

TA Report 7.13.12

COUNCIL ON AGING (COA) SURVEY Anyone who is **55** or older is encouraged to fill one out. A copy of the survey is included in this document. You can fill it out and return to me via email. I will print out and add to the survey box. Or hand deliver to town hall. There is a box in the hallway on the bench. **WHY THIS SURVEY MATTERS** This survey matters because 538 people as of the 2010 survey are in this age group. **OF THE 538 people in this age group, 46 have responded. We need to hear from you.** We all have expectations, but in a small town volunteers need to come together to make things happen. We can't just hire a COA Director and build a special building as in Northampton and Amherst. So what would you like to see happening in town? And yes, this community is full of fiercely independent types, and most people 60 plus do not consider themselves old. But we are getting there. So what will make this town friendly to us as we age? Please take a minute and fill out the survey. Don't hesitate to write ideas that go beyond the survey. Thank you.

SHUTESBURY FARMERS MARKET this SATURDAY, July 14,

Behind town hall from **8:30am to noon-**

Lettuce mix, blueberries, baby carrots, garlic scapes, radishes, herbs, flowers, eggs, composted manure, maple syrup



Shiitake mushrooms, a mushroom log, flowers, Italian murano glass jewelry

Shutesbury nature photography, matted and framed

Turnips, lettuce & basil plants, wooden baskets

Shells, hemp jewelry, cilantro, eggs, flowers/vases, and raspberries

LIBRARY BOOK TABLE

If you have items to sell at the market please email me at townadmin@shutesbury.org or call 259-1214.

OUR NEW TRASH AND RECYCLING HAULER, ALLIED WASTE, finished the route this Wednesday by noon. Two trucks were used. The route manager circled round in a blue pick up truck and made special pickups on roads that are difficult for the large trucks to negotiate, made sure no roads or houses were missed. This week (as last) there were a

number of households with late put outs, many on Wendell Rd. The trucks pick up on one

side of the road and come back down the other. They are making sure to pick up late put outs as routes get established but will not be doing so on an ongoing basis. They put notices on trashcans or recycling containers this week. One truck came down the east bound side of Pelham Hill Rd at 7am. Please make sure to get your trash out early. With two trucks they will be getting around town quicker. Please call with any questions.

A FOUR TOWN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE has now been formed. In June the Region School District Planning Committees from Amherst, Shutesbury, Leverett and Pelham met and voted to create a new combined RDP committee. There are 3 members from each town on the committee. For Shutesbury the members are Elaine Puleo, Michael DeChira, and Becky Torres. The first 6 meetings will be held in each of the elementary schools of all four towns. There are 6 schools. On Wednesday, 7/11, the meeting was held at Crocker Farm. The Crocker Farm principal gave a tour of the building which is recently renovated and gave an overview of the programming and special attributes of the school and its culture. Each meeting will start with tour and presentation by its principal. The committee is working on a request for proposal (RFP) for a financial consultant to help analysis the potential impacts of up to 3 models for regionalizing the four towns. Funding sources for this are the Amherst Pelham Regional School and potentially the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Franklin County Council of Governments. Grants will be sought throughout the year as well. Educational expertise is being tapped and there is potential for hiring educational and legal consultants as the work move along. The timeline sets a March 2013 deadline for determining if regionalization makes sense for our communities. If the answer is yes at that point the goal would be to implement by fall of 2014. Materials will be available online as this process moves ahead. Please share your thoughts and questions.

PERSONNEL BOARD IS IN NEED OF A lab top PC THAT CAN RUN MICROSOFT OFFICE 2007. If you are upgrading your machine or recently have and would like to donate a machine of this type to the town it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you-

Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator, townadmin@shutesbury.org 259-1214

*****COUNCIL ON AGING SURVEY BELOW*****

document file version is attached so you can type in and return

Council On Aging (COA) Survey

We'd like to hear from you about things you would like to have available in our community and the services and activities you would like to have us offer. Our street list in 2010 tells us we're getting older! 538 people (29%) are listed as being born before 1954. We would like to do more and value your ideas and input. COA members are Muriel Gross, Marilyn Tibbetts, Judy Makepeace, David Dann, and Linda Avis Scott. Please feel free to contact us with any ideas or concerns. Are you, or someone who lives with you, 55 or older? Yes ___ No ___

1. **Communications:**

Do you use a computer? Yes ___ No ___ Do you have an email? Yes ___ No ___

Would you be interested in a phone tree? Yes ___ No ___

a. Do you live alone? Yes ___ No ___

b. If yes, would you like a daily call?

c. Would you like a regular COA Newsletter? Yes ___ No ___

- d. Would a comfortable COA (Senior Lounge) be of interest to you? Yes____ No____
- e. If so, what hours work for you? Suggest days and hours _____
- f. Would you like to know about available resources and grants available to senior citizens? Yes____ No____

2. Activities you'd participate in:

Cards, games, puzzles, other ideas? _____ Yes____ No____
 Classes in: pottery? Painting? Knitting? Crochet? Sewing? Photography?
 Others _____
 Book group? Exercise groups? Other activities? _____
 Outdoor activities, walking, hikes, swimming, kayaking, etc.

3. Matches. Would you be interested in getting matched with, through a data base of people who volunteer to provide, someone to help with the following?

Outdoor chores: leaf raking, snow shoveling etc.
Driving: rides to shopping, appointments.
Tech support: programming your gadgets, helping with your computer, etc.
Other matches _____

4. Meals :

Would you be interested in a brown bag program? Yes____ No____ Monthly Pot Luck Yes____ No____
 Would you participate in a noon meal? Yes____ No____
 Would you like a morning coffee hour? Yes____ No____ Afternoon tea? Yes____ No____

5. Are there Programs/activities you could offer? _____

Thank you for your time and interest. Would you like someone from the COA to contact you about getting involved? If so please write your name and phone number.

Name

Phone number

Please bring or mail to Town Hall. Thank you for your time and interest.