

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



# OUR TOWN

## Hold on to your seats . . .

Becky Torres, *Town Administrator*

This year promises to be tumultuous. The state's response to financial crisis is to create tools for change in our educational institutions. But it is not only educational institutions that the state is assisting with changes.

The state is creating legislative tools that ease the legal red tape allowing for the **merging of towns** that no longer are viable economic units on their own, and allowing for the **merging of services** to assist communities in lowering the cost of providing public safety, highway and health services.

The last few years have been full of talk of **educational reorganization, regionalization, and reconfiguration**. The state has supplied grant money for local studies so school districts can study who their best dance

*Redistricting, continued on page 6*

## Hazardous and bulky waste days this October 3

Shutesbury residents may dispose of household hazardous waste at the Amherst Transfer and Recycling Station from 9:00 am–12:00pm on Saturday, October 3. A flyer and pre-registration form are enclosed in this newsletter. The form must be submitted by September 30 to participate.

Shutesbury's autumn Bulky Waste Day collection will be at the Highway Garage, 59 Leverett Rd., from 10:00am–2:00pm. Bring furniture, electronics, scrap metal, etc. For a fee schedule and other information go to the recycling page at [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) or call Recycling Coordinator **Gary Bernhard** at 259-1235.

See related article on page 5

## Celebrate Shutesbury—and recognize Marilyn Tibbetts!

The annual town festival, Celebrate Shutesbury will be held on Saturday, September 26, from 10:00am to 3:00pm on the Shutesbury town common.

We are looking forward to the return of the alpacas, the bounce castle, the slide, live music, dancing, the bike parade, baseball throw and food supplied by the Village Coop. The farmers market will be joining us on the town common and we will be having a Community-Wide Tag Sale! (See page 6 and the insert in this newsletter for details.)

This year we will recognize **Marilyn Tibbetts**, who has been a resident of town for over 50 years and has been involved in just about every aspect of town affairs, including the Council on Aging, the Shutesbury Fire Department, the Board of Health and Selectboard (as Clerk) to just name a few. Marilyn and her family were a

constant presence at the fire station during last year's ice storm and power outage, cooking meals for town and power company workers and serving as the central point for emergency services.

We are pleased to honor Marilyn and hope you can join us for a brief ceremony at noon.

## Mix your slogan or logo ideas into the fun on September 26

At Celebrate Shutesbury, the 250th Steering Committee will display the many slogans already submitted by residents in anticipation of our town's 250th birthday in 2011.

And yet, as of press time, ideas for logos were in short supply!

Bring your slogan and/or logo to add to the display. You'll also have a chance to create them on the spot! Any color drawings must be reproducible in black and white.

## Library planning and design moving forward

The Library Facility Needs Assessment Committee (LFNAC) is in the process of hiring an architect/design team to complete the next phase of its planning and design grant.

The architect/designer will investigate the potential sites and create a schematic design of a new Shutesbury Library. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architect/designer for the project was advertised at the beginning of August and LFNAC received 14 qualifications packages from architects interested in providing designer services for a new Shutesbury Library.

LFNAC members carefully reviewed the proposals and have

invited four firms, Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc, Margo Jones Architects, Inc, Johnson Roberts Associates Inc, and Oudens Ello Architecture to make presentations.

These presentations are scheduled for September 21 and 23, starting at 7:00pm at town hall. They are open to the public.

If you have any questions or comments about the planning and design process please contact:

Library Director **Mary Anne Antonellis**, 259-1213 or [mnspearlibrary@verizon.net](mailto:mnspearlibrary@verizon.net) or

**Karen Traub**, chairperson of both the LFNAC and the Board of Library Trustees, 367-9826 or [karentraub@hotmail.com](mailto:karentraub@hotmail.com).

## 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.

**Many people move to Shutesbury during the summer.** If you are a new resident, “Welcome!” If you have a dog, it must be licensed through the Town Clerk’s office, within 30 days of arrival to Shutesbury. 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](http://www.shutesbury.org).

Dogs must be re-licensed within 30 days of July 1st each year. **All dogs should now be wearing their blue bell-shaped tags.** If you forgot to re-license, you can download a mail-in licensing form and instructions from [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org). Just go to “Frequently Asked Questions” on the homepage left side panel. You may alternatively have a licensing form sent to you by calling the Town Clerk’s office, or just stop in at our Town Hall office. 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 certificate 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, beside the Post Office on Wendell Road, will be open on Saturday, September 26 during Celebrate Shutesbury. Please feel welcome to stop in and look at memorabilia from governments past. We look forward to seeing you there, at the up-coming elections and fall town meeting or at the Town Clerk’s office at the 1 Cooleyville Road Town Hall anytime.

## Special state primary and election scheduled to fill vacancy left by passing of Senator Kennedy

On August 31, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and in light of the death of United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy on August 25, 2009, Governor Deval Patrick issued a precept directing a special election of a Senator in Congress be called for **January 19, 2010** to fill the vacancy caused by Senator Edward Kennedy’s passing. The preceding Special State Primary will occur on **December 8, 2009**.

A complete calendar of election deadlines and dates has been posted on the town’s official bulletin board and is also available online at the Governor’s website. The deadlines most functional for Shutesbury residents include:

**Nov. 18, 2009** Last day to register to vote for the Primary.

**Dec. 7, 2009 at noon** Last day to vote absentee before the Primary,

**Dec. 30, 2009** Last day to register to vote for the Election.

**Jan. 15, 2010 at noon** Last day to vote absentee before the Election.

Expect people to be **circulating nomination papers to sign** for candidates. Please remember that by statute, in order for your signature to be certified, it must be signed:

1. Legibly—please also print your name if you have any doubts if your signature is legible.
2. Substantially as registered—please keep nicknames and initials to a minimum.
3. With a correct street address including street number—No Post Office boxes.

Being a partisan election, registered **voters not enrolled in a political party** (referred to as “un-enrolled,” or historically called “Independent” voters) may sign any party’s nomina-

tion papers; those **registered voters enrolled in a political party** (such as the Republican or Democratic parties) may only have their signatures certified on nomination papers corresponding to their party enrollment.

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.

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.

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 in a city or town, a voter is eligible to vote in all elections and town meetings in that 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 January.

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

Absentee ballots for elections are generally available 4 weeks 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 vote at the office.

Results of elections will be available on the Town Clerk’s telephone answering machine (259-1204) as soon as tabulated. Once the final record can be processed, results will also be available at the town website, [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org).

## Things you should know about Shutesbury

Becky Torres, *Town Administrator*

This summer has been bustling at the top of the hill.

**The church on the common** has come back to life, with the small congregation harnessing the energy and imagination of its new sister church from South Hadley.

Each Saturday, dozens of volunteers scraped, sanded, painted and made the building new. They poured concrete, righting the foundation, and soon a steeplejack will add to the project. This is truly inspiring work.

Behind Town Hall, **the Shutesbury Market comes awake every Saturday morning**, rain or shine.

Nature's plenty and craftspersons' creations are available for Shutesbury shoppers. You will find good conversation from folks sharing methods for sustainability and reducing energy, new recipes for local crops, and finding meat and dairy products that are less processed.

Farmers are knowledgeable, growing uncommon varieties of vegetables and flowers right here close to home.

The Library bake sales have added tasty treats to the morning shopping with sweet rolls, blueberry muffins and cupcakes. The Historical Commission has also served up lemon squares, zucchini bread and cookies. The bake sales create a chance to sit, chat, snack and share stories, news, and learn about local places, events, and activities.

**Shutesbury town finances are in good order, for now.** The conservative estimates of the Finance

## NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF SHUTESBURY

As required by MGL Ch. 40, § 32 notice is hereby given that the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaws map revisions approved at the March 24, 2009 special town meeting were approved by the Office of the Attorney General on April 21, 2009. This announcement and complete copies of the revisions are posted at the Locks Pond Road bulletin board, the Shutesbury Town Hall, the Shutesbury

Committee have served well. The state funds that support 1/3 of our educational system were supported by extra federal stimulus money for the year that ended in June 2009.

Without that funding there would have been a shortfall, and the town would have had to scramble to find cash to make up the difference.

Economic forecasts for this coming year are bleak. Unemployment is rampant around us, with recorded figures hitting 9.7% and unrecorded estimated at 20%.

**The town faces great challenges. As disposable income shrinks, libraries across the nation are becoming the hot spots of activity**

for families and adults. Our library is no exception. Library programs continue to draw large numbers.

The Library Facility Needs Assessment Committee, LFNAC, presented its library building program to Annual Town Meeting in May and will soon select an architect for the next step of its grant-funded feasibility study. The fundraising has begun for the library.

The **cleanup of the gasoline spill at the fire station** alone could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As a community, we will be deciding what we can and cannot do as we face decisions about the budget: funding levels for all departments as departments lose federal and state grant money, district partnerships in education, a new library, alternative energy and gasoline spill cleanup.

While the human beings worry about finances, a suspected bobcat has tangled with a couple of large dogs. Please use caution when out and about.

Post Office, the Shutesbury Elementary School and the Cushman/Pratt Corner Roads bulletin board and are available for review or purchase at the Town Clerk's Office. The zoning bylaws now in full effect are also available on the town website: [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org).

Leslie Bracebridge  
Shutesbury Town Clerk

## Help save precious resources: Join the Conservation Commission!

Massachusetts has been at the cutting edge of environmental protection for over half a century. Did you know that the Commonwealth created the municipal Conservation Commission, a key element in its efforts to protect land, water and wildlife?

The Town of Ipswich established the first commission in 1958, and by the mid-1980s, every town in the Commonwealth had its own Commission. In 1972, Conservation Commissions were given responsibility for administering the Wetlands Protection Act.

The Shutesbury Conservation Commission, a five-member group of volunteers dedicated to protecting our town's natural resources and open space, currently has two vacancies.

Experience in engineering, biology, hydrology, soil science or wildlife biology is especially welcome, though not required.

A commitment to acquiring a working knowledge of the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations is necessary (training is available).

If you are interested finding out more about its work, check its web page at [www.shutesbury.org/conservation\\_commission](http://www.shutesbury.org/conservation_commission).

Prospective members are encouraged to attend a meeting (second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00pm).

Contact the commission at 259-3792 or [concom@shutesbury.org](mailto:concom@shutesbury.org) for more information.

*Our Town*, published three times a year in January, April and August or September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions promoting the sale of goods or services for private profit cannot be accepted.

Janis S. Gray, *Editor*  
Leslie Bracebridge, *Town Hall Liaison*



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## Historical Commission hosts open house, a hike and seeks more pieces of our past

Chairman **Barbara Goodhind** will host the annual open house of the 1842 West Schoolhouse at the intersection of West Pelham and Leverett Roads on **Columbus Day**, Monday, October 12, 2009 from 1:00–3:00pm

Guests will be able to see old text books, wall maps and many other items found in the old school houses.

If it's a cool day, remember to dress warmly as there was no heat and electricity back then, and none has been added since!

On Sunday, October 4, the Commission will sponsor **a hike to a very old mill site and a homestead area** with foundation, barn and paddock areas still visible through stonework, all in the South Brook Conservation area.

We will leave the Town Hall parking area at 1:00pm. (The rain date will be Sunday, October 11 at 1:00pm; call 259-1204 for more information or to check on any weather related change.)

The Historical Commission continues to collect **photos, stories and artifacts** directly related to our town. If you have something to share, a story, an artifact or photo, please contact any member of the Commission. We can copy while you wait or invite you to a meeting. If you have a particular question or interest about Shutesbury's history, please call: **Barbara Goodhind**, 259-1428.

Other members are Secretary **Julie Taylor**, Treasurer **Marilyn Tibbetts**, and **Leslie Bracebridge**, **Karen Czerwonka**, **Steve Puffer**, and **Joanna Hayes**.

## Thanks to our newsletter 'Folding Party' stalwarts!

In April, **Marilyn** and **Walter Tibbetts Lynda Grybko** (from the Assessors Office), and **Mary Lou Ferro** helped Town Clerk **Leslie Bracebridge** and Assistant Town Clerk **Joan Hanson** prepare the Spring issue of *Our Town* for the mail.

## Help for Shutesbury's older residents is close at hand!

Elders with medical problems often do for themselves very well, but then there's not energy left for other things.

In Home Care at Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC) can do what *needs* to get done so people can do *what they want*. Learn more: 978-544-2259, 413-773-5555 or [info@fchcc.org](mailto:info@fchcc.org)

See the enclosed flyer from FCHCC to read about other services available to elders.

## Note from the 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 2.

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.

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.

"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

If you'd like to join a future "folding party," please call Leslie at 259-1204 to be added to our list of folks to call. You'll be under no obligation to participate if you do—but we'll welcome your help when- or wherever it suits you best.

January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2010) that date is January 1, 2009. 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.

Have a good autumn.

Ellen McKay  
Town Collector

# Education: Another Full Year

Michael DeChiara, *Chair, School Committee*

Another year of educating and nurturing our children began on August 26, when Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) started the current academic year.

On the first day, there were 152 children enrolled from preschool to sixth grade. Despite the economically challenging times, which have included budget cuts at the elementary and secondary level, our town's children are poised to receive a rich learning experience.

The School Committee, on behalf of the entire school community, thanks you, the residents of Shutesbury, for valuing and supporting high quality education and understanding it is a key to children's future success.

This commitment is what allows us to navigate the difficult times and try to preserve what our children deserve: a high quality education.

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In addition to the many returning familiar faces at SES, we welcome some new students and staff to our elementary school.

Joining the staff are first grade teacher **Sarah Willis**, Inclusion Specialist **Sean O'Neil** and several para-professionals.

**Matt Foster** begins his first full year as Head Custodian, having started at SES in the Spring.

**Marcia Bernard** resumes her central position as "hub" of the school in the new position of Librarian Teacher.

Negotiations regarding the continued leadership of **Bob Mahler** as principal are under way with the Union #28 superintendent.

Leadership of the Amherst-Pelham Region (where Shutesbury sends our middle and high school students) is new; the superintendent position was filled by **Alberto Rodriguez** who began in July, having moved from Miami. This position was filled temporarily last school year.

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The 2009-2010 school year will likely bring more **discussion of change** regarding how we are organized to provide educational services. It is expected that state education reform will be initiated this year; the last time was in 1993. This will bring changes, but what they will be is unknown at this time.

The School Committee has been tracking these issues over the past two years. These changes will likely impact the Town of Shutesbury, not just parents of elementary or regional school children. Three discussions in particular are currently at the forefront. These are participation in Union #28, participation in Amherst-Pelham Region and configuration of the 6th grade. Here is a quick orientation:

**Union #28:** Shutesbury has been part of Union #28 since 1901, along with Leverett, New Salem, Wendell and Erving. The Union consists only of elementary schools; all five towns send their older children to different systems (our kids go to Amherst Regional). The towns share a superintendent. The Union is governed by a joint Union committee consisting of three representatives from each town's school committee. There has been state and local level discussion about whether this configuration still works, given current and future needs. Changes to the Union cannot occur without a positive vote by three of the towns.

**Amherst-Pelham Region:** Shutesbury has been part of the Region since the 1950s, along with Leverett, Amherst and Pelham. The Region consists of the middle and high school. The region has its own Superintendent and is governed by a Regional School Committee consisting of nine people. Shutesbury has one representative (Leverett has one, Amherst has five, Pelham two).

Last year the state encouraged towns to explore expanded regionalization; as a result the four towns began a process to explore various forms of "reconfiguration" (including but not limited to regionalization).

These meeting should begin again this fall. Changes to the region would require affirmative votes at each town meeting.

**6th grade:** In recent weeks, there has been a lively discussion initiated by the new Amherst Regional Superintendent about reconfiguring the middle school program to include 6th graders.

The Shutesbury School Committee, led by our regional representative, has weighed in on this issue, for which there is little identified local support. At the current time, it is understood that no changes are possible without a Shutesbury town vote. This discussion may continue.

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**Financially,** the Shutesbury Elementary budget increased by less than 1% for the current fiscal year 2010. This was achieved through a combination of operational and programmatic cuts and creative problem-solving that prevented positions from being lost.

With continued economic challenges expected for FY11, another year of budget cuts is of deep concern. At the Amherst-Regional level, Shutesbury saw a savings this year, which was good financially if not programmatically.

Since each town in the region has its costs allocated based on relative participation (the percentage of Shutesbury kids at the regional schools), Shutesbury saved approximately \$52,000 in FY10 since deep cuts were made and our percentage of participation dropped. Despite this financial benefit, there is continuing concern about maintaining a quality program as revenue to support the region continues to go down.

Finally, the School Committee invites you to our monthly meetings. We have a **new meeting schedule**—we now meet on the third THURSDAY of each month, usually starting at 7:00pm in the school conference room. Members of the community are always welcome to attend.

## Community Network for Children

The Community Network for Children program is a combination of the “formerly-known-as” Community Partnerships for Children program and the Family Network program.

This new program is also supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and the Kittredge Foundation to provide outreach, education and support services for children and providers in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, Wendell.

We offer local playgroups, story hours, parent workshops, fun events, provider professional development and support, child care referral and assistance in accessing the MA State Wait List for child care Vouchers.

We also collaborate with:

- \* REACH (Early Intervention)
- \* public and private preschool programs,
- \* Child Care Outlook (resource and referral agency),
- \* local libraries,
- \* local cultural councils,
- \* Head Start programs,
- \* family child care providers and
- \* school-age providers.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, have a child 5 years of age or younger, are pregnant or have a newborn, please call the Community Network for Children at 413-423-3180 or email [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

Come join us! This is a wonderful way to meet other families with young children in your community!

## Reminder from the Web Committee

You can get town news via email! The mail is used only for official town announcements and messages from town committees, so your inbox won't be flooded.

There are usually only two or three a week, including the Town Administrator's Weekly Report and the bimonthly Police Logs.

To sign up, just send an email to "[web@shutesbury.org](mailto:web@shutesbury.org)" asking to be put on the mailing list.



### **Redistricting, continued from page 1**

partners will be. The underlying goal is cost saving, but educational goals must also be met.

Small rural communities maintain local control while seeing declines in enrollment; per-pupil costs are skyrocketing, with transportation costs magnifying the problem.

Shutesbury's per-pupil costs at the elementary level are approaching \$13,000/child, while our costs at Amherst Regional are \$15,000/child.

It is a matter of current enrollment, but it is a dramatic fact and explains why the state is encouraging new partnerships, new educational units that can be established with lower costs and increased services by utilizing new forms of organization and technology.

Change is always frightening, but it can lead to positive results. I urge you to participate in the discussions around educational redistricting and share your ideas.

**TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR BASEMENT AND ATTIC**  
*for the*

**COMMUNITY-WIDE TAG SALE**

**AT CELEBRATE SHUTESBURY**  
Shutesbury Town Common

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
10:00am–3:00pm

Suggested donation of \$10 to the Shutesbury Education Foundation  
Please bring your own table and reserve your spot in advance.

For reservations or more information, please contact  
Rita Farrell, [ritafarrell@verizon.net](mailto:ritafarrell@verizon.net)

## News from the Lake

Carol Samuels, *Clerk, Lake Wyola Association (LWA)*

Is there any better feeling than that of jumping in the cool, clear waters of Lake Wyola on a hot, hazy August afternoon? I don't think so! The summer season seemed too short, as usual, but the turning colors of the trees will not wait for one more moonlit paddle or family barbeque. The cycle at the lake turns on predictably, comfortably, inevitably.

The Lake Wyola Association's events were as well attended as any in recent memory. The quality of each event and the enthusiasm of the members, whether volunteering or attending, remain high and contagious.

For the LWA board, time was spent balancing issues of the roads, the by laws and the dues collection along with plates of pancakes, steaks and chicken. While a few folks complain that they cannot go 40 mph on roads designed for a limit of 15 mph, the community leaves their cares for another time and enjoys the squeals and splashing of summer memories in the making.

The Car Cruise was a new event this summer and proved to be a popular one, even though the threat of rain kept some cars and people away. Holding it at the State Park field was a great site and it will grow to be bigger and better next year.

The improved dam has been a popular fishing site for many. **Howie Kinder**, dam supervisor, spruced up the pump house with a new coat of paint just in time for the official dedication. The state and local dignitaries gave speeches and drank iced tea before the ceremonial throwing of buckets of water over the dam.

The LWA's Environmental committee is joining hands with the town to see that Lake Wyola stay free of invasive species. Many boats come in and out of the lake via the town boat ramp at Randall Road. Continuing education, through signage and information sharing, will reduce the chances of invasives contaminating our waters, as they have in ponds as nearby as Leverett Pond. Prevention has got to

## Dam Repair Dedication a Big Splash!



Special thanks to Amherst Farmers Supply and Mike and Linda Grybko for loaning us the 10 shiny buckets, and to Evan Jones and Cows Lumber for donating paint and wood to spruce up the Pump House. Thanks to all who planned, engineered, lobbied, raised money and repaired the dam: Sen. Stan Rosenberg; Rep. Steve Kulik; our Governor's Western Mass. Director's Representative; Dam Engineer Morris Root; Dam Committee Chairman Bob Thompson; Selectman Al Springer; Tro-Con Construction Company Principals Paul and Chuck Troisi; Dam Keeper Howard Kinder; and Clerk of the Works Phil Kinder.

be the focus and all of us must be the solution.

The LWA's Road committee will continue to work with the town to reduce the negative impact that road water runoff has on our dirt roads. Lock's Pond and Wendell Roads divert much water down hill towards our roads and building foundations. Sand, gravel and road oil ends up in the lake. Solutions are being sought to reduce these problems.

The State Park Beach was enjoyed by families and groups all summer long. Many bike tours pass by the

**Lake, continued on page 9**

## Protecting Lake Wyola

Bob Thompson, *Chair, Lake Wyola Advisory Committee*

The discovery of the invasive zebra mussel in Lee in early July has heightened concerns to protect the waters of Lake Wyola. Fortunately the chemistry in the lake is not conducive to supporting zebra mussels because the mussels require higher percentages of calcium to develop their shells. This is not to say it can't happen but it isn't likely.

A more pressing issue is the probability of getting an invasive plant into the lake. Invasive plants can take root quickly and spread over entire lakes in a short period of time. Lakes that have these invasive plants often have severe reductions in oxygen, thus

educating the ability of fish as well as other animals and plants to survive. It will have a profound impact on the recreational possibilities in any lake overgrown with invasive vegetation.

It's not too late to prevent this from happening to the pristine waters of Lake Wyola. To date no invasive plants have been discovered during the annual gathering and study of plant vegetation at Lake Wyola, which is done by volunteers from the Lake Wyola Association. Everyone can help prevent this from happening at Lake Wyola. It's as easy as 1 2 3:

1. Inspect, clean and disinfect if possible all watercraft and trailers. This includes motorized and people powered craft. This inspection should be adequate as long as you use only Lake Wyola.

2. Watercraft that go from lake to lake need to be cleaned each and every time before entering a different lake.

3. Take the time to educate yourself and others on the dangers to water bodies from invasive plants and animals.

Fishermen, please don't empty your live wells in the lake or surrounding area. Special attention should be given to disinfecting these wells.

Please note that following these few suggestions won't guarantee that our Lake will remain pristine but doing nothing at all insures we will likely have a problem in the future. If everyone does his or her part the chance for success is much greater.

# The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

## Hours

Monday and Wednesday  
11:00am to 1:00pm  
3:00pm to 6:00pm.  
Tuesday and Thursday  
3:00pm to 7:30pm  
Saturday  
10:00am to 12:00pm  
Sunday  
3:30pm to 5:30pm.

## Trustee Position Open

The Board of Library Trustees will miss **Laura Riechman**, who resigned on September 1. If you are interested in being a library trustee please contact **Karen Traub**, chair of the Trustees, at 367-9826 or karen-traub@hotmail.com.

## Delivery News

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS) operates the regional delivery system that allows us to borrow items from other libraries. This is also the delivery system that allows folks to return items in Shutesbury that they have checked out from other libraries. We can check those items in through the C/W MARS circulation system and return them via the WMRLS delivery.

Currently WMRLS circulates about 2,000,000 items annually among Western Massachusetts libraries, which is one of the great things about the Massachusetts library system

If you are interested in ordering books from other libraries within Massachusetts, just log on to [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org)

On delivery days, we check in multiple bins of items (using a lot of help from volunteers **Janis Gray** and **Susan Millinger**), and then send out emails notifying patrons that their "holds" (books placed on hold for them by WMRLS) have arrived. Our goal is to get all the incoming items checked in and email announcements



sent by 5:00pm so folks have time to pick up their holds the day they arrive.

Beginning September 14, WMRLS added a third delivery day for Shutesbury each week. We receive deliveries on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This should help to decrease the amount of time Spear library patrons wait for their holds to arrive.

## New Magazines

The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library pay for all of our magazine subscriptions each year. We just added several new magazines to our collection including, *Art New England*, *Backyard Poultry*, *People*, *Runners World*, *Science News*, *Shambhala Sun*, *The Smithsonian*, and *The Sun*. Come browse the magazine rack and check them out!

Magazines can be borrowed for seven days and can be renewed once, in person or online.

## Museum Passes Available

We have new passes available to The MASS MOCA, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the Springfield Museums. Each of the passes admits two adults and two children. Museum passes can be

borrowed for seven days.

Funding for the museum passes was provided by The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

We also have two discount admission passes to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut. These passes save \$4.00 off of adult admission and \$3.00 off child admission. Each pass is good for two adults and two children.

## Local Author Visit

Monday, October 19, 7:00pm, at the Library

Join us for a reading and discussion of *A Newfoundland Journal* by Shutesbury poet **Janet MacFadyen**.

*A Newfoundland Journal* began as a journal that Janet kept during a trip to western Newfoundland in 2003, but over five years was transformed into a book-length poem.

## Three Cups

We have been invited to join the towns of Leverett, Pelham and Amherst, as well as the regional school system, in a community-wide read of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. It is an interesting and inspiring story about one man's efforts to build schools in Pakistan and

*Three Cups. continued on page 9*

## Book It to the Library Road Race!!!

The Friends of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System are planning a 5K run and 2 mile fun walk to raise money for WMRLS.

Saturday, October 3, 10:00am, at the WMRLS headquarters in Whately Registration forms can be found at <http://friends.wmrls.org/road-race.pdf>

### **Three Cups, continued from page 8**

Afghanistan.

*Three Cups of Tea* is published in three different versions: the adult version, the young adult version and a picturebook version titled, *Listen to the Wind*.

Children at Shutesbury Elementary School will be invited to participate in a lunchtime book group facilitated by the school's Library Teacher, **Marcia Bernard**. They will be reading and discussing the young adult edition.

**Ms. Bernard** will also read *Listen to the Wind*, the picture book about Greg Mortenson's experiences and work in Central Asia, to each class.

Copies of all three books are available to borrow at the library. We are planning a variety of programs related to the book. Please join us for these programs which can be found described on a flyer inserted in this newsletter and on our website, [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org).

**Lake, continued from page 7** as the lake is on every cyclist's favorite route. The improvements to the LWA's West Beach were appreciated greatly by the community of members who raised funds, matched by the LWA, for a new retaining wall and picnic area.

We thank everyone who attended the summer's events; ate pancakes, ran the road race, won a medal at the water carnival, enjoyed the steak or chicken BBQ, sampled the beer, looked at antique cars or got a treasure at the tag sale. We value our community and town and appreciate the mingling of summertime friends. Enjoy the coming months at the lake as the fall unfolds its unique parade of seasonal sights.

## Fall Programs for Children and Families

### Story Hour

Mondays at 11:00am, beginning September 14 at the Library

Join us for stories, songs, crafts and games for young children and their caregivers.

This program is funded by the Community Network for Children.

### Story Stars Live Animal Series

Rae Griffiths from Teaching Creatures will read some of her favorite children's books and then bring out some of the real animal stars of the stories for everyone to meet in person.

Four Saturdays, 10:30am at the Library.

**Oct. 17, 2009 - Lizards**

**Oct. 24, 2009 - Snakes**

**Nov. 7, 2009 - Turtles**

**Nov. 14, 2009 - Hedgehogs/Sugar Gliders**

This program is funded by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

### Movie Nights!

Monthly movie nights will resume on Saturday, October 3. Doors open at 6:00pm, shows start at 6:30pm!

Our first feature film this fall is: *The Wizard of Oz*  
*Come in costume and sing along!*

Movie nights are always on a Saturday.

Visit our website, [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org) for more information and to view upcoming features.

### Halloween Hoot!

Meet **Tom Ricardi** and his **Birds of Prey!**

Tom operates the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility in Conway. He has been rescuing and rehabilitating injured birds of prey since 1975. He also breeds bald eagles for release into the wild.

Friday, October 30, 1:00 pm at the Shutesbury Elementary School

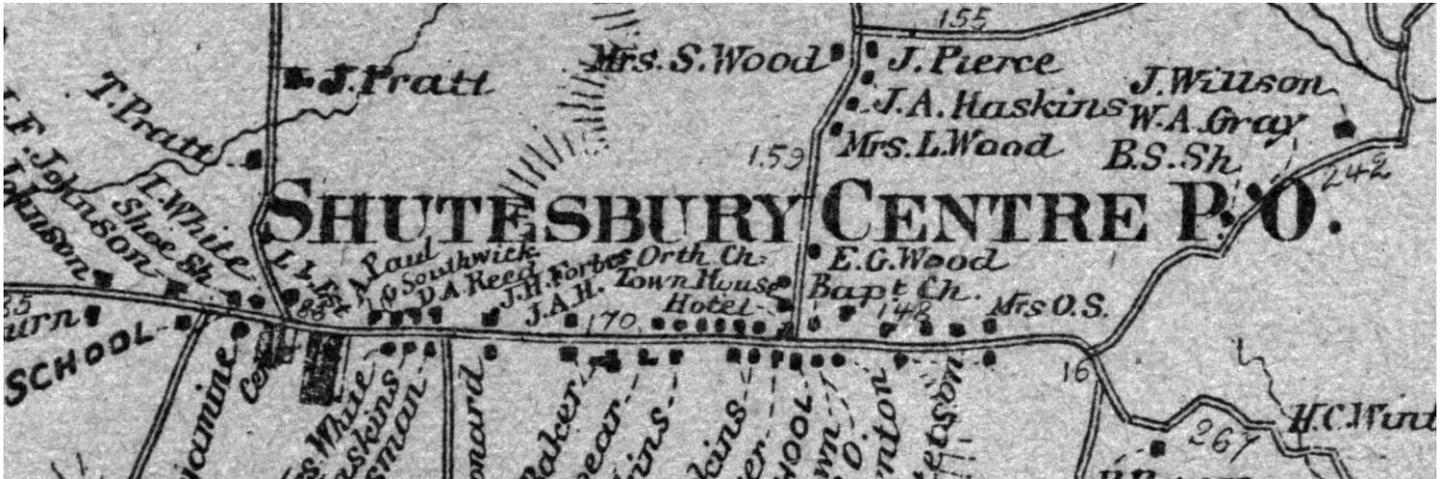
This program is funded by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library



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## HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

ACCOUNTANT <i>Gail Weiss</i>	259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL <i>Robert Mahler, Principal</i>	259-1212	RECREATION COMMITTEE <i>Jen Davies</i>	259-1008
ADA COMMITTEE <i>Martina Carroll</i>	259-1110	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR <i>Walter Tibbetts</i>	259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR <i>Gary Bernhard</i>	259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR <i>Rebecca Torres</i>	259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE <i>Patrick J. Callahan</i>	259-1584	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Kristen Luschen</i>	256-3303
ANIMAL INSPECTORS <i>Denise Chiminiello</i> <i>Nancy Long</i>	259-1020 259-2123	FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>Walter Tibbetts, Chief</i> <i>or home</i>	259-1211 259-1286	ROADS COMMITTEE <i>Vacant</i>	Call 259-1214
ASSESSORS <i>Kenneth Holmberg</i>	259-3790	HEALTH AGENT <i>David Zarozinski</i>	549-3710	SCHOOL COMMITTEE <i>Michael DeChiara</i>	259-1059
BOARD OF HEALTH <i>William Elliott</i> <i>Public health emergency</i>	259-2122 413 659-7294	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT <i>Tim Hunting</i>	259-1215	UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT. <i>Joan Wickman</i>	423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE <i>Dale Houle</i>	259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION <i>Barbara Goodhind</i>	259-1428	SELECT BOARD <i>Elaine Puleo, Chair</i> <i>Al Springer</i> <i>Eric Stocker</i>	259-1979 259-1578 259-1021
BUILDING INSPECTOR <i>Jim Hawkins</i>	772-2026	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY <i>Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir.</i>	259-1213	SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMM. <i>Weezie Houle</i>	259-1696
CEMETERY COMMISSION <i>Marilyn Tibbetts</i>	259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES <i>Karen Traub</i>	367-9826	TAX COLLECTOR <i>Ellen McKay</i>	259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING <i>Muriel Gross</i>	259-1371	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE <i>Janice Stone</i>	259-1557	TOWN CLERK <i>Leslie Bracebridge</i>	259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION <i>Leave inquiries at</i>	259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER <i>Janis S. Gray</i>	259-1584	TREASURER <i>Gabriele Voelker</i>	259-1801
CULTURAL COUNCIL <i>Renee A. Richard</i>	259-9296	PERSONNEL BOARD <i>Margaret Manson</i>	413-230-3038	TREE WARDEN <i>Thomas Houston</i>	259-1508
DEPT. OF VETERAN'S SERVICES <i>Leo J. Parent, Jr.</i>	863-3205	PLANNING BOARD <i>Deacon Bonnar</i>	259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE <i>Fred Steinberg</i>	259-9996
DOG OFFICER <i>Nancy Long</i>	259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR <i>John Letourneau</i>	367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS <i>Charles J. DiMare</i>	549-5330
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR <i>Maurice Gregoire</i>	367-9988	POLICE DEPARTMENT <i>Chief Thomas E. Harding</i> <i>Dispatch</i>	259-1279 625-8200	250th STEERING COMMITTEE <i>Co-Chairs:</i> <i>Janis S. Gray</i> <i>Maryélise Lamet</i>	259-1584 259-1551
		<b>POLICE, FIRE &amp; RESCUE SQUAD 911</b>			