

## TA Report 3.5.10



**FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK** – Joel Harris, environmental scientist for O’Reilly, Talbot and Okun, returned to Shutesbury on Wednesday morning to perform long term air gas tests. On Thursday the (GPR) ground penetrating radar survey was performed. The fire department helped out by moving out all the vehicles, 2 pumper trucks, the emergency rescue vehicle and the motorboat from the bays. The highway department brought in a backhoe to move mountains of snow and open up the area to radar testing. I want to thank the fire and highway departments, for their assistance. Their work allowed the GPR system free access to target areas. The ground penetrating radar system is housed on a wheeled frame and criss-crossed all areas outside the original structure. Grid pattern lanes were investigated inside the fire station bays and auxiliary areas as well as the full exterior parking area and beyond to the south. But a second tank was not detected. There is not a second tank.

Thanks to those who again welcomed us into their homes for more tests. I know it was an inconvenience and we very much appreciate your time.

The next step will be to analyze the lab reports on the tests and begin writing the Immediate Action Response report, IRA. The final IRA test, surface water monitoring and water tests of the wetland cannot happen until we have an extended thaw.

I spoke with DEP today about setting up a meeting during the week of March 15, to develop the scope of work for the Clean Up site.



## **BUDGET AND FINANCE 2010**

The Finance Committee and Selectboard reviewed Shutesbury’s 2010 budget at a joint meeting Tuesday night. All departments have taken a zero % increase, with 2 minor exceptions, library expenses and the regional school budget. Library fines go into a revolving fund and offset expenses. The Amherst Pelham regional school budget is up .41%. Our declining enrollment is the major factor in the assessment not increasing as much as in comparison with the other towns

in the region. If the Amherst override does not pass this number will be reduced. The budget revenue numbers are based on estimates of declining state funding in local aid of 10% for chapter 70-education aid, and lottery aid. The budget also includes salary increases of 1 1/2%. Capital projects in the budget are limited to maintenance issues, replacement windows and painting of the elementary school. All in all we are in extremely good financial shape considering the questionable economy.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE/SELECTBOARD** Meeting set for 3/11/10, 7:30pm, Thursday night, to discuss the formation and charge of a committee “to engage in reflection of educational goals and to explore options.” There is renewed talk at the state level for towns to create new efficiencies through new collaborations. It is important for the town to explore these issues before directives come from the state and we are caught without having researched these issues as a community. There are many cost efficiencies and educational benefits in being a part of Union 28. We have a solid baseline for comparison while reviewing these issues.

### **BROADBAND**

**WRITE LETTERS OF NEED AND DEMAND** to support **BROADBAND** in your neighborhood. Check out:

<http://www.westernmaconnect.org/page.php?PageID=2526&PageName=Letter+of+Need+and+Demand>. Do what you can to help. To be included in the final application package, the letter of need and demand must be emailed. A scanned letter or letter with electronic **signature must be received no later than 5 pm on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** by [sharon@westernmaconnect.org](mailto:sharon@westernmaconnect.org).

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

Openings on:  
Conservation Commission  
Building Committee  
Lake Wyola Advisory Committee  
Water Resources Committee  
And  
Recreation Committee

Please come to meetings you are interested in becoming a member of to see what is going on. Meeting notices are on the bulletin board in lobby of town hall. Please call if you have any questions.