

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



# OUR TOWN

## Autumn Tidings from the Select Board

Rita Farrell, *Co-Chair*, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, *Co-Chair*, and Eric Stocker

Hello Neighbors,

The Select Board has been busy with many projects, full agendas, and some additional meetings. Here are a few highlights from the past few months.

We have great news! The **school roof was replaced** this summer. Support for the project at our Annual Town Meeting and ARPA funds the town received were a great help in getting this project completed.

Weather has been a factor in the work with the **Locks Pond Culvert project**. The Select Board met several times with Matt Styckiewicz to discuss the complications of this summer's continuous rainfall, the impact on the project, and the possible options for consideration. We decided to increase the size of the bypass pipe and continue the work to completion. We appreciate everyone's patience with the traffic detour, and want to thank the Highway Department and Police Department for their continued maintenance and traffic patrol.

The Select Board supported the **Shutesbury Police Department's submission for a grant** to reimburse municipalities \$3,000 for our officers who complete training through the Bridge Academy training program.

The Select Board voted to create the **Pollinator Plan Committee**: a five-member committee supporting a regional effort with Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

We engaged the McGregor

law firm for a **general review of the proposed Conservation Commission regulations** to see if there were any legal issues that we needed to think about. Attorney McGregor spoke with the Select Board on those issues at our September 12, 2023 meeting.

We have some bittersweet news to share. At the end of the month, **Tim Hunting our Highway Superintendent will be retiring** after 22-plus years

**Select Board**, cont. on page 3

## New Shutesbury Library Update

During the spring of last year, the Library Building Committee collaborated closely with Oudens Ello Architects to develop a detailed schematic design for the new Shutesbury Library. This comprehensive design was then submitted to a professional cost estimator to evaluate how it aligned with our budget expectations.

Regrettably, we find ourselves in the midst of a highly unpredictable construction market, and the estimate we received was nothing short of staggering, revealing unexpected cost challenges that we had not anticipated. This revelation has necessitated a reas-

essment of our plans and strategies to ensure that our new library remains aligned with our community's needs and financial capabilities.

Following the disheartening cost estimate, we have been working to streamline and reduce the scope of the project. Our primary goal is to retain the essential elements necessary to create a new library that effectively meets our community's needs, all within a budget that is both realistic and manageable.

In our revised schematic design, we have made several significant adjustments to ensure the project's affordability and sustainability. Here are some key changes:

**New Library**, cont. on page 3

## Letter from the Town Clerk

Grace Bannasch (she/her/hers),  
*Town Clerk*

[townclerk@shutesbury.org](mailto:townclerk@shutesbury.org)  
413-259-1204

Website [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org)

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Friday: 10am-3pm.

Wednesday: 10am-1pm, 3-5pm.

Friday: 10am-3pm.

### Salutations Shutesburians!

There is, per usual, a lot going on in the Town Clerk Office right now.

**Confirmation notices are being sent out.** These small blue postcards are being sent to every inactive voter asking you to confirm whether or not you are still a Shutesbury resident.

Please fill out the form on the postcard and send it back to the Town Clerk. Once you do so, you will be reactivated as a voter or removed from the street list, depending on your answer.

**What does “inactive voter” mean? Don’t worry, being inactive does not prevent you from voting.** If you have not responded to your 2023 annual street list form, your voter status might be switched from active to inactive. **Inactive voters can still vote, in person and by mail.** If you are inactivated and you come to vote in person, you will be asked to show a form of

ID that notes your Shutesbury residence and sign an affidavit of residency. You can also reactivate yourself ahead of time by responding to the confirmation notice (those blue postcards). Basically, “inactive” means we need you to confirm that you still live here, either before or when you vote. **Did I mention you can still vote? That’s the most important part.** In fact, it is so important I’m going to say it a 4<sup>th</sup> time in its own paragraph.

### Inactive voters can still vote.

**Tips for navigating the new Town YouTube channel.** Some of you have reached out to ask how to find videos of specific meetings on the new Town YouTube channel. (You can find the channel by going to the town website and clicking the “Meeting Recordings” option under the “Meetings” dropdown menu.)

Every board and committee has its own playlist on the channel, and the videos are titled with the name of the public body and the date of the meeting. The easiest way to find the specific video you are looking for is to go to the town website by channel and type the date of the meeting in the search bar. You can also look through the playlists to find a video. Please be patient when waiting for a new meeting recording to be uploaded. It can take several days to a few weeks for a video to be archived and uploaded.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Candy Poll** will be happening on the Town Common during Halloween trick-or-treating.

All are welcome to help pick the candy for the Town Hall Candy Jar this coming year.

Will dum-dum lollipops win for



the third year in a row? Or will the incumbent finally be defeated by the newcomer candidate, ring pops? The costumed voters shall

decide!

This is an all-ages event, no reading or writing required.



**And last but not least, check your dog tags!**

The 2023 dog tags are red. If your dog tag is not red, you need to renew.

Sincerely,  
Grace Bannasch  
Town Clerk

### **Our Town Newsletter Policy**

Adopted by the  
Shutesbury Select Board  
December 23, 2019

*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 community projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions must be strictly secular and nonpartisan and are subject to review, revision, and/or non-acceptance by the editorial board of the newsletter. Submissions promoting the sale of goods and services for private profit cannot be accepted. Appeals to any review decisions can be brought to the Select Board for further discussion.

Janis S. Gray and Linda Avis Scott,  
*Newsletter Committee*

Geneva Bickford, *Town Hall Liaison*

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### **Did you know *Our Town* is available online?**

A digital version with clickable hyperlinks and color images can be accessed on the home page of [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org).

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

in this position. Tim, thank you for your hard work and dedication to Shutesbury.

We created the Highway Superintendent Hiring Committee to help us find a person to fill this position. We thank the members for their thoughtful process and work. We are happy to announce that **Steve Sullivan** has been appointed as our new Highway Superintendent.

The Select Board has been experimenting with holding our **bi-weekly Tuesday evening meetings in a hybrid format**, with the board members in-person at the Town Hall and utilizing Zoom. Check the town calendar updates and meeting agendas.

**New Library**, cont. from page 1

1. **Reduced Square Footage:** We have successfully reduced the library's square footage to under 5,000 square feet. This reduction has allowed us to eliminate the need for a costly sprinkler system, contributing to overall cost savings.
2. **Optimized Site Placement:** The library's new location is positioned closer to the road, which has helped reduce site-related expenses.
3. **Preserved Essential Features:** Despite the adjustments, we have maintained space for expanded collections and community meeting areas. We remain committed to providing a welcoming and functional space for our community to gather and access resources.

4. **Efficient Staff and Storage Spaces:** We've streamlined staff workspaces and storage areas to maximize efficiency and make the most of available space.
5. **Sustainable Energy:** Our commitment to sustainability continues with plans for roof-mounted solar panels. These panels will generate 100 percent of the building's energy needs, reducing our environmental footprint and long-term operational costs.

**The next phase is the Design Development (DD) stage**, which builds upon the design decisions initiated during the Schematic Design phase but delves deeper into specifics. This stage encompasses a range of considerations, including systems, materials, finishes, technology, assemblies, acoustics, and the many details inherent in any building project.

We initiated the Design Development phase in early August. On September 26, the Library Building Committee (LBC) held its second public forum to obtain feedback from the community about the new library design. Design documents will be drawn with a complete pricing set scheduled for the end of October. We will obtain a second cost estimate in mid-November. Our current goal is to have construction documents developed over the winter to go out for bids on our project in the Spring of 2024.

We have appreciated all the community input on design and development. The LBC is committed to listening to residents and trying to heed all concerns brought forth.

At present we continue with

site development and preparation. Our meetings are typically every other Tuesday night and are posted on the town website. Please join us on Zoom. We set aside the first 10 minutes of every meeting for public comment.

Detailed meeting slides and minutes are posted on the Library Building Committee page on Shutesbury.org. We try to keep our website up to date with all current documents available (<https://www.shutesbury.org/library-building>). Additionally, recordings of these meetings can be accessed on the Town's YouTube channel.

If you have any questions or comments, we can always be reached via email ([LibBuild@shutesbury.org](mailto:LibBuild@shutesbury.org)).

We greatly value your involvement and support as we continue to work diligently to bring our new library project to fruition. Thank you for being a part of this exciting journey with us.

### Road Safety Tips from Village Neighbors

Dappled sunlight makes our rural roads beautiful, but it also makes it harder for some of us to see (especially elders)! Here's how you can help:

- Drivers: Slow down, especially at dusk.
- Workers directing traffic: Exaggerate hand gestures. Wear bright colors to be more visible.
- Bikers: Use a white, non-blinking light in the front of your bike and a slow-blinking and dimmer red light in the rear. A strobe is difficult to see.
- Runners, Walkers and yes, Dogs: Wear reflective and light/bright clothing.

## Using Your Smartphone Smarter!

The **Shutesbury Council on Aging** and the **M.N. Spear Library** are pleased to present a program for seniors on how to get the most out of your smartphone.

There will be two sessions, one for iPhone users (Apple Smartphone) and one for Androids (Samsung Galaxy, Google Pixel, etc.).

Both the iPhone and Android phone classes are designed for people who have a basic knowledge of how their phone works, but who would like to use their phones for many uses beyond making a phone call.

The sessions will be taught by Barbara Friedman, Library Consultant, who has been teaching technology since the 1990s.

### When:

Wednesday, October 25

- 10 to 11:30am. iPhone (Apple Smartphone) Class



- 1 to 2pm. Samsung Galaxy, Google Pixel, etc. (Android Smartphones) Class

The classes are limited to **six attendees each**. There will be a waiting list if more people wish to

attend, and there may be an additional session if needed.

### Where:

Classes will be held in the large meeting room downstairs in Shutesbury Town Hall.

### Class description:

In this 90-minute session, seniors will follow hands-on, step-by-step procedures for taking photos, searching the internet, sending texts or emails, and using their phone as a GPS. Time will be allowed at the end of class for specific questions.

### Registration:

Please register with the M.N. Spear Library by calling 413-259-1213, or by emailing [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org)



## Shutesbury Council on Aging

We have two vacancies! The Council on Aging serves town residents aged 55 and older, as well as their families and caregivers. We work with LifePath (our Area Agency on Aging), the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and a new regional Network of Age-Friendly Communities to provide older adults opportunities to live well in Shutesbury.

To learn more about our Council's work, please attend one of our meetings held on Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, 5:30 - 7pm. See the Town meeting calendar for log-in information.



Invitations to Fun from the Recreation Committee  
As we wrote this, we were preparing for the second annual **Family Field Day** to be held on **Saturday, September 23, from 10-12**. We hope that the event provided a wonderful opportunity for members of the Shutesbury Elementary School and home-schooled children and their families to have some fun

and get acquainted. We want to thank **Mr. Steven Carra**, the Physical Education teacher at the school, for his generous offer of time, talent, ideas and energy! New this year: a giant stacking cup race ... but without the toucan! We'll report on the event in the next newsletter.

**Town-Wide Birthday Party Sunday, October 1**, from 3-5pm on the Town Common.

Should this news reach you in time, come to an event that had to be rescheduled due to all our rain! This is an opportunity

**Recreation**, cont. on page 5

to celebrate Shutesbury residents who begin a new decade of their lives in 2023. And any individual over 80 is also a special guest.

Everyone in town, of any age, is invited to this gathering to share cupcakes and cider, cheer the honorees as they parade around the common, and maybe make some new friends.

The Recreation Committee is co-sponsoring this event with the Council on Aging.

With the **Open Space Committee**, the Recreation Committee also plans to co-sponsor **seasonal walks** in Shutesbury. Shutesbury offers many beautiful walks featuring forests and wetlands and opportunities to enjoy the best that each season offers, from masses of Mountain Laurel in the spring to brilliant leaves in the fall.

The first walk may have occurred by the time of publication. For the winter, spring, and summer walks, please look for town-wide emails from the Recreation Committee. As a preview of what one walk in Shutesbury offers, the photo



shows a scene from Julian’s Bower, located in the northeast corner of town on the unpaved portion of Wendell Road.

**We are looking for new members!** The purpose of the Recreation Committee is to develop recreational activities designed to build community and enrich the quality of life in Shutesbury.

If your interests coincide with the Committee’s purpose and you want to be involved in supporting existing events (such as Family Field Day) and future programming (the long-awaited Community Gardens will break ground as soon as the library construction permits), we would love to hear from you.

Please email **Barbara Bigelow** at [Recreation@shutesbury.org](mailto:Recreation@shutesbury.org).

### Ramblings from the Open Space Committee: New town park opens on Lake Wyola!

In 2001 the Shutesbury Conservation Commission acquired a small plot of land (0.6 acres) off Merrill Drive for public access to the north end of Lake Wyola. The parcel includes the small island across the Cove.

With funding from a Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee grant, a low-impact canoe/kayak boat launch and pocket park have been created on the site.

The Top of the Lake Conservation Area features stone steps down to a stone landing at the lake’s edge for launching canoes and kayaks.

Plantings of native shrubs along the fence line and a

small native plant/pollinator garden are thriving.

A picnic table will be installed under the large white oak this fall.

The property, open dawn to dusk for canoeing, kayaking and picnicking, is managed by the Conservation Commission. The two parking spots are reserved for those using the conservation area.

Parking at the site is VERY limited, but is less than a ¼ mile walk from the Lake Wyola Association Hall located at 6 Shore Drive, Shutesbury, MA. Or, consider arriving by canoe or kayak!

A ceremony to celebrate the opening of the park was held on Friday, September 26. Come enjoy this lovely spot soon.

### Have an Idea for a Project to support our Town? The CPC can Fund It!

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is accepting applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for FY2025 projects in all four eligible CPA categories: historic preservation, community housing, open space, and recreation. The Committee encourages town boards and committees, as well as individuals or groups, to exercise their creativity in organizing and proposing projects, large or small, that fit the criteria of the CPA statute and meet the town’s preservation needs and goals.

This past year’s Annual Town Meeting approved two new CPA projects: \$5,000 in open space/recreation funding to the Conservation Commis-

sion to develop an accessible parking area at the new West Quabbin Conservation Area on Pelham Hill Road, and \$10,000 in historic resources funding to the Cemetery Commission for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic gravestones in the West Cemetery.

These two endeavors join over a dozen other similar projects that have received more than \$294,000 in CPA funding—and hundreds of thousands of dollars more in matching funding—since Shutesbury adopted the CPA in 2011.

Successful projects depend on a group of committed volunteers to come up with the idea, submit the application, lead it through the review process, and oversee implementation through completion.

This year, the **deadline for the 2-page Determination of Eligibility Form is December 4, 2023**. The CPC determines whether projects are legally eligible based on the CPA statute, the town’s Community Preservation bylaw, and existing case law.

If a project is legally eligible, the applicant may then submit a **full 5-page application by February 5, 2024**.

The CPC then uses the town’s Community Preservation Plan as a guide in deciding whether a proposed project aligns with the town’s stated preservation goals and priorities. Potential applicants are therefore encouraged to consult the Plan (available at [https://www.shutesbury.org/community\\_preservation](https://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation)) prior to completing a Determination of Eligibility form.

Projects approved by the CPC this spring will be voted on at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting and, if approved by Town Meeting, will be funded starting in FY2025.

For more information, to see a list of previous CPA-funded projects, or if you have an idea for a project that fits within one of the approved CPA categories, visit [https://www.shutesbury.org/community\\_preservation](https://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation) or email [cpc@shutesbury.org](mailto:cpc@shutesbury.org).

### October 27 is Deadline to Apply for local Cultural Council funding

We invite Shutesbury residents to apply for grants for cultural projects for 2024!

Each year, the Shutesbury Cultural Council awards grant funding to practitioners, artists, educators, and organizations who serve the arts, humanities, and science needs of the Shutesbury community.

In 2023, the Shutesbury Cultural Council awarded over \$5,500 of Mass Cultural Council funds to members of our community for a wide range of programming, including performances, classes, workshops, publications, and more.

The deadline for applying for funding in FY 2024 is October 17, 2023. Please visit [www.shutesbury.org/cultural](http://www.shutesbury.org/cultural) to learn more and apply.



You can help prevent outages to your home! After both the January and March snowstorms this year, we enacted our emergency response plan for the first time since the network was built.

Both of these storms were severe enough that *large percentages of the homes in town lost power*, some for multiple days, and dozens of homes had their broadband lines or equipment damaged.

After each storm, our new service provider deployed a small fleet of trucks and technicians to Shutesbury and had almost everyone back online within 48 hours.

We know how critical the internet is when these storms roll through for you to stay connected to loved ones, school, work, and entertainment.

Almost all of the damage to our network happened *on the lines that run from the road to each home*. YOU can help ensure your connection to the internet is safe during storms by doing the following:

- Clear Hazard Trees: Make sure tree limbs and vines are trimmed away from the fiber lines that run from the road to your home and remove any deadfall that could be hazardous to the wires. Please consider having this
-

- work done before this winter! Since tree work near wires entails personal safety risks, we recommend you consult with a professional. Unfortunately we can't do this kind of work on private property on a townwide basis due to liability and rules against using town funds for property improvements.
- Install Surge Protectors: Plug your in-home broadband equipment into a surge protector instead of directly into a wall socket. Electrical surges and cycles like what we had with the March storm can damage your equipment and surge protectors will help prevent this.
- Consider a Battery Backup: The battery backups sold during initial installation are reaching the end of their 3-5 year lifespan. If yours has failed, or you never got one, you might consider getting a new battery backup so you can continue to have phone service during a power outage. Larger battery backups can also supply your router and other devices with power so you can stay online on the internet during a power outage. See the FAQs page on our website for lots more information about this:



<https://www.shutesbury.org/broadband-transitionFAQ>

### From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Just a few reminders from the RSWC as we head into fall. All this information is on our website.

- What about holidays? When a holiday is coming up, have a look at the trash/recycling collection schedule for your collection day. When New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, and Christmas fall before regular pickup days in the week, collection is on the following day.
- Need to get rid of a mattress and box springs? They can be taken to the Wendell Transfer Station for \$35 each. They **can't** be taken to the Leverett Transfer Station.
- Trouble with critters? Bears, racoons, and crows can make a mess of your trash if it's put out overnight. We recommend putting the trash out in the morning by 7 am, especially if it has anything in it that might tempt curious critters. We also recommend putting full trash bags in a barrel with a top that closes.

Running out of trash bags? You can purchase a pack of 10 bags at Town Hall or at the Leverett Co-op for \$20. Cash only at the Co-op.

- What about plastic bags? Please don't put these in

either the trash or with the recyclables. They can be recycled at Stop & Shop and Big Y.

Shutesbury generally does a good job with trash disposal and recycling. Close to 40% of our waste stream is recycled. That's pretty darn good, compared to other Massachusetts communities, but the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee would love to see Shutesbury crack 50% in the coming year.

*The RSWC: Meryl Mandell, Chair; Gary Bernhard, Recycling Coordinator; Barbara Biegelow, Gail Fleischaker, Mary Glavin, Marla Killough, Tim Logan, Steve Rice, Peg Ross*

### From the Board of Assessors

#### Personnel Updates:

The Assessing Department is fully staffed with qualified Assessors, including Chairman of the Board Howard Schpetner, and Members George Arvanitis and April Stein. Administrative Assessor **David Burgess** has returned, semi-retired, to guide the department, having held the title of Shutesbury's Chief Assessor in the 1990s. Assessors welcome his extensive knowledge and experience.

#### Real Estate Tax Exemptions:

Shutesbury offers a variety of real estate tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, blind and low-income taxpayers. Explanatory guides and application

forms are available to review at the Shutesbury Assessors' department webpage. Annual applications were sent during the summer to all property owners who received partial exemption from their taxes in the previous year. Though Shutesbury's newest "Means-Tested Circuit-Breaker" exemption, applications were due on August 31, all other applications are due April 1 each year.

The Assessors' office welcomes inquiries concerning exemptions throughout the year, and it is never too early to prepare for, or begin, the annual application process.

### **Notice to Chapter 61**

#### **Applicants:**

State legislation in 2022 moved the application due date for all 10-year Chapter 61 – Forestry applicants, and annual Chapter 61A – Agricultural/Horticultural, and Chapter 61B – Recreation/Open Space applicants from October 1 to December 1.

This means that taxpayers who wish to renew their status for FY 25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), or put their land into any of those Chapter classifications for the first time, have two extra months to apply this year.

That said, it is never too soon to submit applications for the Assessors' Board to begin their review.

Renewal notices were sent out in the summer to owners of land already in the various Chapter 61 classifications.

Taxpayers seeking more information about the benefits and obligations of Chapter 61 land classification will find a very helpful property owner guide at [www.masswoods.org](http://www.masswoods.org) under "Landowner Programs."

For more information about these options, or any other questions, taxpayers are invited to visit the Assessors' Department webpage at [Shutesbury.org](http://Shutesbury.org), email:

[assessor@shutesbury.org](mailto:assessor@shutesbury.org), call the Assessors' office at 413-259-3790 and leave a message anytime, or stop in during Assessors' Clerk **Leslie Bracebridge's** office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11am to 3 pm, Wednesdays from 10am to Noon, or by special appointment.

### **Note from the Town Collector**

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the fall approaching, the second quarter of your real estate and personal property taxes will be mailed 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 bottom portion of your first quarter bill as your total bill may be too small to generate a second quarter bill.

If you pay into an escrow account with your mortgage holder when you make your mortgage payment, do NOT pay your real estate taxes on your residential property. The bank will pay it from the escrow account. If you have multiple parcels, please check with your bank as to which parcels they pay.

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 change the mailing address of the check so generated from the Woburn address, which is that of the lockbox, to the Town Collector's address which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Because your checks are not accompanied by a bill, the lockbox is unable to process the payment until I notify them of the type and number of the bill.

Please plan ahead when you mail your payments as it may take as much as a week to be delivered to any addressee.

If you do not feel comfortable coming into the Town Hall, you can drop off your payment in the drop box next to the driveway in front of the Town Hall. Please place the payment in an envelope addressed to the Collector. If you want a stamped receipt, please put a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the bill.

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 all bills for fiscal 2024. In the case of this fiscal year (2024) that date is January 1, 2023. 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 certain 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. Shutesbury must appear on your "place of garaging" so the tax bill is issued by Shutesbury for collection. 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 or automobiles 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 ad-

dress 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.

Ellen McKay  
Town Collector

### Developmental Screenings for 3, 4 & 5 Year Olds in the community

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

Screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development. This activity takes about 40 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please call **Nicole Sutka**, Shutesbury Elementary Student Support Teacher at 413-259-1212

[sutkan@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:sutkan@shutesburyschool.org)

**This service is available to all families in town, including**

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



### Early Childhood Program

The Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) Community believes that opportunities for early childhood education are essential components of a good education system. Early experiences in an environment rich in hands-on materials and activities provide children various opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively. We believe that a trans-disciplinary team approach, in which all adults working with children are responsible for a child's learning, is the most effective way of teaching, and we also believe that parents are the most important teachers of their children and that their involvement in their child's education is essential.

**Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2023, for pre-school enrollment, or 5 years old, on or before September 1, 2023, for kindergarten enrollment. Please contact the school for Fall/2023 enrollment information.**

For more information, please call **Laura Feltman**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x100, [feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org) or **Grace Griecci**, 413-259-1212 x140, [griecci@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griecci@shutesburyschool.org)

# News from the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library

## Thank you! Your Support Makes a Difference!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who rallied behind our Fund the Fun Stuff campaign throughout July and August. At the heart of our library's mission is the commitment to providing a diverse range of programs that cater to the needs of our community, from storytime sessions for our littlest patrons to invigorating fitness classes for our older adults, and everything in between.

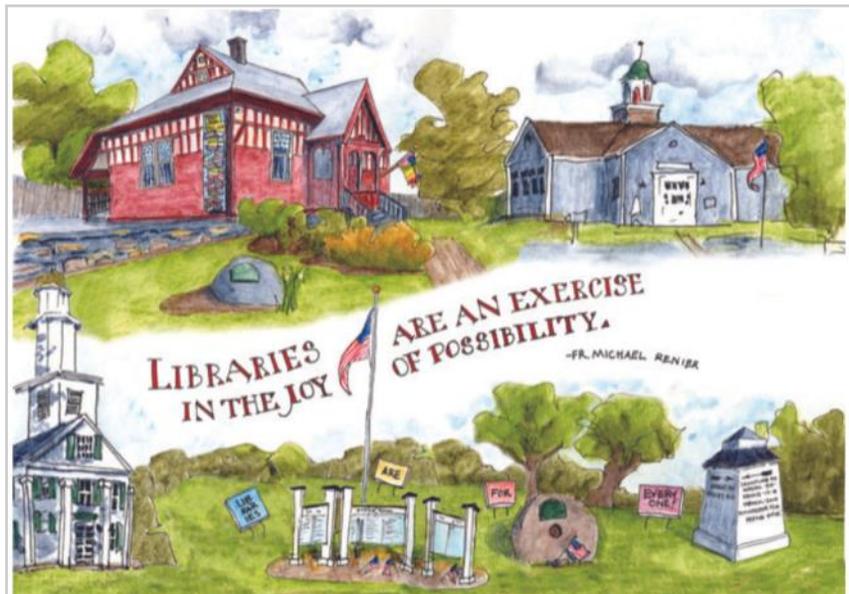
During the summer, we reached out to our wonderful supporters, appealing for their generosity to help us sustain our educational and enriching library programming.

We were truly overwhelmed by the response. Thanks to your unwavering support, 61 donors came forward, contributing a total of \$7,530. This not only exceeded our initial goal but also solidified our ability to ensure that the programming our community values and depends on will continue to thrive.

Thank you for making a difference and helping us ensure that Library programs are accessible to all.

## All Together Now!

The Friends of the Library are thrilled about the evolving design of our upcoming Shutesbury Library! We are committed to maintaining our fundraising efforts to support this crucial project. We continue our ongoing initiatives, such as collecting redeemable bottles and cans, selling Shutesbury Swag, and



conducting Giving Day appeals. Additionally, as we approach the groundbreaking and construction of our new library, we are exploring innovative strategies to broaden our outreach during this exciting milestone.

**Fun Fact: Library supporters have donated 48,650 bottles and cans in 2023.**

## Give the Gift of a New Library

Local artist **Christie Payne** has crafted a unique card/bookmark set (see image of card above!) designed for expressing gratitude to a friend or neighbor for a favor, or celebrating library supporter's birthday or other special occasions.

The card features a stunning depiction of the various elements that make up our cherished town common.

This delightful card and bookmark set can be yours for a contribution of \$15.00 or more to our new library fund. You can conveniently purchase these cards at the Library. Your purchase not only adds a touch of artistic beauty to your sentiments but also supports the

realization of our new library project.

## Roadtown Turkey Trot

We're also excited to announce our upcoming event, the Roadtown Turkey Trot! This Thanksgiving-themed 5K race is open to walkers and runners of all ages. Picture this: on a crisp autumn day, participants of all abilities will gather for an invigorating 5K road race and celebration of our community.

Whether you're a seasoned runner seeking a new challenge, or a walking enthusiast looking for a fun way to kickstart your Thanksgiving celebrations, the Turkey Trot promises to be an inclusive event for everyone. Here's what you can expect:

- A kids' fun run for our young participants.
- Exciting prizes that will add to your Thanksgiving table's bounty.
- Support and recognition from our local business sponsors.
- Most important, all proceeds will go towards funding the new Shutesbury library.

We are excited to share that our outreach efforts to businesses

beyond Shutesbury's borders have yielded remarkable support for the race and our new library project. Currently, we have 11 businesses that have generously stepped up as sponsors, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Join us in extending our heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors:

1. Bueno y Sano
2. Greenfield Savings Bank
3. Integrity Development & Construction, Inc.
4. Pelham Auto Service
5. Tandem Bagel Company
6. Marathon Sports
7. Hampshire Athletic Club
8. Petersham Sanitary Service
9. Atkins Farms
10. Trader Joe's
11. Big Y
12. Shutesbury's very own Shutesbury Holiday Shop

As we continue our efforts, we anticipate that this list will continue to grow. You can stay updated on all our sponsors and register for the race on our website, [roadtown.org](http://roadtown.org). Your support and participation are instrumental in making the Roadtown Turkey Trot and our new library project a resounding success. Thank you!

### Giving Tuesday

Mark your calendars because Giving Tuesday, our annual year-end appeal, is set for Tuesday, November 28! Giving Tuesday is a worldwide celebration of generosity, and we are excited to be a part of this global movement. As we approach this special day, we will be in touch to share more details on how you can contribute to the new Shutesbury Library through your year-end giving. Your support on Giving Tuesday will play a significant role in helping us achieve

our goals for the library project, and we can't wait to show you how you can make a difference. Stay tuned for updates, and thank you for your continued support!

### Florence Bank Customer's Choice Community Grants

This year, Florence Bank is giving \$125,000 to area non-profit organizations, based on their customer's votes. The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library has won Florence Bank grants every year for the past nine years, totaling more than \$14,000 for our new library fund. If you are a Florence Bank customer, please visit <https://www.florencebank.com/customers-choice-community-grants> to cast your vote for the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

### Library Programs

Save the Date for some upcoming Library programs

### Bark Baskets by Jennifer Lee

Saturday, October 28, 10am – 2 pm, at Town Hall  
This workshop for adults and teens is a messy process. *Bring an apron! And bring lunch.* Jennifer Lee will guide each participant in the creation of a unique bark basket. Bark and all necessary tools will be provided. Space is limited, please email [library.director@shutesbury.org](mailto:library.director@shutesbury.org) to register.

Jennifer Lee has been enjoying making bark baskets for 40 years. Her interest began with the study of her Native American ancestors of the Northeast Woodlands. She teaches basket classes and educational programs extensively. The bark roots and branches are wild

harvested by her family in the Northern Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts.

### Multi Book in Box in Book Form – an Art Workshop with Jeannette Stockton

Sunday, November 5, 2pm, at Town Hall.

In this workshop, we will make a small book structure which will have three built-in drawers. Time permitting, we'll learn a few simple book forms to hide in the drawers. This will be a base for your own personal artistic and/or written expression. It can also be used to hide secret treasures.

*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

### The Boston Tea Party -- 250 Years Later

Offered in partnership with the Tewksbury Library.

Saturday, December 16, 2023  
2pm on Zoom, visit [mnspear.org](http://mnspear.org) to find a registration link.

The story of tea has always been infused with intrigue, particularly when it became a flash point for tensions between England and Colonial America. On the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773), learn about the brewing political problems tea presented in its history with Anglo-ophile and former UK resident Claire Evans.

Then, author, genealogist, librarian, and former UK resident Debra Dudek examines the history of the Boston Tea Party's most famous partiers (and phonies), as well as how to trace *bona fide* participants through lineage societies and historical groups.



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ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 413-259-1108	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Leonard Czerwonka 413-259-1211	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Chief 413-259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Geneva Bickford 413-259-6550	ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM. Michael DeChiara, Chair 413-259-1059	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair 413-801-9714
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COUNCIL ON AGING For general inquires and details on Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
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