Wired West needs to hear from you now!
Wired West is continuing its work to bring fiber-optic to the homes in Shutesbury and 40 other towns in Western Massachusetts.
Shutesbury voted to join Wired West Cooperative, a municipal fiber-optic network being designed for 40 towns in our region that are unserved or underserved by high-speed Internet service, and became a member in August 2011.
The next critical step in bringing fiber to the home is for each community to demonstrate interest in Internet services. The Wired West business plan requires member towns to document the level of interest in service expressed by potential subscribers. As a resident of Shutesbury, you are automatically a potential subscriber to Wired West Fiber Optic Network.
Wired West also needs to know which services you might want to subscribe to. Please indicate on the Support Card in this newsletter if you might want High-speed Internet, Digital Phone, and or TV/Video. Please fill in the card and mail it today. Or fill in the support card online at https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php or by going to the Shutesbury.org website. The link for the online support card is on the home page in the “What's New” section.
It's critically important that every Shutesbury resident and business complete the cards online or in print. The results will be used to support financing, and in decisions relating to where and when towns will be wired. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to complete one.
The first steps in participating in Wired West were your votes at town meeting to create the Shutesbury Wired.
Shutesbury School Committee news
Clif Read, Chair, Shutesbury School Committee

In the coming months there will be continued discussion and reports of issues related to the schools, including the exploration of possible regionalization with towns from the Amherst Regional communities, and consideration of changing the start time for the Regional Middle and High Schools.
While conversation and deliberation of these issues is ongoing, I encourage community members to familiarize themselves with the subjects and keep abreast of discussions.
The School Committee meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00pm at the Shutesbury Elementary School Conference Room. Meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend. At the beginning of each meeting time is designated for public hearings, an opportunity for community members to share views, concerns and issues in an open meeting format.

Bulky Waste Day Oct. 6
It's that time again, folks. The fall Bulky Waste Day is on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Highway Department garage. As usual, the Recycling Committee and intrepid volunteers will be on hand to help you get rid of stuff that is too big to go into the trash. Everything is accepted except for household hazardous waste (hazardous wastes will be collected in Amherst on September 29; see article on page 4); fluorescent tubes and bulbs; other mercury-bearing waste; and rechargeable and button batteries. Fluorescent lights, mercury waste, and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Town Hall.
As in the spring, the Salvation Army will have a truck to collect all electronics, free of charge, and textiles. Make sure the textiles are dry and odor free. You can also bring shoes, belts, and other leather goods to Bulky Waste Day. Put the textiles and leather goods in a plastic bag.
We need intrepid volunteers! The more we have for Bulky Waste Day the faster the line moves and the better the day goes for everyone. If you can pitch in on October 6, email Recycling Coordinator Gary Bernhard at bernhard@uww.umass.edu or phone at 259-1235.
Messages from the Town Clerk
Leslie Bracebridge, Town Clerk
townclerk@shutesbury.org
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 Shutesbury resident, "Welcome!" 1. If you would like to register to vote in Shutesbury, stop in or call the Town Clerk's office. You can register in-person, you can find voter registration forms online at the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' website or I can send a mail-in voter registration form to you. 2. If you have a dog, it must be licensed within 30 days of arrival to Shutesbury through the Town Clerk's office. 3. If you have any questions about our town or our government, you are invited to call this office or take a general visit to the town at www.shutesbury.org. 4. If you would like to receive email announcements of a general municipal nature, email your request including your email address to web@shutesbury.org.

Whether you are a new or longtime resident, it is very important to check that your contact information for Emergency Management notifications is up-to-date. If you can access our www.shutesbury.org website, the 6th bullet down on the home page "Did You Know" section will take you to the Fire Department page, where you will find a link to "Connect-CTY" in the top left corner. Once there, you can put in or update a number of telephone numbers including cell phones, email addresses, or SMS numbers so that you and your family will be sure to receive the infrequent, but important Emergency Management safety messages. If you do not have access to the Internet or would prefer that someone else checks your contact information, call the Fire Department at 259-1211 or the Town Clerk's office and someone will do the up-date for you. The system can also send notices to non-resident property owners.

All dogs residing in Shutesbury must be re-licensed within 30 days of July 1st each year, and should now be wearing their blue dog house-shaped tags. If you forgot to re-license, you can download a mail-in licensing form and instructions from the Town Clerk's or the Dog Officer's pages at www.shutesbury.org. Alternatively you can request a licensing form be sent to you by calling the Town Clerk's office, or just stop in at Town Hall. If you mail your form and payment in, please remember to add the $5 late fee to the payment 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, just call or stop by for a $1 replacement tag.

Wednesday, October 17 is the last day to register to vote for the November 6 state and presidential election at the Shutesbury Town Hall at 1 Cooleyville Road. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Absentee ballots are available approximately four weeks before elections through 12 noon the day before the election. Written requests for absentee ballots must include your street address and your signature. Alternatively, you may come to the clerk's office and fill out an application to vote "over the counter" or to have a ballot mailed to the address of your choice.

Mandatory provision of documents, training and receipts for all newly appointed, re-appointed, newly elected and re-elected public officials, many of whom began new terms in July: 1. All members of any public body must annually receive educational materials including the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A, SS18-25, 940 CMR 29.00, and the Guide to the Open Meeting Law published by the Attorney General upon taking the oath of office and before entering into the performance of the office. The municipal clerk is responsible for providing educational materials to the members of all local public committees, boards and commissions. Within two weeks of receipt of the educational materials, the member shall certify receipt on the form provided. Both the materials and the receipt form are provided by the Massachusetts Attorney General and are available on the Attorney General's website: www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting. 2. Upon appointment or hire and on an annual basis thereafter, the Town Clerk is required by statute to provide all municipal employees and volunteers with a copy of the Conflict of Interest Law and obtain a signed receipt. The summary of the Conflict of Interest Law is available online at www.mass.gov/ethics. This information ensures understanding of the Massachusetts ethics code. Employees/volunteers can either copy, paste and send the receipt of the summary of the Conflict of Interest Law to townclerk@shutesbury.org or print and deliver the receipt to the Town Clerk's office.

All documents referred to above are also available outside the Town Clerk's Town Hall office door or on the Town Clerk's web page at http://shutesbury.org/townclerk.

On the website's calendar page agendas for all meetings are available by a "click" on the meeting of interest to you. Current and archived agendas from the previous year can be reached by selecting "town clerk" from the "Offices and Committees" drop down menu.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Annual Town Report is available at Town Hall. Please feel welcome to pick up a copy anytime the building is open. Town department heads are in the process of writing their reports for FY 12.

If you Celebrate Shutesbury on September 22, please stop into the 1829 Town Hall to enjoy a bit of our government's past. I'll look forward to answering any questions that you might have, past or present.
Fiscal updates from your Town Hall  
Becky Torres, Town Administrator

Your tax rate is now $19.56 per thousand dollars of the valuation of your property. If your house is valued at $250,000, your annual property taxes are $4,890.

Our financial team is now certifying our free cash and closing the books on FY12. In the upcoming weeks the new tax rate will be set. A new budget cycle begins.

The Finance Committee is in the beginning stages of working with all town departments to craft a budget proposal to take to the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2013.

At last year’s Annual Town Meeting, trash bags were distributed to 400 households on a single day and the budget was passed. Also, town meeting voted to create the regionalization school district planning committee (RSDPC).

Some people have come to me and asked “When did Shutesbury decide to regionalize with Amherst?” My answer is, “That is news to me.” The four-town regionalization school district planning committee (RSDPC) has formed and is in the process of securing financial and educational advisors to help with conducting a feasibility study. At this point, we have not yet sorted out what this change (or actually, which change) will mean to Shutesbury’s educational system or to that of any of the four towns. We have not figured out what the impact will be on our children educationally, or on taxpayers financially.

So you might be wondering why Shutesbury officials are again exploring preK-6 or preK-12 Regionalization with Pelham, Leverett, and Amherst. Why are we spending so much time and energy on this?

One reason is because of our high tax rate, which is further burdened by shrinking federal funding and no increases in state funding.

The other is that we always want to keep high quality education in the forefront of our thinking. We need to assess if the current model for delivering education is the best and most effective. Would we benefit by being part of a larger system? Can we improve the quality of our services and control costs?

We need to find out. We need to make projections and determine if either of the models proposed is more sustainable for the long term when compared to our current system. This is a critical, serious endeavor.

We are looking for input as we go along. We want this to be an active, open process. People need to know that regionalization discussions are going on. Most important this time (five explorations of regionalization in 60 years), we are obtaining objective research conducted by professionals.

The committee is traveling from elementary school to elementary school, learning about each school’s differences, their physical attributes, the programmatic, staffing and culture differences. A website has been set up to make minutes of meetings available to the public. We want to hear your questions as we work to understand the ramifications that each of the possible model implementations will have on each of the communities and on all of our children.

There is an insert in this newsletter with further information. If you can’t make it to our meetings, keep abreast of the goings on by visiting our website: www.Regionalschoolplanning.info or be looking for the schedule of town forums in the fall.

Wired, continued from page 1

Municipal Lighting Plant for the purpose of joining the Wired West Municipal Lighting Plant Cooperative to bring affordable high speed, fiber optic, Internet service to Shutesbury.

Wired West Cooperative had its one year anniversary August 2012, and has grown from 22 towns to over 40 towns this year. The Executive Board meets weekly in Northampton and the Board of Delegates meets each month, traveling from Monterey, Peru, Wendell, Lee and Stockbridge to Shutesbury, to member towns all over Western Massachusetts. As a municipal-based entity, a cooperative of municipal lighting plants, the organization abides by Open Meeting law.

These towns are brought together in a single purpose: to build out the last mile, to bring high speed Internet access out to rural areas, a task neglected by the telecommunications industry and beyond the scope and funding of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. It is critical that you express your interest. This is your fiber network.

Affordable Internet service will be built by and for the underserved and unserved in Western Massachusetts through your support. The fiber-optic network will serve us for decades, create jobs, improve education and healthcare, drive regional economic development, and enable a sustainable future for our communities.

If you have any questions, please contact your Wired West delegate, Becky Torres, at townadmin@shutesbury.org or at 413-259-1214. You can also visit the Wired West website at www.wiredwest.net <http://www.wiredwest.net>

Many thanks to our spring folding crew!

The Spring 2012 edition of the Our Town newsletter reached your mailbox with the help of a wonderful group of volunteers. Turning up at Town Hall on April 25 to stuff, fold and label the newsletters were Mary Lou Conca, David Dann, Merka Fletcher, Joan Hanson, Susan Millinger, Susie Mosher, and Bob and Marilyn Tibbetts.

If you would like to join a “folding party” for Our Town or special municipal mailings in the future, please call Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge at 259-1204. (You will be under no obligation if a given date or time does not work for you.)
2012 Flu Clinic
The Shutesbury Board of Health is pleased to offer once again, flu vacci-
nation to Shutesbury residents.
This year's clinic is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, at the
Elementary School from 10:00am to 1:00pm. We have a limited number of
vaccine doses, which will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Any Shutesbury resident 6 months of age or older is eligible.
The vaccine will be offered free of charge, but presenting your insurance card at the clinic will enable the Board to recoup some of the cost of holding this clinic.

For further information about influenza and flu vaccine, visit
http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/guidelines-resources/services-planning/diseases-conditions/influenza/

Join the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee!
Want to be part of a great Town commit-

tee that doesn't meet very often but
does great work for Shutesbury? Join the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee!
The committee meets as neces-
sary and is responsible for Bulky
Waste Day, for the distribution of trash bags in May and June, and for moni-
toring waste disposal and recycling in Shutesbury.
If you're interested, contact Meryl Mandell, Chair of the RSWC, at
merylm@crocker.com.

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 1. If you have paid both the first and second quarter amount 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 pro-
gram, 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 pay-
ment.

Do NOT postdate you checks! I
cannot accept such checks because
they cannot be processed until the
date on the check. They will be
returned to you upon receipt.

"Why is the name of the previ-
ous owner still on my real estate
tax bill?" is a question we are fre-
quently 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 (2013) that date is
January 1, 2012. 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 win-
ter, 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 registra-
tion, license, and insurance docu-
ments.
Your insurance company furnishes
information to the Registry of Motor
Vehicles during the last quarter of the
calendar year that provides the data-
base from which your motor vehicle
excise tax bills on vehicles registered
on January 1 are generated. It is
essential that the place of garaging
and both the mailing and residential
addresses are absolutely correct to
insure proper and prompt delivery of
your bills.

Let me remind you that any tax bill
sent from this office should not be
ignored, even if it is on property you
no longer own. The Town does not get
notified if you dispose of an automo-
BILE; turn in your license plates, or dis-
pose of personal property. You must
notify the Board of Assessors by com-
pleting 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 garag-
ing. 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 reg-
ister a vehicle or renew your driver's
license and registration.

Have a good autumn.

Ellen McKay
Town Collector

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
September 29
The Amherst Department of Public Works' annual household hazardous waste collection has been scheduled for September 29, 2012. Advance
pre-registration is required by September 21.

[We hope this newsletter reaches you in time! -- the editor.]

Residents with small quantities of
material are encouraged to team up
with neighbors to reduce traffic at the
event. You can also save money by
pooling your hazardous waste.

Three critical bits of information:
1) the morning event is open to all
Shutesbury residents;
2) a $1 fee will apply to fluorescen-
bulbs; and
3) no paint products will be accept-
ed.

List of materials accepted is here:
http://www.amherstma.gov/Document
Center/View/19223. The pre-regis-
tration form will be available online and
may be submitted electronically. If you
don't have a computer and need a
paper form, contact Gary Bernhard at
bernhard@uww.umass.edu or 259-
1235 and I'll send you a form.
“Open schoolhouse” and autumn hike

Historical Commission Chairman Barbara Goodhind will host the annual open house of the newly repainted 1842 West Schoolhouse at West Pelham and Leverett Roads (see photos, right) on Columbus Day, Monday, October 8, 1:00 to 3:00pm.

The aging sills were also repaired this past summer due to a Community Preservation grant.

Guests will be able to see old text books, wall maps and many other items found in the old school houses of the time. 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 Saturday, October 13, the Commission will sponsor a hike to our now-abandoned Town Farm. We will leave the Town Hall parking area at 12:00pm. (The rain date is Sunday, October 14 at 12:00pm; 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: Chairman Barbara Goodhind, 259-1428, Secretary Julie Taylor, Treasurer Marilyn Tibbetts, and members Leslie Bracebridge, Karen Czerwonka, Steve Puffer, and Joanna Hayes.

Want to do lunch?

Please come to the monthly Council on Aging Pot Luck Lunches. Everyone is welcomed. We have great food and good company. Please RSVP to Marilyn Tibbetts, 259-1976, if you are coming and to tell her what you are bringing.

The lunches are at noon at Town Hall on the first or second Tuesday of each month. Upcoming dates are October 2 and November 13.

If you need a ride, call David Dann at 259-1554. Hope to see you!

Let your fingers do the walking with B.A.R.D.

Are you looking for someone to repair your leaky faucet, or perhaps take pictures of your special event, or do you need help with a computer problem?

Check out Shutesbury’s Business and Resource Directory (BARD)!

There are more than 200 listings of people who have a business or can provide services like pet grooming, house cleaning, yard work, music lessons, etc.

A hard copy of BARD is available at our Town Hall or Library, or you can go to www.shutesburybard.org for our updated online version.

If you have a business or service, or know of someone not yet listed, please visit our site and get yourself and others included.

Coming to Celebrate Shutesbury: 1761-2011 booklet with a 250th Anniversary photo collection on CD

With apologies to Monty Python, the Shutesbury 250th Anniversary Steering Committee wants everyone to know that it’s “not dead yet!”

The year of celebrations in 2011 may be behind us, but the committee has been working on a new project: publication of a 62-page commemorative album that combines text and striking images from a booklet created for the 150th anniversary of the town in 1911 with new text, photographs and documents that span the century since then.

The album includes a CD containing 299 photographs of anniversary events from 2011, arranged in folders by date and subject. The package will be offered at Celebrate Shutesbury for a suggested donation of $10.

DVDs of the 2011 anniversary parade, the “Tavern of Time” theatrical production presented at last year’s Celebrate Shutesbury, and Shutesbury Elementary School’s “Roadtown Review” will also be available, as well as a limited supply of “Always Cooler” tee shirts in children’s and adults’ sizes.

On October 11 at 7:00pm at Town Hall, the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee and the Friends of the M. N. Spear Library will co-sponsor “Dreaming Again: Revisiting the Valley’s Native History,” a presentation by Marge Bruchac, native American historian and traditional storyteller.
The Shutesbury Elementary School PTO is gearing up for another busy year! We met and planned over the summer and here is what’s in store:

Saturday, September 22 - Celebrate Shutesbury from 10:00am-3:00pm on the town common. The PTO will be providing activities for children. All welcome!

Wednesday, October 3 - PTO Meeting from 7:00-8:00pm at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. For all interested family members of Shutesbury Elementary School children.

Sunday, October 14 - Fundraising hike-a-thon on Carver Road. Ending at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. All welcome (to hike or donate!)

Sunday, October 28 - Halloween Fair at the school. All welcome!

Each year we spend about $10,000 to enrich the lives of Shutesbury Elementary School students by creating and supporting unique educational opportunities. We are in the process of becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are always accepted (and appreciated!) through Paypal at our website https://sites.google.com/site/shutesburyelementaryschoolpto/ or by check made payable to:

Shutesbury Elementary School PTO
23 West Pelham Road
Shutesbury, MA 01072

Another way to support your local PTO is to register your Stop and Shop card, Target Red Card or your Hannafords card with the Shutesbury PTO as a beneficiary of school funds. This allows Shutesbury Elementary PTO to receive funding or supplies through these local stores every time you use your card! For more information please see our website, email us at shutesburypto@gmail.com, or ‘Like’ us on Facebook!

President, Jessica Carlson-Belanger
Vice President, Katie Fiander
Treasurer, Beth Willson
Secretary, Andrea Franz
Parliamentarian, Kristen Andrews-Semler

Schools, continued from page 1
As elected members of Shutesbury, the committee is also accessible to the community outside of meetings and encourages residents to communicate with School Committee members. Minutes from all of our meetings are posted on the school's website - www.shutesburschool.org.

Unlike other town committees, the School Committee member terms take effect at the first Committee meeting following the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Warrant Article passed at the 2011 Town Meeting differentiates the School Committee member terms from other town committees and boards whose new members begin serving on July 1. This change was made to align Shutesbury with most other towns in Union 28 and the Regional School District which have new school committee member terms commencing in the spring. This change will provide greater continuity and consistency among these communities from this point forward.

At the 2012 Town Meeting, Emily Bloch was elected to the open seat for the three-year term on the Committee, while Mare Fox was re-elected for the other three-year slot. I was selected for the remaining slot, a one-year seat to fill out the remaining portion of Kristen Luschen's term. We welcome Emily to the Committee and look forward to her perspective as a parent and community member.

I would like to extend special thanks and appreciation to Kristen for her years on the School Committee and her thoughtful, reasoned perspective on many educational issues over her terms. Kristen served as Shutesbury's Regional School District representative over the past three years and helped to ensure that the town's voice was heard during some turbulent times on the Regional Committee.

On May 17 the Committee met to reorganize, elect officers and fill positions for committees. I was nominated Chair for the Committee and will serve in that capacity for the next year. As a member of Supervisory Union #28, Shutesbury has three seats on the Joint Union #28 Supervisory Committee, the organization represented by all five Union towns. Mare Fox, elected to serve on the Union #28 Budget Personnel Subcommittee, will represent Shutesbury on the Supervisory Committee along with Emily Bloch and me. Michael DeChiara was appointed to serve as Shutesbury Representative on the nine-member Amherst Regional School Committee, while Dan Hayes is the Committee's representative on the Collaborative for Educational Services. Dan and Michael also serve as reserve members for the U28 committee.

SES News from the Union #28 Superintendent

Dear Shutesbury Residents,

I hope that everyone had a great summer filled with the right combination of fun, relaxation and work/accomplishment of projects. The long daylight hours of summer gave us an opportunity to be outside more, and Shutesbury is such a beautiful community in which to partake of outdoor activities.

It’s wonderful to be starting another school year. Everyone is energized and eager to engage in the meaningful learning that happens at Shutesbury Elementary School (SES). The school has a number of new teachers and staff members this year. Olive Barber is the new 5/6 teacher, replacing retiring teacher Patti Klein. Sri Scott is teaching fourth grade as Heather Lobenstine moves into the school librarian/media specialist position vacated by Marcia Bernard. Jennifer Culbreth is the second grade teacher. She replaces Pat D’Angelo, a retiring second grade teacher. Lauren Schattin is the new Speech and Language teacher at
SES. She replaces Ellen Basco who is moving back to California, and Casey Riddle is an additional preschool teacher to accommodate our expanding program.

In addition to these teachers, there are two new paraprofessionals on staff: Christine Bailey and Katelyn Mailloux. These staff members replace Terri Nelson and Beth McCoy, who are both moving on to new educational endeavors. Doug Carvalho, Shutesbury’s Food Service Director, has also given his notice, but at the writing of this news article his replacement had not yet been hired. For those of you who have students at SES, Principal Bob Mahler has already provided this staffing information in the Road News, but I wanted to ensure that all community members are also kept up to date on the dynamic educational staff who works at Shutesbury Elementary School.

Even though we will greatly miss those teachers/staff members who have either retired or left SES for other endeavors, we are very excited by the energy, enthusiasm and innovative ideas that our new staff brings to the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Patti Klein, Pat D’Angelis, Marcia Bernard, Ellen Bosco, Terri Nelson, Beth McCoy and Doug Carvalho for their dedicated service to our students and school. Whether they worked for a single year or for decades, their contributions are very much appreciated and they will be missed. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to let Shutesbury residents know where they can learn more about the Erving School Union #28. Even though it’s been in existence since 1901 (with Shutesbury joining in 1902), many people don’t know much about its governance structure or how your own Shutesbury Elementary School District works in conjunction with Union #28.

If you are interested in learning more about Union #28, I encourage you to go to www.union28.org and the link "About Union #28," which will give you a history and a very comprehensive explanation of how our Union works. Every month I post reports to the website. These will give you a flavor of the educational work that I do as your superintendent in conjunction with the school principals and central office administrators.

You can also visit any of the school websites from our home page. I encourage you to check out our website. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to another productive and engaging school year in which our students have meaningful learning experiences.

Please stay involved in your community’s local discussions on education and the future of Shutesbury Elementary School. It is a great school that provides an extraordinary education to your children.

Sincerely,
Joan M. Wickman, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
Erving School Union #28
18 Pleasant Street
Erving, MA 01344
phone: 413-423-3337
fax: 413-423-3236

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The Community Network for Children (CNC) is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. The CNC supports all families with children from birth through 3rd grade in our school union.

Some programs include: weekly playgroups and story hours, parent/guardian workshops and events, opportunities to meet other families, support in accessing child care or assistance in paying for child care, new baby gift bags and home visits, and newsletters with programs and events. Our local CNC council assists in the oversight of the grant funds.

To be on our mailing list to receive monthly newsletters of events and workshops, please call or email Gillian Budine, Coordinator, (978) 544-5157 or Budine@erving.com. You can also access information at http://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren

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**Union #28 Community Network for Children**

**SHUTESBURY STORY HOUR**
MN Spear Memorial Library, Mondays, 10:00-11:00am

**SHUTESBURY PLAYGROUP**
Shutesbury Elementary School, Fridays, 9:00-10:30am

**UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMS!**
Saturday, September 22, 10:00am-3:00pm -- Face painting at Celebrate Shutesbury

Sunday, September 23, 10:30am--noon -- Lake Wyola Family Hike

Tuesday, September 25, 6:00-8:00pm -- "Beginning Everyday Sign Language," Erving Elementary School

Saturdays in October, 9:30-10:15am -- Creative Movement with Anna Hendricks, Wendell Free Library

Saturday, October 13, 2:30-3:30pm - Field Trip to Bassett Planetarium, Amherst

Please be in touch to register for these programs or if you need more information!

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**Redeem coupon for a Welcome Baby Gift Bag!**
We would like to extend a welcome to your new baby with a free Welcome Baby Gift Bag. Your bag will contain books, health and safety items and valuable information about local services for you and your new baby.

Please call or email Gillian, CNC Coordinator, at (978) 544-5157, Budine@erving.com to arrange for a drop off at your home or to pick up your welcome baby gift bag at one of our local story hours or playgroups!
New social networking website available for Shutesbury residents

As residents of Shutesbury, you can now sign up for a new open community-based website, “Nextdoor Shutesbury,” where we can freely share info, coordinate activities, request loans or swaps of tools or services, give away items you no longer need, etc.

Sixty-nine members have already signed up, and have begun sharing info and getting to better know each other.

To be a member of Nextdoor Shutesbury, you must register with your real name and real physical address. Nextdoor verifies members’ addresses in one of four ways: Sending a postcard to the address with a unique code, making a phone call to a listed number at that address, linking the person to a billing address from a credit card they provide, or by providing an invitation from a previously verified neighbor.

Once you have joined, you can post things publicly for all to see, or send individual emails privately to any other members. Your name and street will appear for all, but you choose through your control settings whether others have access to a visible email, phone, or house number. You may choose to include an “about me” blurb… or not.

You can choose to be notified of all postings, receive a “digest version,” or none at all -- simply check in on the site when you choose to do so. You can delete your info at any time, too.

We suggest you try it out. It will offer an opportunity to build community through the web, without the necessary restrictions of other sites in town, such as the Town Announcements email list, to which only town boards, committees and officials can post. (If you are not currently signed up for that, we urge you to do so, by sending a request to web@shutesbury.org that you be added to the list.)

To join the social networking website, visit:
https://shutesburyma.nextdoor.com/join

Your information is only available to you and your neighbors on Nextdoor Shutesbury. Non-members cannot see postings or other information. Nextdoor does not share or sell your information to third parties, including advertisers.

Members can create subgroups to discuss interests such as gardening or hobbies, or to share smaller neighborhood info, like the current “Montague Road” group. Subgroups can be either open to all, or by invite only.

Go to www.Nextdoor.com and read more about the program, including Frequently Asked Questions. You can also contact either of us for help or questions:
- Daniel Greenberg Daniel@ic.org
- Paul Vlach paul@admin.umass.edu

We are the “Lead” coordinators for the Nextdoor Shutesbury group site.

Energy savings for seniors:

Year Round Comfort that feels better for you, your wallet and the planet!

An Energy Event to inform and educate persons age 60+ and their family and/or caregivers about the home energy benefits they qualify for that will help them save money and obtain rebates for energy efficient appliances. One-on-one assistance will be available! Sponsored by Franklin County Home Care Corporation.

- September 25 from 9:00am - noon at Great Falls Discovery Center 2 Ave A in Turners Falls
- Repeated September 25 from 6:30 -9:00pm at GCC Downtown Campus, 270 Main St, Greenfield
  Both locations are accessible and have nearby parking. The event is free and open to the public.
  Registration appreciated. Contact your local senior center or Gretchen Smith at gsmith@fchcc.org or 413-773-5555 Ext 2258 or 978-544-2259 Ext 2258

Caregiver Information & Resources Fair

Drop in and find out more about Franklin County and North Quabbin agencies that are here to help elders and caregivers. Speakers, presentations and one-on-one consultations will be offered.

Advocate for long term care residents!

You can help residents of Franklin County and North Quabbin nursing homes/rest homes have a better quality of life. Trained “Ombudsmen” visit residents weekly and make sure their care needs are being met. If not, they help individuals speak up for themselves.

This is a flexible volunteer opportunity that will enable you to make a meaningful contribution to your fellow community members. Train locally in Western Mass. on September 26-28, 2012. For more information contact Trevor Boeding at Franklin County Home Care: tboeding@fchcc.org or 413-773-5555, Ext. 2241 or 978-544-2259, Ext. 2241.

Bereavement support groups offered by Hospice of Franklin County

- LOSS OF PARENT
  Thursdays, October 11 - December 6
  5:30pm - 7:00pm
- LOSS OF SPOUSE/PARTNER
  Mondays, October 15 - December 3
  5:30pm - 7:00pm

Groups will meet at Hospice of Franklin County in Greenfield.

The eight-week support groups are open to any adult in the community grieving the loss of a loved one. Counselors recommend that one not join a group until at least three months have passed since the loss occurred. Group membership is limited to eight participants. Phone interview is required for registration. Groups are free of charge.

Registration deadline: Thursday, September 27, 2012 Call Judy Allen, Bereavement Coordinator, MS, CT (413) 774-2400.
Evergreen is here!
At the end of May the long-anticipated migration to Evergreen, the new integrated library system that we use to maintain our catalog and for circulation, took place.

We are all getting used to using the new catalog and circulation software and we appreciate how patient Spear Library patrons have been through this transition.

Some patrons are still having trouble accessing their account online.
Patrons can access the online catalog a number of ways.
There is a link from our website, www.mnspear.org, Choose Card Catalog. A software glitch prevents the online catalog from working properly if you are using Internet Explorer, but it works fine if you are using a different browser, such as Firefox.

If you only have access to Internet Explorer you can access the online catalog through the C/W MARS website. Go to www.cwmars.org, click on Library Catalogs and choose C/W MARS Libraries Online Catalogs.

If you have not logged in to your account since the migration, you will need to enter your Library Barcode number (on your library card) for your user name, and then your last name in all capital letters for your password. Do not use the caps lock key.
If this doesn’t work, then you can try resetting your password:
Click Login.
Enter your barcode for your user name.
Click forgot your password.
Enter your barcode for both the user name and password.
An email will be sent to the address listed in your account with further instructions for resetting your password.
Feel free to call the library or stop in for help accessing your account.
Once you have accessed your account you can use the Account Preferences and Search Preferences tabs to manage your account.
From the Account Preferences tab patrons can review their personal information, and update their user name, password, and email address. The user name default setting is the patron’s barcode, but patrons may choose to change their user name to suit their preference.
Patrons may also customize their search preferences by clicking the Search Preferences Tab.
In search preferences, patrons can choose a preferred search location or library. The default setting for Shutesbury residents is Shutesbury but patrons can choose to always search all C/W MARS libraries or any other C/W MARS library.
Patrons can also choose a preferred hold pick up location.
Search Preferences is also where patrons can choose to save their check out or holds history, by checking the boxes next to Keep history of checked out items or Keep history of holds.
If a patron chooses to keep a check out or holds history it is only visible to the patron. The Library staff does not have access to these records.

Digital Catalog
Through C/W MARS, Spear Library patrons have access to hundreds of Disney Digital books that can be read on most computers. Many of the books an audio feature called look and listen!
To access this free collection of online books, visit www.cwmars.org, click on the Library Catalogs drop down menu, and choose Digital Catalog. This link brings you to the Digital Catalog homepage. On the left side of the screen there is a link to Disney Digital Books. You need a C/W MARS library card to use the digital catalog.

Encyclopedia Britannica now available online!
The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners provides access to dozens of online databases with well-researched information about a wide variety of topics.
New to the collection this year are links to Encyclopedia Britannica. The databases, including the Encyclopedia, can be accessed through the Library website, www.mnspear.org. Click on the Reference Desk Tab.
HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to www.shutesbury.org to find email addresses, or call the phone numbers below.

ACCOUNTANT
Gail Weiss  259-1108

ADA COMMITTEE
Martina Carroll  259-1110

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Rebecca Torres  259-1214

ANIMAL INSPECTORS
Denise Chiminiello  259-1020
Nancy Long  259-2123

ASSESSORS
Kenneth Holmberg  259-3790

BOARD OF HEALTH
William Elliott  259-2122
Public health emergency  413 659-7294

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
Dale Houle  259-1696

BUILDING INSPECTOR
Jim Hawkins  774-3167 ext. 113

CEMETERY COMMISSION
Maryanne Henshaw  259-1707

COUNCIL ON AGING
Muriel Gross  259-1371

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Leave inquiries at 259-3792

CULTURAL COUNCIL
Renee A. Richard  259-9296

DEPT. OF VETERAN’S SERVICES
Leo J. Parent, Jr.  863-3205

DOG OFFICER
Nancy Long  413.345-8796

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR
Maurice Gregoire  253-7505

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Robert Mahler, Principal  259-1212

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
Walter Tibbetts  259-1211

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Lori Tuominen  259-1765
Rus Wilson  259-1820

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Walter Tibbetts, Chief or home  259-1286

HEALTH AGENT
David Zarozinski  549-3710

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Tim Huntington  259-1215

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Barbara Goodhind  259-1428

M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Mary Anne Antonelli, Dir. 259-1213

LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Karen Traub  367-9826

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Janice Stone  259-1557

OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER
Janis S. Gray  259-1584

PERSONNEL BOARD
April Stein  259-1074

PLANNING BOARD
Deacon Bonnar  259-1276

PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR
John Letourneau  367-0017

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Vacant  Call 259-1214

RECYCLING COORDINATOR
Gary Bernhard  259-1059

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Michael DeChiara  256-3303

ROADS COMMITTEE
Vacant  Call 259-1214

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Cliff Read  259-1092

UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT.
Joan Wickman  423-3337

SELECT BOARD
Elaine Puleo, Chair  259-1979
Al Springer  259-1578
J. April Stein  259-1074

SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMM.
Weezie Houle  259-1696

TAX COLLECTOR
Ellen McKay  259-1615

TOWN CLERK
Leslie Bracebridge  259-1204

TREASURER
Gabriele Voelker  259-1801

TREE WARDEN
Thomas Houston  259-1508

WEB COMMITTEE
Fred Steinberg  259-9996

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Charles J. DiMare  549-5330

250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
Janis S. Gray  259-1584
Maryèle Lamet  259-1551

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911

Celebrate Shutesbury this September 22!