Lot O-32 holds potential for Shutesbury’s future
Lot O-32 is a 22.6 acre lot with 450 feet of frontage on Leverett Road. It is across from the highway department and between town center and the elementary school.

The parcel has recently changed hands. The town now has an opportunity to purchase this land with a buy-sell agreement for the property, contingent on funding. The townspeople will vote on September 15 at the elementary school whether to spend $212,500 for the property.

The town holds few parcels of land. The Master Plan reported that all departments are now or will be facing space shortages. The school is land- and wetland-locked. The highway department is out of room.

Town committees vie for space, with filing cabinets in every nook and cranny. The library must remove a book for every one that it adds.

The police department is compact, with temporary storage and car ports popping up on most town grounds. The fire department is acquiring a storage trailer for emergency equipment.

With open space and recreation priorities for the town, we hope to expand land holdings to preserve those ideals for generations to come.

Although the use of Lot O-32 is not defined at this time, we are certain that the land will be used to facilitate smart growth and enhanced services in the years ahead.

Please contact the select board and town hall with your questions.

We hope you will support this acquisition,

The Shutesbury Select Board,
Ralph Armstrong
Becky Torres, Chair
Joseph Jacobs

Celebrate Shutesbury September 18
Celebrate Shutesbury, the annual town festival, is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, on the Town Common.

There will be a festive bike parade from the school to the common, hay rides, a giant slide and climbing wall, live music, belly dancing, other entertainments, good food by the Village Co-op, the Friends of the Library book sale, and lots of other doings.

Anyone who wants to have an information table, participate in the tag sale area, sell crafts or art, or who may want to volunteer to make music for the community, should please contact Dina Stander at 259-9125.

Citizens of Shutesbury: Our kids need you!
Consider becoming a Learning Partner and mentor to one of our elementary-aged students.

Adult volunteers are paired with a student and meet once a week for half an hour during the school day at Shutesbury Elementary School. Your time is spent together reading and forming an important bond. This program will begin its fifth year at the school, is popular with students, and is valued by the administration, teachers, parents and—most especially—by the mentors themselves. Many adult Learning Partners have said this is a consistently rewarding weekly half hour that they would not trade for anything.

We currently have 26 students paired with adult mentors. More children are waiting for Learning Partners and we need YOU! Training is provided and scheduling is flexible.

For more information or to join our Learning Partners program call: Mary Anne Antonellis at 259-1589 or Dina Stander at 259-9125.

Do you use e-mail?
The Web Committee wants to remind everyone that there is a town-wide e-mail list available. From the town web site—www.shutesbury.org—you can sign up for timely announcements of town-sponsored events and information.

You will not get overwhelmed with a lot of e-mail, your addresses are not visible to other recipients, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Private messages are not sent out through the list, but you might pick up some timely tips from your town officials. And don’t forget, there is a bushel of information always available on the web site.

Board and Committee Members:
Please consider using the town e-mail list as a resource to distribute information on your activities. Perhaps you can add it as a standing agenda item. Just e-mail your official info to “announce@shutesbury.org”.

If you want to create or update your committee’s web page, send your request to web@shutesbury.org”.

Bulky Waste Day is back Saturday, October 2, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Highway Garage. Dispose of items that can’t be picked up with your regular trash. Check www.shutesbury.org/recycling for details, or call Paul Vlach, 259-1543, if you lack Internet access.
Fines are imposed on owners of dogs residing in Shutesbury if they do not have a current and re-united with their families.

**Bylaw Approval** The General Bylaw passed at our May 1 Annual Town Meeting, entitled "Finance Committee Bylaw," was approved by the Attorney General's Office on July 16, 2004 and is now in full effect. Copies of the bylaw are posted on the town bulletin boards at the Town Hall, the Post Office, the Library, the Elementary School, Locks Pond Road and Cushman Road.

If you have any questions about anything to do with town government, give us a call and we'll try to help you.

Leslie and Joan

**Huzzah to holiday helpers**

Seven citizens gave new meaning to the phrase "patriot act" this summer. On Monday, July 5—a national holiday following Sunday's Independence Day—they turned out to prepare the summer edition of *Our Town* for the mail. Sandy Oken-Dann, David Dann, Janice Stone, Randy Stone, Leslie Bracebridge, Janis Gray, and Julie Taylor stuffed, folded and sealed the 850 newsletters in record time. Sandy also volunteered to deliver the pieces to the Post Office when it reopened the following day.

If you would like to join future "folding parties" (which, we hope, will not fall on major holidays!), please call 259-1204 to be put on our list of people to call (you are under no obligation if you do). Your help will be welcome at Town Hall, in your own home, in the evening or the day.

**Reminders and tips on recycling and trash**

Paul Vlach, Recycling Coordinator

We don't know if crows can see in color, but they have surely learned to recognize the yellow Shutesbury trash bags as easy pickings. Crows have been responsible for ripping apart bags, and our haulers must leave them to be repackaged and collected the following week. If you are having a problem with crows, dogs or other critters tearing apart your bags, protect them in barrels, especially if you put them out on Tuesday nights.

Reminder: Trash and recycling must both be out **at curbside by 7:00 am each Wednesday**, as required by Town regulations and stipulated in our contract. In the past, the haulers have consolidated the materials on the first run, to maximize their efficiency. They are currently trying an alternative system, combining the east and west routes, picking up both items on a single run with both trucks. Either way, your neighborhood pickup times may vary, which is why it is important to have everything available early. If you notice a collection problem during the day of the pickup, please call the Town Hall at 259-1214 to report it immediately. If you have a less urgent problem or question, e-mail Paul Vlach at recycling@shutesbury.org or leave a message at 259-1543.

Some people have found that the **new style of trash bags**, with their molded handles, don't hang well inside their trash barrels. Cutting through the center of the handles, and stretching the top of the bag, may allow for a better fit, and leave you with four "wings" to cross-tie the bag when it's full.

Remember: The only holiday pickup delay until next Spring occurs on the week of Labor Day. Pickup of trash and (paper) recycling will occur on **Thursday, September 9, 2004**.

**Compost bins**, at a subsidized cost of $20, are still available at the Town Hall for your kitchen vegetable trimmings, autumn leaves, or fall garden cleanup.
Note from the Town Collector
Ellen McKay, Tax Collector

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the fall approaching, so, too, is the mailing of the next installment of your real estate and personal property taxes. This will occur the end of September with a due date of November 1. If you have fully paid the first half bill with your first quarter payment, you will not receive a bill for November.

"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 owns property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2005) that date is January 1, 2004. 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.

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 data base 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.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should not be ignored, even if it is on property 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 or Form of List.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address 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.

Is your well water safe?
Catherine Hilton, Board of Health

If you were on city water, the water that came into your home would be tested frequently to ensure its safety. In Shutesbury, where every one of us has to rely on a private well, the responsibility to monitor the drinking water supply falls to the homeowner. We like to think that in our unpolluted rural town, the water just has to be better than what they get in town. But though our well water may taste better than Amherst water, that’s no guarantee that it doesn’t contain contaminants that we can’t see, smell, or taste.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not have statewide well regulations; this is left to the individual towns. Shutesbury’s well regs. require testing for numerous parameters at the time the well is drilled; they also specify minimum setbacks between the well and known sources of possible contamination, such as road runoff, fuel storage tanks, and septic systems. When the Board of Health reviews a septic system repair proposal, we make sure that the separation between the leaching area and well is respected if possible; if it is not possible, we order a couple of simple and inexpensive water tests to be performed annually. Around Lake Wyola, where the lots are very small, many such testing orders are in effect.

If your well is not in this situation, that’s good. But any well can become contaminated; that’s why the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the Board of Health recommend that all homeowners test their well water annually for nitrate and total coliform bacteria, which are useful indicators of many types of contamination. The Board of Health is particularly interested in the results of these tests: first, of course, we hope to protect you and your family from the effects of contaminated water. In addition, we would like to develop a map of nitrate concentration in well water to help plan for future water supply and wastewater management.

To these ends, the Board of Health encourages all homeowners in Shutesbury to have these tests done and to forward the results to the board (P.O. Box 216). Many local labs are equipped to perform these inexpensive tests; contact the Board of Health at 259-2122 for further information.

Family Network reaches out to little ones

Since 1998, the Eving School Union #28 has been funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education/MA Family Network to provide outreach, education and support services for families with children under four years of age living in the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, New Salem and Wendell.

We offer weekly/biweekly story hours and play groups in the local libraries and churches; Parent Council meetings; workshops based on assessed families’ needs; field trips and frequent fun events for the entire family. We also make Home Visits with our Baby Gift Bags to families with newborns to welcome them into our program.

If you have just moved into Shutesbury, have a child under four years of age, are pregnant or have a newborn, please call Naz Mohamed-Ahamed at 413-423-3337 or e-mail mohamed@erving.com to be put on our mailing list. 

- 3 -

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Time to reflect… and begin anew
Anne Lundberg, Chair, School Committee

When our work, home, and volunteer lives are busy, it is hard to step back and take the time to reflect; yet this time for informal self-assessment is a critical piece of good work. It allows room for us to see what we have accomplished and what is coming up on the horizon. Most important, it allows us some distance to make sure that we are on course.

This past year the School Committee (SC) has given a lot of thought to how we can best build reflection into our town work. This has been hard to do because there is a high level of ongoing routine work to keep up with, the new unexpected issues that arise, and the backlog of time consuming housekeeping tasks. Yet as a group we have felt the need, almost urgency, to have some time to reflect on our group work and not just to be doing the work!

Over the winter we held two separate SC sessions for this purpose. From the brainstorming of tasks and issues that came out of these meetings, we planned in time during our regular summer meetings for this work to continue. The themes that emerged concerned (1) ways to organize our ongoing work more effectively and (2) communication with and within the broader community. We would like to share a couple of the concrete steps we have taken to improve our collective group work with, and for, you all.

We were feeling a lack of overview regarding the different areas that the SC has responsibilities to fulfill. We knew the big three—policy, budget and superintendent—yet there always seemed to be more to do! In reflecting back over the tasks we did (have to do each year), we defined seven (not three) areas of perpetual work: policy, budget, hiring and negotiation, Amherst Regional, Union #28 and Superintendent, School Council, and SES Principal. Each of these areas has its specific tasks and annual cycles of those tasks!

We spent time refining the work/tasks in each of these areas and culling out their timelines and then created an organizational master-piece—a Perpetual Annual Work Calendar! To the seven work areas defined for this calendar, we added two more—Communication and Reflection and Visioning—for a grand total of nine. No, we’re not really gluttons for punishment, rather these are two work areas where we do have responsibilities, which have remained sort of hidden from view. Having this structural piece in place, we think will make our work run smoother in our preparation and homework for SC meetings, as well as the work/tasks that overlap with other people or groups. A copy of our calendar is enclosed in this newsletter.

The two newly stated areas—Communication and Reflection and Visioning—center around our work with you all—the larger extended town community. As a committee, we want our work to be as accessible and transparent as possible. As you read under Reflection and Visioning, you will see scheduled times for (1) open-ended discussion around goals for SES with our Union #28 Superintendent, Linda Driscoll, (2) time to review policies that impact the educational experience the children receive, and (3) time for extra goal-setting meetings each winter. Under the Communication column, we have slotted in an open Community Forum in October. Our hope is that this might be a joint early-evening-dinner-meeting with the School Council, held prior to our regular meeting on Wednesday, October 20. Watch the town Web site for details!

I will end here on a Communication issue that we need your help in problem solving! When we need to communicate quickly with parents of SES aged kids, we can do this through the support of the Principal, either through the weekly Roadtown News or class phone trees or list serves.

We have no such mechanism to reach families with children in the middle school or high school, or those in private schools or homeschooled. We would like to be able to do this! Often there are education issues that we would like to communicate with these groups of families—and yet we do not have a quick means of communication. Actually, we do not even have a slow means to do this work. We have no official list of who you all are. The middle and high schools do not sort kids by their towns.

Anyone who has an idea about how to set this up and maintain it and is willing to help us, please be in touch with any SC member. We would really like to have this in place as soon as possible. It doesn’t fall on the schools to do this for us; it falls on the town. So if you are a town person who has skills and time to help us, hallelujah!

Goodbye, “Mr. B.”
B.Z. Reily, Faculty, Shutesbury Elementary School

Ron Berger has left Shutesbury Elementary School after teaching here for 27 years. He has been a nationally recognized teacher whom we have been incredibly lucky to have had as a resource and a role model at the school, and he has had a positive influence on countless students.

We are compiling an appreciation book for him, and we need your stories, photos, memories, drawings, calligraphy, poems about Ron and your 6th grade experiences.

Please use an 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper and by September 10, send it to “Ron Berger Appreciation Book,” Box 84, Shutesbury, MA 01072 (care of Reily/Stocker ). Spread the word to your former classmates, neighbors and friends and help us say thank you to Ron and to wish him well!

South School restoration update
On July 11, the Sirius Community held a tag sale with arts and crafts to benefit the restoration of Shutesbury’s former South School, a 19th century one-room structure. The fundraising event was held at the site of the site of the school on the corner of Baker and Schoolhouse Roads.

Schoolhouse continued on page 5
Schoolhouse, continued from page 4
Many local community members and townspeople attended. The weather turned out fine, and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. Items were donated for sale, contributions were received, and volunteers offered their labor for the building effort.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has found the schoolhouse, built in 1840, eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sirius Community, which owns the property, plans to restore the schoolhouse to its original 19th century appearance, and use it as an educational woodcarving, woodcraft, and arts facility. A similar event is planned for the upcoming Celebrate Shutesbury Day on the Town Common September 18.

Passport applications come closer to home
Robin Driscoll, Postmaster

The Shutesbury Post Office now accepts passport applications (by appointment only). You can download a passport application at www.usps.com/passport or you can come in to the office during opening hours to pick up applications. We have forms for new passports, and forms to renew by mail.

We recommend you come in as early as possible to apply—at least two months prior to departure—to avoid the extra costs of expediting an application.

Normally, it costs $85 for adults (age 16 and older), with separate payments of $30 to the Postal Service for processing, and $55 to the Department of State for the application fee. For persons under 16, the total cost is $70 ($30 processing fee to USPS and $40 to the Department of State). Expedited service adds $60, payable to the Department of State. Express Mail overnight service may also be used one or both ways.

To apply, you will need:
1) Proof of American citizenship. This must be a certified birth certificate issued by the city, county or state; a previous U.S. passport; a certificate of citizenship; or a naturalization certificate.
2) Proof of identity. This must be a previous U.S. passport; a naturalization certificate, a certificate of citizenship; or a current valid driver’s license, government ID or military photo ID.
3) Two recent identical passport photographs.

When you have everything you need, call me at 259-1440 for an appointment.

Remember Lyme Disease precautions
Summer may be leaving us, but ticks stay with us well into the warm months of the fall. The Shutesbury Board of Health reminds you to continue tick precautions:

Stay out of the tall grass.
Use clothing as protection.
Consider using repellents.
Check yourself, your children, and your pets daily for ticks.
Make your home unfriendly to ticks! Remove extra brush, woodpiles and leaves.
If you do find a tick attached to yourself, your child or your pet, here’s how to safely remove it:
Use fine-tipped tweezers, or shield your fingers with a tissue, paper towel, or rubber gloves.
Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick; this may cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. (If this happens, remove mouthparts with tweezers.)
Do not squeeze, crush, or puncture the body of the tick because its fluids may contain infectious organisms.
Do not handle the tick with bare hands because infectious agents may enter through mucous membranes or breaks in your skin.
Don’t use petroleum jelly or kerosene/gasoline, and don’t try to burn the tick off.
After removing a tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water.

Any person who has had a tick bite should monitor him- or herself for the appearance of rash, fever or other symptoms and seek medical evaluation should any signs or symptoms appear.

News from the Lake
Carol Samuels, Clerk, Lake Wyola Association

The events of the summer have been enjoyed by townspeople and visitors alike.

The summertime activities began with the Lake Wyola Road Race. There was a record number of participants this year (189) and a course record was set in the Women’s Division. The fun continued with the pancake breakfast, steak roast and chicken BBQ. The tag and bake sale saw many of you looking for treasures and treats and the July 4th water carnival was enjoyed by 30 youngsters. Thanks to all who volunteered for and supported these events.

The Lake Wyola Association membership learned of a Department of Conservation and Recreation 319 Grant for Lake Wyola.

The purpose is to "keep Lake Wyola in great shape," said Anne Monelly of the DCR. "Prevention is critical." The grant is 75% federally funded, with 25% funding from the State.

The plan will be implemented in 6 parts:
1. Watershed Survey: To get an overall picture of erosion, invasive plants, etc.
2. Road Repairs: Improvements that will trap sediment before it goes into the lake.
3. Native Plantings: To prevent erosion and attract wildlife.
5. New Boat Ramp Signs: To remind boaters to check for plants and clean propellers.
6. Boat Ramp Monitor: Hired to provide educational information and a friendly inspection.

Although this grant does not address silt removal, there is concern Lake news continued on page 6
Jane Buchanan, Director

Hours Labor Day through Memorial Day:

Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 am to Noon and 2:00 to 5:00 pm
Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 to 7:30 pm
Sunday, 3:30 to 5:30 pm

We celebrated the end of Summer Reading in August with a party featuring a performance by Caribbean for Kids. A total of 111 children signed up for the seven-week program.

Congratulations to Ava Borneo, Jonas Bucciarelli, and Jorden Van Emmerik, who won the jar of candy in a three-way split. And thanks to all who brought in posters of their favorite books. They’ve added a colorful touch to the circulation desk!

The program would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of the Library, which provided financial support, and the Shutesbury Elementary School, which loaned us books to supplement our collection. Bonnie Adams coordinated the program this year, and her enthusiasm and hard work were invaluable.

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System supplied materials and sponsored the program regionally. A special thanks, too, to all the parents who encouraged their children to participate and filled out all the paperwork!

And finally, an enormous thanks to all the children who read and were read to. You’re what it’s all about!

Beginning in September, Story Hour will be held on Mondays at 10:00 am. Our new storyteller will be Ezelle Floranina. She replaces Ellen Trousdale, who shared stories, songs, and crafts with the children for six years. Our thanks go to Ellen for her years of devotion to our youngest patrons. And to Ezelle, a warm welcome!

Due to the scheduling change for Story Hour, Fragrance Free Hours at the library will also move. They will be Wednesday morning from 10:00 to Noon. Please be sure, if you come to the library during those hours, to respect the needs of those who are chemically sensitive.

Book Club embarks on another year

The kickoff meeting for the Shutesbury Book Club will be Monday, September 20, at 7:30 pm at the house of Jen Davies, 24 Leverett Rd. All are welcome.

Bring suggestions for books, fiction and non, that you have read and that you think would make for good discussion. If you can’t make it, but would like to get on the email list for future meetings, send an email to jen.davies@mindspring.com.

Check out the Friends of the Library book sale!

Once again, the Friends of the Library, a nonprofit support group, will have a book sale on the Town Common during Celebrate Shutesbury (Saturday, September 18). To volunteer to help sort and arrange books the day before (Friday, September 17), or to sell books on Saturday, call the library at 259-1213. If you have books you’d like to donate, make sure they are in good condition (no mildew!), pack them in boxes, and call the library after Labor Day to arrange to bring them in. (No textbooks, please.)
August 27th to September 12th — The Shutesbury Police Department will support the Massachusetts Governors Highway Safety Bureau You Drink & Drive. You Lose. – Visit the www.nhtsa.dot.gov for more information.

September 1st — Deadline to submit Chapter 61 Forest Management Plans for 10-year re-certification.

September 7th — Franklin County Sheriff’s Office will give a presentation of its prisoner community service program at the Selectboard meeting. Shutesbury is considering this program for some projects. This will be a good opportunity to talk with the Sheriff’s Office about the program. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

September 14th — State Primary; polls will be open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm, Town Hall.

September 15th — Special Town Meeting, Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Road, 7:00 pm. The meeting will consider the purchase of a 20+ - acre property at 66 Leverett Road. This property could be used for numerous future projects.

September 16th — Department of Conservation & Recreation Lake Wyola State Park/Wendell State Forest Advisory Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Lake Wyola Park House.

September 18th — Celebrate Shutesbury, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Town Common (Rain date 9/19)

September 21st — All Boards Meeting, 7:00 pm, Town Hall. Shutesbury officials meet with Select Board to discuss future projects and items of importance. The public is welcome.

October 2nd — Annual applications due to Assessors for continued classification of land as Chapter 61A (Agricultural) and Chapter 61B (Recreational).

October 2nd — Bulky Waste Day, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Highway Garage, 59 Leverett Road.

October 11th — West Schoolhouse Annual Columbus Day Open House, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Leverett and West Pelham Roads intersection.

November 1st — Quarterly taxes due.

November 2nd — Election Day; Polls will be open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm, Town Hall.

October 3rd to 9th — Fire Prevention Week. The Shutesbury Fire Department will conduct education programs. Contact the department for more information at 259-1211.

Future projects being worked on include:
Lake Wyola draw down, scheduled for September of 2005.
Lake Wyola study to determine alternative methods of septic system use.

Documents recently completed and available for review at Town Hall:
Shutesbury Master Plan
Shutesbury Economic Development Plan
Shutesbury Self Evaluation and Transition Plan
### HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTANT</td>
<td>David Kielson</td>
<td>259-1108</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADA COMMITTEE</td>
<td>Ziporah Hildebrandt</td>
<td>259-1874</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</td>
<td>David Ames</td>
<td>259-1214</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANIMAL INSPECTOR</td>
<td>Denise Chiminiello</td>
<td>259-1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSORS</td>
<td>Kenneth Holmberg</td>
<td>259-3790</td>
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<td>Leo J. Parent, Jr.</td>
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<td>Maurice Gregoire</td>
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<td>Barbara Goodhind</td>
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**Special Town Meeting**

**September 15—see inside!**

Resident

Shutesbury, MA 01072