The summer of heavy equipment
David Dann, Town Administrator

Wow, what a summer for projects! The Leverett/Cooleyville/Prescott Roads Footprint Project should be winding down soon. The last portion of the project is a final paving and grading scheduled for mid to late September. The contractor will come back in the spring for final touch-up work.

The Town benefitted enormously by having the State pay for such a large project, over $3,000,000.

While the construction/digging was going on, the contractor exposed an old gasoline leak in front of the Fire Station. The problem is a very serious one, which exposed an old gasoline tank (removed, along with a very wide zone of contaminated soil). We are in the process of cleaning up the site, but final cost will be very significant.

We will be starting the repair of the Lake Wyola Dam, thanks in a large part to our State Sen. Stan Rosenberg and State Rep. Steve Kulik for all their efforts in obtaining the funds for needed repairs of the lake’s dam.

After funding for the repairs was added to the state budget, it was vetoed by Gov. Deval Patrick. Rosenberg and Kulik were instrumental in bringing about the override vote that followed.

Celebrate Shutesbury returns!
Dina Stander, Shutesbury Education Foundation

A colorful flyer by Ron Berger advertising the details of our annual town fair on Saturday, Sept. 20 can be found in this newsletter.

But our tribute to a town resident at 12:30pm deserves a separate mention of its own. Each year at Celebrate Shutesbury, the Shutesbury Education Foundation (SEF) recognizes a member of our community who has made a significant contribution to making the world a better and more interesting place to live.

This year, the SEF is honored to

Thanking those who gave a dam (a second chance!)

Lake Wyola residents will host a reception at the Shutesbury Athletic Club on Wendell Road on Sunday, September 21 from noon - 2:00pm to personally thank State Sen. Stan Rosenberg and State Rep. Steve Kulik for all their efforts in obtaining the funds for needed repairs of the lake’s dam.

Community Preservation Act’s next steps include October special town meeting
Community Preservation Act Study Committee

At May’s annual town meeting the town overwhelmingly voted to accept the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

The vote was 116-40 in favor of adopting the CPA, but there are additional steps needed in order to implement this new source of funding.

First the town must approve the CPA bylaw at a special town meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 28. Then a majority vote will be needed to approve the CPA. This vote will be on the ballot on voting day, this November 4.

The CPA committee will be meeting on September 18 to draft the CPA bylaw and again on October 2 to finalize the bylaw that will be voted on at the special town meeting.

The bylaw will establish the make-up of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The state requires representation from a number of boards and from the election of members at large. The bylaw will also define the duties of the CPC, which will include reviewing all requests for CPA funds and recommending which projects to fund each year, at annual town meetings.

The final meeting of the CPA committee will be on October 23, where we will be available to address questions prior to the special town meeting. A notice will be mailed in October with more details about the CPA and the special town meeting.

Community-wide tag sale!

As part of this year’s Celebrate Shutesbury, the Shutesbury Education Foundation is organizing a tag sale.

Bring your stuff up to the town common by 9:00am Saturday morning.

Suggested contribution to Shutesbury Education Foundation: $10.

For more information, contact Rita Farrell, rfarrell@verizon.net
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.

The Zoning Bylaws passed at our May 3, 2008 Annual Town Meeting entitled "Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw" are awaiting approval by the Attorney General in September 2008. Once approved, copies of the bylaw will be posted at the Locks Pond bulletin board, the Shutesbury Post Office, the Shutesbury Town Hall, the Spear Library, the Shutesbury Elementary School, and the Pratt Corner and Cushman Roads intersection bulletin board. The complete text will be available at www.shutesbury.org. Paper copies may be purchased from the Town Clerk for $10.

Shutesbury voters will have an opportunity to vote in the September state primary election, the October special town meeting and the November state presidential election. Both elections will take place at the Shutesbury Town Hall at 1 Cooleyville Road for all registered voters of Shutesbury. If you are uncertain of your voter registration status, please call the town clerk's office.

Wednesday August 27 was the last day to register to vote or to change party enrollment for the September 16 state primary election. In a primary election a voter will receive the ballot of the party in which he or she is enrolled. Registered voters who are not enrolled in any political party may choose the ballot of any party.

Wednesday, October 15 is the last day to register to vote for the November 4 election. Mail-in voter registration cards are available in the bulletin board outside of Town Hall. Call 259-1204 if you would like a mail-in voter registration card sent out.

Once registered, a voter is eligible to vote in all elections and town meetings in a Massachusetts town. To maintain registered voter status a voter should complete and return to the Town Clerk's office the annual street list form mailed to residents each year.

If you move out of town or even move within town, please contact the Town Clerk's office so that your voter status can be updated.

Absentee ballots for elections are generally available four weeks before the election through 12 noon the day before the election. Written requests for absentee ballots must include the voter's residential street address, the address to which the ballot should be mailed and the voter's signature.

Absentee voters may also vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office. Please call ahead to make sure that the office will be open if you plan to come in.

Results of elections are immediately available on the Town Clerk's telephone answering machine (259-1204). As soon after an election as the final record can be processed, results are also available at the town website, www.shutesbury.org.

Many people move to Shutesbury during the summer. If you are a new resident, "Welcome!" If you have any questions about our town or our government you are invited to call this office or visit us at www.shutesbury.org. If you have a dog, it must be licensed through the Town Clerk's office, within 30 days of arrival to Shutesbury.

Dogs must be re-licensed within 30 days of July 1 each year. All dogs should now be wearing their silver medallion-shaped tags. If you forgot to re-license, you can download a mail-in licensing form and instructions from www.shutesbury.org.

You may prefer to have a licensing form sent to you by calling the Town Clerk's office, or to stop in at the Town Hall. If you mail your form and payment in, please remember to add the $5 late fee to the check and also please remember to enclose proof of rabies vaccination and a self-addressed stamped envelope. The rabies vaccination form will be returned to you with your dog's new license.

If your dog loses its tag part way through the license year, or if your dog models more than one fashion collar, just call us. We will provide you with additional tags for $1 apiece.

The 1829 Old Town Hall will be open during Celebrate Shutesbury on September 20. Please feel welcome to stop in and look around.

We look forward to seeing you there, at the up-coming elections and at the fall special town meeting, or at the Town Clerk's office at the current Town Hall anytime.

Give them all a hand!

Many thanks to the volunteers who come out to help get our newsletter and other town-wide mailings into your mailbox.

Marilyn Tibbetts and Nancy Dihlmann helped Joan Hanson, Leslie Bracebridge and David Dann fold the April 2008 Our Town.

In June, Marilyn returned to join Walter Tibbetts and Mike Sepanek in preparing a special mailing from the Select Board for distribution.

If you'd like to join future "folding parties," please call the Town Clerk at 259-1204 to be added to her list of people to call.

You will be under no obligation to participate if you do -- but we will happily welcome your help whenever or wherever it suits you best, daytime, evening, at home or at Town Hall.
Explore history -- and make history!

Visit our old West Schoolhouse
The Shutesbury Historical Commission invites visitors of all ages to the West Schoolhouse, at the corner of West Pelham and Leverett Roads, on Columbus Day.

Barbara and Arthur Goodhind will hold the annual open house on Monday, October 13 from 1:00 - 3:00pm. Please stop by and step back into the past.

Hike to our old Briggs mill
On Saturday, October 4 at 10:00am, the Historical Commission will sponsor a walk to the Nathan Briggs sawmill site.
The approximately two-mile hike on a woodland road of moderately steep terrain lends itself to more ambitious side jaunts and further exploration, so there is no promise of a return time. (It will be easy for participating with time constraints to return to the parking area without a guide.) A carpool caravan will leave Town Hall at 10:00am. For more information, or if the weather is doubtful call 259-1204 or 259-1973. (Rain Date: Sunday, October 5.)

Help plan our 250th birthday bash!
Shutesbury turns 250 in 2011!!
The Select Board is forming a steering committee which will prepare and recommend to the Select Board a program of celebrations to commemorate Shutesbury’s 250th anniversary in 2011 and will organize and assist the whole community in implementing projects. Please contact David C. Dann (259-1214 or towndadmin@shutesbury.org/) if you are interested.
Let’s make 2011 a very special year for the Shutesbury community!

Shutesbury Open Space Plan revision ongoing
A revision to the Town of Shutesbury’s 2000-2005 Open Space Plan is currently being written by a group of Shutesbury residents appointed by the Select Board.
The contents of this plan will contain sections on demographics characterizing the town’s population, and a major review/environmental inventory and analysis of the town’s physiography, geology (including groundwater and soils), aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, and special geographic sites throughout the town, which is divided into four watersheds. It will also update the status of “protected” lands (both quasi-protected Chapter 61 lands) and permanently protected lands - municipal lands, state lands and private lands protected under permanent conservation restrictions.
Current and projected environmental threats will be identified and recommendations for conserving open space and necessary recreational opportunities will be offered. Results from a 2006 townwide survey of environmental and recreational interests and concerns of Shutesbury residents will be included and referenced throughout the text of the report. GIS maps highlighting various ecological features of the town will be incorporated for reference and a visual depiction of the plan’s text.
In addition to serving as a broad source of information on the town’s ecological features, this Plan will assist the town’s ability to secure state funding for both recreation and conservation purposes. The committee meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at Town Hall. Interested residents are welcome to attend to remain informed, and minutes of each meeting are publicly available. The Committee did offer a Public Information Session during the spring and plans to release the plan as a “draft” for public review and comment.
Discussions are also under way concerning future town forums during 2009 on subjects of interest. Potential topics include trails throughout the Town -- both on public and private lands -- a discussion of opportunities and restrictions on privately-owned lands, and liability issues for private landowners. A second area of discussion is a series of field trips in conjunction with the Town’s Conservation Commission to interesting cultural, ecological and historical sites in the Town. Meeting notices can be viewed at the Town Hall in accordance with the schedule listed above.

Agricultural/Forestry Commission eyed for town
Linda Rotondi, Planning Board

The Planning Board is investigating the possibility of establishing a Shutesbury Agricultural and Forestry Commission and is looking for volunteers who may want to serve on the commission if established.
Activities of the commission may include providing guidance to and advocating for those producing all agricultural products (crops, animals, timber, firewood, etc), promoting and helping to run our Shutesbury Market, and promoting the use of agricultural products produced in our Town.
This concept is still in its infancy, but if you would like to be a part of it, please contact the Planning Board at Planning@shutesbury.org.

Market off and running!
On the first Saturday in August, the Select Board started “Shutesbury Market,” a wonderful opportunity to purchase local produce and craft items from local vendors.
If you have not been there, it is every Saturday, rain or shine, from 8:30-11:00am behind Town Hall.
Come and shop locally until the last Saturday in September.
For photos and a poem about the new market’s first day, see page 7.

More ways to learn about events in town
* Visit www.shutesbury.org and take a look at all the articles, links, calendars and contact info there
* Sign up to receive timely emails from the Town (addresses are hidden so you won’t get spammed!).
Note from the Town Collector
Ellen McKay, Town 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. If you do not receive a second quarter bill, please check the middle portion of your first quarter bill as your total bill may be too small to cause the generation of a second quarter bill.

We are pleased to enable you to pay your tax bills on-line if your computer is equipped with Windows Explorer 5.0 or higher. You can make payment either through a direct debit from your bank account or, for a fee based on the amount of the payment, a Master Card or Discover card transaction. To do this, click on the Collector's page on the Town's website and then follow the directions. You should only enter the year of the bill (ie 2009 NOT 2009 RE).

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 also 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.

"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 (2009) that date is January 1, 2008. 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 so I can redirect your bills and ensure that they will be delivered promptly.

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.

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.

Great Shutesbury-Leverett broadband news!
Weezie Houle, Shutesbury-Leverett Broadband Committee

"Weatherize Your Home for Winter"
What You Can Do To Save Energy Now

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has received funding to develop and deliver workshops to provide energy efficiency and home weatherization information to National Grid customers.

As the MassSAVE program is currently oversubscribed, the workshop would provide a timely service by helping customers determine if an energy assessment and efficiency upgrades are a good choice for them.

Educating the public about the MassSAVE program and what it provides would be a central theme. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Workshop: October 2, 2008
at the
Elementary School
7:00-9:00pm
about 250 Shutesbury residents. She needed to speak with engineers to confirm the timetable and the locations affected. The announcement can be read at: http://newscenter.verizon.com/press-releases/verizon/2008/verizon-adds-two-towns-to-its.html

On August 25, 2008, the DSL roll-out was confirmed in a phone call with Ellen Cummings and David Dann, Town Administrator, that Shutesbury’s Baker Road/ West Pelham Rd. phone box is scheduled to be “lit” by mid-December 2008. Until the new cabinet is engineered and installed, our phone numbers will still generate a “DSL not available” message on the Verizon website. Woo-hoo!

Lake Wyola area residents: David Dann is pursuing Verizon Wireless to request the placement of a wireless transmitter on an existing tower on Locke Hill in Wendell, which would provide cell service and cell card internet access for residents in the Lake Wyola area. Stay tuned for updates.

A New School Year: New Hopes and Challenges
Michael DeChiara, Chair, Shutesbury School Committee

Another year of educating and nurturing our children began on August 27, when Shutesbury Elementary School started the current academic year.

On the first day, there were 160 children enrolled from preschool to sixth grade. Despite challenging times, the school continues to offer a rich learning experience to our town’s children because of your continued support of education in our town budget. On behalf of the entire school community we thank you, the residents of Shutesbury, for valuing and supporting high-quality education at SES and understanding it is a key to children’s future success.

In addition to the many returning familiar faces of children and staff, we welcome some new people to our school. Joining the staff are Lonny Ricketts, the food service director, and Christina Larson, the reading specialist. We also welcome back our veteran music teacher, Deborah Campbell, following a leave of absence.

The School Committee welcomes a new member, Kristen Luschen, who began a two-year term on July 1 by filling a vacated seat. We also extend our sincere thanks to Dan Hayes for his strong and capable leadership as Chair during the past two years. The School Committee especially recognizes Dan for his commitment that every child deserves a high quality education and for his earnest efforts to make public education something we are proud of in Shutesbury.

The School Committee has identified several areas for review this year. We will work closely with the school administration to:

* Continue exploring how to use the school’s limited resources efficiently as costs continue to rise;
* Assess aspects of the curriculum, including the reading program and the social curriculum which promotes greater respect for others both locally and globally; and
* Investigate how to integrate practices of environmental sustainability within the school’s operations

For those of our children in middle and high school in the Amherst-Pelham Region, the new year brings changes as well. The Middle School has a new principal, Glenda Cresto. The Amherst Regional District is being led by interim superintendents Helen Vivian and Alton Sprague, who were also temporary superintendents in Union #28 several years ago. Marianne Jorgensen is actively involved with the Amherst Regional School Committee in a search process for a new superintendent. This year also brings a new food service company, Whitson’s Food Services, that has promised more local and healthy food options for students.

An important new initiative that may impact our school and our community is the release of the Governor’s Readiness Project (info available at www.mass.gov). This year-long, expert-informed proposal is the first large-scale effort to change how education works in Massachusetts since Education Reform in 1993. The plan covers most areas of education and will impact all school districts in the Commonwealth.

The Readiness Project will be filed as a bill by the Governor in January and then will be subsequently debated by the legislature. Most significantly for Shutesbury and other small rural towns, the report seeks to promote greater collaboration, increased efficiency and possibly consolidation. What this means and how it will impact small rural towns like ours remains to be seen. State Sen. Stan Rosenberg and State Rep. Steve Kulik, along with other Franklin County leaders, have created and led a county-wide effort to identify ideas that meet the needs of our small towns and our children in Franklin County. More info can be found at: (http://groups.google.com/group/franklincountyeducation)

As these issues arise for consideration, the School Committee invites you to our monthly meetings. We meet regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00pm in the school conference room. Members of the community are always welcome to attend.

Carpooling in Shutesbury!

With gas prices rising and the globe warming, the time is here for some neighborly sharing of empty car seats that cruise up and down the hills to and from Shutesbury. shutesburycarpools@yahoo.groups.com can connect those who are headed in the same direction. Please join! When you have signed on and are listing your information, please announce in the subject line what you would like to do.

Email Sharon Raymond, raystar@valinet.com or call 259-1748 with questions on how to join this Yahoo group.
Recycling News
Recyclers all, rejoice! All of you, backed by our loyal and patient crew of sturdy volunteers, our Highway Department and Police, made the June Bulky Waste Day very successful. Townsfolk waited patiently in line, helping to toss everything into the rolloffs, and the weather was beautiful.

We'll gather again on Saturday, October 4, Fall Bulky Waste Day (which follows the Swap Week), and we gratefully welcome volunteers. Volunteers are essential to our success.

To volunteer for Bulky Waste Day, call Roger Cartwright at 259-3796.

It becomes ever more clear that our common task, as we confront that looming "Inconvenient Truth," is to join in reducing America's huge waste stream, house by house. Massachusetts sends over a million tons of paper into the waste stream each year. Our good town record shows that we can be part of the solution: Recycling!

You can look forward to getting a new, completely revised and updated Recycling Almanac in October, thanks to a great deal of thoughtful work by the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee. When ready, the Almanac can be picked up at the Town Hall. It will also be available at Bulky Waste Day and will be on the Recycling page on the Shutesbury web site (www.shutesbury.org/recycling). New changes in recycling will be put online too. The new Recycling Coordinator, Roger Cartwright, welcomes concerns, questions, and suggestions.

Where to turn this winter?
This resource may help!
Franklin County Home Care is in the process of compiling a booklet on Home Repair/Energy Efficiency/Fuel Assistance for this winter.

It is a work in progress that can be viewed at www.fchcc.org or you can call the Information & Caregiver Resource Center at FCHCC at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 for your copy.

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Family Network reaches out to little ones
Since 1998, the Erving 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 4 years of age living in the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, New Salem and Wendell.

We offer 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, then please call Naz Mohamed at 413-423-3337 or email mohamed@erving.com to be put on our mailing list.

This is a wonderful way to meet other Family Network families with young children in your and neighboring towns.

You're Invited!
Sirius Community's 30th Anniversary Celebration
Sept. 19~21, 2008

Please join us to celebrate our community's 30th Anniversary. Most events are free and open to the public. Reservations & fees are required for meals, lodging, & special events. Please check www.siriuscommunity.org for more details.

Sirius Community - 72 Baker Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072
info@siriuscommunity.org - 413.259.1251
Wild Reads
From our summer reading kick-off with music provided by Roger Tincknell to our end-of-summer reading celebration with the animal invaders brought by the Museum of Science, this summer was a fun-filled, action-packed adventure!

101 children and their families participated in our Wild Reads program. Whether we were waltzing with bears, exhibiting and eating edible creations based on books, or marveling over the athletic abilities of visiting Madagascar cockroaches, Spear Library patrons came together to celebrate the season, our town and our library.

Thank you to everyone who participated and thank you to Weezie Houle, Caitlin McGarigal, Bonnie Adams, Suzanne Lyon, Roger Cartwright, Beth McCoy, Margaret Simmons, Melinda Lelacheur, Jane Urban, Judith Seelig, Sally Fairfield and B.Z. Reilly who were the many volunteers who helped create and organize our summer events.

We owe our appreciation to the Friends of the Library who provided financial support. They paid for everything from the Wild Reads backpacks to the awards and the ice cream! Thank you to all of you who support the Friends.

C/WMARS
We are continuing to barcode and enter our collection into our C/WMARS catalog! We hope to have our C/WMARS circulation system up and running sometime this winter. Lots of volunteers have been helping with this project this summer. Join me in thanking Josie DeChiara, Matt and Devon West, Amy Nyzio, Judith Seelig, Matthew Kalt and Rose Dawson.

There is still plenty of work to do and more volunteers are needed. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out with this or other projects at the library.

Please continue to look for overdue Spear Library books in your homes. We need to put a new barcode on every item in our collection.

Volunteers
We also appreciate our volunteers who have been helping with the day to day work at the library. Corey GerberDolan, Amy Nyzio, Dina Polizzi and her granddaughter, Angela, shelved and alphabetized a lot of books this summer! Thanks also to Siviva Antsel-Hildebrandt who spent several shifts covering books.

There is always something to do here at the library. Let us know if you would like to lend a hand at the library. Volunteers make all the difference at the library.

Programs
Plans are in the works for lots of library programming this fall. Western Mass. author Suzanne Strempek Shea will visit Shutesbury on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00pm at Town Hall.

We will explore Alternative Medicine with a monthly series of local practitioners.

We are planning a weekly Story Hour for young children and their caregivers on Mondays at 11:00am at the library.

The Friends are planning their annual meeting with entertainment and something delicious to eat, think dessert!

The Friends of the Library are also making plans to show monthly movies!

Details about these and all library programs can be found on the library’s website, www.mnspear.org.

Celebrate Shutesbury
The Friends of the library will be having a book sale, a morning bake sale with coffee and a cake game at Celebrate Shutesbury. Volunteers are needed to help with staffing and baking. Call or email the library if you can help, 259-1213 or mnspearlibrary@verizon.net.
New Materials
New materials arrive at the library every week. Here is a list of some of what is new.

Books for adults
Fiction
- *American Savior: a Novel of Devine* by Roland Merullo
- *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry
- *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld

Non-fiction
- *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* by Haruki Murakami
- *Sundays in America: A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith* by Suzanne Strempek Shea
- *Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War* by Joe Bageant

Books for children
Picture Books
- *Yoko Writes Her Name* by Rosemary Wells
- *Otto Runs for President* by Rosemary Wells
- *On the Farm* by David Elliot, with stunning illustrations by Holly Meade

Non-fiction
- *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

The Elementary School's Sustainability Club (led by Susan Reyes) and the Shutesbury Energy Committee met at the library in July to begin creating a solar-powered toy village. Children made houses to be placed on a table around a "lake" -- which has an underwater track that may power tiny boats or fish!

The village will be on permanent display in the Shutesbury Elementary School Library.

Susan also demonstrated a Kill A Watt -- a device that monitors electricity usage. The Energy Committee has donated Kill A Watts to the M. N. Spear Library. Patrons may borrow them to measure electricity usage at home.

Photos by Melinda LeLacheur

Update from the Library Needs Assessment Committee
Karen Traub, Chair

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library was built at the beginning of the 20th century with $1547.61 donated by Library Trustee Mirick N Spear in honor of his mother. It has served us well for over 100 years.

The town of Shutesbury has grown and the Library Facility Needs Assessment Committee (LFNAC) was established by the Trustees of the Library to determine how to best meet the library facility needs of the residents of Shutesbury.

Members of the LFNAC have been gathering information and opinions about the current library and town residents' hopes for the future of the library for the past 12 months. An extensive survey was distributed and public forums were held.

Results of the survey have been taken into consideration and with this information in mind, the LFNAC has begun drafting a building program.

The building program will be the instructions we give to a future architect to design a new library building that meets the needs of Shutesbury.

The program will include information about space needs throughout the library.

Imagine cozy chairs to sit in while you work on your laptop. How about a community meeting room where we can gather to meet local authors, watch movies, have a yoga class, drink tea?

As drafts of portions of the building program are completed they will be posted on the library's website, www.mnspear.org. We welcome your ideas and questions.

Contact LFNAC chair person Karen Traub at 367-9826 or Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis at mnspearlibrary@verizon.net.
HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

ACCOUNTANT
Gail Weiss 259-1108

ADA COMMITTEE
Martina Carroll 259-1110

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David C. Dann 259-1214

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Nancy Long 259-2123

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Leave inquiries at 259-3792

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Renee A. Richard 259-9296

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Nancy Long 259-2123

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Maurice Gregoire 367-9988

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Walter Tibbetts 259-1211

Finance Committee
Eric Stocker 259-1478

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Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211
or home 259-1286

Health Agent
David Zarozinski 549-3710

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Barbara Goodhind 259-1428

M.N. Spear Memorial Library
Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213

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Janice Stone 259-1557

Our Town Newsletter
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Joan Wickman 423-3337

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Charles J. DiMare 549-5330

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