

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE, THURSDAY, JULY 15, 3PM TO 8PM AT TOWN

HALL Come in to donate blood in the month of July and receive a coupon for a FREE carton of Friendly's Ice Cream. Schedule an appointment or for more information please call 1-800-922-4376 or visit www.Redcrossblood.org.

4 TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 29 AT

7PM Michael DeChira commented "the room looked more like a bingo parlor than an auditorium," and he was right. Each town was clustered around long folding tables at the base of the stage in the Middle School auditorium. Members of finance committee, school committee, Selectboard and town officials were all there. Each town was fully represented. The description was so fitting because for the most part each town was focused on its own card, its own game.

The report presented took a macro approach, a \$53 million dollar enterprise funded by four towns. It identified the potential variables that would change with governance structure changes, going from a 7th grade-12th grade region to a K-12th grade region, or changing from the current status of Amherst and Pelham in one union, Union 26, and Leverett and Shutesbury in a second 5 town union, Union 28, to Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury in an expanded Union 26. Both new arrangements are thought to have educational benefits.

But each come with significant political draw backs. To become a K-12 region all for towns have to vote to rewrite the current regional agreement. As a single K-12 region there would be a single school committee and representation would likely be proportionate with enrollment. All four towns would have to be comfortable with this configuration and give up their "local" school committee.

To expand Union 26, Leverett, and Shutesbury would have to leave Union 28. This would be a major shake up and the idea is less practical and less stable now that Amherst is talking of leaving Union 26, separating with Pelham. Amherst currently has 3, and Pelham has 3 votes on the Union 26 school committee. By statute an expanded Union 26 committee would have 3 members from each of the four towns. I assume this would not be appealing to Amherst.

So where does that leave us? Amherst voiced support for a K-12 region, Leverett voiced support for the status quo, Pelham and Shutesbury voiced the need for more alternatives, creativity, and research for a solution that addresses the unsustainable nature of what we have and strives for a future in which we enhance the quality of what we have.

Shutesbury is moving ahead with their Educational Study Committee and has encouraged the other four towns to do the same. Pelham is already forming a committee. We hope with more serious work new paradigms, collaborations and configurations will be explored. The Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, Shutesbury Regional School system has a rich history and we want to be sure it has a rich future.

FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK Notice of Intent hearing Thursday JULY 8, 7:30pm at Town Hall with the Conservation Commission. This is in preparation of contaminated soil removal at the Fire Station at the end of July. Water samples were taken from the test wells this week. This will be an ongoing routine as we continue to monitor the situation.

POLE MOUNTED SOLAR PANELS BEHIND TOWN HALL! Two of the 4 panels are up and making electricity.



65.4 kWh in 35 Hrs

SHUTESBURY FARMERS MARKET, Saturday, 8:30am – noon

No Pony Rides on 7/3-back the rest of July)

New Farm & Forestry page on the Shutesbury website is hosting a Shutesbury Market List of Produce and Products. Check it out.

- Beautiful bonnets, functional and fun aprons, clothespin bags for solar clothes drying and felt hand stitched accessories- Linda
- Fine woodwork, jewelry boxes, tables and cutting boards- Bill
- Greens, perennials, manure, flower bouquets, and eggs-Kathy
- Cooleyville Farm, Gary and Pat will be there. We will have maple syrup, arugula, lettuce mix, radishes, maybe eggs, some plants. That's about it for now. See you on sunny Saturday-Pat
- Live sprouts: Adzuki bean, mung bean, red lentil, green lentil, french green lentil, fenagreek, broccoli, clover. Sprouting Kits – Kiran
- Turnips, kale, leaf lettuce, tomatoes, cilantro - Lauren
- Shitake mushrooms, flowers! – Deacon and Susan
- Light, balanced wooden baskets –unique sizes for pies, 8 quarts of berries, casseroles - Rus
- New Moon Traditionals bees wax candles and pure olive oil hand made soaps, - Karen

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