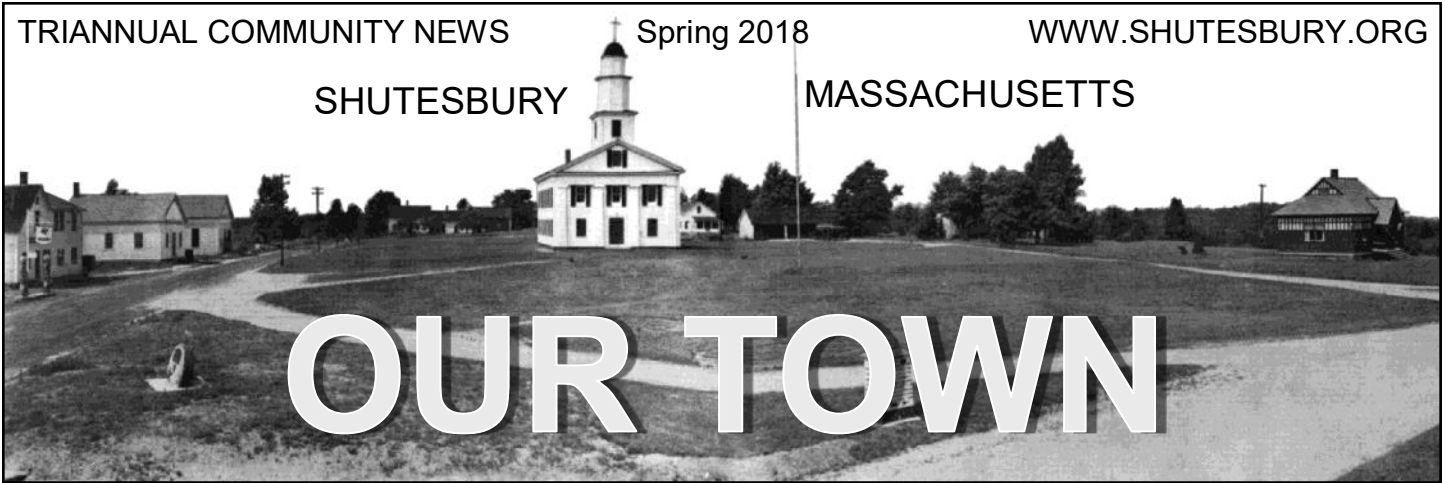


SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



# OUR TOWN

☞ This is Part One of *two* town mailings you should receive in April. It does not include the budget or warrant for Annual Town Meeting. ☞

## Select Board recommends Small Touches projects for Town Meeting warrant

Michael DeChiara and Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil,  
*Shutesbury Select Board*

This year at Town Meeting, the Shutesbury Select Board will include several projects for town consideration that are intended to improve the quality of life in town.

All of the projects are residents' ideas. The Select Board extends its appreciation to all the residents who took the time to submit ideas for their thoughtfulness in wanting to make life in our town better. The Select Board also thanks the Master Plan Working Group for developing the "Small Touches" concept.

The projects recommended for inclusion on the 2018 Town Meeting warrant for consideration are:

- **Building of a Gazebo/ Bandstand** (possibly behind Town Hall but location to be determined). Could be built with volunteer labor and donated/ discounted materials. Estimated Project Cost – "not to exceed" amount to be determined by printing of the warrant.
- **Development of walking trails map and information** (limited to trails on public land) Estimated Project Cost – \$100.00
- **Planting of 2,000 daffodils** – either centrally in town or along town roadways. Estimated Project Cost – \$1,500.00  
Each project will be coordinated

by volunteers; either the person who suggested the idea or by a town committee that might be interested/ appropriate.

## Planning for new library: What will be different this time

Kate Cell, *Co-chair, on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees*

The Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, along with many folks in town, believe strongly that Shutesbury needs a new library.

Our lovely existing building is simply too small for an armchair where you could curl up with a book, or a table where you could spread out with your work. Most of the programs the library offers, from Lego club to seminars on health issues for seniors, still have to be held offsite. Shelves still have to be moved out of the way for even a small group of toddlers to gather with their adults at story hour. The heating grate still melts your shoes in winter. We still don't have running water.

Therefore, over the next two or three years, we intend to ask for town support to apply for a planning grant. And if that request is successful, we intend to apply for a construction grant for a new library that can sensibly, sustainably, and affordably fill our town's needs.

**See Library, page 8**

## 'Make-ready' work begins *Shutesbury Broadband Committee*

Our broadband project continues to move forward despite the long winter. As the snow melts, line workers will continue be out in bucket trucks preparing utility poles by moving existing wires and other equipment and replacing deficient poles to get them ready to accept the fiber-optic cables that will run our network, called "make-ready" work.

We have been frustrated by the slow pace of the make-ready, but we are still projecting construction to commence this fall, with completion expected in early 2019. In August we submitted 14 applications to Verizon, 11 to National Grid, and two to

**See Broadband, page 5**

All are invited by the Shutesbury Select Board to a Social Hour to Meet the Candidates on the Ballot for the Election and to 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, April 22. There will be refreshments.

## Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher

[townclerk@shutesbury.org](mailto:townclerk@shutesbury.org)

413-259-1204

on the web @ [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org)

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30 – 6pm

Tues. - Fri. 8:30 – 10:30am

Tues. evenings 6:00 – 8:00pm

And other times by appointment

As faithful as Spring, our Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will arrive on the first Saturday in May at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Rd. This community event is an opportunity to come out to 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 5, starting at 900am. All registered voters **may vote in person on warrant articles** as each item is brought before those attending Town Meeting. You will receive town meeting materials in the mail and they will be posted on the town web site, [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) as soon as they are ready.

At the same venue, registered voters may **cast a ballot at the town elections**. The polls open from 8:00am – 2:00pm. Election results will be posted on the town website. The **voter registration period** closes on Friday, April 13 with extended hours on that date at Town Hall from 2:00 – 4:00pm and from 7:00 – 8:00pm. 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>

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, beginning April 9**.

The first step is to complete an **application**. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing or email and include:

- request for the ballot
- voter's name
- residential address
- address where the ballot should be mailed
- voter's signature.

You can also pick up an application outside the Town Clerk's office or go online to the town clerk's web page, [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org). Mail your application to: Town Clerk, PO Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072. The signed application can be scanned and emailed to [townclerk@shutesbury.org](mailto:townclerk@shutesbury.org). I will mail the ballot to you. Please allow plenty of time for mailing application and ballots materials back and forth. **You may also vote absentee in person at the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, May 4.**

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee begins its new year of **trash bag distribution** at Annual Town Meeting. The schedule for subsequent distribution dates will be available at ATM and on the home

page of the town website.

So, when you arrive at the Elementary School, in no particular order, you can pick up trash bags, sign in for a card to vote on Town Meeting articles, and cast your ballot to elect town officials.

Spring is also an opportune time to **license or re-license your dog** before the current license expires on June 30. Applications are available on line and outside the Town Clerk's office. They will also be on the information table at Town Meeting. Early birds can avoid a late fee by registering before August 1, 2018.

For those who already sent back their annual census/street list form, **THANK YOU!** If you did not, please dig the gray form out of the pile of papers on your desk or counter, check the information, sign it and send it back now. Non-respondents receive a postcard in early June to confirm their residence and prevent voter inactivation, but all that can be avoided by getting your census form in now.

*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*

### Here are the seats on the 2018 ballot

All are for three-year terms, except where noted. \*Incumbent

**Board of Health** Vote for Two

**Cemetery Commissioner** Vote for One

**Library Trustee** Vote for Two

**Planning Board** Vote for One

**Planning Board (to fill remaining 2-year seat)** Vote for One No nominees

**School Committee** Vote for Two

**Select Board** Vote for One

**Select board (to fill remaining 2-year seat)** Vote for One

**Municipal Light Plant Board** Vote for Two 3-year seats

Vote for Two 2-year seats

Vote for One 1-year seats

\*Arleen A Read, 18 Old Orchard Rd

\*Alan Werner, 106 Wendell Rd

\*Raymond B Cusson, 54 Lakeview Rd

\*Katherine A Cell, 29 Old Orchard Rd

\*Michele Cunningham, 108 Wendell Rd

\*James Summers Aaron, 60 Macedonia Rd

Jennifer Malcolm-Brown 72 Wendell Rd

J April Stein, 34 Montague Rd

Elaine M Puleo, 129 Baker Rd

Gayellen A Huntress, 408 Montague Rd

Stephen H Schmidt, 518 W. Pelham Rd

Craig T Martin, 17 Hidden Meadow Rd

Graeme J Sephton, 623 Wendell Rd

Kent Whitney, 24 Lake Dr

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

Contact the Conservation Commission **BEFORE** starting your project  
*The Shutesbury Conservation Commission*

With the arrival of warmer weather, many town residents start to think about construction or landscaping projects. New construction, tree removal, grading or excavation near wetlands requires at least a site visit by the Conservation Commission. Keep in mind that the Conservation Commission must sign off on all Building Permit Applications whenever digging is required. Near Lake Wyola, almost any proposed work must be reviewed by the Commission before work begins.

**Don't wait till until your contractor is scheduled to contact us.** 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7:00pm and from November to February, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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?** Do you love the unique natural beauty of Shutesbury? Would you like to help the town protect and nurture it? We currently have two vacancies and are



actively seeking interested community members to fill them. We are a group of volunteers responsible for protecting the town's natural resources. Through one to two monthly Thursday evening meetings and site visits all over town, the ConCom administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the town's General Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and manages town conservation land. If you think this type of work might be for you, contact the Conservation Clerk, Linda Avis Scott and arrange to attend a meeting to see firsthand what the ConCom work is all about.

## 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 2018 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2019.

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. To make certain the payment is received on time, please change the mailing address to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072-0175. This will eliminate the bill going to the lockbox and being forwarded. PLEASE make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (ie: 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 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. 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  
**See Collector, page 5**

## Statements from candidates for Town Election of Officers

Space in *Our Town* for campaign statements is available to all candidates, including known write-in candidates. Each is invited to submit a statement of no more than 125 words to this newsletter. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate.

School Committee	Select Board (2 year)	Select Board (3 year)
<p><b>Jen Malcolm-Brown</b></p> <p>My children have been involved with SES for three years and I value the quality education and support they receive from the educators and administrators in the school. All children need rich educational opportunities, incorporating STEM and the arts, while fostering responsibility, safety and individuality. However, school systems must do so under increasing financial pressure. I will use my experience managing human services budgets to ensure high quality services despite increasing financial limitations.</p> <p>As a School Committee member I would also ensure the school's policies and practices are inclusive and represent the needs and values of all SES members. A town of civic-minded residents such as ours requires School Committee members with passion and open-mindedness to represent its members. I look forward to this challenge.</p>	<p><b>Elaine Puleo</b></p> <p>After a 3 year hiatus, I am running for the Selectboard. Since my previous tenure, I have continued volunteering in various organizations. Currently I am a member of the Finance and Capital Planning Committees, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County Advisory Board, Baystate Franklin Community Benefits Advisory Council, Franklin County Health Improvement Plan steering committee and am a Medride driver.</p> <p>My primary focus, if elected, would be to explore ways the town can implement goals set out in the recently created Master Plan; specifically addressing issues related to health improvement, quality of life, transportation and meeting the needs of our changing demographics. I would also like to encourage and support a new generation of young adults to come forward to participate in town government.</p>	<p><b>April Stein</b></p> <p>I have been a resident of Shutesbury for 33 years. I have been a volunteer on the finance committee, personnel board, and a member of the Select-board (2010-2016). I am running in order to bring to the board my understanding of how our town government works and ideas to shape the future of our town. Following the anticipated completion of bringing Broadband to Shutesbury there will be time to focus on other needs for the town, such as creating community space for us to share ideas, art, music, etc. I want to be part of maintaining the unique rural character of Shutesbury as we move towards the future, in a way that honors all voices and ideas.</p>

Municipal Light Plant (3 year)	Municipal Light Plant (3 year)	Municipal Light Plant (2 year)
<p><b>Gayle Huntress</b></p> <p>I've been involved with Shutesbury's broadband project since 2014. Since then I've served as the Co-chair of the Committee and the MLP Manager. I've developed relationships with our counterparts in neighboring towns and worked on advocacy at the state level to make sure our project is funded. Besides bringing broadband to Shutesbury affordably and quickly, my other goal is to make sure this project is a unifying event for our town. Communications and transparency are paramount to our success and we've tried to keep residents informed through meetings, presentations, NextDoor posting and a regularly updated website. I'm excited to work on the construction phase of the project and would be honored to continue to serve with the other talented and dedicated members of our team.</p>	<p><b>Stephen Schmidt</b></p> <p>Lived in Shutesbury since 1998            Finance Committee: 1999-2000            Board of Assessors: 2000-Present            Broadband Committee: 2014-Present            MLP: 2017-Present</p> <p>My work on the Broadband Committee has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance subcommittee. Analyzed and provided detailed input for financial models, including original Wired West plan, Shutesbury borrowing costs, project budget, and current comparison of potential operational options. Have acted as liaison to town treasurer.</li> <li>• Team leader on pole survey.</li> <li>• Lead a town-wide informational sessions prior to the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.</li> <li>• Attended and participated in numerous MBI, Wired West, and regional network meetings, workshops, and informational</li> </ul>	<p>sessions in New Salem, Wendell, Greenfield, Leverett, Northampton, Heath, and Worthington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted writing and editing copy for town newsletter, website, and other public information materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Craig Martin</b></p> <p>A Shutesbury resident since 1994, I've been involved with our broadband efforts since 2011, serving on the Broadband Committee, the Municipal Light Plant, and as Shutesbury's representative to the WiredWest cooperative, a big learning opportunity. Prior to that, I spent more than a decade working on the Shutesbury Elementary School PTO (organizing both the School Directory and Silent Auction accounting). In my day job, I direct federally funded research combining logical experimental design with big picture thinking. Having recently stepped down after</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Cont. on page 5</b></p>

two terms as Head of the Dept of Chemistry at UMass, I have experience in management, budgets, construction, and dealing with unexpected challenges (and opportunities!). In summary, I bring a breadth of skills and experience to an already fabulous team!

## Municipal Light Plant (2 year)

### Graeme Sephton

Shutesbury resident since 1989  
Broadband Committee: 2014-Present  
MLP Board: 2017-Present

I am a registered network design engi-

neer with over 35 years of design and operational experience.

I would be delighted to continue to participate in helping to facilitate the design and installation, and next year, the running of Shutesbury's exciting new fiber broadband system.

## Municipal Light Plant (1 year)

### Kent Whitney

Shutesbury resident since 2015  
MLP Board: 2017 - Present

I have been in management positions for over 30 years and complex business plans, contracts, managing contractors and deadlines are second na-

ture. I have helped build businesses and managed a division of 8 companies with over 1000 employees. My specialty has been satellite communications which has some technical and business similarities to terrestrial communications like this broadband system.

At this critical point the job now becomes managing the deployment and setting up the appropriate business structures. I hope to continue to bring my business skills to the already terrific MLP Board team.



## An Immense Thank You!

Linda Avis Scott, *Administrative Secretary*

Your Winter 2018 issue of the newsletter received very special attention. As Administrative Secretary, is it my responsibility to act as liaison with our intrepid newsletter editor, **Janis Gray**, and to shepherd the newsletter through folding, collating, sealing and send them off to the Postal Service bulk mail system.

Due to unexpected family concerns, I was away for most of the necessary newsletter tasks. In my absence, **Susie Mosher** and **Becky Torres** put aside their own work to see the newsletter through the folding, collating and sealing process. In addition, **Dave Mosher**, **Art Torres**, **Susan Millinger**, **Penny Jaques**, **Elaine Puleo**, **Christine Robinson**, **BZ Reilly** and **Rita Farrell** volunteered their time. I am heartily grateful to each of you and regret if I have missed anyone.

Here's how to join us: When an issue goes to print, there will be a Town Announcement with the date/time the folding will begin. Any amount of time is welcome! The activity is easy and the conversation interesting.

Best wishes for your Spring.

### Broadband, cont. from page 1

Eversource to assess the status of the 1,445 utility poles in Shutesbury to accept our fiber-optic cables. Throughout the fall Verizon responded, and actually began some make-ready work this winter. National Grid's response was much slower; after continual prodding by us, our hired consultants, as well as state officials, National Grid finally re-

turned the last of their applications in March. We have accepted their work proposals, and expect their make-ready work to commence shortly. Some of Verizon's work requires coordination with National Grid, particularly when poles need to be replaced. Verizon has been unable to complete this part of the make-ready until National Grid is available. Once the make-ready is complete the utilities will issue pole licenses to the Shutesbury MLP and our fiber network construction can begin.

Our network design has taken longer than expected, but our project manager, Westfield Gas & Electric, has reported that the engineers at Precision Valley Communications have completed one third of the design and expect the entire design to be ready in two weeks. At that point, W G & E will begin preparing construction bid documents.

On the financial end of things, the total cost for the make-ready work came in over \$500,000 above the original estimate from MBI. But the good news here is that the state passed a supplemental bond bill for the fiber networks and has agreed (in writing) to use those funds to cover the make-ready cost overruns, so our project remains on budget.

Keep your eyes out for broadband mailings. We'll be contacting every household with home installation information this summer or early fall. In the meantime, the best resource for project updates and status is our website: <http://www.shutesbury.org/broadband>

Note that at Town Meeting in May there will be an election for the five-member Board of Directors for our

Municipal Light Plant (MLP). MLPs were initially created to allow cities and towns to offer electric and gas service to their residents. The law has been amended to allow for internet service as well. However, the state has recently issued guidance that makes it unclear about which governance structure is required for a *broadband-only* MLP board, but until a more definitive ruling is made we'll manage our project with the elected board structure. No matter what the structure, title or name of the leadership group, our talented and dedicated team will continue working hard to bring broadband to Shutesbury.

### Collector, cont. from page 3

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. If the bill is on warrant, it cannot be paid on-line except through the Deputy Collector's office which can be reached during business hours at 413-527-2388.

Have a good spring.



## From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Beginning this year there will be only one bulky waste day in Shutesbury each year, on the first Saturday in June. So many Shutesbury residents have used the Leverett Transfer Station to dispose of bulky waste that the fall bulky waste day in October has participation too low to cover costs. So get ready for...

# Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day Saturday, June 2

Saturday, June 2 is Bulky Waste Day at the Highway Department from 10:00am to 2:00pm 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 too. **DO NOT** bring hazardous waste, paint, 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 have had several wonderful volunteers in the past, and their help made a huge difference. Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer, contact Gary Bernhard at 259-1235 or [bernhard@uww.umass.edu](mailto:bernhard@uww.umass.edu) or Meryl Mandell at 259-1282 or [merylm@crocker.com](mailto: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 will not be collected this year* because the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield accepts only a very limited range of bulky plastics.

### 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 which might be useful to others, place them on the roadside during the week beginning Saturday May 26. **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.** Shutesbury has 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>

## Save the Date!!! April 27

The Community Network for Children Program is hosting a Benefit Community Dinner night at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, 282 Wendell Rd., Shutesbury on Friday, April 27, 6:00-7:30pm.

### Menu:

Pulled Pork or Vegetarian/Gluten-free options: Sautéed veggies and rice bun, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert.

Please join us and support the Union #28 Community Network for Children Program and enjoy a delicious dinner with family, friends, and neighbors! Family Friendly.

Contact the CNC Program at 978-544-5157 or [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com) for more information.

## Free Weekly Tales & Tunes

Come and enjoy stories, song and craft activities with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Tales & Tunes will continue on Mondays, from 9:30 - 11:00am and is facilitated by **Katie Tolles**. This program is intended for children 0-5 years of age and is sponsored by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and Union #28 Community Network for Children Program. See CNC Website for program and event schedules, <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/home>. For more information please contact Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

## Free Weekly Playgroup

Come and enjoy time with your child (ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the Shutesbury Elementary School in the music room.

Shutesbury Playgroup will be held on Fridays, from 8:45 -10:15am. This Playgroup is facilitated by **Joie Ciepiela** and is intended for children 0-5 years of age and is sponsored by the Shutesbury Elementary School and Union #28 Community Network for Children Program. Program is not held during school closures. See CNC Website for program and event schedules, <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/home>. For more information please contact Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

## 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](mailto: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, 2018 for preschool enrollment, or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2018 for kindergarten enrollment.**

Please contact the school for Fall/2018 enrollment information. Call **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at the Main Office of SES, 413-259-1212 x100 [carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org) or **Grace Griecci** 413-259-1212 x140 [griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griec-cig@shutesburyschool.org)

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## Library, cont. from page 1

### The Process

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) informs us that the next round of planning and design grants will probably take place in 2020. These are the relatively small grants—the MBLC usually gives around \$50,000, and requires a \$25,000 match from the town—that help towns assess their library needs, work with an architect to create a preliminary design, and create a construction grant proposal. The MBLC expects to offer the next construction grants a couple of years after that. The construction grants help pay for the final design and provide up to two-thirds of the costs of building the new library, with the rest provided by monies already raised and/or a town bond issue.

Between now and the expected planning grant round in 2020, the Trustees of the MN Spear Memorial Library hope to work with the Friends of the Library, with the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Planning Committee, and with all interested folks to lay the foundation for a new library that a strong majority of our town can support.

### What's changed

Those of us who lived in town in 2011-2012 remember clearly how divisive the last debate was. No one in town, including the Library Trustees, wants to repeat the bitter experience of the past. This is why we chose to sit out the last round of MBLC grants. We saw that time would help resolve some other important town infrastructure issues, particularly around broadband.

Meanwhile, the most enthusiastic library supporters have used that time to continue to raise private money—an astonishing success, nearly \$160,000 so far. And Town Meeting has continued to generously allocate funds every year. Here are some ways that we anticipate the conversation of 2020 will be different.

**See Library, cont. on page 8**

## Library, cont. from page 7

### 1. Broadband

Through the thoughtful diligence and persistence of our Broadband Committee, by the end of 2019 all households in Shutesbury can be connected to a high-speed fiber-optic broadband network. Before we even need to apply for a planning grant, therefore, town residents will have a clear picture of what broadband will cost their individual households and our town government.

### 2. Amount saved

If we continue to fundraise and to set aside town monies at the current rate, by 2022 we could amass around \$550,000 towards a new library. For a sense of scale, this sum would represent two-thirds of the *total* portion Shutesbury would have needed to raise for the library proposed in 2011.

### 3. Right size

By the 2020 planning grant deadline, and even more so by the 2022 or 2023 construction grant deadline, we will have more information about how population and demographics in our town are changing. We will know more about how access to broadband will affect property sales and values, and we'll know whether we will begin to see new construction. We'll have more time to listen to our neighbors about what they hope for in the new library. This can help us plan a building of the right size, scale, and cost for our town.

### 4. Library lovers

Fully two-thirds of people living in Shutesbury have a library card, and we circulate books and other materials at one of the highest rates for a small-town library in the Commonwealth. We host an average of 125 well-attended programs a year. We see that people love the opportunities for learning, creativity, and community offered by the library.

We also see that people love the M.N. Spear building itself. It is there on our town common, part of our town's history, and many people are strongly attached to it. The Library Trustees are committed to working with townspeople to find a productive use for our existing building.

### 5. Lessons learned

As painful as the last library debate was, we have learned a great deal from it. We have learned that we have

to work harder to engage community participation in the design phase so that the preliminary design reflects the unique character of Shutesbury while meeting the town's library needs now and into the future. We have learned that folks in town who most want a new library are willing to put their money and their effort towards funding it—today, the private money raised forms *more than half* of the total amount of \$312,535.35 currently set aside. We have learned the importance of listening carefully to as many voices in town as possible.

Between now and 2020, the Trustees hope that you'll share with us your thoughts about what you want to see, and equally don't want to see, in a new library. Please take the opportunities (through surveys, listening sessions, or dropping by our regular monthly meetings) to let us know what you think. We're eager to put the past behind us and to get ready to build an affordable, sustainable, practical, and beautiful library for Shutesbury.

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## Community Events

Alas and alack! There is no volunteer to head the Community Roadside Clean Up this year.

However, **you** still can go out with a friend or neighbors and pick up trash along the road in your neighborhood, put the recyclables in your bins and put out an extra trash bag if needed.

### 'Valley Gives' handicap accessibility fundraiser for Shutesbury Community Church May 1

The 1827 historic Meeting House which fronts the town green in Shutesbury, MA continues to hold weekly community church services. In the summer of 2009, the interior of the



building underwent a complete renovation. In 2012 a renovation of the exterior of the Meeting House was accomplished, including the copper dome steeple.

Presently, members are seeking funds through Valley Gives to install a physical chair lift. To date architectural engineered drawings have been approved.

The historical integrity of the building will be maintained, allowing accessibility to the ground and second floors. A unisex accessible restroom and handicap parking are included in the plan.

These renovations will allow services to be held upstairs in the sanctuary (on the second floor), and children will be served on the ground floor. Additional uses of the building include town-wide Sunday morning brunch, musical venues, and sit-down teas. Gifts toward the fundraiser will be accepted with great gratitude and appreciation.

Shutesbury Community Church will be hosting a Valley Gives Event Day at 10:00am on Saturday, April 28. The kick-off event will include historical pictures of the church, tours, and a bake sale. Children will be creating May Day Baskets. Members will be happy to answer any questions regarding the plans for handicap accessibility.

All are welcome in the church.

May 1 is the only day to donate. To donate: <https://www.valley-gives.org/organizations/shutesbury-community-church>

### Celebrate Shutesbury in 2018!

Come one, come all! Celebrate Shutesbury 2018 promises to be an event you won't want to miss!

### Scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 10:00am-2:00pm on the Town Common in Shutesbury.

Live music and entertainment, barbeque, bounce house, bake sale, book sale, face painting, vendors....all individuals, boards, committees, organizations and businesses are welcome to attend and participate.

If you would like to vend or if you would like to set up a booth with an activity or information, please contact **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at [carlsonbelanger@gmail.com](mailto:carlsonbelanger@gmail.com).

If you are a musician or entertainer and would like to participate, please contact **Karen Traub** at [happydancermom@gmail.com](mailto:happydancermom@gmail.com). Looking forward to coming together as a town and celebrating Shutesbury.



# The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

## 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 -7:30pm

Friday: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00am -1:00pm

Sunday: 3:00 - 6:00pm

10 Cooleyville Road  
413-259-1213; [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org)  
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

## News from the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library

Thanks to you, our continued efforts to raise money towards a future new Shutesbury Library are paying off! Between funds raised through private donations and funds appropriated annually at Town Meeting, we now have more than \$313,500 saved. At this time last year, we were hoping that our spring efforts would bring us to \$300,000 saved. We exceeded that goal and this spring we have our sights set on reaching \$350,000 saved. Thank you for all your donations, encouragement and support. We are making progress!

## Spring Spruce-Ups

Spring is a busy time for the Friends of the Library. Since 2012, the Friends have been organizing their Spring Spruce-Up fundraiser for their new library fund. A team of four adults does one hour of yard work for a \$100 donation. In 2012, the Friends completed six spruce-ups.

This year, with 19 jobs booked, we are sold out. As of today, 24 volunteers have signed up for teams. Spruce-Ups continue through May 12 and we still need a few more volunteers. If you can contribute one hour, please contact Mary Anne at the Library, or Susie Mosher at [snd-moes@verizon.net](mailto:snd-moes@verizon.net). Thank you to all the homeowners who have hired a team and to all the volunteers!

## Valley Gives Day – Double Your Impact!

Tuesday, May 1 is Valley Gives Day, a regional online giving day hosted by the Community Foundation of

Western Massachusetts.

For the fourth time, the Friends will be raising money for our new library fund on Valley Gives Day. **We are thrilled to announce a \$5,000 matching gift!** If we raise \$5,000 in online donations on Valley Gives Day, two generous supporters will match our contributions dollar for dollar!

Please visit our Valley Gives page, <https://www.valley-gives.org/organizations/friends-of-the-mn-spear-memorial-library-inc>

## Town Meeting Café

Town Meeting is Saturday, May 5. The Friends of the Library will serve breakfast, snacks and lunch. Volunteers are needed to donate foods and staff the sale. Please volunteer at the Library. The café will benefit the Friends General Fund, which supports the day-to-day operations of the Library.

## Tag Sale, Saturday, May 19, 9:00am – 2:00pm, Town Common

We've noticed an interest in de-cluttering amongst our readers ever since Marie Kondo's book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* was published in 2014. Have you filled boxes and bags with items that don't "spark joy"? Here is your chance to donate to a good cause. Bring those boxes and bags to our tag sale! The best time to drop donations is the morning of the sale, between 8:00 - 10:00am. We will also accept donations between 3:00 - 6:00pm on Friday, May 18.

Tag sale proceeds will be divided evenly between the Friends' General Fund and New Library Fund.

## Kayaks

Our goal is to have the Library's kayaks ready to loan by the second weekend in May.

Kayaks can be borrowed by Shutesbury residents with a valid library card, and they can be used by



your out-of-town guests. Every adult who uses the kayaks has to complete some paperwork prior to use. Children ages five and up can use the kayaks but they must be accompanied by an adult and a parent or legal guardian must complete all appropriate paperwork. Sometimes getting the paperwork done requires some advance planning.

Kayak loans are first come, first served.

We appreciate your cooperation. Complete details can be found on our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/kayaks>

## Chemistry Kits

Thanks to the Chemistry Adventure Program developed by the Chemistry Department at Mount Holyoke College, the Library has Chemistry Kits. There are 10 kits for children in grades K -2 and 10 kits for grades 3-6. The kits include all the materials needed and instructions to complete an experiment.

Visit the Library to begin your chemistry adventure!

## Save the Date!

### Ice Cream Social and Pop-Up Play Ground

Come one, come all to our celebration of the beginning of summer!

Saturday, June 16  
5:00pm – Mingle with neighbors and Pop-Up Play  
7:00pm – Ice Cream is served

Location: Shutesbury Athletic Club



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

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

Return Service Requested

Resident  
Shutesbury MA 01072

## HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 259-1108	ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 253-7505	POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Linda Avis Scott 259-6550	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Principal 259-1212	RECREATION COMMITTEE B.Z. Reily 413-687-3605
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 259-1214	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts 259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 259-1235
ANIMAL INSPECTORS Nancy Long 259-1279	FINANCE COMMITTEE George Arvanitis, Co-Chair 259-1348 Eric Stocker, Co-Chair 259-1250	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 259-1626
ASSESSORS Kenneth Holmberg 259-3790	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211 or at home 259-1286	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Fred Steinberg 259-9996
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Clerk 259-2122	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas 549-3710	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Haggerty 413-423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Bob Groves 259-1200	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 259-1215	SELECT BOARD Michael DeChiara, Chair 259-1059 Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 256-0312
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-1214	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress 259-1905 Asha Strazzero-Wild 413-478-8368
CEMETERY COMMISSION Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 259-1615
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Rita Farrell, Co-chair Allen Hanson, Co-chair 259-1623	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-chair 259-9129	TOWN CLERK Susie Mosher 259-1204
COUNCIL ON AGING Med-Ride Program 259-3796 David Dann, Chair 259-1554	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquiries at 259-1214	TOWN MODERATOR Penelope Kim 259-1326
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 259-1584	TREASURER Gabriele Voelker 259-1801
CULTURAL COUNCIL Julie Stepanek, contact 387-5670	PERSONNEL BOARD April Stein 259-1074	TREE WARDEN Leave inquiries at 259-1215
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Nijadlik 772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE Jamie Malcolm-Brown 413-362-9996
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare 549-5330
<b>POLICE, FIRE &amp; RESCUE SQUAD 911</b>		