, presentations and announcements will be posted. As forums are scheduled and materials developed, this site will serve as an important outreach tool and link to the community. Our regular meetings are posted and the public is always welcome to attend, or to provide feedback to the committee through Co-chairs **Elaine Puleo** (empuleo@gmail.com) and **Clif Read** (crrread@verizon.net).

Shutesbury has always valued education for its children and we look forward to the community's involvement in the process as the SESC fulfills its charge.

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

Hours

Monday and Wednesday

11:00am to 1:00pm

3:00pm to 6:00pm.

Tuesday and Thursday

3:00pm to 7:30pm

Saturday 10:00am to 12:00pm

Sunday 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Weezie Houle maintains our website.
Thank you! Thank you!

New Shutesbury library news!

The Town of Shutesbury is applying for a Library Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).

Our grant application was completed by members of the Library Facility Needs Assessment Committee (LFNAC) and was delivered to the MBLC in Boston on Monday, January 24.

With the submission of this grant application, LFNAC has completed four years of work on behalf of the people of Shutesbury.

Current LFNAC members are **Lori Tuominen**, Chair, **Martha Field**, Secretary, **Michele Regan-Ladd**, Library Trustee, **Dale Houle** and



Weezie Houle. Karen Traub, Trustee Chair, served on LFNAC from its formation in March 2007 until June 2010. Join me in thanking these wonderful volunteers for their service.

Grant Awards will be announced in July, 2011. We will keep you posted.

Community-wide read going on now!

In celebration of Shutesbury's 250th anniversary, our 2011 community-wide read is *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick.

From the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth Massachusetts to the

very local King Philip's War, *Mayflower* is a compelling true story of the relationships between early European settlers and the Native People they encountered.

Copies of the book are available at the library now!

Download Audiobooks, eBooks and Video

One of the benefits of our C/W MARS membership is free access to an online digital catalog. EBooks, audiobooks, and video can be downloaded onto your computer and other electronic devices.

Visit <http://digitalbooks.cwmars.org> to browse the collection, check out and download items.

How to extend the life of DVDs and CDs: Handle with care!

1. Touch only the edges of the disc. No fingerprints.
2. Remove and replace carefully.
3. Keep discs away from food, liquids, heat, pets and small children.
4. Put them back in their cases when they are not in use.

Thanks for helping to keep our DVD and CD collection in good shape. With thanks from your library staff.



LFNAC members Lori Tuominen, Weezie Houle and Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis drove to Boston to hand deliver the MBLC grant application in January.

Photo by Becky Torres

News from the Historical Commission

On November 16, 2010, members of the Historical Commission honored **Emil Dihlmann** as the oldest resident in the Town of Shutesbury with the "gold cane" presentation.

This New England tradition started in 1909 when the *Boston Post* newspaper issued ebony, gold-tipped canes to 700 communities to transmit to their oldest residents for the publicity it would bring that paper.

Presently, the Shutesbury Historical Commission honors its oldest residents with a lapel pin. Family members were in attendance at the luncheon and stories of the man born in our town in 1916 and still with us today abounded.



Emil Dihlmann (lower right) with his son, grandsons and great grandson.

Photo by Leslie Bracebridge

Volunteers have completed the reclamation and restoration of the 1806 Town Pound site on Cooleyville Road. This project is the Historical Commission's gift to the town for the 250th Anniversary of Incorporation. A new sign will be installed in the spring.

If you have a question about, or an interest in, Shutesbury's history, if



Stray livestock were once held for safe-keeping in the Town Pound.

Photo by Leslie Bracebridge



you have a story to tell or photos or objects to share, the Historical Commission would love to hear from you.

We can scan photos, photocopy documents, and photograph objects so no treasure need be left with us permanently.

Please contact any member of the Historical Commission: Chairman **Barbara Goodhind** at 259-1428, Secretary **Julie Taylor**, Treasurer **Marilyn Tibbetts**, and members **Leslie Bracebridge, Karen Czerwonka, Stephen Puffer** and **Joanna Hayes**.

Church to host "reflections and celebrations" about well-known resident

In honor of the town's 250th year, all are invited to the historic 1827 Shutesbury Community Church on the common on Sunday, March 6, to what members hope will become a series highlighting the lives of neighbors who have made important contributions to the collective life of our town.

Gertrude Carey, described by member **Linda Hanscom** as "a friend to everyone," lived from 1906-1999. For 50 of those years, this resident of Locks Pond Road played the organ at the church. When she grew too frail to climb the stairs to the sanctuary and its organ, the congregation began holding services on the lower level, where she played the piano.

She was also quite active in the town's Senior Center, where she played the piano and led sing-a-longs.

"Grandma Carey," as many came to call her, was famed for her cooking, and enjoyed thanking people who had assisted her in any way with gifts of delicious treats, including hermits, doughnuts and pineapple pies.

Lake Wyola Association plans special summer happenings for 250th

Carol Samuels, *Lake Wyola Association*

The Lake Wyola Association will be having an Art Show and Lake Tour this summer, in addition to the traditional events run throughout the summer.

We are excited to showcase the talented artists in town and display their artwork. We will also be having tours of the lake on party boats. The tours will include stops at several cottages to view their homes and gardens.

If you would like to learn more about this event, volunteer to be on the committee, or contribute in any way to its planning, please email Carol Samuels at cjsam11@msn.com. All ideas welcomed.

Check back in *Our Town* for more details to come!

At 10:00am on March 6, attendees will have a chance to hear and share their own recollections of the many contributions she made to her family, friends, neighbors and community.

Church members are currently collecting "Grandma Carey's" recipes. All refreshments served at the gathering will be from this collection; the recipes themselves will also be available to take to make and enjoy at home.



Gertrude Carey at Shutesbury Community Church in April 1992.

Photo courtesy of Linda Hanscom

Native peoples: Who first walked these hills?

On Friday, March 4 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, Margaret (Marge) Bruchac, a professor of anthropology, historical consultant and person of Abenaki descent, will speak on "From Kwineticook to Quabbin: Native People in West-Central Massachusetts."

Her program, sponsored jointly by the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee and Friends of the Library, will combine oral traditions and historical anecdotes to illuminate the survival strategies of Native people in the region after King Philip's War. She will also offer context on the Native presence today

Daniel Shays: Roadtown rebel with a lasting impact

Come hear about a fascinating episode in our local history led by hilltown notable Daniel Shays.

On Thursday, March 10, 7:00pm at Town Hall, Leonard L. Richards, Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will speak on Shays's Rebellion. This event is sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee.

Daniel and Abigail Shays moved to Shutesbury prior to the Revolution, eventually accumulating a number of properties in the hilltowns. Daniel was active in the Pelham Committee of Safety and was a revolutionary veteran with the rank of captain at the end of the conflict.

Richards's remarks will draw on the findings of his book *Shays's Rebellion The American Revolution's Final Battle*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2002. The book addresses events in 1786-87 which were not fully understood prior to his research. It was believed that the participants in the Rebellion that began in 1786 were primarily poor farmers and debtors protesting local situations.

Richards discovered a rather different story through groundbreaking research into the identities and economic and social standing of the 4,000 men who participated in the rebellion.

Undeterred by the awful handwriting in the original file of names, he succeeded in providing a clear picture of the rebellion, capturing its spirit as well as the reasons for the revolt and its long-term impact on the participants, the state of Massachusetts, and the young nation. Shays's Rebellion, though seemingly a local affair, was the revolution that gave rise to modern American democracy

Hot tea will be provided. Please feel free to bring your own tea mug in order to cut down on waste and help us be a greener community.

Enjoy a New England "time travel dinner" March 18!

Main dishes, breads and desserts from 18th through 21st century New England will be on the menu at a fundraising dinner for the People of the Past, the 250th anniversary historical reenactment group.

The meal, 6:00-8:00pm at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, 282 Wendell Rd., will include: vegetarian and non-vegetarian fare ranging from baked beans and brown bread to a tomato, lentil and kale stew from Shutesbury chef **Leslie Cerier's** *Gluten-Free Recipes for the Conscious Cook*.

Suggested donation for the dinner is \$5 per person.



Artists at a recent Shutesbury Athletic Club dinner personalize links for a 250-link paper chain being created this year to help residents visualize the span of time.

Photo by Maryélise Lamet

Shutesbury then and now

An exhibit of contemporary scenes and reproductions of vintage images is now on display at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, 282 Wendell Road.

It is the first of several exhibits on Shutesbury themes that photographer **Maili Page** plans to display at different venues in town throughout the

year. At the official opening of the exhibit on February 18, Maili credited Town Clerk **Leslie Bracebridge** for helping her search through historic photos in the town's archives.

If you have a photo or photos that might be included in an exhibit, contact her at 367-0381 or at smailidaho@yahoo.com

Planning a 250th anniversary event?

Shutesbury's 250th Anniversary Steering Committee will assist groups planning 250th year events with publicity.

To arrange for publicity on the 250th Anniversary web page, blog and Facebook page, please contact the committee with details at least four weeks prior to your event at 250th@shutesbury.org or by phoning Co-chairs **Janis S. Gray** (259-1584) or **Maryélise Lamet** (259-1551).

The Steering Committee cannot guarantee other publicity but will include known events when lists of 250th Activities are updated & circulated periodically.

Touch future generations: Help document this year

The Shutesbury 250th Anniversary Steering Committee invites community groups and individuals to participate in documenting the activities, events, and history of the town anniversary celebrations.

Testimonials, photographs, event fliers, reports and other materials will be accepted for inclusion in a historical collection to be kept by the Shutesbury Town Library, Special Collections and University Archives at UMass Amherst and the Shutesbury Town Archive.

Please note that all items will either be permanently included in the collection or recycled. The committee is not responsible for return of submitted materials unless otherwise agreed on.

Project flash drives will be available to facilitate submission of larger or multiple digital files such as photographs, video and audio.

Contact **Maryélise Lamet** (259-1551) for details.

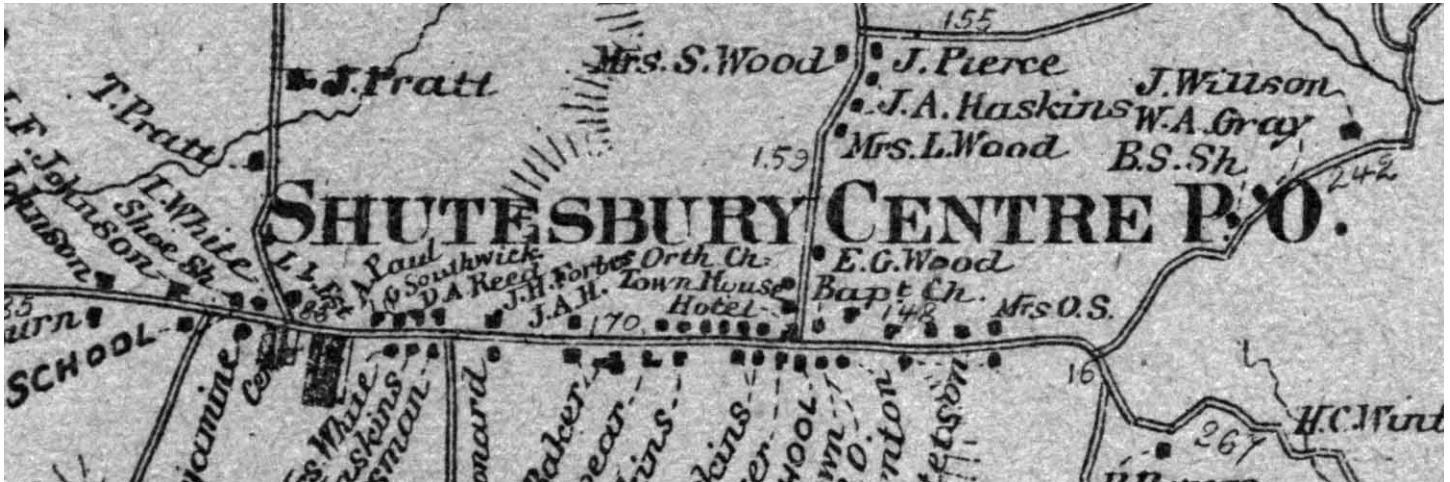


TOWN OF SHUTESBURY
 P.O. BOX 276
 SHUTESBURY, MA 01072

PRSR
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT #5
 SHUTESBURY MA 01072

It's Our 250th Birthday!
 Read about March "250th" events
 on pages 10 & 11.

Resident
 Shutesbury, MA 01072



HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

ACCOUNTANT <i>Gail Weiss</i>	259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL <i>Robert Mahler, Principal</i>	259-1212	RECREATION COMMITTEE <i>Vacant</i>	Call 259-1214
ADA COMMITTEE <i>Martina Carroll</i>	259-1110	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR <i>Walter Tibbetts</i>	259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR <i>Gary Bernhard</i>	259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR <i>Rebecca Torres</i>	259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE <i>Patrick J. Callahan</i>	259-1584	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Kristen Luschen</i>	256-3303
ANIMAL INSPECTORS <i>Denise Chiminiello</i> <i>Nancy Long</i>	259-1020 259-2123	FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>Walter Tibbetts, Chief</i> <i>or home</i>	259-1211 259-1286	ROADS COMMITTEE <i>Vacant</i>	Call 259-1214
ASSESSORS <i>Kenneth Holmberg</i>	259-3790	HEALTH AGENT <i>David Zarozinski</i>	549-3710	SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Michael DeChiara</i>	259-1059
BOARD OF HEALTH <i>William Elliott</i> <i>Public health</i> <i>emergency</i>	259-2122 413 659-7294	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT <i>Tim Hunting</i>	259-1215	UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT. <i>Joan Wickman</i>	423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE <i>Dale Houle</i>	259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION <i>Barbara Goodhind</i>	259-1428	SELECT BOARD <i>Elaine Puleo, Chair</i> <i>Al Springer</i> <i>J. April Stein</i>	259-1979 259-1578 259-1074
BUILDING INSPECTOR <i>Jim Hawkins</i>	772-2026	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY <i>Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir.</i>	259-1213	SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMM. <i>Weezie Houle</i>	259-1696
CEMETERY COMMISSION <i>Marilyn Tibbetts</i>	259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES <i>Karen Traub</i>	367-9826	TAX COLLECTOR <i>Ellen McKay</i>	259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING <i>Muriel Gross</i>	259-1371	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE <i>Janice Stone</i>	259-1557	TOWN CLERK <i>Leslie Bracebridge</i>	259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION <i>Leave inquiries at</i>	259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER <i>Janis S. Gray</i>	259-1584	TREASURER <i>Gabriele Voelker</i>	259-1801
CULTURAL COUNCIL <i>Renee A. Richard</i>	259-9296	PERSONNEL BOARD <i>April Stein</i>	413-259-1074	TREE WARDEN <i>Thomas Houston</i>	259-1508
DEPT. OF VETERAN'S SERVICES <i>Leo J. Parent, Jr.</i>	863-3205	PLANNING BOARD <i>Deacon Bonnar</i>	259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE <i>Fred Steinberg</i>	259-9996
DOG OFFICER <i>Nancy Long</i>	259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR <i>John Letourneau</i>	367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS <i>Charles J. DiMare</i>	549-5330
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR <i>Maurice Gregoire</i>	253-7505	POLICE DEPARTMENT <i>Chief Thomas E. Harding</i> <i>Dispatch</i>	259-1279 625-8200	250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE <i>Janis S. Gray</i> <i>Maryélise Lamet</i>	259-1584 259-1551
POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911					