HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS
Go to www.shutesbury.org for email addresses, or call the phone numbers below.

ACCOUNTANT  Gaia Weiss 259-1108
ADA COMMITTEE  Martina Carroll 259-1110
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  Rebecca Torres 259-1204
ANIMAL INSPECTORS  Denise Chimentiello 259-1212
Nancy Long 259-1213
ASSSESSORS  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 772-2026
CEMETERY COMMISSION  Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1696
COUNCIL ON AGING  Muriel Gross 259-1371
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  Leave inquiries at 259-1371
CULTURAL COUNCIL  Renee A Richard 259-9296
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES  Leo J. Parent, Jr. 863-3205
DOG OFFICER  Nancy Long 413 658-4513
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR  Maurice Gregoire 253-7505

Elementary School
Robert Mahler, Principal 259-1212
Richard Ferrero 259-1361
Recycling Coordinator
Gary Bernhard 259-1235

Recreation Committee

Finance Committee
Lois Tuomeen 259-1765
Rus Wilson 259-1820

Regional School Committee
Kristen Luschen 259-3003

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

Select Board

Police, Fire & Rescue Squad 911
Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279
Janis S. Gray 259-1584
Karen Traub 367-9826
Karen Trin 259-1801

Planning Board
Deacon Bonnar 259-1276

Web Committee
Charles D. Jibb 259-1320

Recycling Coordinator

Assessor

Library Trustees

Janice Stone 259-1557

Treasurer

Leada Nute 259-1593

Personnel Board

Treasurer

 unlocks 259-1801

Deacon Bonnar 259-1276

Web Committee

Fred Stanberg 259-9996

Zoning Board of Appeals

Charles D. Jibb 254-3300

25th Anniversary Committee

Jans S. Gray 259-1584

MaryAnn Lema 259-1551

Police Department

Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279

Dispatch

Fire, Rescue, & Squad 911

Shutesbury, MA 01072

250th Anniversary Committee

Janis S. Gray 259-1584

MaryAnn Lema 259-1551

Community Preservation Committee Public Hearing

Thursday, March 1

Donald Fletcher, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hold its annual Public Hearing on March 1 at 6:00pm in the Elementary School Conference Room. The Hearing provides two opportunities:

1) to contribute to and hear others’ thoughts about Shutesbury’s community preservation needs, possibilities and resources; and
2) to hear about and discuss two proposed projects by the Historic Commission and Sirius Community requesting Shutesbury’s Community Preservation funds.

See CPC, continued on page 3

SES Preschool Open House Wednesday
March 7, 12:00-1:00pm

This is an opportunity for families to visit the preschool at Shutesbury Elementary School, meet the teacher and hear an overview of the Early Childhood Program.

Children are welcome, but are not required to attend.

Children must be 3 by September 1, 2012 to be eligible for the preschool.

Decisions for the 2012-2013 academic year will be made by April 7, 2012.

Attending the Open House does not guarantee acceptance to the program.

Questions may be directed to Grace Giaccio, Pre-K Teacher ggiaccio@shutesburyschool.org 259-1212 ext. 140

Local state aid: Up, down or stay the same?

Becky Torres, Town Administrator

What is in store for Shutesbury tomorrow? Do numbers tell the story? Or lead us astray?

A number of town departments are asking for increases and the Finance Committee is working with those increases. So not only are we confident that local state aid will not be cut this year, reports on the Massachusetts economy are still coming in strong.

We are in the fourth year, fourth fiscal cycle of the “worst” economic conditions in a lifetime. The present cycle began in the fall of 2008. This year when the Shutesbury Finance Committee started planning the town budget, it was uncertain what state aid would look like. Will aid decrease? Increase? Or stay the same?

The Finance Committee modified only slightly its Request for Budget to Town Departments. In the last three years they asked for both a 0% budget and a minus 5% budget. This year it tempered the request and asked that departments only be prepared to submit a minus 5% budget if needed.

For six quarters the Massachusetts economy was beating stronger than the rest of the country. The 2012 fourth quarter is reported to be 2.3% while the nation surged to 2.6%, the first time the growth at the national level is outpacing Massachusetts since 2010. But even so, MassBenchmarks projects Massachusetts growth at 3.5% for the first quarter of 2012, and 4% for the second quarter of 2012. These projections signal a strong surge in the Massachusetts economy.

See Aid, continued on page 5

Update on Debt Exclusion Election for a proposed new Shutesbury Library

Becky Torres, Town Administrator

On Thursday, February 2, 2012, The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners held a meeting in Boston. Grafton and Shutesbury both asked for extensions of time to seek firm local funding for provisional grant award in the Mass Public Library Construction Program. Grafton, first on the agenda, was awarded an extension. Shutesbury was next on the agenda. Twelve people from Shutesbury were there representing “yes” and “no” positions. At the end of a long discussion a Commissioner said they had heard both sides. The Commissioners continued:

Our sense is the legal process be completed. The one thing you all have in common is you have all said you need a library. Your responsibility is to provide a library. Come together for your children and elderly. If granted, use your time to work together to allow us to give you this money.

The Commissioners then voted unanimously to approve the extension of time until June 30, 2012.

The next step of the electoral process was the filing of a lawsuit by the Friends of the Library, Plaintiffs vs. Board of Registrars of Voters of the Town of Shutesbury, Defendants, on Friday, February 3, 2012.

When the provisional ballot was counted as a yes vote, the opponents hired a good lawyer and asked for a Recount. This time the proponents have a good lawyer and filed a Complaint.

See Court, continued on page 3
The 2012 Presidential Primary will occur on Tuesday March 6 at the Shutesbury Town Hall, Cooleyville Road. The last day to register to vote and change your voting party affiliation is February 15. You can register to vote anytime: in person at the town clerk’s office or by mail. Mail-in voter registration cards are included in the town’s February 1 ballot. After the close of the election period, register by mail or you may register in person on election day. This is the last day to register to vote in the presidential primary. The deadline to change your party affiliation is January 25. Those who register by mail must request a ballot by February 1 or the deadline for mail-in absentee ballots is February 15. Absentee ballots are not available for voters who did not register to vote in the presidential primary.

Absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary will be available for voters who cannot come to the polls on March 6, due to health concerns, religious restrictions or because they will be out of town, between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm. (Your or your relative on your behalf) may apply for an absentee ballot in person, or just write to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01772 to request an absentee ballot. Country voters must include your residential mailing addresses and your signature. Students, if you apply in person, you can choose to vote at that time or a ballot will be mailed to you. A Primary election voter will be given a ballot for the party in which he or she is enrolled. Voters who are not enrolled in a political party may select a ballot of the party of their choice.

Shutesbury’s Annual Town Meeting and Election of Officers will take place Saturday, May 5, 2012 at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Road. Polls will be open 8:00am - 2:00pm. The Town Meeting usually begins at 9:00am. In the upstairs hallway on the 2nd floor at the end of the long bookcase is a “LOST AND FOUND” BOX AT TOWN HALL? Did you know there is a lost and found box at town hall?

The Town Clerk's office is now accepting online applications for the Spring 2012 Board of Selectmen elections. The deadline to receive applications is February 15. If you are not already registered to vote, you need to register before April 14 to vote in the May 5 Town Meeting. Absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary will be available for those who cannot vote in person. If you wish to change your voting party affiliation, send an email to townclerk@shutesbury.org or call 259-1204.

Positions on the May 5 ballot due to term expirations

Polls are open from 8:00am to 11:00am. Polls will be open for the Primary elections on Tuesday March 6, from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

Tuesday, March 6

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The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

New Expanded Hours! We are open five extra hours each week!

Our new hours are:
Monday and Wednesday: 11-1, 3-7:30
Tuesday and Thursday: 3-7:30
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10-1
Sunday: 3-6

Extension granted ~ Fundraising continues

On Thursday, February 2, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) voted to give the Town of Shutesbury more time to confirm local funding for the new Shutesbury Library. The MBLC has until June 30, 2012 to secure the necessary local funding required to match the $2.1 million dollar grant.

The Friends of the Library and the New Shutesbury Library Capital Fundraising Committee remain committed to raising as much money as possible to reduce the tax impact of this project.

On January 11 a generous donor offered the Friends of the Library a $150,000 challenge gift. If the $3.5 million Library Project, as approved and awarded by the MBLC in July 2011, goes forward, the foundation is committed to supporting the project up to the $150,000 (1:1) level. If the Library Project does not go forward, the entire pledge would be declared void.

Donations and pledges for the new library continue to arrive. In addition to the challenge gift, the Friends and the NSLCFC have now collected more than $180,000 for the new Shutesbury Library.

Donations and pledges can be made online by visiting www.mnspear.org and clicking on the Friends of the Library donation button.

Lights, camera, action! On February 20, these children were among the many volunteers who turned out to appear in a fundraising video for the Friends of the Library. Here they hold signs that say “Please help! Donate” and spell out “www.mnspear.org.”

Note from the Town Collector
Ellen McKay, Town Collector
Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

With the winter upon us, the third quarter of our real estate bills have become due and the calendar 2012 motor vehicle excise bills for many vehicles registered on January 1 have been mailed. Additionally, excise bills on vehicles registered late in 2011 are billed during 2012. The year for which the bill is issued is found in the upper right hand corner of the bill. If you receive a bill on a car you have traded or on which you have changed registrations, do NOT ignore the bill. The Board of Assessors should be contacted to obtain an application for abatement. The forms are also available on the Assessors’ section of the Town’s website. The mailing address for the Assessors is PO Box 264, Shutesbury.

Our on-line bill paying feature allows you to pay your tax bills either directly from your checking or savings account with no fee, or with a credit card for a fee based on the amount of your transaction. To use this service, click on the Town’s website and then on the announcement on the Home page. For Real Estate and Personal Property taxes, you should enter 2012 for the year and just the bill number WITHOUT the RE or PP to enter the program. For motor vehicle payments, enter the year and bill number which is found on the top, right side of your bill.

If you have purchased your property after January 1, 2011, Massachusetts General Law requires that the previous owner’s name remain on the real estate tax bill. Hence, your name will appear with an “in care of”. There is nothing we can do to put the bill solely in your name. Before venturing out to pay a bill in person, please call this office at 259-1615 to check the answering machine to determine if I will be here.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Ellen

Work on Flood Plain Overlay District flows on

The Planning Board is working on the drafting of a flood plain overlay district bylaw for consideration at the May Annual Town Meeting. Its purpose would be to enable flood plain residents to purchase federally subsidized flood insurance, without violating new restrictions on property use.

Pat Smith, planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, presented a new bylaw draft to the Planning Board at a meeting in early February. Comments are welcomed and encouraged. The next Planning Board meeting is Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00pm, or contact Deacon Bonnar, Chair, at 259-1276.

CPC, continued from page 1

The Historic Commission is requesting an additional $8,000 to repair / replace the sills of the historic West Schoolhouse. This request is in addition to the $15,000 recommended by the Community Preservation Committee and approved by the May 2011 Town Meeting.

The additional funds are needed because multiple bid cycles have indicated that the project will cost more than originally estimated.

The Sirus Community’s request for $13,500 to restore and repair the existing foundation and to replace the sills of the historic South School. This is the initial work to preserve the school to provide a teaching and workshop facility for Sirius.

The Community Preservation Committee decision making will be guided by Shutesbury’s Community Preservation Plan. This plan describes the Town’s current profile, goals, and evaluation criteria for Historic Preservation, Open Space, Recreation, and Community Housing, the categories defined in the State Community Preservation Act. They were developed with input from the relevant Town boards, committees and residents-at-large.

This input, along with other Town plans, informed the CPC’s study of Shutesbury’s needs, possibilities, and resources regarding community preservation. Overall our goal is to ensure these funds are spent to help the Town make the “highest and best use”. These funds come from a 1.5% surcharge on real estate taxes, with exceptions for the first $100,000 of valuation and for low income residents, and a state match that was 100% for a few years but has declined to 25%.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) encourages Shutesbury residents, town committee volunteers and officials to attend the Public Hearing to learn the details of and answers to questions about the proposed projects.

Shutesbury’s CPC will vote in April whether to recommend funding for each project. If recommended, the funding decision will be made in May by the Annual Town Meeting. Only proposals recommended by the CPC and approved at a Town Meeting can be funded.

Interested in reading the details? Just go to the What’s New section at www.shutesbury.org and click on “Community Preservation Plan” to read about Shutesbury’s Application and Approval Process, Application for Funding, Evaluation Criteria.

For special accommodations contact Rebecca Torres at 413.259.1214 by February 29. For weather-related emergency rescheduling please call the town clerk’s office at 259-1204, or check the online calendar at www.shutesbury.org.

Court, continued from page 1

At each step the Town is paying money for Town Counsel. The Town paid for the election workers (although many volunteered their time) at the Recount as well as for Town Counsel.

In court on February 14 Town Counsel made a request for Attorney Alan Seewald that 7 additional days be given for the opposition to determine if they will hire Attorney Seewald to intervene in the case. The extra time was granted.

A court date of April 23 in Greenfield is set. The issue is now in the Court's hands.

A month ago, Town Counsel said, “Clearly, you are headed towards court no matter which way the provisional ballot or Recount goes. With a tie, it is inevitable.”

[Image 219x66 to 577x338]

Julie Stepanek
juliestepanek@mindspring.com.
From the Shutesbury School Committee

Michael DeChiaro, Chair

There continues to be much happening in the world of education — locally at Shutesbury Elementary School and at Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools. Some developments are bright spots, others are challenges.

Without a doubt, Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) continues to provide high-quality education to the children of residents; despite the ongoing challenges from the economy.

The ability to continue to offer strong educational opportunities to all our children is the direct result of two inspiring facts: we have a committed and highly skilled staff that goes the extra mile for our kids, and we are a community that values and funds education. Without these, our school could not excel as it does. Thank you!

While there is a variety of strong, age-appropriate learning going on at SES, the most notable development so far this year was the annual school-wide performance.

Introduced by Principal Bob Mahler as a way of bringing art and music into all the students’ lives, the December 2011 performance celebrated Shutesbury’s 250th anniversary. “A Shutesbury Sampler” was written locally by Jane Urban and Emily Samuels, and directed by Court Dorsey.

Through art, music and acting, the school’s 151 students from Pre-K to 6th entertained and educated parents, relatives and community members. Impressively, the entire production was paid for by outside financial assistance from the PTO, and grants from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, New Salem Academy, and the Shutesbury 250th Anniversary Steering Committee.

While this and other high-quality day-to-day programming is certainly occurring, the continued stress of funding constraints is ever more present. SES has faced four years of 0% or close to 0% budgets — longer than any other school in Union #28 or in the Amherst region. Over the past few years, cuts and reductions have occurred to items like field trips, supplies, books and materials, professional development, technology, and subsidies for instruments.

Despite this, the school staff has worked hard to protect the children from experiencing any reduction in quality of the educational experience. But this protection from the ongoing budget constraints is weakening.

Two specific reasons are a significant reduction in revenue for the upcoming budget year FY13: Federal stimulus money that had prevented deeper cuts for the past two years will be gone, and state reimbursement for special education is dropping for the coming year. Meanwhile, SES continues to face notable expenses for unfunded or under-funded state mandated services and activities.

As a result, the School Committee is considering a FY13 budget that for the first time in five years will include an increase in funding, to address emerging needs and to shore up the quality education that our town expects.

At the secondary level, the budget will still require cuts to the middle school and high school programming, but overall the situation is better than last year. Assuming a 2% increase in state education funding is received (as opposed to reductions in recent years), only modest cuts to programs will be made. Compared to the multi-million dollar cuts to programs and staff over the past five years, this is relatively welcome news. Meanwhile, while revenue is modest, expenses to operate the region continue to increase, resulting in increases to the four member towns, an estimated average of 3%. Among the four towns, Shutesbury will again have the lowest increase in the annual regional assessment.

Two other significant developments are worth highlighting regarding the regional schools and our relation to our neighboring towns. One involves continued developments with respect to our governance/administrative affiliation for elementary education. The other involves later start times for middle and high school students.

For the past two years, Shutesbury has taken a leadership role in exploring beneficial ways to reconfigure our elementary school affiliation — whether to stay with Union #28 or join/merge with a region.

The town-appointed Shutesbury Educational Study Committee has been meeting throughout this time, interviewing people and doing research on several options. At the October 2011 Special Town Meeting a new body — the Regional School District Planning Committee (RSDPC) — was created in compliance with state law to more officially engage with other towns regarding these various options.

While Shutesbury, along with Leverett, Pelham and Amherst, has repeatedly explored the issue of reconfiguration every 10-15 years since the 1950s, this time might be different.

The challenge is that the finances, governance and educational issues regarding any change are very complex and often there was not enough detailed information to guide a recommendation.

However, in January, Shutesbury’s RSDPC, in conjunction with those of Amherst, Leverett and Pelham, applied for a state grant to pay for consultants to dig into the details and provide the information needed to inform a sound recommendation.

This is a huge breakthrough, so cross your fingers about the grant and look for more information this spring.

Finally, the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools are seriously looking at changing when the school day starts. There is compelling national evidence that later start times provide unequivocal educational benefit to teenagers.

While the educational benefit is clear, the logistics and finances are usually the challenge.

The Shutesbury School Committee has had two briefings on the region’s research and planning to date; the latest presentation was in January.

See School, continued on page 5
The Spectacular Grand Finale of Our Anniversary Year

“A Shutesbury Sampler”

The option with the greatest likelihood for consideration would have secondary school start at 9:00am and elementary school (including SES if our School Committee votes to support it) start at 8:15am. Notably, it is estimated that this would not cost Shutesbury any additional money.

Research is still under way regarding the impact on athletics and lower-income families at the region.

The Shutesbury School Committee is planning an informational forum in late February to share information and get feedback about shifting our start time to coincide with a regional decision. If a change is voted by the various school committees, it is not clear whether the changes would begin in fall 2012 or 2013. Stay tuned.

We practiced our lines around and bothered many of the parents, “bears,” or frogs that danced, the first graders were “spring peepers,” and the second graders did the boat scene and the ice storm dance. The third graders did the school dance and the fourth graders did the fireworks scene. The fifth and sixth graders had the main speaking and singing parts.

The play presented a lot of old and new things about Shutesbury, from the recent ice storm to Amelia Bernard, who originally named the town. I liked how we captured the essence of every period from Shutesbury’s beginnings to today. I am really proud of all our hard work and what we accomplished.

Shutesbury Elementary School students were excited to celebrate the town’s 250th anniversary with a play about Shutesbury’s past and present.

We practiced a lot, had the whole school come together to present a play about the history of our town and for the people of our town. This production was funded with grants from The New Salem Academy, the local Cultural Council, the S.E.S. PTO, and B. Z. Reily was the artistic director (sets, props, costume design), and Bob Mahler was the lighting director. The Shutesbury Sampler Band (Brian Bender, Rob Hayes and Geoff Rogers) accompanied us with great music.

Every student in the whole school participated in the production. The kindergarteners were “spring peepers,” or frogs that danced, the first graders were mosquitoes that buzzed around and bothered many of the characters, and the second graders did the boat scene and the ice storm dance. The third graders did the school dance and the fourth graders did the fireworks scene. The fifth and sixth graders had the main speaking and singing parts.

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To find out more about the elementary school, I encourage residents to visit the school website at www.shutesburyschool.org.

For the secondary school, please visit www.shutesburyschool.org. Members of the community are always welcome to attend Shutesbury School Committee meetings; these are usually the third Thursday of each month.

On behalf of our teachers and staff, the parents and guardians, and of course the children, thank you for your continued support of quality education for our Shutesbury children.

The Committees want to engage the public in conversation as consultants put together reports on what the impacts might be for each of the towns.

Questions remain. Will this economy surge be driven by shrinking federal budgets, or not? Governor Deval Patrick is working with Legislators to advance a variety of Local Aid funding levels that the House and Senate support. We are looking forward to one of the most stable budget cycles that municipalities have experienced in many years.

The new tax rate has been set at $19.56/1000 valuation for FY12. This is an increase of 4.5%. The Governor’s House and Senate are working to decrease this rate and put pressure on municipal budgets to fund basic services.

Town officials are pursing ways to rethink how we do things. Region-wide, the number of children in the schools is declining. Towns are coming together to evaluate sustainability. The Education Study Committee and newly formed Regional School District Planning Committee are searching for strategies, structures to preserve quality education and address shrinking numbers of students and financial strain. The Committees want to

SHUTESBURY FISCAL 2012 TAX RATE SET

The tax rate has been set at $19.37/1000 valuation. Below is the new Average Home Value, Annual Property Tax Bill on Average Home and Tax Rate/Thousand:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
<th>Tax Bill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$19.56</td>
<td>$247,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increase for the average home valued at $247,104 is $4,833.

Editor's note: The new tax rate has been set at $19.56/1000 valuation for FY12. This is an increase of 38% (less than 1%) from last year’s ($19.37/1000 valuation). Below is the new Average Home Value, Annual Property Tax Bill on Average Home and Tax Rate/Thousand:

<table>
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Draft of new Open Space & Recreation Plan to be topic of public forum on March 15

The Open Space Committee invites all to find out about the special outdoor places in town during a public forum on Thursday, March 15 at 7:30pm in Town Hall.

Copies of the draft Plan are available at the Library and Town Hall and on the town website, www.shutesbury.org.

At the forum, committee members will briefly summarize important aspects of the draft of the new plan and answer questions. They are interested in your comments!

Examples of the maps and a paper copy of the plan will be available for viewing. Refreshments will be served.

Can’t come to this forum, but still have comments? Send them to the Open Space Committee at Town Hall by March 31.

Research is still under way regarding the impact on athletics and lower-income families at the region.
Shutesbury awarded Green Communities grant monies
On December 15, 2011, Becky Torres, Town Administrator, and Clark Sylvester, Energy Committee Chair, represented the town when Shutesbury was recognized for receiving a grant to finance energy savings and alternate energy projects. Shutesbury received the award from Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan, Jr., along with four other communities, Buckland, Deerfield, Granby, and Middlefield.

Shutesbury’s total grant is $142,275 and will be used to complete several much-needed projects in town. These include:

1. A more energy efficient furnace for town hall.
2. A more efficient furnace, air handling improvements, and hot water heating in the fire station.
3. Added t-beam insulation, sealing, and motor control improvement at the elementary school.
4. A new 10-15 kW photovoltaic system to be installed behind the fire station.

As part of being awarded the designation of a Green Community, initially announced last July, Shutesbury agreed to reduce energy use by a total of 20% over a five year period. We are already well on our way to these goals.

Shutesbury is one of 6 towns out of 250 who were awarded these grants.

The award is issued by the Energy and Environmental Affairs Department of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as a result of the Commonwealth’s ongoing efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean energy projects.

The Shutesbury Energy Committee is a volunteer group made up of individuals who are interested in energy saving projects. The committee is actively seeking new members.

Are your heating dollars blowing away on chilly winter winds?
Call Mass Save® (866-527-7283) today for your Free Home Energy Assessment!
The audit will assess your home and provide recommendations for improving its efficiency, comfort, safety, and discuss your options with you. Currently, the Mass Save® program will pay 75% of the cost of weatherization measures, namely air sealing and insulation, recommended by your audit, up to $2,000.

Franklin County Home Care Corporation may have funding to help people age 60 and older to pay their electric bills over the coming years. (from your tax dollars) in fuel and electric bills over the coming years.

Shutesbury Energy Committee

Energy Committee News

Brush burning permits available online
“Burning season” runs from January 15 through May 1. The hours for burning are from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Fires are to be located at least 75 feet from any building, and are to be attended at all times by a person 18 years or older. Permits are good for one day, you must get a permit for each day that you want to burn.

The Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association has an online brush burning permit web site. The online permits are available from 8:30am to 1:00pm on any day that burning will be allowed.

If burning is not being allowed on any particular day, the website will inform you of this.

The website is:
www.fcburnpermits.com
If you do not have Internet access, the Franklin County Dispatcher (Shelburne Control) can also issue burning permits. Call the dispatcher at (413) 259-1584 to make arrangements.

250th Anniversary Steering Committee seeks photos
Thank you to everyone who contributed to a wonderful anniversary year that exceeded all our expectations! Our committee is proud to announce a collection of photographs of the many events held in 2011, and we realize there are gaps in our collection. We are looking for pictures from:

The June Farm and Garden Tour
The Lake Wyola Association’s Art Show and Boat Tour in July
The September Farm and Garden Tour

The wonderful landscaping project at the Highway Department that beautified the berm.

If you have digital photos you willing to share, please email them to Janis Gray at jgray@crocker.com. If you have printed photos that you want returned, she can scan them. Call her at 259-1584 to make arrangements.

Thank you!

Business and Resource Directory is now online!
Remember! A very important way to support our town is by supporting each other.

One grassroots project that grew out of our 250th Anniversary year was the creation of a new Business and Resource Directory (BARD). Check out the approximately 200 listings and you will see what a wealth of skills, talents and services we can provide to each other.

It’s easy to add your local business, skill or service if you aren’t yet included. Visit www.shutesburybargard.org

Hard copies are still available at the library, Town Hall and the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

The Community Network for Children (CNC) is a program that is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. We are hosting some programs in Shutesbury! Hope you can join us!

Shutesbury Creative Movement Series: Fridays, March 2nd, 9th for children aged 2-5 years old. Anna Hendricks will lead a creative movement series in Shutesbury! Hope you can join us!

Shutesbury Story Hour for children 0-5 years of age: Sundays, 10:00-11:00am, M.N. Spear Memorial Library
Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community!

The CNC supports all families with children from birth through age 8 and or school-age providers that care for them in our school union.

Some programs for families include: weekly playgroups and story hours, parent/guardian workshops and events, opportunities to meet other families in our community, support in accessing child care or assistance in paying for child care, new baby gift bags and home visits, and newsletters with current programs and events.

Our local CNC council assists in the oversight of the grant funds.

If you are interested in being on our mailing list to receive monthly newsletters of events and workshops, please call or email Gillian Budine, Coordinator (978) 544-5157 or gbudine@cnc.org.

You can also access information at sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren or on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/communitynetworkforchildren.

Garden Tour
Art Show and Boat Tour
June Farm and Garden Tour

The Shutesbury Athletic Club 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, 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!

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