

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Ice storm's aftermath still holds dangers

Walter R. Tibbetts, *Fire Chief*

Well, we made it through the winter, barely. Without a doubt this was one of the most memorable winters in quite some time.

We were all tested to the limit by the December 11 ice storm. The storm left in its wake major power line damage that left many people without power for seven to eight days and an unbelievable amount of damage to the trees.

I would like to thank everyone for their help, patience, and understanding throughout the whole ordeal.

The response from emergency personnel and volunteers was outstanding. All departments performed well together. A large amount of work was done in a relatively short period of time (even though it felt like an eternity). I am sure that we are all glad to have the spring's warmth and sunshine upon us. But with each passing day it is revealed to us more and more that the work is not over.

I would like to take this time to remind everyone that safety is of the greatest importance when dealing with the mess that is left. Although the stress from the added weight of the ice is gone, many of the trees and branches are still under some unusual stress. Many branches and entire trees have been splintered and/or are tangled and twisted into other trees. In these situations, the trees do not react when cutting them up as they normally would. It is my suggestion to

leave these trees to the professionals, or at least to someone with a lot of experience with chain saws. Making a mistake can be deadly.

Chain saw safety

If you are still going to tackle this job by yourself, and you are going to use a chain saw to do it, please consider these safety tips. If you do not have a set of chain saw chaps and a helmet with face and hearing protection, get some. A good set of personal protective gear can be acquired for under \$150.00 and will last for many years. It may seem like an unnecessary expense, but it does not even come close to the cost of an ambulance ride, emergency surgery, hospital stay, loss of work, and rehab. That is if you are lucky!

Many of the trees and branches are still under some unusual stress . . . a mistake can be deadly.

Next, get some training in the safe use of a chain saw. Ask one of the many local dealers for safety tips and instructions. If they can't help they should be able to point you in the right direction. I am sure that many people feel that they can handle a saw, and that they don't need "all that fancy gear," but they are just fooling themselves. Just because they haven't got hurt, only means that they haven't got hurt YET. The risk of not using the proper protection is just not worth it.

Generator guidelines

Another result of the ice storm is that many of us are now proud owners of a new portable generator. I myself am in that club. Many of these generators are large enough to power entire houses.

I know that during the storm most people had a licensed electrician hook up these generators; some did not. And of those that did, many of

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Be part of the process on Saturday, May 2

David C. Dann, *Town Administrator*

Our Annual Town Meeting is Saturday, May 2. I hope you will come. Nowhere can you have a greater impact than at our local level as to how we spend our tax dollars.

This year's budget, beginning July 1, 2009, has decreased from FY09 by about \$3,000. All the departments, boards, committees, elementary school, and regional school have worked very hard to provide a high quality of service with less money.

We have asked all employees to forego any cost-of-living adjustments for this coming year. The Select Board and Finance Committee have worked hard to put together a budget that does not use any cash reserves to balance our budget.

See May 2, page 2

Taking on the downturn

Eric A. Stocker, *Chair, Shutesbury Finance Committee*

This has been a challenging year for the Finance Committee. While the full impact of the global economic downturn remains to be seen, we are already feeling things at the town level. The Commonwealth has reduced aid to the towns in FY09 (and may do so again), and it appears certain there will be more reductions in FY10. Other sources of revenue, in particular excise tax and interest income, are also reduced. One of the problems that Finance Committees all across the Commonwealth always have to deal with is the uncertainty about future funding from

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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.

Shutesbury's Annual Town Meeting and Election will take place at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham RD on Saturday, May 2, 2009. **The polls will be open from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Annual Town Meeting starts at 9:00am.**

Saturday, April 11 was the last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting and Election. Once you have registered to vote in a Massachusetts town, as long as you remain at the same address and continue to fill out your annual street list form in January, your name remains on the voter registration list. Call the number above anytime if you would like to check your voter registration status in Shutesbury.

An outcome of the federal Help America Vote Act was that the Secretary of the Commonwealth provided a fully accessible ballot marking device called an AutoMARK to every polling place in Massachusetts. No voter will ever be required to use the machine. Any voter may use it. The AutoMARK produces a paper ballot that is then fed into the ballot box along with the pencil marked ballots.

At almost every election, a number of Shutesbury voters will express their appreciation of having traditional paper ballots and a hand-crank ballot box. Therefore, it has been worrisome that the gears on our 1931 ballot box have started to skip with the thicker November election ballots. Town Clerks across the state have little luck finding repair service for old paper-

Polls will be open from 8:00am to 2:00pm to vote for candidates for Board of Health, Cemetery Commission, Constable, Library Trustee, Planning Board, Moderator, School Committee and Board of Selectmen.

ballot boxes and often resort to other modern voting methods when the old paper-ballot boxes fail. Fortunately, this winter, Shutesbury received a larger and sturdier paper-ballot box abandoned by the Town of Westwood that could easily be retrofitted in the event that our 1931 paper-ballot box ever completely fails. The substitute box has been tucked away for safe-keeping while we continue to enjoy the more-antique looking 1931 ballot box. Voters are now assured that they will be able to choose whatever voting method best suits Shutesbury for a long time into the future.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office for voters who will either be absent from Shutesbury, or who have a physical disability or a religious belief that prevents them from being present during polling hours. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing and include: the voter's name, voting address and the address to which the ballot should be mailed, and the voter's signature.

Please allow plenty of time for mail delivery of an application and the ballot back and forth. A voter can also absentee vote in person at the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, May 1. For any questions about absentee voting including hours, please call the Town Clerk's office

The only way to **vote on the Town Meeting warrant questions** is to be at the meeting. We hope you will be able to attend. Key results of both the election and town meetings will be put on the Town Clerk's answering machine (259-1204) and posted on the front door of town hall immediately following town meeting. As soon as the first draft results are prepared, they will be posted at the town website (www.shutesbury.org.)

You can **re-license your dog** any time now for the July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 period. Watch for mail-in license forms in the June Selectboard mailing. A form is also available at the Shutesbury.org website. Check now, to make sure that your dog is up to date on its rabies vaccination, as it is required in order to re-license.

Have you heard about 350?

Check out www.350.org!

If you are interested in working on a fun, creative, newsworthy way to push awareness on climate change, come to Town Meeting & sign up! Find out why 350 is so important!

May 2, continued from page 1

Because we passed an override vote last year in part to avoid using cash reserves, we are in a much better financial position to weather more budget cuts if they are necessary, and still maintain a high level of services.

Included in this newsletter are the budget and warrant articles; please bring them with you when you come to Town Meeting.

If you **need childcare or get hungry**, the PTO will be providing childcare, and the Friends of M.N. Spear Memorial Library will have plenty of good food.

If you have **run out of garbage bags**, Town Meeting also is the beginning cycle of garbage bag distribution for the new fiscal year.

The Town has made a comprehensive effort to share information on all sorts of topics, events and activities. There are two ways you can stay up to date:

- 1) visit www.shutesbury.org
- 2) subscribe to the town's e-mail announcement list. Instructions are on our web page.

I will be retiring June 30, 2009, and this will be my last Town Administrator's article for *Our Town*. It has been a pleasure and privilege for me to work with so many extraordinary employees and volunteers in our town.

I also want to thank my awesome wife **Sandra Olken**, who has been so supportive of me during my four and half years working here, never complaining while I attended so many evening meetings.

If I do not see you at Town Meeting, allow me to say good-bye. Thank you all who make our town so special.

Budget, continued from page 1
the state. For FY10 this lack of clear guidance is exaggerated as the state tries to deal with its own budget gaps and revenue shortfalls.

Last year, on the advice of the Finance Committee, Selectboard, and School Committee, the voters of Shutesbury passed a \$200,000 override. It remains the opinion of this committee that this was key to the town's continued financial well being.

We are grateful for your confidence in our advice. Frankly, we are not sure what the budget for FY10 would look like had the override not passed. Deep budget cuts resulting in decreased town services or dangerous use of our reserves would have been our only options.

The override allowed us to change our budget funding patterns of the recent past. We solved, we hope for a long time, our structural deficit. It was our goal for FY10 not to use any reserves to balance the FY10 Budget. As of this writing it looks like we will be able to meet that goal. This was not without sacrifice from every town department and we appreciate the efforts made by all involved to keep the budgets tight.

Without belaboring the issues around using free cash to balance the budget, suffice it to say that in this economic environment keeping our reserves at a healthy level is prudent. While the town remains financially strong there are several issues in the FY10 budget and our financial future that are worth noting.

First, for now we have **no wage increases (COLA) in the budget** for town employees. We are aware that the town has very competent and hard-working employees, so this was very a difficult decision for the Finance Committee and Selectboard to make. At present there are negotiations under way with the unions that represent the Police Department and the Shutesbury Elementary School teachers and staff. Depending on the outcome of these negotiations we may need to revisit this issue in the near future. Our desire is to make sure that as much as possible wage increases, or lack of the same, are

spread across all departments in town in an equitable fashion.

Second, **we are concerned about the Regional School budget.** Amherst and Pelham, neither of which passed overrides in the recent past, are both in financial trouble. The Regional Budget must pass at Annual Town Meeting in three out of four towns. In the best case scenario that is currently being discussed, the Region will face layoffs and significant reduction in the programs that are being offered to our children. If further reductions are made the Regional Schools' programs will be decimated. This issue is still playing out. Shutesbury's representatives to the meetings of the Four Towns (Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury) have stressed that the other towns in the Region have an obligation to maintain reasonable financial support for our schools.

Third, we have added a new line item (#151) to **support energy efficiency projects** that will save the town money in the future.

Last, and perhaps most important, we are **not sure about the future costs to clean up the hazardous waste situation at the Fire Department.** The town has already spent about \$50,000 on remediation at the site. Estimates of the cleanup vary widely, but it is clear that this could be a very expensive operation. We hope to have more information about the potential cleanup costs at the Annual Town Meeting. Uncertainty about these costs (for which there are no Federal or State funds available) emphasizes the importance of the Finance Committee's plan to maintain strong reserves for the town. We will, no doubt, need to use some of these reserves to fund this mandatory cleanup.

This will be my last article as a member of the Finance Committee. Due to term limits I will be leaving the committee as of June 30. I would like to thank all of my fellow committee members, other town committees, and our dedicated employees who have all made it a pleasure to do this work. In my tenure the Finance Committee has been fortunate to work with two great

Town Administrators, David Ames and David Dann. The Town Administrator's position is integral to the budget process. We wish David Dann the best in his retirement.

I will end with a **plea for community involvement.** The town will be experiencing significant changes in its leadership after June 30. There will be new Selectboard members, at least three new Finance Committee members (hopefully), new members of the School Committee, a new Moderator, and a new Town Administrator.

I'm sure that other important committees in town will also have membership changes and needs. If you've been sitting on the sidelines this would be great time to get involved. The viability of our town government depends on the voluntary effort of its citizens.

A lot is going on in the education world

Michael DeChiara, *Chair, Shutesbury School Committee*

The School Committee has been working on many issues previously highlighted in *Our Town*.

The discussion of how education could be re-configured continues, with multiple "conversations" occurring simultaneously. No decisions are imminent but exploration and reflection is underway. School Committee members have been actively involved and tracking these developments.

The Franklin County Public Education Study Group (started by our local legislators and including all nine

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Our Town, published three times a year in January, April and late August or early 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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Schools, continued from page 3
superintendents and some county residents) received recommendations from educational consultant NESDEC on April 3. This long-awaited presentation provided observations and options to improve education for schools in the county.

This presentation (and the full report) can be found at www.franklincountyeducation.info. While certainly relevant to Shutesbury, this information is apparently also being closely watched by state officials who are looking for ways to restructure education in the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, the four towns in the Amherst Regional School District — Amherst, Shutesbury, Leverett and Pelham — began meeting in March to explore possible ways to reconfigure their educational relationship. This process was initiated in **response to a state planning grant encouraging regionalization**. While the November 2008 deadline has passed, the discussion has proceeded with the understanding that solutions generated locally are preferable to anything imposed by the state.

So far, discussion has been thoughtful with a methodical analysis of needs and vision under way. The needs of the children and the towns are at the center of the talks. Recommendations are not expected for a while; any proposals would be focused on fall 2010, if changes are proposed.

The School Committee has also been trying to balance the educational needs of our children with responsible fiscal stewardship given the financial constraints facing our town.

The Elementary School has made cuts to a range of programs to provide a budget responsive to the requests of the Finance Committee; as requested the proposed budget shows an overall increase of only 1.33%, well below actual increases in expenses.

While we believe the high quality of the education system remains intact, **this year's cuts do impact the programs we offer our children**.

The School Committee is also in the midst of negotiations with our teachers and school staff where a responsible balance between quality and

financial realities is also being sought.

In a sea of bad financial news, the one bright spot is that **Shutesbury's share of the regional budget will give us a slight savings** next year. Allocations are made based on relative enrollment in the Middle and High School; the other towns are increasing enrollment compared to Shutesbury.

However, the overall **budget projections for the Amherst Region are grim**, with significant cuts expected again for FY10. The "best case" scenario (so-called Level 1) means reductions of \$1.4 million from the current year — reducing staff and programming. More dire options discussed ranged up to \$2.2 million in cuts. Amherst-specific budget-tightening has also led to consideration of town-level reorganization, such as moving Amherst 6th graders to the Middle School or closing Marks Meadow.

While most of these options primarily impact Amherst children, they could potentially have an impact on Shutesbury, Leverett and Pelham in the future. No decisions have been made. All discussions at the region reflect the the same theme of **how to preserve the high quality of education the community expects in the face of the financial crisis**.

Programmatically, great things have been happening at the school and more are planned for the future. In the past few months some of the highlights include: the 4th, 5th and 6th graders participating in the Massachusetts Books in Action program, eventually reading over 880 books; several field trips to local venues like the Fine Arts Center; and assemblies highlighting student achievements and volunteer music by Shutesbury musicians **Jim Henry** and **Roger Tincknell**.

Coming in May will be the wonderful Spaghetti Supper and Auction (May 15) - all town residents are invited to participate in this annual tradition. In June we expect 23 sixth graders to graduate from the Elementary School. Looking ahead to next year, the Kindergarten and pre-school classes look to be well enrolled.

Finally, regarding personnel, Shutesbury will have a new 1st grade teacher; the position will be advertised

this Spring/Summer. At the Region, the search for a new superintendent is almost concluded — Alberto Rodriguez, currently a principal in Miami-Dade School District in Florida, has been selected.

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.

Thanks, helping hands!

In January, **Earl and Chris Waterman, Penny Kim, Lorna Broucek, Catherine Hilton and Marilyn and Bob Tibbetts** helped Town Clerk **Leslie Bracebridge** and Town Administrator **David Dann** fold and stuff the Winter 2009 *Our Town* for the mail.

In February, **Mary Lou Ferro, Mary Anne Antonellis and Mike Sepanek** helped Leslie and Assistant Town Clerk **Joan Hanson** get a Selectboard mailing out the door.

If you'd like to join such "folding parties" in the future, please call the Town Clerk 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.

Recycling and Solid Waste News

Sarah Martell, *Recycling Coordinator*

Spring has Sprung! With the advent of spring, I am pleased to announce that the Recycling Committee has agreed to hire me as Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Shutesbury.

I would like to thank the previous coordinator, **Roger Cartwright**, for all of the work he has done prior to me, and wish him all the best.

Just a bit about me: I have a degree in geology from Smith College, and am currently interested in land and resource management, environmental law, and education. I have found that my job as Recycling Coordinator will be well supported by an excellent Recycling Committee, some of whom have been on the committee for years! All of them have extensive knowledge of different aspects of recycling and town policies.

I am delighted to work with everyone in the town of Shutesbury to **further economize our budget by increasing the amount of recycling we do**, which puts money back into our town and into our pockets.

I am also excited to expand the education efforts in town, by acquainting myself better with the Shutesbury Elementary School to incorporate programs which will **educate students and families about recycling**, composting and conservation of resources.

This aspect of coordination is especially of interest to me, as I truly believe children are the future. Learning that being good to the earth is also economically advantageous is a keystone issue in these difficult economic times.

To contact me:

- 1) 259-3796
- 2) recycling@shutesbury.org
- 3) or leave a message in my inbox at Town Hall (Recycling Box). I check messages once a week.

I will get back to you; your patience is appreciated in advance!

Keep informed by checking the Shutesbury town website for updates

Trash Bag Distribution:

(We have also put the list of trash bag distribution dates on a bright pink insert in this newsletter as a reminder to pick up your bags!)

Saturday May 2: At the Town Meeting

Other days (at the Town Hall):

- Tuesday May 5, 5:30-8:00pm
- Saturday May 9, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Wednesday May 13, 5:30-8:00pm
- Saturday May 16, 9am-12pm
- Tuesday May 19, 5:30-8:00pm
- Saturday June 6 (*Bulky Waste Day*)
- Saturday June 13, *Tentative date* (Lake Wyola Assoc. Mtg.), 10:00-12:00pm
- Wednesday June 18, 5:30-8:00pm

May 31 - June 5: Roadside Swap Week

Need a desk? A chair? Have one you no longer want? Leave an item or take an item from the roadside in front of participating houses. Usable items in good condition please. If leaving items for others, please indicate this with a 'free' sign near the items. The best way to recycle is to re-use!

June 6, 2009 - Spring Bulky Waste Day. 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Bulky Waste day is a day to bring chairs, electronics, scrap metal, and other such items which are no longer useable to be recycled for a small fee. Please bring no more than one truck load per person to the Town Highway Department yard.

*NO Hazardous Materials

*Tires off rims, please

We need help! Call Sarah Martell at: 259-3796 to volunteer.

*Please see your town *Recycling Almanac* for more details (available online on the town website, (www.shutesbury.org).

Do your part for the Earth!

Next time you walk down your road, bring a bag and pick up the trash and recyclables along the roadside.

Help make the world a cleaner place!

Ice Storm, continued from page 1

them connected the generators for temporary use and after the storm they were disconnected. While the season for ice storms has ended, the season for thunder storms, severe weather, hurricanes and the like is just around the bend. If this summer is any thing like the last, there may be many opportunities to put that generator to use.

Again here are some safety tips. Before we have another storm, have a licensed electrician set up a more permanent connection or quick connect plug into your electrical system. *This should include a disconnect switch to the line power coming into your house.*

This is a very important safety feature for the emergency personnel working out on the street. Even if they have disconnected the power to the lines they are working on, **if you connect your generator to your house electrical system and do not isolate it from the line power coming in, you will backfeed the system** through the transformer and power the downed wires with up to 13,800 volts of electricity.

As with all gasoline-powered equipment, you should let the generator cool down before refueling it, and wipe up any spilled fuel before restarting it.

Placement of the generator is important also. Place in a **well ventilated area where the exhaust will not come back into the house**. We had several incidents involving carbon monoxide from generators during the December storm. Some were just inside the garage with the door open but the prevailing wind blew the exhaust back into the building. So please be careful.

This brings up another important issue, **carbon monoxide detectors**. On March 31, 2006 527 CMR 31 took effect. This is the regulation that requires carbon monoxide detectors in all residential buildings that currently or in the future contain fossil-fuel-burning equipment or have enclosed parking. Over the last few years we have responded to a number of incidents where CO alarms were going

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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.

C/W MARS

C/W MARS is the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Sharing network. It is a collection of 350 libraries in central and western Massachusetts which have all agreed to share most of their collections with each other.

For more than two years, we have been building our own online catalog which is linked to C/W MARS. On March 2 we began the first phase of using C/W MARS circulation software to circulate our items. Being C/W MARS members offers us many benefits.

Online catalog

Spear Library patrons can search our online catalog. If you don't find what you are looking for there, then widen your search to another library or **all western Massachusetts** libraries.

Holds

If you see something you want, either in our catalog or another library's, simply request it by clicking the pink SELECT box on the right of the screen. You will then be prompted to enter your library card number and pin number.

First-time users will create a pin. If you forget your pin, give us a call and we will erase your pin so you can create a new one. You can place up to 10 items on hold. We can also place these holds for you here at the library.



Email notices

C/W MARS automatically sends emailed reminders a couple of days before items are due back at the library. Overdue notices are also sent by email.

Many Spear Library patrons are pleased with this service. If you are not receiving these notices, let us know and we can check to make sure your email address has been entered correctly.

Renewals

Spear Library patrons can now renew most items online.

Log into your account by entering your library card and pin numbers, select the items you would like to renew or choose "renew all." Most items can be renewed once. If another patron has placed a **hold** on an item, it cannot be renewed.

Deliveries

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System operates a delivery system that stops here in Shutesbury twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Most items are delivered in about a week.

Returns

Items from any other western Massachusetts library can be returned here at the Spear Library. We can now check items in and send them back to the owning libraries via this delivery system.

Coming soon!!! C/W MARS Union catalog

The C/W MARS Union catalog is an online resource that combines the collections of all C/W MARS libraries in both Central and Western Massachusetts. Currently Spear library patrons cannot place holds on items in the Union catalog. We expect to expand our services to include the Union catalog beginning in June.

Library cards

Spear Library patrons now need a library card in order to borrow items from our library. Any C/W MARS library card will do. If you already have one from The Jones, Sunderland, Leverett, Greenfield, Forbes or one of the many other C/W MARS libraries, then you do not need another card. Library card applications are available at the library or on our

website. Please bring a photo ID and proof of address with your application.

Most of the time we can process applications on the spot, but if there is only one person working in the library and it is busy, a new patron might have to wait 24 hours to have his or her library card processed.

We will only give library cards to Spear library patrons in good standing. Please clear up your overdue items and fines from the old circulation system. Thanks!

LFNAC News

The Library Facility Needs Assessment Committee (LFNAC) has created a **DRAFT** of the **Shutesbury Library Building Program**. This 40-page document is the result of more than two years work of the dedicated committee members. It will serve as the instructions to an architect who will design a new library for our town. Shutesbury residents are invited to read this draft and provide feedback to the committee. Copies are available at the library and it is posted on our website, www.mnspear.org.

Events

On-Going

Story Hour

Most Mondays at 11:00am, at the Library

Family Movie Night

Title to be announced!
Saturday, May 2, Town Hall
Refreshments for sale
Suggested donation to the Friends of the Library, \$1.00

Upcoming

Local Author Night with Julius Lester! *

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 pm, at Town Hall

Monet's Magic Garden *

A Pastel Painting Workshop with local artist and instructor Greg Maichack
Free and open to participants ages 14 and older. Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, at Town Hall. Please register

by calling the library, 259-1213

Spring Surprises Story Series with Dawn Ward *

A Family Network program for young children and their caregivers. Four Saturdays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27th, 10:30 am, at the Library.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Pot-Luck Supper and Concert with The Nields *

Summer Reading Program Registration and Pot-Luck Supper begin at 5:30 pm

Concert begins at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, June 24. Behind Town Hall (rain location, school gym)

Bring a dish to share, drinks provided by The Friends of the Library!

* These programs are all supported in part by a grant from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Appreciation for our volunteers!

In March **Jen Davies** and **Weezie Houle** did a beautiful job making dinner for lots of folks who came out to the Shutesbury Athletic Club to support the library!

Our Monthly Movie Nights have been hugely popular! Thanks are due to **Rob Bowen**, Co-President of the Friends of the Library, who donates his time and the equipment needed to make movie night happen.

Our Spring Egg Hunt was a wonderful event! Over 100 people came

out to enjoy the warm, sunny afternoon in our lovely field behind town hall. Thanks are due to **Margaret Simmons**, who did a wonderful job organizing the event. Thanks also to the many folks who helped stuff more than 2,000 eggs with candy!

All three of these events raised some money for the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library! The Friends of the Library support the library by paying for all of our magazine subscriptions, funding many of our programs, and helping to organize events.

Thank you for supporting the Friends and for supporting the library!

For sale at the library

Dean's Beans **Organic and Fair**

Trade Coffee \$7.50

Regular - **Road Town Roast**

Decaf - **S-Curve Special**

Spear Library **Tote Bags** \$15.00

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off. Very few were false alarms.

In most cases there was a significant problem that, if not detected, would have led to serious health issues if not death. I can not stress enough the importance of properly installed and operating carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.

For further information on these or any items concerning fire safety please feel free to call (259-1211) or stop by the fire station. I am usually there Monday thru Thursday from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

Thank You.

Looking for a fun family weekend event? Come join the Lake Wyola Association Road Race & Walk.

On Sunday, June 14, the Lake Wyola Association is holding its annual race and walk that consists of a beautiful 4.8 mile loop around the lake. Tee-shirts to the first 100 entrants, plus cash bonus for the top finishers and a raffle for all entrants.

This great day of fun and fitness will begin at the Lake Wyola Association Hall.

Register early to save on the entrance fee! For more information and registration forms, please visit www.lakewyola.com/roadrace.

We're also looking for volunteers. If you want to get involved in this great event or want more information, please call **Bruce Hartley** at 413-367-2068 or email LakeWyolaRoadRace@gmail.com.

