Hearse House restoration on Town Meeting warrant

Donald Fletcher, Chair, Community Preservation Committee

The restoration and protection of Shutesbury’s 1840 Cemetery Hearse House will be on the warrant at the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2013. The Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is recommending $21,650 to support the restoration.

The Shutesbury Building Committee proposed and will oversee the project. Several other Town and private groups provided testimony and letters of support for the project, as well as in-kind and monetary contributions. These include the Cemetery Commission, Town Center Committee, Historical Commission, and Friends of the Historic Commission. Restoration of the Hearse House has long been a priority for both the Historic Commission and the Town Building Committee.

The Cemetery Hearse House is one of only two pre-Civil War municipal buildings in Shutesbury. It is the only one that has been continuously used. Shutesbury is fortunate to have detailed records of the Shutesbury Annual Town vote in 1840. These include the detailed wording of the approved motions and building specifications when funds were appropriated to build a timber frame building to house the town-owned hearse.

A town-owned hearse house reflects a time before there was a funeral industry. The town hearse is the 1840 Hearse House

Contact our Conservation Commission before you start your project!

With the arrival of warmer weather, many town residents will start to think about construction or landscaping projects. Many landowners have wetlands on or near their property. Some are large and obvious (like Lake Wyola), while others are large and often go unnoticed (such as vernal pools that dry up in the summer). Any project, including new construction, tree removal, grading or excavating, that takes place near a wetland or Lake Wyola must be reviewed by the Shutesbury Conservation Commission before work begins.

The extent of the Conservation Commission’s involvement on a project varies. For example, if you are digging, a site visit is required before the Commission will sign off on your Building Permit Application. If the project is within 100’ of wetlands or Lake Wyola, then a site visit is also required.

In mid-February, Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) Principal Bob Mahler informed Union Superintendent Joan Wickman and Shutesbury School Committee members of his decision to retire at the end of the academic year. This decision caught us all by surprise, as we had expected final negotiations on a new three year contract to be completed over the course of the spring.

Bob will be a hard person to replace. During his six years as Principal at SES, Bob has brought a special energy and vision to the school.

His accessibility to the students and connection to them through the Massachusetts Children’s Book Award program and lunchtime reading sessions fostered a love of reading that has been remarkable.

Bob’s support of staff to ensure that they are able to provide the quality education to our children that we have grown to expect in this community, has been apparent.

Over these past six years our school community has experienced triumph and tragedy, and Bob’s steady leadership has been crucial in

See Hearse House, cont. on pg. 3
See Wetlands, cont. on pg. 3
See SES, cont. on pg. 7
Messages from the Town Clerk
Leslie Bracebridge, Town Clerk
Office Hours: 9am – 1pm Monday through Thursday
Call 259-1204 to make special appointments.

Reminder: There will be a Special State Primary on April 30 to select the two candidates whose names will appear on the Special June 25, 2013 State ballot to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator John F. Kerry. The polls will be open at the Shutesbury Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Road from 7am to 8pm for both events. In a primary, voters receive the ballot of the party in which they are enrolled. Unenrolled voters may select the ballot of their choice. People enrolled in a political designation such as Green-Rainbow party are not eligible for a ballot at the upcoming primary.

Saturday, May 4, 2013 is the date of Shutesbury’s Annual Town Meeting and Election of officers. The polls will be open at the Shutesbury Elementary School at 23 West Pelham RD from 8am to 2pm. Annual Town Meeting will begin at 9am.

Saturday, April 13 was the last day for new voters 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 complete and return your street list form each January, your name will remain on the voter registration list. Call the number above anytime if you would like to check your voter registration status or have questions about registering to vote.

The following positions will appear on the ballot:
Board of Health: one 3-year position
Board of Health: one 1-year position
Cemetery Commission: one 3-year position
Constable: one 3-year position
Library Trustees: two 3-year positions
Moderator: one 3-year position
Planning Board: two 3-year positions
School Committee: one 3-year position
Selectmen: one 3-year position

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk’s Office for any voter who will be absent from Shutesbury, or who has a physical disability or a religious belief that prevents the voter from being present during polling hours.

Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing, and include the voter’s name, voting address, 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 may also absentee vote in person at the Town Clerk’s office until noon on Friday, May 3.

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

You can re-license your dog any time now for the July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 period. A re-licensing form is available at the Shutesbury.org website.

I will send mail-in request forms for dog licenses in a June 2013 town-wide mailing. Check now to make sure that your dog is up to date on its rabies vaccination, as is required in order to re-license. On the chance that you receive this newsletter in time, please note: There will be a rabies vaccination clinic at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 27 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Please have all dogs and cats on leashes or in pet carriers. Please bring proof of previous rabies vaccination if available for your pet. The cost is $15/pet.

NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF SHUTESBURY

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 32 notice is hereby given that the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaws revision, that being Amendment to Create a Floodplain Overlay District, approved by the Office of the Attorney General on February 21, 2013. This announcement and copies of the revision are posted at the Locks Pond bulletin board, the Shutesbury Town Hall, the Shutesbury Post Office, the M.N. Spear Library, the Shutesbury Elementary School, and the Cushman Pratt Corner Roads bulletin and are available for review or purchase at the Town Clerk’s Office. The zoning bylaw changes approved on November 13, 2012 and now in full effect are also available on the town website: www.shutesbury.org.

Leslie Bracebridge
Wetlands, cont. from pg. 1

Wyola, the process is more complex and can take several weeks.

If you are unsure if your project falls inside the Commission’s jurisdiction, contact us well in advance of the start of your project! Because the Commission is a volunteer board, scheduling site visits often takes time.

The Commission is supported by our very knowledgeable and helpful clerk, Linda Avis Scott. She is a valuable resource to our community and can help you determine what steps need to be taken to comply with wetlands protection laws.

Here’s how to get started:

1. Do not wait until the last minute to contact us.
2. Contact us by leaving a message on the Commission’s answering machine at 413-259-3792.
3. Visit Town Hall during the clerk’s office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays (10 am - noon).
4. Attend one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 pm and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursday). Be sure to work with Linda to get on our agenda.
5. Our website has links to all of the forms that you may need: http://www.shutesbury.org/concom

The Commission is responsible for administering both state and town wetlands protection laws as mandated by the statutes and regulations of Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Our goal is to help property owners proceed with their projects while at the same time protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit all of us.

Hearse House, cont. from pg. 1

transported deceased residents from their homes to the church and to their final resting place in the town cemetery. For many of these final rides, the hearse passed through Shutesbury’s historic town center corridor, passing other icons of an earlier way of life: a one-room school, the cemetery, the town hall, the common, and the stone animal pound.

Almost all towns once had hearse houses. Our research indicates that Shutesbury’s may be one of only six remaining in Massachusetts. Our Hearse House remains at its original site, at the entrance to the Town cemetery, along one of Shutesbury’s most travelled roads.

Leverett Road has another part in the story. Over decades, as the road was built up, water began to flow from the road surface into the Hearse House.

The stopgap measure, implemented many decades ago, was to add fill to the interior of the Hearse House to lift up the level of the floor above that of the elevated road.

This buried the sills of the timber frame.

As a result, the sills and the bottoms of the posts have decayed. There has also not been any significant building maintenance in many years. The Town Building Committee has carefully studied the needs of the building and proposed a plan to protect and restore the Hearse House.

The Building Committee’s proposal to restore the Hearse House has also led to donations and pledges that will help protect and restore the Hearse House, the entrance to Shutesbury’s historic cemetery.

Please come to the Annual Town Meeting and support the restoration and protection of Shutesbury’s 1840 Cemetery Hearse House.

Message from the Historical Commission

Members of the Historical Commission wish to express appreciation for the Town Buildings Committee’s thoughtfully detailed plan for repairs and renovations to the 1840 Hearse House at the entrance to the West Cemetery, 158 Leverett Road. Similarly, the Hearse House Building Committee of 1840 prepared a thoughtful report to the town:

Committee Report

Shutesbury June 3rd, 1840 We the Subscribers a committee chosen by the town to agree upon a place to set hearse house have agreed with Nathaniel Macumber for a spot at the north west corner of the burying ground without expense on condition that the town will scrape of the imbankment west of the spot to be a level and deed it to the town so long as it is occupied as a hearse house and we furthermore think the house ought to be sixteen feet long and ten feet wide with seven and a half feet posts boarded with good white pine inch boards planed and matched roof boarded and shingles with good merchantable lumber with a good plank floor 1½ inch thick with a plank outside of the door so as to make it easy and convenient getting in to it and to have a good firm doors hung with good strong iron hinges and a lock and key sufficient to keep it safe at all times and the work done in a good workman like manner the timber to be 7 inches square and the frame to be well braced and painted with good oil paint such color as the town shall vote.

Watson Leonard
1 Committee (Spellings are as in the original document.)

The Hearse House is used to store the tools needed to groom Shutesbury’s main cemetery. It also serves as the focal point of one of Shutesbury’s important open space landscapes. The Commission looks forward to seeing the restoration of one of several key locations along our picturesque town center corridor.

The Commission will have a Hearse House photo album available at town meeting showing interior beams, the stone posts still in place for hanging the double gate on the cemetery entrance and the original “coffin carrier.”

Please arrive at town meeting early to take time to enjoy thumbing through the album and to be there for the first warrant articles addressing use of Community Preservation Funds to preserve this Shutesbury heirloom.
Decisions for Shutesbury’s voters this year are limited to 16 Town Meeting Articles. The first two are for Community Preservation Committee maintenance and the allocation of taxes to the three categories, Historic, Open Space, Community Housing and budgeted reserves. The third article is to renovate the Harse House at the cemetery on Leverett Road.

Article 4 invites reports from all town officials about their activities this year.

Article 5 is the town budget. The budget being presented is a balanced budget. One change is a new Salary Grade, Step Schedule developed by the Personnel Board. The increases reflect a scarce market for municipal financial people, police contract changes and a cyclical need to realign job descriptions and point system by grade and steps.

Debt amounts remain in the appropriated budget to be allocated to capital stabilization for future needs, part of our capital plan. Article 6 is the request to transfer $116,306 to our capital stabilization fund.

Two capital requests, $4500 for fire truck tires and $25,000 for a new library are appropriated in the budget, there are no separate warrant articles.

On September 27, 2012, Shutesbury’s free cash was certified at $1,071,839. We are still earmarking $200,000 to pay back DEP for the work at the fire station in removing 15,000 yards of contaminated soil. Our cash reserve position is strong helping us build capital reserves.

While budget pressures remain, we are able in this budget to respond to department requests and live within the Prop. 21/2 guidelines set by state law for taxation. Taxes continue to increase but there is no request for an override. We are planning for the future in this budget with the goal of avoiding future overrides.

The largest driving force for small town property taxation is education. We need to continue to work with the state, legislators and the Governor urging them to shoulder more of this burden. And continue to explore all methods possible, such as regionalization, to provide high quality education and control cost. Shutesbury Elementary School budget increases by $61,326 and the Regional budget increases by $58,000. At this point we are anticipating only a little more than $3300 in increased education, chap. 70 money to achieve these increases.

Article 12 is the Amherst regional agreement formula that we vote each year to allow the four towns of the region to use an alternative method to the state statutory method. The alternative method we use is a per pupil calculation based on a five year rolling average, the same formula used prior to ed reform in 1992.

Article 13, OPEB (other post employment benefits) funding increases by another $10,000 to $20,000 appropriated, with a $30,000 free cash request in the article to continue the $50,000 per year commitment. Next year we appropriate $30,000 and request $20,000 from free cash incrementally achieving our funding goal.

Article 14 is a free cash request of $140,000 for a new highway dept. loader. There has been a great deal of discussion about surplus equipment and the pros and cons of the two philosophies, buy new or buy used, and how those issues impact service to the community.

Article 15, a one-time request of $20,000 from the Building Committee is requested from free cash. The money is for a roof repair at the elementary school and tiling of the senior lounge.

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

Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are approaching the end of fiscal 2013 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2014.

My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am – Noon and Thursday from 8-11am. Should you need to see me and these times are inconvenient, please call and we can arrange a better time to meet.

With changes in postal services that have occurred, it is imperative that you PLAN ACCORDINGLY when mailing your payments. Under Mass. General Law, we do NOT use the postmark for date of payment but rather the date of actual receipt. You should mail bills at least ONE WEEK before you are due to insure that they are received before the due date.

Your fourth quarter real estate taxes are due May 1. I urge you to pay these bills promptly as the next bill you will be receiving is a demand that will cost you an additional $5.00 plus interest.

If you need to set up a payment arrangement on your bill, please contact me as soon as possible. Although interest will accrue on any overdue portion of the bill, you will avoid the additional interest and any collection procedures beyond the demand that will accrue should you leave the entire bill unpaid.

Don’t forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. (See related article on next page.)

All bills should be paid in full before you apply for abatement. If this is not done and the bill becomes overdue with additional fees and interest before abatement, these must be paid along with any outstanding balance due on the bill after abatement.

Payment of all types of bills MUST be received on or before the due date which is clearly marked on the bill. Please make note of these dates and make your payments accordingly. Always open all envelopes you receive from this office immediately on receipt. The bill you think is a real estate bill (and paid by your bank) may be an excise tax bill for which you are responsible.

Should a demand bill be issued on a motor vehicle excise tax, the law provides 14 days for receipt of payment before a warrant for collection is issued to the Deputy Collector. This results in at least $22.00 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of the original bill will NOT be accepted and checks made out in the incorrect amount
WILL be returned to the sender. Some of you have been unable to pay your bills on-line. Once a bill is overdue, it is automatically deleted from the system and can’t be paid on-line until the demand is issued.

Have a good spring.

Excise tax advice from the Board of Assessors
All abatement requests must include an application for an abatement form (signed and dated), documentation to show transfer of ownership of a vehicle, and a plate return/cancellation receipt or documentation showing transfer of plate to another vehicle.

The abatement form is available on our website http://www.shutesbury.org/assessor. If you move to another state and register your car there, you should cancel the Massachusetts registration. If you are applying for an abatement, the abatement application, a copy of the Massachusetts plate cancellation, and a copy of the new registration from the other state are required.

The registration includes both a place of garaging, (the town a vehicle is garaged in) and a mailing address. One might have a mailing address in another town but if their car is garaged in Shutesbury, the registration should show that and the tax should be paid to Shutesbury.

Canceling a plate can be done at a Registry of Motor Vehicle (RMV) branch office or over the internet. The RMV Internet address is http://massachusettsdriverslicense.org, the telephone number is 1-857-368-8000.

An excise tax bill can be thought of as a tax for your license plate (registration), based on the depreciated value of a vehicle. Massachusetts General Laws has strict rules about payment deadlines, fees, interest, and consequences for being late. To avoid late fees, interest, or other consequences, the best option is to pay the bill before it is due.

If you have any questions regarding excise tax abatements, please contact Ken Holmberg or Lynda Grybko at the assessor’s office. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-3pm and Wednesday 1-3pm and the telephone number is 413-259-3790.

From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Trash Bag Distribution
Please see the distribution schedule printed on the reverse side of the recycling schedule insert in this newsletter.

Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day Saturday June 1
Saturday June 1 is Bulky Waste Day at the Highway Department from 10am to 2pm for Shutesbury residents. Bring items that are too large for the trash such as construction waste, mattresses, carpets, etc. You can find details at: http://www.shutesbury.org/recycling_bulky. We do charge enough to cover the cost of disposing of these items, so bring some cash or your check book with you. Hint: Unloading goes a lot faster if you separate trash, metals, and electronics. Do NOT bring hazardous waste to Bulky Waste Day.

Electronics, textiles, old clothing, leather goods recycled at no cost on Bulky Waste Day!
The Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee is partnering with the Salvation Army this year. The Army will have a truck at Bulky Waste Day and will receive any and all electronics, including TV’s and computer monitors, at no cost.

The Salvation Army will also receive any and all textiles, old clothing, rags, old shoes, belts, etc. at no cost. Ripped, torn, threadbare, bring them all! Please make sure that all textiles, etc. are dry and clean. Put them in black (not yellow Shutesbury) trash bags.

We need Bulky Waste Day volunteers!
If you would like to help, please contact Gary Bernhard at 413-259-1235 or bernhard@uww.umass.edu or Meryl Mandell at 413-259-1282 or merylm@crocker.com. Many hands make light work!

Paper Shredding Day coming to Shutesbury!
The Recycling Committee is working with a local paper shredding company, Valley Green Shredding, to set up a “paper shredding day” in Shutesbury.

The tentative date is Saturday, June 15 behind Town Hall. For a nominal charge, Shutesbury residents can bring old records, bank statements, etc. to be shredded.

Save the date and start going through your stuff. More information on the time and the charge will be forthcoming.

The BARD is blossoming……

The Shutesbury Business and Resource Directory is expanding to include Shutesbury residents’ businesses located both in Town and elsewhere.

First published in the Fall of 2011, the hard-copy Directory will be updated, expanded and re-issued at Celebrate Shutesbury in September 2013. In the meantime, the online version is available at: www.shutesburybard.org

Are you currently listed?
Do you want to continue to be listed? Please confirm (and update, if needed), your listing by May 15 to be included in the 2013 edition. Go to www.shutesburybard.org and click on “Contact Us.”

Would you like to be listed?
If you are a Shutesbury resident and own a business, you can submit your listing at www.shutesburybard.org; and click on “Contact Us” by May 15.

Or you can mail your name, address, business info, and how to contact you by May 15 to: BARD Committee, c/o P. Kim 187 Leverett Rd., Shutesbury 01072.

Franklin County Home Care is here for you
Home Care Services provide assistance with light homemaking, home-delivered meals, personal care, and adaptive equipment, respite services, fuel assistance and more. Contact info@fchcc.org or 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259. Read more at www.fchcc.org.
Keeping Options Open for Elementary Education
Elaine Puleo, Becky Torres and Michael DeChiara, Shutesbury Regional School District Planning Committee

Current residents of Shutesbury have inherited a strong elementary school that provides high quality education. Decisions made by forward-thinking residents gave us a school that we can be proud of. Given the increasing pressures on education, it is the responsibility of today’s residents of Shutesbury to think about how we can similarly hand down a high quality and financially sustainable elementary education system to those who will follow. In order to do this, we must embrace our role as stewards for future generations, looking at all options with open minds and due diligence.

Guided by these values, all three members of Shutesbury’s Regional School District Planning Committee (RSDPC) have come to the understanding that Shutesbury joining in a preschool to 6th grade region with our neighboring towns of Leverett, Pelham and Amherst can be a responsible way to protect what we cherish about Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) and to address the financial needs of the town. Although right now, Shutesbury has no commitment to change or adapt, we continue to participate in discussions that keep the door open to options. Whether to join a region with our neighbors is a town decision, our committee will make recommendations when appropriate. For now, Shutesbury remains its own school district, part of Superintendency Union #28 with Erving, New Salem, Wendell and Leverett (at least for the current year.)

Those residents who have been following the recent regionalization discussion will know that on March 9, when the Regional School District Planning Board representing the four towns of Leverett, Pelham, Amherst and Shutesbury met to decide whether to draft a plan for a new region, our Shutesbury committee voted (2-1) not to be included in the planning for an elementary region with the other three towns. That vote was never a vote to regionalize or not, since only a town vote can determine that. The vote was 1) whether to commit to a regional model (preK-6) and 2) to agree to develop a regional agreement that the towns could vote on. The Shutesbury RSDPC voted for Shutesbury to be part of the new three-town elementary region planning, because it was not clear if the town would support Shutesbury joining a four-town region. At the time of our vote, we were unaware of visible support for regionalization. However, since then, we have learned that the Finance Committee voted in favor of asking that Shutesbury proceed just to “stay in the game” and we have received communications from residents advocating the full range of positions on regionalization. Our takeaway was to stay at the table representing Shutesbury and to keep communicating.

So what happens next? Between March and June, Leverett, Pelham and Amherst will develop a regional agreement — the contract that determines how the region works and what their town commitments will be. Town votes in Leverett, Pelham and Amherst are planned to occur in November 2013. Since Shutesbury is not part of this planned region, there is nothing to vote on in November. In December, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will review the request to regionalize and by January 2014 will approve it or not. If approved by all parties the region will begin operating on July 1, 2014.

If the elementary region is created, Leverett will leave Superintendency Union #28. This will leave Shutesbury remaining with Erving, New Salem and Wendell to share a superintendent and central office. Leverett’s share of the costs will be picked up by the remaining towns. Per contract, the Union #28 superintendent will have her position reduced to three-quarters time. There will be no change made for Leverett or Shutesbury regarding our participation in the secondary (grades 7-12) region.

It is the belief of all the three members of the RSDPC that at some point in the future — whether in a few months or in several years — Shutesbury may want to join this newly created elementary region. If this happens, we want to make sure it is a region that works for Shutesbury. As a result, the Shutesbury RSDPC has decided to stay “at the table” during the regional agreement planning process, so that when appropriate and possible, we can promote the interests of Shutesbury. DESE has indicated that a regional agreement could be written to allow Shutesbury to vote to join a region with the other three towns. A town vote prior to December 31 would be required in order for Shutesbury to join the region as of the following July 1 for the upcoming school year. It is therefore possible for Shutesbury to be a full participant at the start of a new elementary region as of July 2014. DESE has indicated that it expects this right to be time-limited; after three years Shutesbury will lose this option of joining the region by right via the regional agreement; after this the other towns would all need to vote to allow Shutesbury into the region.

If a new region is created by the other towns, the following timeline will look as follows:

March to June 2013: Development of regional agreement for Leverett, Pelham and Amherst elementary region.
July 2013: Regional Agreement is affirmed by full 12-person Regional School District Planning Board and sent to Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for review.
November 2013: Leverett, Pelham and Amherst town votes on regional agreement.
November/December 2013: Leverett, Pelham and Amherst School Committees vote to withdraw from Union 26 and Union 28.
December 2013: Town approved regional agreement submitted to DESE for approval
December 31 2013: Deadline for Shutesbury to vote to approve a regional agreement and join the region, if RSDPC recommends a vote and Select Board supports taking a vote.
January 2014: DESE approves the new elementary region.
July 1, 2014: Smaller Union #28 begins operations; new three-town elementary region begins operation.

For more information, please see the related insert in this newsletter visit www.ShutesburyRegionalPlanning.com
Shutesbury Preschool Developmental Screening and Enrollment for children ages three, four and five in our community

In Shutesbury, developmental screening is available through the school as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs.

The screening focuses on a child’s growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development.

This activity takes about 20 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child’s skills are developing within the typical range.

The Shutesbury Elementary School Preschool is currently enrolling children for the 2013-2014 school year. If you or anyone you know has children under the age of five, or you have questions or concerns about your child’s development, please contact us for more information about the program. Contact Grace Grieci, Pre-k teacher, at 253-1212 ext.140 or email her at ggiec@shutesburyschool.org

This screening is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in the school’s preschool program.

SES, cont. from pg. 1

our celebration and in our grieving. Having served on the School Committee for the past four years I have grown to appreciate Bob’s skills, passion and educational values to an even greater degree. He will be missed, but as a community we are so appreciative of all that he has brought to our school over these past six years.

The final decision for hiring the Principal position rests with the Superintendent, but the search process involves members of the community. After receiving notification of Bob’s resignation, a Principal Search Committee was formed by Superintendent Wickman which included broad community and school representation. This committee included SES staff members Toni Costa, Grace Grieci, Heather Lobenstein and Renee Richard, school parents Sally Campbell-Galman and Sean McNiff, School Council member Jennifer Swender, and School Committee member Emily Bloch.

The Committee spent many hours with Joan reviewing applications, identifying candidates to interview, developing questions for candidates and making recommendations for bringing forward finalists to the Community Forum on April 10. Many thanks go out to all members of the Search Committee who have devoted a tremendous amount of time to this important task. While the writing of this article precedes the Forum, broader community input and the ultimate selection of a candidate by Superintendent Wickman, the involvement of Shutesbury’s residents in the search procedure has been important and is appreciated.

More Shutesbury School Committee news

Over the winter. improvements to the school’s security system have been completed and the new locked door policy has been implemented.

While we all want the Shutesbury School to be a welcoming and open place, the reality of school violence that has occurred prompted the School Committee to support recommendations of the School Safety Committee which included, among other things, a locked perimeter door system.

While this may be a slight inconvenience from time to time as visitors wait to be buzzed in, we all felt it was worth the level of protection to provide a safe, supportive learning environment within the building.

At its March meeting the School Committee held a Public Hearing on the proposed FY ’14 school budget, which was followed by a unanimous approval of the budget by the Committee. The modest increase in the budget supports increases to a few key areas including technology equipment to enhance teaching and learning opportunities within the school.

The School Committee will next be meeting on May 16 at 7pm in the Conference Room of the Shutesbury Elementary School. We welcome your attendance at these meetings, or your communications through your Committee representatives – Dan Hayes, Emily Bloch, Mare Fox, Michael DeChiara, or Clif Read.

Safeguard your pet as well as your human family!
The Regional Preparedness Program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is encouraging all pet owners to consider preparedness for their entire household, including furry, flying, and slithering friends.

Start by making sure your pet has proper identification, so if they are lost you can be reunited more quickly, and then put together the basics, such as three days of water for each pet and at least three days of food in airtight, waterproof containers. Keep copies of pets’ medical records and, if possible, an extra supply of whatever medicine each pet may need in a waterproof container. Keep these supplies together in a backpack or something similar, which will allow for quick retrieval in the event of an evacuation.

Redeem coupon for a Welcome Baby Gift Bag!
The Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC) 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!

978-544-5157 or Budine@erving.com!
Union #28 Community Network for Children

The Community Network for Children (CNC) program is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant. The CNC supports all families with children from birth through 3rd grade 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 and information regarding assistance paying for child care; information about children’s development; new baby gift bags (coupon on page 5!) 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 the newsletters, please call or email Gillian Budine, Coordinator, (978) 544-5157 or Budine@erving.com.

You can also access information at our website: http://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/ or find us on Facebook at “Community Network for Children.”

Playgroups and story hours happen weekly and are intended for children 0-5 years of age. Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community! See below for more information about all of the playgroups and story hours in our school union:

SHUTESBURY STORY HOUR
Location: MN Spear Memorial Library, 10 Cooleyville Road, Shutesbury
Day and Time: Mondays, 10-11:30am. Last day: June 26.
Resumes September 12.

SHUTESBURY PLAYGROUP
Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Road, Shutesbury
Day and Time: Fridays, 9-10:30am
Last day: June 14. Resumes September 13.

UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMS!

Sunday, May 5, 6-7pm – PJ Story Hour “Farm Stories,” Erving Public Library, FREE.
Jennifer Couturier of We Tell Tales hosts a free PJ story hour for children 0-8 years of age. Enjoy stories and songs, have a light snack, make a craft project, take home a free book, and spend time with family and friends. No registration necessary.

Sunday, May 12, 10:30am-12pm – Family Hike at Ruggles Pond in Wendell. FREE.
Dawn Marvin Ward, local naturalist and educator, will lead a short hike around the Ruggles Pond area. Light snack provided. You may bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the hike. For children 2-9 years old with a parent/caregiver. Please pre-register by calling Gillian or Jessica at 978-544-5157 or email budine@erving.com or carlson@erving.com.

Tuesday, May 21, 6-8pm – Simplicity Parenting Workshop at Erving Elementary School. FREE.
Katherine Golub of Greenfield Family Wellness will lead this workshop.

We are all familiar with the stress evoked by transition moments in our children’s daily lives. Whether it is putting clothes on in morning, sitting down for dinner, picking up toys, or lying down for bed, these flashpoint moments can be some of the most challenging in our lives.

Then, there are the bigger transitions: moving from school to summer, from home or childcare to school, and from summer back to school again. These bigger transitions can be so hard for our kids (and us!).

Come join us and learn how Simplicity Parenting can help you and your children move gracefully through transitions, reduce stress, and re-connect as a family! Free dinner served at 5:30 and childcare beginning at 6:00 with pre-registration.

Please pre-register by calling Gillian or Jessica at 978-544-5157 or email budine@erving.com or carlson@erving.com.

Wednesdays, May 22, 29 and June 5, 12, 9-9:45am – Creative Movement Class, Swift River School, 201 Wendell Road, New Salem. FREE.
Anna Hendricks of the Movement Studio in Turners Falls will provide a lively 4-part series movement class for children 2-5 years of age. Emphasis is on flexibility, strength, spontaneity and musicality. Please pre-register by calling Gillian or Jessica at 978-544-5157 or email budine@erving.com or carlson@erving.com.

Fridays, July 12 – August 23, 10am-12pm – Summer Playgroup at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield. FREE.
Meet up with friends and enjoy some outdoor time this summer! We will take strolls on the trails, work on art projects, play with water and other sensory materials and notice nature with the help of the playgroup facilitator and other special guests. Best for children 0-8 years old. Open to the public. No registration necessary.

Please be in touch to register for these programs, if you need more information or to be put on our mailing list!
Tick season is here!
Catherine Hilton, Board of Health

Deer ticks, which carry Lyme Disease, overwinter and become active in the spring. Please take precautions to avoid tick bites as you work in your yard and garden. The adult ticks are small, but the other stages are minuscule and not easy to see. Prevention really is the best cure.

If you do find a tick on yourself or a family member, remove it right away. It takes time, usually about 24 hours, for a tick to transmit disease: good reason to check for ticks at least once a day and immediately after coming inside from the garden or the woods.

It is possible to have a tick identified and tested for Lyme Disease by the University of Massachusetts extension service. The cost of the test is $40, payable to University of Massachusetts.

More information, including submission forms, can be found at:
http://ag.umass.edu/services/tick-borne-disease-diagnostics

Tick samples should be mailed to:

UMass Extension Tick Assessment 
Agricultural Engineering Building, 
250 Natural Resources Way 
University of Massachusetts, 
Amherst, MA 01003.

If you do not have Internet access, you may obtain submission forms and drop off tick samples at the same address. Ticks received by 2pm on Tuesday will be tested that week.

Remember that if the tick is not engorged with your blood, it is too soon for disease to have been transmitted and testing would not be necessary.

Update on draft Open Space & Recreation Plan
Janice Stone, Chair, Open Space Committee

The Open Space Committee has been working through the many comments received on the first public draft of the plan.

There were many good comments, and the Committee has been trying to address as many of the comments as possible in this new draft. Some comments were outside the scope of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and/or would take considerable additional research to include.

Our hope is to have a new draft ready in time for May Town Meeting. When ready it will be available on the town website and paper copies available for review at the Town Hall and library.

Farmers & Artisans Market returns May 18
8:30am to noon at Town Hall, with a "preview" (sale of plant starts!) at Town Meeting on May 4. Call 413-259-1214 if you have items to sell.

Spring Spruce-Up
1 Library Lovin’ TEAM of four adults
1 hour of energetic spring yard work
for 1 donation of $100

to build a future Shutesbury Library

Contact Susie Mosher: 413-259-1550 sndmoes@verizon.net

Attention gardeners
The Shutesbury Garden Club is planning another Garden Tour for early this Summer. We are looking for new Shutesbury gardens to include on the tour!

Would you consider offering yours, or do you know of a great Garden or gardener in town?

Not only do you get to show off all your hard work and garden beauty, but you will help us buy supplies to maintain the Highway Department berm, Town Hall, and other public spots in town.

Call or email Meryl Mandell (259-1282 or merylm@ crocker.com) for details or with suggested locations.

Free boat safety course coming to town in June
Location: Lake Wyola Association Building 
6 Shore Drive 
Shutesbury, MA 01072
Dates*: June 1, 8am – 4pm.
June 8, 12pm – 6 pm.
*must attend both dates

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
This course is provided through the coordinated efforts of the MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE and LAKE WYOLA ASSOCIATION

Register online at http://www.mass.gov/ole “Click on Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau”

Boat Massachusetts is offered to the public at no charge. The primary purpose is to foster safe boat operation through increased awareness of required safety equipment, safe boating practices and legal responsibilities.

Students must be at least 12 years of age. Youth 12 through 15 who successfully complete the course will be issued a Safety Certificate allowing them to operate a motorboat without adult supervision, as required by state law. This course will also satisfy the state requirements for personal watercraft users who are 16 or 17 years of age. All graduates will be issued a Safety Certificate. Taking the class as a family is encouraged and has proven to be highly rewarding.

To view our current course listings or to join the mailing list please visit http://www.mass.gov/ole

To contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau by phone, call 508-564-4961.
More from the Lake Wyola Association

Water testing
LWA Board President David Green has procured a grant from the state of MA for three lake phosphorus level test this summer! This grant coincides with the acid rain test that he conducted on April 8. The remaining water quality research dates for this summer are as follows:
- May thru Sept: Beach water testing (E. Coli)
- May thru Aug: Deep water testing (O2 levels, PH, Temp, Conductivity)
- June thru Aug: Phosphorus level testing
- Aug: Volunteer well water testing program

Weed watchers training: These dates will be announced on the LWA website: http://LakeWyola.com.

Noise on Lake Wyola
Quiet Waters?
At the June 2012 Association meeting a discussion of noise on the lake took place in conjunction with the Town of Shutesbury’s Open Space Plan. Barking dogs, loud music, skimobiles, lawn mowing, motor boat and party noise were discussed. The LWA Board took the matter under advisement and is offering the following suggestions for the summer of 2013.

The lake’s 129 acres of water is a superb amplifier of sound, especially when there is little wind. Not only does sound reverberate to the 250 lake-side cottages but additionally, noise travels to homes in the surrounding hills, disturbing many. Please be considerate of your neighbors and other lake users when playing loud music and partying. The Town of Shutesbury has made it very clear that fireworks are illegal. People have been woken at midnight by the loud explosions of fireworks being set off. Please do not set off fireworks around the lake.

Schedule of events & LWA website address
Up to date information on Lake Wyola Events is always available on our website http://LakeWyola.com. Below is the calendar as currently planned:

Lake Wyola Road Race, 4.8 miles.

Sunday, June 9  This scenic 4.8 mile race starts at the Lake Wyola Association Hall and runs counter clock wise around the lake on mostly tree canopied country roads. The first half of the course is paved, with a challenging uphill climb. The second half is dirt roads, with a small bit of pavement at the finish line.


Online Registration this year! Contact 413-367-2068 or lakewyolaroadrace@gmail.com

Pancake Breakfast on Father’s Day
Sunday, June 16  This popular event is back this year. 8-10:30am. $5 adults, $3 children – includes pancakes, maple syrup, sausages, bacon, juice, coffee, tea. Association Hall. Thank you to Terry and Ivy Smith for volunteering!

Boat Parade
Wednesday, July 3  Boats meet up at dusk for the traditional parade. All boats, including paddlers, must have lights on for safety.

Water Carnival
Thursday, July 4  10am at Kinder Beach. Children enjoy swim races and kayak races for all ages. Rain or shine. Annual drawing for King and Queen of the lake. Thank you Meaghan Perkins!

9th Annual Beer & Wine Tasting – Adult only event
Saturday July 27, 2013  5pm – 11pm. (Last call 9:45pm) Held at the Lake Wyola Association Hall rain or shine (1 Shore Drive). Must be 21 years of age to enter. A great social event. Great beer, wine and dancing to 11pm.

16+ Brewers! Live entertainment and great food at reasonable prices. $20 for admittance and 5 tokens. Additional tokens 5 for $5.


Ice Cream Social
Saturday, August 17  5pm to 8pm at Association Hall. Celebrate Summer! Family! Neighbors! Friends!!! $1.00 kids under 10, $2.00 for 10 and up.

“We Nextdoor Shutesbury” – A new way to communicate
More than 180 residents have now joined the community-based website, “Nextdoor Shutesbury”. Only our residents can access the site, where people have been sharing info such as community events, service provider recommendations, missing and found pets, weather and travel conditions, things for sale or to give away, and a host of other topics.

To join Nextdoor Shutesbury, you must register with your real name and Shutesbury address. You can then choose to offer more info about your self, or just restrict your profile to only show your name and unnumbered road name to the rest of us. Outsiders cannot see member info or any postings on this closed group.

You may choose to post and view exchanges only through the website; or to receive daily, or immediate, emails about any new activity. There is no flood of emails, if you join, and neither your email address nor other info is given to anyone, so you won’t get spam from joining up. You can contact other neighbors through a private message email; post to the entire group; or to specific neighborhoods or special interest subgroups within town, as those are created.

This alternative to the official Town website and email announcement systems allows you to share info directly with others throughout town.

The Town system is rightly restricted to official Town business postings. If you are not currently signed up for that, we urge you to do so by sending a request to web@shutesbury.org.

To join NextdoorShutesbury visit: https://shutesburyma.nextdoor.com/join If you have any questions, or need help getting on board, contact coordinators Daniel Greenberg, Daniel@ic.org or Paul Vlach, vlach@admin.umass.edu
C/W MARS and Evergreen, a new Integrated Library System

The biggest change to the services at the Spear Library in the past year was the migration to Evergreen.

At the end of May 2012, C/W MARS installed a new Integrated Library System called Evergreen to perform all computer functions related to providing online library catalogs, circulation, patron records and statistics. C/W MARS was motivated to use Evergreen because C/W MARS staff were dissatisfied with the performance of the software and the service by the vendor used prior to the migration. Evergreen is open-source software. It was being used successfully by other library systems, and features including costs, development opportunities and functionality motivated the decision to use Evergreen. As members of the Evergreen community, C/W MARS has the ability to develop features that will offer improved service to patrons while controlling costs.

While Evergreen has been used successfully by other library systems, C/W MARS is the largest library system using Evergreen. Due to the size of C/W MARS, the migration of data and initial set up of services was more complicated and took longer than was originally expected. The large number of libraries, patrons and materials in the system have proven to be a challenge for the Evergreen software and functionality hasn’t been as good as most library staff hoped.

Performing basic search and circulation functions is much more time consuming than with our previous software. Patrons sometimes have difficulty logging into and maintaining their online accounts. Please contact us if you have questions or encounter difficulties. We are happy to help.

C/W MARS has hired a full-time software developer and is investigating other options for improving Evergreen performance.

We really appreciate your patience at the Library circulation desk as solutions to the problems with Evergreen are developed.

In the meantime, here are some tips for navigating Evergreens online features:

- Patrons have the best success accessing the online catalog if they use Firefox as their browser.
- If you have not successfully logged into your account since the migration to Evergreen (last May), your password is probably your last name, all capital letters, but do not use the CAPS LOCK key.
- If this doesn’t work, follow these steps to reset your password.
  1. Click Login.
  2. Enter your barcode for your user name.
  3. Click forgot your password.
  4. Enter your barcode for both the user name and password.
  5. An email will be sent to the address listed in your account with further instructions for resetting your password.

Please 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 username, 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.

Summer Reading!
We are busy planning a full calendar of events for our annual Summer Reading Program.

Our first Program is a performance by Shutesbury’s own Bamidele Dancers and Drummers on Thursday, July 11 at 6pm. On Thursday, July 18 the Museum of Science will be presenting a live animal demonstration, Animal Invaders. We are collaborating with the Union 28 Community Network for Children to present a second Museum of Science program on Wednesday, August 14 with a hands-on science program best for children ages 3-9 called Dig into Dinosaurs.

Our end of Summer Reading Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 6pm, and will feature storyteller Diane Edgewcomb who will share a program called “Digging Dinosaurs and Other Tales.” Thanks to the Friends of the Library, our Tales and Tunes story time will continue throughout the summer, Mondays at 10am, at the Library.

Stay tuned to our website, mnspear.org. Find the M.N. Spear Memorial Library on Facebook and LIKE us for regular updates about library services.
HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to www.shutesbury.org to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number 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 659-7294

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
Dale Houle 259-1696

BUILDING INSPECTOR
Jim Hawkins 774-3167 x. 113

CEMETERY COMMISSION
Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976

COUNCIL ON AGING
Medride Program 259-2123
Muriel Gross, Chair 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

FIRED DEPARTMENT
Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211
or at home 259-1286

HEALTH AGENT
David Zarozinski 549-3710

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Tim Hunting 259-1215

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Barbara Goodhind 259-1428

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

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Karen Traub 367-9826

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
Janice Stone 259-1557

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Dispatch 625-8200

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911

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RECYCLING COORDINATOR
Gary Bernhard 259-1235

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Michael DeChiara 256-3303

ROADS COMMITTEE
Vacant 259-1214

SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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TREE WARDEN
Thomas Houston 259-1508

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Fred Steinberg 259-9996

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Charles J. DiMare 549-5330

250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
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Maryélise Lamet 259-1551