

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

☞ This is Part One of two town mailings you should receive in April. It does not include the budgets or warrant for Annual Town Meeting. They'll arrive soon! ☞

Town Meeting and more

By April Stein, Mike Vinskey and Michael DeChiara, *Shutesbury Select Board*

Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The meeting opens at 9:00am and runs until we finish. The Select Board and Finance Committee will hold an informational meeting on April 21 at 6:00pm, at which people are invited to ask questions about the budget and other items on the warrant.

Town Meeting is one of the oldest forms of democracy, and is the place for people to ask questions, get information and make decisions central to running our town.

Selectboard, Finance and School Committee representatives met on February 27 with representatives from the other three towns in the Regional School district. The towns, and the regional school committee, have agreed to use an assessment formula, for FY 2017, based, in part, on the recommendations developed by our town in the summer of 2016. This is a move to changing the method to include each town's ability to pay, rather than assessing a flat per-pupil cost for all four towns.

The change in the formula will save Shutesbury a modest amount this year.

The four towns have agreed to form a new committee to come up with recommendations for a fair assessment method that will begin in FY 2018.

The question of changing our regional agreement to possibly include pre-K through grade six, has been

The Select Board will host
**an information session
at Town Hall**

prior to the May 7, 2016 Annual
Town Meeting.

Please come with your questions on
Thursday, April 21 at 6:00pm!

tabled by the Regional School Committee. Expanding the region to include the younger children has been discussed and studied for over two decades. It remains a complicated issue and more discussion is warranted. Whether or not to combine the Middle and High Schools into one facility is being planned by the Regional School Committee, but will not occur in FY 2017.

Broadband . . . what's happening? Our town is fortunate to have a highly skilled and hardworking Broadband committee. The Select Board continues to support the WiredWest solution, while also remaining open to other possible ways of bringing fiber to Shutesbury.

See Select Board, page 6

Community Preservation projects to come before Annual Town Meeting

By Donald Fletcher, *Chair, Community Preservation Committee*

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted unanimously on March 17, 2016, to recommend that Annual Town Meeting approve two proposed Community Preservation funded recreation projects. The detailed project proposals are on the CPC web page at Shutesbury.org. (see Offices & Committees)

Shutesbury Elementary School:

1. Restore the kindergarten playground and purchase an ADA accessible playground structure to create a playground space for young children including children with disabilities

\$29,000

2. Construct a multi-use track in the upper field that is usable and safe for many populations

\$5,000

See CPC, page 6

All are invited by the Shutesbury Select Board to join in a Social Hour to
Meet the Candidates on the Ballot for the Election on May 1
and

Thank those Volunteers
who are leaving committee participation
after years of service to the Town.

Come to the Shutesbury Elementary School, 4-5:30pm on Sunday, May 1.
There will be refreshments.

Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher

townclerk@shutesbury.org

413-259-1204

on the web @ www.shutesbury.org

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30 – 6pm

Tues. - Fri. 8:30 – 10:30am

Tues. evenings 6 – 8pm

And other times by appointment

All hail SPRING!

And along with spring weather comes Annual Town Meeting (ATM) held at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Rd.

This community event is an opportunity to come out and see your neighbors, vote on the town warrant articles, cast a ballot to fill elected town positions, and get your trash bags.

Shutesbury's open **Town Meeting** is May 7, the first Saturday in May, starting at 9:00am. All registered voters **may vote in person on warrant articles** as each item is put before its members during Town Meeting. Town Meeting materials such as the warrant, budget, etc. will be mailed to every home and posted on the home page of the town website, www.shutesbury.org at least one week before Town Meeting.

Registered voters may also **cast a ballot at the town elections**. Polls open from 8am – 2pm. Election results will be posted on the town website. **Voter registration** for these events closes on Saturday, April 16. On that day I will be in the Town Clerk's office from 2 – 4pm and from 7 – 8pm. If you want to check if you are a registered voter in Shutesbury, you may call the Town Clerk at 259-1204 or go to the Secretary of the Commonwealth website: <http://www.sec.state.me.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

The **candidates who will be on the ballot** are:

Board of Health (1 seat)

*Catherine Hilton,
5 Kinder Ln.

Cemetery Commissioner (1 seat)

*Marilyn E. Tibbetts,
273 Pelham Hill Rd.

Constable (1 seat)

*Marilyn E. Tibbetts
273 Pelham Hill Rd.

Library Trustee (2 seats)

*Michele Regan-Ladd,
464 Wendell Rd.
Bradley R. Foster,
579 West Pelham Rd.

Moderator (1 seat)

*Penelope G. Kim,
187 Leverett Rd.

Planning Board (3 seats)

*Linda C. Feduik-Rotondi,
4 Leverett Rd.
*Jeffrey R. Lacy,
29 Old orchard Rd.

1 open

School Committee (1 seat)

Matthew S. Galman,
167 Baker Rd.
Lauren J. Thomas-Paquin,
307 Wendell Rd.

Select Board (1 seat)

open

*incumbent

Write-In candidates must have a complete name and street address. Stickers with this information are accepted.

If you are going to be out of town that day, have a physical disability or will be absent due to a religious belief, you may cast an **absentee ballot** for candidates up for election. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing and include:

- the voter's name
- residential address
- the address to which the ballot should be mailed
- the voter's signature.

You may mail your request for an absentee ballot to: Town Clerk, PO Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072.

There are forms that request the same information available outside the Town Clerk's office and online on the town clerk's page, but a letter, or an email with a signature that has the information listed above will do. Please allow plenty of time for mailing materials back and forth.

You may also vote absentee in person at the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, May 6.

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee begins its new year of **trash bag distribution** at Annual Town Meeting. The schedule for other distribution dates and recycling will be available at ATM and on the home page of the town website. So when you arrive, in no particular order, you can get your trash bags, sign in for a card for voting on Town

Meeting articles, and check-in to vote at the election.

Spring is also an opportune time to **license or re-license your dog** before the current license expires on July 1. Early birds can avoid a late fee by registering before August 1, 2016. Remember to check if the rabies vaccination is up to date. An application form is included in this mailing and is available on our Town website on the Town Clerk's page.

If you have any questions, my public office hours are Monday afternoon 3:30–6 pm, Tuesday–Friday mornings 8:30–10:30 am, and Tuesday evening 6–8 pm. During the week I'm at work during other hours; please feel free to call and make an appointment if needed.

With appreciation...

Linda Avis Scott, *Administrative Secretary*

Our dedicated volunteer newsletter editor, **Janis Gray**, brings her talent and skill to each issue of *Our Town*. We are very grateful for her fine editing and the patience she has with those of us who contribute articles and flyers. In addition, Janis makes all the arrangements for the printing of the newsletter.

Behind the scenes, there are the volunteers who assemble the flyers, fold, and seal each newsletter. This is a time-consuming task and those who help out are very much appreciated. The folders for our Winter 2016 issue were: **Leslie Bracebridge, Cynthia Coffin, David Dann, Catherine Hilton, Penny Kim, Susan Millinger, and Becky Torres.**

If you would like to join in the community fun of assembling our newsletter, please let me know by calling 259-6550 or emailing adminsecretary@shutesbury.org.

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

Janis S. Gray, *Editor*
Linda Avis Scott, *Town Hall Liaison*

PRINTED ON RECYCLED STOCK
30% POST CONSUMER WASTE



Connect the dots

The Second Roadside Community Clean Up Day is coming SATURDAY, APRIL 30 from 10:00am - Noon.

Some folks have already responded to the announcement in *Our Town* and on Next Door Shutesbury. We have volunteers from West Pelham, Locks Pond, Wendell, Cooleyville, and Baker Roads.

As we get more responses we'll connect the dots and share the network of families and friends who will pitch in to pick up the roadside trash all over Shutesbury.

We learned a bit from last year's success:

- It was easy, fun and rewarding - The more the merrier.
- Wear gloves and bright-colored clothing or borrow a safety vest from the Town Clerk's office.
- Use landscape tape to mark a big roadside item that won't fit in a trash bag. We'll organize volunteers in a pick-up truck to bring it to the dumpster at the Town Hall.
- Go up one side of a section of road, then cross and return along the other side.
- Folks can leave recycling bins at the end of the driveway to help collect recyclables picked up that day.
- Bring in the trash you collect and we'll swap you a new trash bag in return.
- We separated trash, recyclables and deposit bottles and cans at Town Hall last year.
- Volunteers with a pick-up truck were a big help.

This year we hope a few people will volunteer to bring a soup to Town Hall to serve to community friends that help.

Last year we had about 50 people and we covered most of the streets and areas such as the boat launching ramp. The schoolyard was cleaned by the 5th and 6th grade Student Council. This year we'd like to make connections on Pratt Corner, Weatherwood, and January Hills Rd.

You are welcome to attend an information/planning session @ 10:00am on April 23 at Town Hall or contact **Susie Mosher** 413-250-1550 or by email: sndmoes@verizon.net

Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day Saturday, June 4!

Saturday, June 4 is Bulky Waste Day (BWD) 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, electronics, etc., etc. We do charge enough to cover the cost of disposing of these items, so bring some cash or your check book. **DO NOT** bring hazardous waste or florescent bulbs to Bulky Waste Day.

We Need Bulky Waste Day Volunteers!

Please give the RSWC a hand that day if you can. We could use some strong volunteers to help things run smoothly at BWD. We had several terrific volunteers for the October BWD last year, and their help made a huge difference. Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer, contact **Meryl Mandell** at 413-259-1282 or merylm@crocker.com.

Please Note!

- ◇ TVs — CRTs and flatscreens — 32 inches or less will be \$20.00. TVs larger than 32 inches will be \$40.00. Computer monitors — CRTs and flatscreens — will be \$10.00. All other electronics are free.
- ◇ All clean, white Styrofoam will be collected at no cost.
- ◇ Bulky rigid plastics (see below) will be collected separately and recycled at the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield. We will be charging between \$2 and \$5, depending upon the amount, to help cover the cost of the hauling.

Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- Buckets *with* metal handles
- Milk/soda crates
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Landscape & microwave trays
- Totes — any size (*with metal*)
- Toys & Playhouses
- Pet carriers
- Coolers
- Shelving
- Closet organizers
- Dish drainers
- Flower pots (no soil)
- Traffic signs
- Recycling bins
- Garbage cans (any size)
- PVC & PET blister pack

- 5 gallon water bottles
- Plastic Auto Parts
 - Side-view mirrors
 - Headlights and taillights
 - Bumpers
 - Grills
 - Hubcaps

Not Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- PVC Pipe/Tubing
- Vinyl Siding
- Plastic film (grocery bags, etc.)
- Flexible Water Hoses
- Flexible flower pots
- Other recyclable plastics
- Oil/gas/chemical containers

Free by the Side of the Road

The week before each Bulky Waste Day is "Free-By-the-Side-of-the-Road Week." If you have items that you no longer need but might be useful to others, place them on the roadside during the week beginning Saturday May 28th.

NOTE: Items placed on the roadside that are NOT picked up before Bulky Waste Day must be removed at the end of the week. Put them in trash bags or bring them to Bulky Waste Day. In 2014 Town Meeting passed a "Littering and Dumping Bylaw" that addresses items left by the side of the road longer than two weeks. The text of the bylaw is on the Town website, here: <http://www.shutesbury.org/bylaws>

Notes from the Shutesbury Council on Aging (COA)

POTLUCK LUNCHEONS

Please join us for wonderful food, good conversation, and an opportunity to meet new neighbors.

We meet in the Senior Lounge on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact **Marilyn Tibbetts** at 259-1976 to let her know what you might bring. **Our next luncheons are May 3 and June 7. Everyone is welcomed.**

COFFEE DROP-IN PROGRAM

Every Monday morning from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the Senior Lounge.

FOOT CARE CLINIC

The Clinic is held on the third Monday of every month with a RN Foot Care Specialist. For more information or to make your 30-minute appointment, contact **David Dann** at 259-1554.

MED-RIDE PROGRAM

Volunteer drivers provide rides to medical and dental appointments anywhere in Hamden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties for Shutesbury Seniors age 55 and older that are unable to drive or have no means of transportation. Call 259-3796 if you need transportation. Please allow two weeks to make necessary arrangements.

We are also looking to recruit a few new volunteer drivers. Please call us if you are interested.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION PROGRAM **Staying True to Ourselves as We** **Navigate Aging.**

A special two-hour interactive program with nurse Kate Clayton-Jones, who used to be a financial advisor, will take place Saturday, June 11 from 10:00am-12:00 noon in the Senior Lounge.

Kate will be discussing strategies and insight for maximizing our health and quality of life. We will have light refreshments. Please RSVP to our COA number 259-3796 and leave a message.

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*
Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are approaching the end of fiscal 2016 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2017.

My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am – Noon and Thursday from 8:00-11:00am. Should you need to see me and these times are inconvenient, please call and we can arrange a better time to meet.

Due to the time it takes for mail delivery, 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 they are due to insure that they are received before the due date.

If you use on-line banking from your bank (not the Town's system), please be aware that the bill will come to this office for processing from the lockbox because it is not accompanied by a copy of the bill. PLEASE make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (i.e.: listing real estate or excise bill numbers from previous years or an incorrect type of bill).

Since your bill payment is NOT an automatic transfer into the Town's bank account, you must **PLAN ACCORDINGLY** when authorizing the payment. DO NOT set up the payment on the due date, it won't get to

the Town until almost a week later which will result in fees and interest.

Your fourth quarter real estate taxes are due May 2. 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. 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.

Be sure to notify this office if you change your mailing address to avoid a delay in delivery of your mail which is returned to me for forwarding. This can take as much as two weeks which reduces the time you have to pay the bill on time.

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. If the bill is on warrant, it cannot be paid on-line except through the Deputy Collector.

Have a good spring.

Broadband update

Gayle Huntress and Asha Strazzero-Wild, Co-chairs, Frank Citino, Craig Martin, Graeme Sephton, Eric Stocker, Ayres Hall and Steve Schmidt, *Shutesbury Broadband Committee*

This year has brought many changes and uncertainties to the "Last Mile" broadband project for Western Massachusetts. 2016 started with more than a half dozen meetings between the WiredWest Cooperative and the MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute), with both parties working hard to negotiate issues around ownership and the operating structure that were raised at the close of 2015. Shutesbury continues to be represented with two delegates as a member of the WiredWest Cooperative.

On February 4, Governor Charlie
See Broadband, page 5

Broadband, cont. from 4

Baker's administration put a pause on the release of state funds for broadband projects while his office conducted a review of many state funded programs (the Governor is in charge of managing the MBI). The pause was unrelated to WiredWest and the examination included all towns, even those who were considering building private networks. In mid-February, the director of the MBI resigned and the agency still remains under the leadership of an interim director.

On March 14 the Baker-Polito Administration with the MBI issued a joint letter to participating towns supporting the concept of "last mile" broadband projects. It stated that the current administration is still behind bringing broadband to Western MA, which we see as a positive development. It also stated that the MBI will support "projects where cost-effective and sustainable solutions are identified and access to financing is assured." The Governor charged the MBI with creating the criteria by which towns would be approved for funding, but no date was given for the release of these criteria. Currently, not one town in the state has received funding to move forward with any new fiber-to-the-home broadband project.

Unfortunately, all of the recent changes along with the lack of detailed communication from the MBI has left towns in Western MA with an uncertainty about the future of broadband. Because the MBI has yet to release the criteria by which projects will be approved for funding, all towns are left waiting. On March 21 Wired West released a status report detailing their continuing efforts, including possible revisions to the operating plan. Please visit our website (link below) to see these documents.

As a next step the WiredWest participating towns will work together to assert political pressure on our state leadership in a coordinated effort to move the project forward. The Broadband Committee will be working in partnership with our Select Board on this effort.

Want to learn more? Please visit our website at www.shutesbury.org/broadband.

In an effort to keep you informed we'll continue to post updates in the middle of every month and on an as-needed basis when newsworthy events happen.

Statements from candidates for School Committee

Matthew S. Galman and Lauren J. Thomas-Paquin filed nomination papers in March for one three-year position on the School Committee. Barring unforeseen write-in votes, these are the only candidates for this position in the 2016 Annual Town Election of Officers. Each candidate was invited to submit a statement of no more than 125 for to this newsletter.

Space in *Our Town* for campaign statements is available to all candidates for contested seats, including known write-in candidates. (For the purposes of this newsletter, a known write-in candidate is an individual who has notified the Town Clerk in writing that he or she is a write-in candidate for a particular office.)

The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate. Candidates have provided all information appearing in statements. *Our Town* is not responsible for proofreading or correcting these statements.

Matthew S. Galman
167 Baker Rd.

My name is Matthew Galman and I am running for School Committee. My wife Sally and I have lived here for a decade and have three children in the Shutesbury Elementary School (SES). Due to the service of many, we have a school that not only does a great job of preparing our children for their futures, but also an institution that is central to our community. I too wish to serve.

My qualifications include 18 years of financial management experience in industry and education. I know Shutesbury's priorities since I helped the Superintendent and Principal create the current SES Budget. I am asking for your vote so that I can help SES continue to prepare our children to be informed citizens and scholars. Thanks.

Lauren J. Thomas-Paquin
307 Wendell Rd.

My name is Lauren Thomas-Paquin and I am running for School Committee. I am the mother of three school-age children, my oldest having attended SES from K through sixth grade, my middle child currently in fourth grade, and my youngest in first grade.

I am also an educator, having taught for more than twelve years at the elementary level. I understand the challenges facing those in today's schools and classrooms.

As parents and community members, we want our students to be challenged, supported, and successful. I believe that the SES community is continually working to meet the needs of our children. As a school committee member, my goal would be to support the school in providing the best for our children.

SAVE the DATE Volunteer & Staff Picnic

Saturday, May 14, 2016 4:00pm

**3-legged races and other games, free food and drink
on the field behind Town Hall**

**Hosted by the Select Board, Library Director and
Town Administrator**

**An appreciation event for all the people who make
our town work: Staff, Volunteers, Committee and
Board Members past and present, and their families**

Contact the Conservation Commission BEFORE starting your project

By the Shutesbury Conservation Commission

Don't wait until your contractor is scheduled to contact us. With the arrival of warmer weather, many town residents start to think about construction or landscaping projects. New construction, tree removal, grading or excavation and almost any work done near Lake Wyola must be reviewed by the Commission before work begins. Keep in mind that the Conservation Commission must sign off on all Building Permit Applications whenever digging is required. At the minimum, a site visit is required prior to signing off. As a fully volunteer Commission, we often can't schedule a site visit for at least a week. And if wetlands are nearby, the process is more complex and takes several weeks.

Our knowledgeable clerk, **Linda Avis Scott**, is there to help you through the process. She can help you determine what you need to do and how to go about it. Here's how to start:

- 1) Leave a message on our answering machine at [413-259-3792](tel:413-259-3792) or email concom@shutesbury.org
- 2) Visit Town Hall during Scott's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon.
- 3) Attend one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00pm and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursday). It's best to call first to get on our agenda.
- 4) For more information about the work of the Commission visit our webpage at www.shutesbury.org/concom

The Commission wants to help property owners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit all of us.

Interested in volunteering? The Conservation Commission seeks additional members. If you think you might be interested, come to one of our meetings to find out more. We would especially welcome someone with an engineering background.

Select Board, cont. from page 1

We are in communication with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), our state legislators, and our neighboring towns, while maintaining our representation on the WiredWest executive committee. The goal is to bring Shutesbury the best, most affordable, and well-vetted solution for Broadband. For more detailed information, please read the Broadband Committee's article on page 4 of this issue of *Our Town*.

People are invited to the **Second Annual Candidates Evening** on Sunday, May 1 from 4:00-5:30 pm, at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

This event is sponsored by the Select Board, and is an opportunity for residents to meet our fellow townspeople who are running for office. Please come to have the chance to meet people who are interested in becoming a part of our town's government.

Speaking of town government, **a foundation of our town are the committees and boards.** Decisions regarding building permits, recommendations for funding the town, personnel issues, the elementary and regional school, conservation, water resources, etc. are made and discussed at these meetings.

It's an opportunity to meet your neighbors, and become involved in local government. Most committees meet monthly for a few hours. Check the town website for more information, or attend a meeting and see the process.

See you on May 7 for Town Meeting!!

CPC, cont. from page 1

The applicant completed a detailed application and went through an extensive review process.

The CPC process began with the applicant completing preliminary Determination of Eligibility applications for each proposal. On December 3, 2015, Shutesbury's CPC — with members who represent the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Community Housing, Open Space Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Board, and the community-at-large — determined that the two proposed projects are eligible to receive Community Preservation funds.

The applicant then prepared full applications with descriptions, specifications, and budgets for each project.

The CPC convened an open meet-

ing for an initial review and discussion of the proposals in January 2016.

At the February CPC meeting, the applicant presented its proposals and answered the CPC members' questions.

At the CPC's Annual Public Hearing on March 9, the applicant again presented and answered follow-up questions from the members of the committee and other interested Shutesbury residents, including students of the Shutesbury Elementary School.

After completing its review and evaluation process, the CPC members voted unanimously on March 17 to recommend funding both projects.

Each project is financially and administratively feasible, has other sources of funding, includes significant in-kind volunteer contributions, and has support from other town boards or committees.

Each project will provide a positive impact to the community and will take a step toward achieving long standing, but unfunded, priority goals for Shutesbury.

The total appropriation, should the Annual Town meeting approve both projects recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, is \$34,000. This will leave an increase of approximately \$13,700 in additional CPA town funds through June 30, 2017.

Shutesbury's Community Preservation Committee recommends that fellow community members attend Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2016, and approve Community Preservation funds to implement these two worthwhile recreation projects.

The CPC thanks all the volunteers who worked together to develop these proposed projects and those who have committed to contribute to their implementation.

Help make our public meetings accessible to all

Attend fragrance-free! A growing number of people suffer severe and debilitating physical symptoms when they are exposed to scented personal care products. The most problematic substances are perfume, cologne, aftershaves, essential oils, fragranced gels/hairsprays, laundry detergent, and fabric softener. Please do not use scented personal care products on any day that you will be visiting a town building.

Developmental screening for 3, 4 and 5 year olds

Developmental screening is available through Shutesbury Elementary 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 40 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please call **Grace Griecci**, Shutesbury Elementary School's Preschool Teacher at 259-1212 x140 or email her at griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org

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

Shutesbury Early Childhood Program

The Shutesbury Elementary School Community (SES) believes that opportunities for early childhood education are essential components of a good education system.

Early experiences in an environment rich in hands-on materials and activities provide children various opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively.

We believe that a trans-disciplinary team approach, in which all adults working with children are responsible for a child's learning, is the most effective way of teaching and we also believe that parents are the most important teachers of their children and that their involvement in their child's education is essential.

Our Early Childhood Program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which is a mark of a high quality program for young children.

Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2016 for preschool enrollment, or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2016 for

kindergarten enrollment.

Please contact the school for Fall/2016 enrollment information. Call **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at the Main Office of SES, 413-259-1212 x100 carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org or **Grace Griecci** 413-259-1212 x140 griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org

Union #28 Community Network for Children

The *Community Network for Children (CNC)* serves families by acting as a hub to provide information, support and family programs within the communities of Erving, Leverett, New Sa-

lem, Wendell and Shutesbury.

Come take part in our programs and play, read and meet up with new and old friends.

Funding is provided through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant. The CNC supports all families with children from birth through age 8 in our school union.

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.

Free Gift and Resource Tote 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 Budine, CNC Coordinator, 978-544-5157 or Budine@erving.com!

Remember 2011, Shutesbury's 250th anniversary?

The 250th Anniversary Steering Committee has inventoried and archived a vast collection of news articles, flyers, handouts, posters, programs, scripts, photos, booklets, CDs and DVDs about the town's 250th anniversary, as well as samples of related objects, such as "Always Cooler" tee-shirts, caps and pint glasses. There are three sets of archival materials. One set will join the Town archives, and a second will be in Special Collections at UMass. And now, the third set has a home in the upstairs corridor of Town Hall!

The committee commissioned **John Darby**, a long-time Shutesbury artisan who has since moved from town, to design and build a lockable, cherry wood archive cabinet with display shelves for this set. The photos show John at work and a preliminary display. Sitting on top of the cabinet is an enlarged copy of Shutesbury's charter from 1761, presented as a gift by State Rep. Stephen Kulik and State Sen. Stan Rosenberg at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting. It will be mounted on the wall above the cabinet.

To access the collection, make special arrangements at 259-6550 with **Linda Avis Scott**, Select Board Administrative Secretary (she is also Secretary of the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee!).



The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road
413-259-1213; www.mnspear.org
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

Open Every Day

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is open every day. Our hours are as follows:

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00am - 1:00pm and 3:00 - 6:00pm
Tuesday and Thursday: 3:00 - 7:30 pm
Friday: 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday: 3:00 - 6:00pm

Community Survey

Please help with our ongoing strategic planning by completing our survey online. A link to our survey can be found on the home page of our website, mnspear.org. If you are unable to complete the survey online, hardcopies can be found at the Library, Town Hall, and the Post Office. We are also happy to send a copy via the U.S. mail on request. Please call 259-1213 to request a copy of the survey by mail. The online survey will close at 5 pm on Tuesday, May 10. Thanks for your help.

Story Time

With support from the Union 28 Community Network for Children and The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, we offer a weekly *Tales and Tunes storytime* on Mondays from 9:30 - 11:00am.

Need a Library Card?

If you are new to Shutesbury bring a photo I.D. and proof of address to the library. It usually takes less than one day to process a new account.

C/W MARS

The Library is a member of C/W MARS, a consortium of about 145 libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts. This network membership gives Shutesbury Library patrons access to nearly nine million items, including books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines and more, through inter-library loan. Every Shutesbury resident with a library card can access his or her own online library account to search the vast catalog.



Holds can be placed for items not available at the Spear and in most cases those holds will arrive within a week. We receive deliveries on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

How to log in to your account

- Go to our website, mnspear.org
- Click on the **Log in to Your Account** tab

Enter your 14-digit library card number and your password.

If you don't know your password, first try your last name, all capital letters. Hold the shift key as you type the letters; the caps lock key will not work. If your last name doesn't work, you have two options. Use the online system to reset your password or call the library, 259-1213 for help.

To try to set or reset your password online:

- Click **Forgot Your Password** – this brings you to a page where you be asked to enter your library card number or user name.
- Click **Submit**

An email will be sent to the email address associated with your account with instructions to reset your password. We have noticed consid-

erable lag time between the time the request is sent and when the email arrives. We are always happy to help, don't hesitate to call or stop in.

Once in your account, you can place holds, view items checked out, renew items, manage account preferences, pay fees and more.

Check Out History

The Library does not maintain records of items patrons have borrowed, but patrons can choose to keep a *Check Out History* in their online account.

Follow the following steps to save your check out history.

- Log in to your account
- Click the *Account Preferences* tab
- Click the *Search and History Preferences* tab
- Check the *keep history of checked out items* box.
- Click **Save**

To view your check out history, click the *Items Checked Out* tab, then the *Check Out History* tab.

Downloadable Books

Shutesbury Library Patrons have access to free downloadable ebooks and audiobooks through Overdrive and Axis 360. To browse, borrow and download digital items, click on the *Digital Media & Books* tab on the home page of mnspear.org.

Most patrons will be interested in the items available through Overdrive and Axis 360. These platforms can be used with most computers, tablets, and smartphones. To get started, click on the C/W MARS Overdrive help link or the Axis 360 help link.

You will have to download and install software or an app for your

reading or listening device. We have printed instructions available at the library if you have trouble navigating the online instructions.

We are also happy to set up one-on-one appointments to get you started. Please call 259-1213 to set up an appointment.

Save the Date

We had so much fun at our Ice Cream Social last June that we decided to make it an annual event. Save the evening of Friday, June 17 for ice cream, good company and fun!

Valley Gives!

Tuesday, May 3 – all day!

The Friends of the Library are excited to be participating in Valley Gives Day, an online giving day, when thousands of people across the Pioneer Valley will make donations to hundreds of non-profits. Once again, the Friends are dedicating Valley Gives Day to our New Shutesbury Library Fund!

We are very pleased to announce that we have a challenge gift from an anonymous donor again this year. If we raise \$2,500 in donations on Valley Gives Day, our donor will match it with a \$2,500 gift to our new library fund.



This month the Library and Union 28 Community Network for Children hosted a **Pop-Up Science Museum**

(pictured here). We were lucky to have so many wonderful helpers. Join us in thanking **Nevin Bonak, Jaime Donta, Jennifer Swender, Robin Roblee-Strauss, Hank Allen, Emily Case, Sally Fuller, and Jeff and Mattie Budine!**

Let's Celebrate Shutesbury in 2016!

Celebrate Shutesbury will forge ahead for September of 2016!

Many excited groups and individuals met for an organizational meeting in February. We have many groups already planning their various booths and activities for Celebrate Shutesbury on **Saturday, September 17 from 10:00am-3:00pm.**

The MN Spear Memorial Library, the PTO, the Shutesbury Athletic Club, the Shutesbury Community Church, Community Network for Children, the Select Board, the Historical Commission, and many more will be participating in this community event on the Town Common.

We've had interest in an antique car show and bringing back the town-wide tag sale too!

Any new ideas and fresh energy welcome!

If any other individuals or groups would like to get involved, please contact **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at carlsonbelanger@verizon.net.

We will be having another organizational meeting in the late spring. Email Jessica to be put on the contact list and get ready to Celebrate Shutesbury!!





TOWN OF SHUTESBURY
P.O. BOX 276
SHUTESBURY MA 01072

Return Service Requested

PRSRT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #305
AMHERST MA 01002

OUR TOWN
Part 1 of 2!
The warrant and budget will
arrive later this month.

Resident
Shutesbury MA 01072

HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to www.shutesbury.org to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Gail Weiss	259-1108	Jackie Mendonsa, Principal	259-1212	Chief Thomas E. Harding	259-1279
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY		EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Dispatch	413-625-8200
Linda Avis Scott	259-6550	Walter Tibbetts	259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR	
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR		FINANCE COMMITTEE		Gary Bernhard	259-1235
Rebecca Torres	259-1214	George Arvanitis, Co-Chair	259-1348	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
ANIMAL INSPECTORS		Eric Stocker, Co-Chair	259-1250	Stephen Sullivan	259-1626
Denise Chiminiello	259-1020	FIRE DEPARTMENT		SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
Nancy Long	259-1279	Walter Tibbetts, Chief	259-1211	Sean Woodard-McNiff	978-660-7983
ASSESSORS		or at home	259-1286	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT.	
Kenneth Holmberg	259-3790	HEALTH AGENT		Jennifer Haggerty	413-423-3337
BOARD OF HEALTH		David Zarozinski	549-3710	SELECT BOARD	
Catherine Hilton, Clerk	259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		J. April Stein, Chair	259-1074
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE		Tim Hunting	259-1215	Michael DeChiara	259-1059
Dale Houle	259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION		Michael Vinskey	253-4260
BUILDING INSPECTOR		Leslie Bracebridge	259-1973	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE	
Jim Hawkins	413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY		Gayle Huntress	259-1905
CEMETERY COMMISSION		Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir.	259-1213	Asha Strazzero-Wild	413-478-8368
Marilyn Tibbetts	259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES		TAX COLLECTOR	
COUNCIL ON AGING		Kate Cell, Co-Chair	259-9129	Ellen McKay	259-1615
Med-Ride Program	259-3796	Molly Moss, Co-Chair	253-6717	TOWN CLERK	
Marilyn Tibbetts, Chair	259-1976	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE		Susie Mosher	259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION		Janice Stone	259-1557	TOWN MODERATOR	
Leave inquiries at	259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER		Penelope Kim	259-1326
CULTURAL COUNCIL		Janis S. Gray	259-1584	TREASURER	
Julie Stepanek, contact	387-5670	PERSONNEL BOARD		Gabriele Voelker	259-1801
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES		J. April Stein	259-1074	TREE WARDEN	
Timothy Niejadlik	772-1571	PLANNING BOARD		Thomas Houston	259-1508
DOG OFFICER		Deacon Bonnar	259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE	
Nancy Long	259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR		Fred Steinberg	259-9996
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR		John Letourneau	367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	
Maurice Gregoire	253-7505			Charles J. DiMare	549-5330

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911