



SHUTESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY NEWS

FALL 2026

OUR TOWN

WWW.SHUTESBURY.ORG

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Visit shutesbury.org/OurTownNewsletter to see the text with live links.

Halloween

Community Halloween Party! Saturday, October 24th
6:00 – 7:30 pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club

The Library and the Shutesbury Athletic Club are excited to invite the community to an annual Halloween Party for families.

Pumpkin Carving and Hayrides!

Free pumpkins while supplies last!

☛ **Bring your own carving tools**

This event will be outside, under the pavilion: dress for the weather. The SAC will be selling grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers.

Trick-or-Treat

October 31

Shutesbury's Halloween festivities are informal, DIY, and fun! Families often trick-or-treat along portions of Leverett Road, from the Common to West Pelham Road. Leverett Road is dark. Trick-or-Treat is safer if you wear some reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. (Some families on other roads turn on their lights and give out treats – there are no limits on who can participate in Halloween!)

The Fire Station opens its doors and serves warm cider and donuts. The Police Department helps to keep traffic slow and safe and they also participate in Trunk-or-Treat, giving out treats and glow sticks to help keep children visible.

Trunk-or-Treat

October 31

Everyone is invited to participate in Trunk-or-Treat: Arrive between 5 and 5:30 pm, park along the back of the Common, decorate your car, and hand out treats!

Trick-or-Treat at the Library

October 31

The Library is looking forward to celebrating the first Halloween in the new building. We will be open for Trick-or-Treat 5 – 7:30 pm.

Finishing Touches

The Library Building Committee continues to meet and supervise the work that will complete the new library. A few changes to the electrical systems, door handles, etc., are being made. We successfully installed the Feather Friendly window film. Stop by and see how unobtrusive it is and how well it's protecting our flying friends!

Landscaping is the biggest project left to be completed. Trees and shrubs are being planted now – trees by a landscaping contractor and shrubs by volunteers. We hope you will come join us on that project, or maybe on a “Weedy Wednesday” where volunteers help get rid of invasives as the landscaping takes hold. Watch your email for announcements of volunteer opportunities!

Broadband Upgrade

The routers installed during ShutesburyNET's original build-out in 2019 have reached the end of their useful life. We will be running a pilot replacement program at the end of this year with the goal of replacing all routers in 2027.

We will offer a newer model with good performance speed, ease of use, reliability, and security as well as an installation process that is easy and efficient. Router upgrades will be free and optional, but highly recommended. We will reach out directly to all ShutesburyNET subscribers with more details about timing and next steps.

We also want to make sure ShutesburyNET remains affordable for everyone in our community. If the cost of broadband service is a challenge, assistance programs are available that can help reduce monthly internet costs to under \$40. To learn more about eligibility and how to apply, please visit: shutesbury.org/broadband/lifeline

Recreation Committee

Barbara Bigelow and Sam Spisiak, co-chairs; Diane Adams, Ann Brigham, Jessica Carlson-Belanger, Annie Gagliardi, Nico Jacobs, Christine Marglin, Elaine Puleo

In FY 2026 the Recreation Committee sponsored (or co-sponsored) five programs and organized nine activities. As we plan for our upcoming activities, we want to express our gratitude for the many volunteers and participants who have made these activities possible in the past and upon whom we rely going forward!

Sponsored Programs

We plan to continue our sponsorship of youth soccer, youth basketball, fitness classes, and the Town Wide Birthday Party.

Shootsbury Soccer continues to be offered in both the spring and fall seasons. This is a fantastic opportunity for children and families to get active, enjoy the outdoors, and meet new friends in our community. No registration is needed, and best of all, it is completely free. This program is best for children ages 3–10. For more information about the dates, please email Sam at recreation@shutesbury.org

The Recreation Committee also partnered with the Shutesbury Public Library to provide three sets of snowshoes for patrons to borrow during the winter months.

Scheduled Activities

Our newest member, Nico Jacobs, is a student at Amherst Regional High School and an Ultimate player and has organized a weekly pick-up ultimate frisbee for players of all levels! Whether you've played it for years or have never played it at all, please come. The games are Mondays at 5:30 behind the Fire Station.

For the third year, Tom Schieding offered the popular "Observing the Night Sky" on September 12. If you have not participated in this program, consider registering the next time it is offered. It is truly magical.

Stitch-Ins meet Fridays, 3–5 pm, unless the library is closed. If you crochet, knit, embroider, or do any form of needlework, please consider dropping in. In addition to good conversation these are great opportunities to get or offer help. And there is always at least one person with an uncanny ability to unsnarl a seemingly impossible tangle.

Hiking Meet-ups are co-led with the Conservation Commission. A calendar of upcoming meet-ups will be sent out as a town-wide email and will appear on the Recreation Committee's web page. If the event is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be posted on the web pages of the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Committee.

Opening of Community Preservation Act Grant Cycle

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law authorizing towns to raise local funds for historic preservation, open space, recreation, and affordable housing projects.

Since 2011, Shutesbury voters have awarded 23 grants, amounting to over \$538,400 in CPA funding and millions more in matching funding. In addition, to date Shutesbury has received \$197,560 from the Commonwealth's Community Preservation Trust Fund—in other words, the state has paid 37% of the cost of Shutesbury's CPA projects.

At the start of FY27, Shutesbury has approximately \$477,510 in total CPA funding—\$33,068 for Historic Resources, \$18,139 for Open Space and Recreation, \$50,554 for Community Housing, \$35,000

in the Budgeted Reserve, and \$340,749 in the Undesignated Fund, which can be used for projects in any category. It's the responsibility of the Community Preservation Committee to evaluate and recommend to Town Meeting projects seeking to use these funds.

The FY27 CPA grant cycle is now open. The deadline to submit a Determination of Eligibility, to find out if a project is technically eligible for CPA funding, is December 10, 2026. The deadline to submit a full Grant Application is February 4, 2027. Both forms, as well as the town's Community Preservation Plan, and more information about the CPC and the history of past CPA-funded projects in Shutesbury, may be found at shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

Greetings, Shutesbury Hurricanes!

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the beginning of another exciting school year. As Superintendent of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, I am thrilled to welcome our Shutesbury students and families to Amherst Regional Middle School, Amherst Regional High School, and Summit Academy for the 2026–2027 school year.

We are beginning the school year with exciting developments across our Regional schools. At ARHS, we welcomed our new Principal, Dr. Marc A. Gomes, an experienced educational leader whose background includes instructional leadership, school improvement, and expanding opportunities for students. Additionally, at ARMS, we are in the process of finishing the Middle School Roofing Project. This will give a new roof to the entire building! Our regional students are also returning to a newly renovated track and field complex at ARHS. These projects represent an important investment in our students, providing an improved space for all.

There is also much to celebrate within our Regional community. Amherst Ultimate Coach and ARPS Garden Educator Leila Tunnell has been inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame Class of 2026, bringing

extraordinary experience and leadership directly to our students. We also began the year together at our 2026 Convocation, where our staff gathered to reconnect around our shared responsibility to students as well as families, and prepare for the work ahead. I continue to believe that our greatest successes come when we work collaboratively, listen to one another, and keep students at the center of our decisions.

As we move into the fall, I encourage our Shutesbury families and community members to remain engaged with what is happening at ARMS, ARHS, and Summit Academy. There will be many opportunities throughout the year to celebrate our students, participate in our schools, and learn more about the progress being made throughout the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District. Please visit www.arps.org for the latest news, celebrations, announcements, and updates from our schools. Thank you, Shutesbury, for your continued partnership and for being an essential part of our Regional community.

*Dr. E. Xiomara Herman, Superintendent
Amherst-Pelham Regional School District*

From the Town Clerk's Desk

As summer fades and fall starts to creep in, the clerk's office has been busy! At the end of July our office welcomed new Town Clerk Calvin Elison, who hit the ground running with this year's primary election and the full resumption of regular service hours in Town Hall. Assistant Town Clerk Jeannette Kiely continues to be an exceptional resource for Shutesbury residents.

Important Dates:

- ◆ Special Town Meeting, October 17, 9 AM
- ◆ Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 7 AM–8 PM
- ◆ In-person early voting, October 17–30:
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12 noon–2 PM
 - Wednesday, 5–7 PM
 - Saturday October 17, 8–9 AM and 1–4 PM
 - Saturday October 24, 10 AM–noon.
- ◆ Last day to register to vote: October 24.
- ◆ Vote by Mail application deadline: October 27.

The clerk's office wants to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Town Clerk Jeannette Kiely, Interim Town Clerks Lisa Stratford and Matteo Pangallo, former Town Clerk Grace Bannasch, Administrative Assistant Brennan Mailloux, and the countless other folks from across town (and Town Hall) for their dedicated service and generosity to our office during the past year we have been in transition. Finally, we thank you, the residents of Shutesbury, for your patience and support as we work to serve you better.

If you have questions, election or non-election-related, please email us at townclerk@shutesbury.org or call us at 413-259-1204 during business hours and we would be happy to assist you. We hope to see you in November!

From the Library Director

By the Numbers

The Shutesbury Public Library has been open for eight months, and it has been thrilling to watch how enthusiastically this community has embraced the new library! During the first eight months of 2026, 7,823 people came through the doors, nearly twice as many as the 3,757 visitors to the M.N. Spear Memorial Library during the same period last year. Circulation has also grown, from 15,815 items in 2025 to 22,582 in 2026, a 43% increase. And we've issued 128 new library cards, compared with 48 during the same period last year. These numbers are a wonderful reflection of the excitement and appreciation our community has for the new library, and of how much people are using it, enjoying it, and making it their own.

Meeting Space at the Library

The Shutesbury Public Library's Community Meeting Room and Small Study Room are available for use by community groups and individuals. The Community Meeting Room seats up to 50 people and can be used for meetings, workshops, gatherings, and other activities, in accordance with the Library's Meeting Room Policy and Procedures.

Some uses of the meeting room require a fee and proof of general liability insurance. The policy outlines the requirements and procedures for using the space.

Meeting Room Reservations

For the Community Room visit shutesburypubliclibrary.org/meetingroom to check the calendar for availability, review the Meeting Room Policy and Procedures, and complete the online reservation form.

To reserve the Small Study Room, reservations can be made by calling the Library at 413-259-1213, emailing shutesburylibrary@shutesbury.org, or stopping by the library.

Free Books for Children

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!

Like so many people, we were saddened to hear of Dolly Parton's passing. Dolly was an inspiration in so many ways, and her commitment to promoting childhood literacy through her Imagination Library aligned closely with the values and mission of libraries across the country.

We are proud to partner with the New Salem Academy to bring this special opportunity to Shutesbury's children, providing free books mailed directly to their homes. If you are the parent or guardian of a child from birth to age five, we encourage you to sign your child up to take advantage of this wonderful resource.

Click this link to sign up: imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/manewsalem.

If you live in Shutesbury, but have an Amherst address, please reach out to the library director at library.director@shutesbury.org to register your child.

Supporting the Library

The Friends of the Shutesbury Library support the library and the community through fundraising, special events, and opportunities to come together throughout the year.

Vote for Us in Florence Bank's

Customer's Choice Community Grants

The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library have received a grant from Florence Bank every year since 2015 — and the more votes we receive, the larger the grant! Last year, thanks to community support, the Friends received \$4,562.90!

If you are a Florence Bank customer, please cast your vote today! To vote, visit florencebank.com/customers-choice-community-grants.

Election Day Bake Sale & Shutesbury Gear Sale

Tuesday, November 3

8:00 AM–about 6:00 PM, Shutesbury Town Hall

Stop by on Election Day for homemade treats and Shutesbury gear, including T-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, and hoodies. The Friends need baked goods and volunteers to help staff the sale. Sign up at shutesburypubliclibrary.org. Cash and checks only.

Roadtown Turkey Trot

Saturday, November 21

9:00 am 5K Walk

9:15 am 5K Run

9:45 am Kids Fun Run

Gather your family and friends and join us for this annual Shutesbury tradition! Register early at roadtown.org.

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 1

The Friends' annual year-end appeal features a \$5,000 matching gift from a generous donor. Donations can be made online or by check. Details will be available on the Friends' webpage as Giving Tuesday approaches.

Soups & Stews Community Dinner

Friday, December 4

6:00–7:30 PM ♦ Shutesbury Athletic Club

Enjoy homemade soups, stews, breads, and desserts at the annual Shutesbury Holiday Shop. Join us for good food and a festive evening with the community.

Planning Ahead for Shutesbury's Next Trash and Recycling Collection Contract

Although July 1, 2028 may seem a long way off, planning for a new trash and recycling contract is already underway.

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) has begun developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be sent to qualified waste haulers interested in providing curbside collection services to Shutesbury. Starting early gives the RSWC time to carefully evaluate options and ensure the Town receives the best combination of service, reliability, and value.

The primary change for households will be a transition from curbside Shutesbury trash bags to automated collection using 35-gallon Town-provided wheeled carts; recycling carts will also be provided. Collection will continue to be on a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) basis. In the coming year each household will need to complete a form telling us the size recycling cart(s) they want. There will be sample carts for viewing at the Shutesbury Public Library and at Town Hall. A Town Announce will be sent out when the carts are on site — stay tuned for more information. The RSWC is researching how to handle excess trash over the 35-gallon cart limit.

Many Massachusetts communities have already made the change from bags to carts, and have found that it provides cleaner streets, better containment of trash, fewer problems with wildlife, improved worker

safety, and more efficient collection. Hauling companies are requiring this transition primarily due to safety issues for their workers. The bags are heavy, the hauler workforce is aging, and it is difficult to prevent injuries on the job with manual collection.

Once proposals are received, RSWC members will meet with prospective haulers to discuss Shutesbury's specific needs and priorities. Those conversations will help the committee evaluate each company's experience, customer service, equipment, and ability to meet the expectations of our community.

No final decisions have been made, and there will be opportunities for residents to learn more and ask questions as the process moves forward. Planning ahead allows the committee to take a thoughtful approach rather than rushing an important decision.

We will continue to share updates as work progresses, and appreciate your continued interest in helping shape the future of Shutesbury's solid waste and recycling program.

*Mary Glavin, RSWC Chair, and Meryl Mandell,
Recycling Coordinator*

Our Town Newsletter Policy

Adopted by the Shutesbury Select Board
December 23, 2019

Our Town is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local community projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions must be strictly secular and nonpartisan and are subject to review, revision, and/or non-acceptance by the editorial board of the newsletter. Submissions promoting the sale of goods and services for private profit cannot be accepted. Appeals to any review decisions can be brought to the Select Board for further discussion.

Brennan Mailloux, Catherine Hilton, Christi Payne
Newsletter co-editors

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30% POST CONSUMER WASTE



Council on Aging Activities

The Shutesbury Council on Aging (COA) is dedicated to serving residents 60 and older, their families and caregivers. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month 5:30–7:00 PM. We invite you to join us: the link can be found on the meetings calendar on the town website or at mytowngovernment.org. Our members: Jessica Makepeace and Susan Millinger, co-chairs; MaryJo Johnson, Rich Strangman, and Jeannette Stockton. Former chair Martha Favre often joins us, providing experience and assistance.

It's been a busy year and we have really exceeded even our own expectations. We have continued our regular programs and have added new ones throughout the year.

Community Lunch

We are still fully committed to host the **Community Lunch** on the first Tuesday of the month at noon in the Senior Lounge at Town hall. The potluck lunch is open to all, regardless of age, and takes place on the first Tuesday of the month in the Senior Lounge at Town Hall. You're not required to bring something to share: there's always plenty for everyone. Thanks to Susie and Dave Mosher and Sally Fairfield for their help!

☛ Please note: because of the mid-term elections on November 3, the lunch will be held the following Tuesday, November 10.

Footcare Clinic

The Footcare Clinic continues to grow and is held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Senior Lounge. Simonne Westort, owner and operator of Toes in the Sand, is our new provider. The current organizers are Susan Millinger and Donna Covino. For more information, call the COA at 413-259-3796.

Ice Cream Social

Jessica Makepeace brought us the COA's first Ice Cream Social in the Senior Lounge on July 29. Look for the second on Thursday, October 29, 2–4 p.m. Come join the fun with puzzles and games and enjoy good conversations.

Tech Talk

A new program in Spring 2026 was *Tech Talk*, a series of six classes in which the instructor, Barbara Friedman, focused on the effective use some of the features

of our mobile phones, talking to our smart phones, spam and scams, and how to find free resources online through our Library. The COA is planning another series of classes on some aspect of computer usage. If you're interested, send us an email at councilonaging@shutesbury.org

COA works for Senior Safety

At the initiative of the Council on Aging, a partnership was formed with the Shutesbury Police and Fire Departments that established a Community Lockbox Program. Installations have now begun for residents who signed up. The lockboxes provide emergency responders with secure access to a home when a resident is unable to answer the door, potentially saving valuable time during an emergency. If you are interested in a future installation, contact police.chief@Shutesbury.org or the COA at councilonaging@shutesbury.org

Neighborhood Aging & Dementia Support

The Neighborhood Aging and Dementia Support (NADS) provided several free presentations by Linda Puzan, MSW, who brought decades of experience in the field of dementia care and memory support, working with caregivers as well as the people they cared for. The presentations included "Optimizing Brain Health as We Age," "The ABCs of Dementia," and Toolkit talks "Failure Free Activities" and "Effective Communication and Understanding Behaviors." Linda's talks are all available at villageneighbors.org.

This year NADS is initiating a series of discussions of major books on dementia care, all in the four towns' libraries. Beginning September 10 in Wendell with Teepa Snow's "Understanding the Changing Brain," the series will continue in Shutesbury on November 18, 3–5 PM, with "A Dignified Life" by Virginia Bell and David Troxel. All four Libraries (Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell) will have copies of the books. Look for information on Town Announce. These discussions are open to anyone interested.

Don't miss out on future events!

Send your email address to councilonaging@shutesbury.org to receive up-to-date information, newsletters, and announcements about upcoming programs. You can also visit shutesbury.org/coa, which is updated frequently with the latest news and info.

Advancing Clean Energy in Shutesbury

The Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) continues to be busy with current and future projects to promote decarbonization and increase clean energy use in Shutesbury. Among our current projects:

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

CCA uses our collective buying power to lower electric costs through a reliable 3-year contract, and it helps green our energy sources. For most of the Town's residents who are supplied by National Grid, CCA became an option in December. As of June, the 40+ households served by Eversource also became eligible to join Shutesbury's CCA. Currently, a total of 665 households and commercial accounts have opted in. This includes 628 National Grid households and 37 Eversource households. Of these, 10 households have opted for the 100% Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) choice which has slightly higher rates but the electricity is certified to come from renewable sources such as solar, wind, small hydro, digester gas, or geothermal. Continued thanks to ECAC member, Nate Heard, for his leadership on CCA.

Decarbonization of Municipal Buildings

Shutesbury is on the cutting edge! In April, Shutesbury was designated a Climate Leader Community, one of only 35 municipalities in the state — that's the top ten percent of the state's 351 cities and towns. Thank you again for supporting this effort at Town Meeting.

Being a Climate Leader opens the door to state funding to decarbonize our municipal buildings. In June, Shutesbury applied for a \$150,000 technical assistance grant to help determine the most energy- and cost-effective actions, building on a 2025 assessment called the Decarbonization Roadmap. The elementary school is a priority since it is the largest user of electricity and greatest emitter of greenhouse gases among the five town buildings. ECAC is working closely with the Buildings Committee, the School Committee, the Principal, and the Town Administrator to advance this investigation into options. We hope to get a grant determination this fall. Once a clear path is determined, the ultimate goal is to apply for a one-time \$1 million grant available only to Climate Leader Communities to make energy and decarbonization improvements.

Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee (SMIC)

ECAC is proud to be a member of the newly-formed town committee focused on the adverse impacts of stormwater given our changing climate and exploring appropriate solutions. This committee grew out of the Lake Wyola Stormwater Committee; the new SMIC will address stormwater challenges throughout town. ECAC is represented by Greg Day.

Dark Sky Lighting

Considering lighting in Shutesbury has been a multi-year effort by ECAC. Particular thanks to Select Board member Eric Stocker for partnering with ECAC to address lighting concerns identified at Shutesbury Elementary, where the parking lot lights have been on overnight for years, if not decades. Huge appreciation to Buildings Committee chair, Frank McGinn, whose perseverance led to identifying and solving the problem. As of this spring, the school lights are only on for limited, needed periods of time. Frank and ECAC are working with the Police Department on next steps for lighting at the school. Additionally, ECAC member Gail Fleischaker has been researching the few streetlights in town — some of which are operational and others not, but all of which require payments to National Grid. In addition to saving energy and money, ECAC seeks to bring the Town into compliance with the 2024 Shutesbury Dark Sky Lighting policy.

In Development

ECAC continues to explore other ideas, still in the information gathering phase, including exploration regarding microgrids and the use of non-lithium ion batteries for power backup. More to come on these and other topics as we learn more.

Check Us Out

ECAC meets on Tuesdays once/month. We welcome your participation and your ideas. We can be reached at ecac@shutesbury.org.

Cemetery Commission News

Green burial by family and friends

The Shutesbury Cemetery Commission is in the midst of preparing guidelines for such burials and investing in both the equipment necessary and a shed for its storage.

What does this mean? You as family and friends have the option to bury the deceased without using a funeral director at all. While this process generally goes more smoothly if a funeral director is involved at least in part, the specific steps for family-directed burial will be outlined in the new guidelines. You will need to review the details in advance of need, paying special attention both to state regulations and the forms you need to obtain from the Town Clerk.

Or, you can hold a blended funeral. Some funeral directors will work with you to provide only selected services (a la carte)—for example, preparing the paperwork and transporting the body, while family and friends prepare the body and the grave. In the case of green burial, you can choose to hire a funeral director to prepare the body (without embalming) and shelter it until burial. You would need to check individual funeral homes for options and fees.

The Shutesbury Cemetery's Guidelines are shaped by two concerns: that the green burial goes smoothly and safely. Smoothly, because there are state regulations that must be followed; safely, because digging can always lead to unanticipated problems.

Before long, you can expect to find the new Guidelines on the Cemetery Commission web-page: shutesbury.org/cemetery-commission, along with links to additional information about family-directed funerals. It can't be overemphasized that you must plan ahead. Check with the Cemetery Commission before the actual need for a burial arises. "Do your homework!" is the Commission's advice.

Repainted Hearse House.

The Hearse House was recently repainted by Stephen Dallmus and Jeff Quackenbush from the Buildings Committee, and they did an excellent job. The Cemetery Commissioners, delighted by their work, want to express their thanks publicly. The Hearse House in West Cemetery, facing Leverett Road, was originally built in 1840 to house the horse-drawn hearse. It is one of the few that still survive. Nowadays it holds equipment used to maintain the three cemeteries' grounds.

School Committee Updates

Shutesbury Elementary School faculty and staff started the school year with professional development and classroom set-up before welcoming back K-6 grade students on August 26 and Pre-K students on August 31. SES has welcomed the following new staff members: Joseph Page—Technology Support; Amanda McNamara—PE Teacher; and Sarah Cadran—Returning Paraeducator. The SSC is grateful for the continuing support of the community as well as the tremendous efforts of the Shutesbury Elementary School staff to provide our students with an extraordinary education.

Principal Anne Magill (magilla@shutesbury.school.org) serves as the educational administrator for Shutesbury Elementary School subject to the supervision and direction of the U28 Superintendent Shannon White (cleveland@erving.com). The Shutesbury School Committee (SSC) sets the direction of the school by establishing policies and setting a budget to serve the needs of students while being responsive to Shutesbury taxpayers. The SSC typically meets virtually on the third Thursday of the month from September through to June. You can find more information about SSC at shutesbury.org/school_committee.

Developmental screening for Shutesbury children ages 3–5 is available through the school as a first step in finding children that need special services. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please contact Nicole Sutka, Shutesbury Elementary Student Support Teacher at sutkan@shutesburyschool.org and 413-259-1212. This service is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in the school's preschool program.

Community Network for Children

The Union 28 Community Network for Children (CNC) supports families with young children in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell. CNC programs include: Tales & Tunes at Shutesbury Public Library, welcome new baby visits and bags, playgroups, story hours, family education workshops, and more. Contact the CNC Program Coordinator Gillian Budine with any questions at (978) 935-4909 or cnccoord@erving.com. Visit sites.google.com/erving.com/cncprogram/home to learn more about the CNC.

Shutesbury School PTO

The Shutesbury Elementary PTO is excited for another year of supporting our students, teachers, and school community! We kicked off the 2026–2027 school year with a Back-to-School Potluck, bringing families together to reconnect and welcome new members of our school community.

This year, we're looking forward to hosting a community skating event and supporting enriching opportunities for students, including arts programs, field trips, and other school activities throughout the year. If you'd like to get involved or have a question or concern, please reach out to us at shutesburypto@gmail.com or visit our website shutesburypto.org.

We're grateful for the continued support of Shutesbury families and look forward to a wonderful school year!

Please Support the PTO

The Shutesbury Elementary PTO asks for your support as we work to raise \$5,000 to enrich educational programs and experiences for our students this school year.

Last year, PTO donations helped fund buses for four field trips, pizza for Literacy Night, an author visit, a Playful Engineers assembly, costumes for the school play, and more. With rising costs, your support matters more than ever as we work to keep providing these opportunities for our students.

Every donation makes a difference. Here are just a few examples of what your contribution can help provide:

- \$10 — Field Day T-shirt for one student
- \$20 — Lawn sign for one graduating 6th grader
- \$50 — New PE equipment, such as badminton racquets or a soccer net
- \$60 — Scientist visit for one class, such as a planetarium program
- \$100 — Teacher allocation for classroom supplies
- \$400 — Bus transportation for a field trip
- \$1,000 — Artist workshop or performance

Whether you're able to give \$10 or \$1,000, your generosity directly supports the students and teachers of Shutesbury Elementary School.

To donate, please make checks payable to Shutesbury PTO and mail them to:

Shutesbury PTO
23 West Pelham Road
Shutesbury, MA 01072

Or make a secure donation online at shutesburypto.org. Thank you for helping us make these experiences possible and for supporting our school community!

facebook.com/pages/Shutesbury-PTO/250617928317095

Shutesbury Elementary PTO: Samantha Spisiak, President; Isa Deloge, Vice President; Rose McWilliams, Secretary; Elizabeth Murphy, Treasurer.

Mid-Term Election

Tuesday November 3, 7 AM – 8 PM
Early in-person voting October 17 – 24

Very Important:
Inactive voters can still vote!

You just need to show ID and sign an affidavit affirming that you have maintained continuous residence in Shutesbury since June, 2025.

Board of Health

Autumn isn't just apples and fall foliage, it's also the beginning of the season for respiratory diseases such as flu and Covid-19. October is the Goldilocks moment for vaccination, not too soon and not too late. If you missed the October 16 clinic, you can find other clinics at frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/#FindaVaccine. Vaccination is also offered by most commercial pharmacies and is covered by insurance.

As you get out into the fine fall weather, remember that disease-carrying mosquitoes will remain a threat until the first hard frost (28°F or lower for several hours), and that ticks never take a vacation!

Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury residents:

By now you should have received the bill for the second quarter of your real estate and personal property taxes, due November 1. (If you paid both the first and second quarter amount with your first quarter payment you will not receive a bill for November. If you do not receive a second quarter bill, please check the bottom portion of your first quarter bill as the total may be too small to generate a second quarter bill.)

Here are some tips to make sure your tax bill is paid on time:

Plan ahead when mailing payments — delivery can take up to a week.

Payment by check can be brought into Town Hall or put into the dropbox out front. Put it in an envelope addressed to the Collector, and include a SASE if you want a receipt.

Do not postdate your checks — I can't accept them and will have to return them to you.

If you pay into an escrow account when you make your mortgage payment, do NOT pay your real estate taxes on your residential property: Your mortgage holder will pay it from the escrow account. If you have multiple parcels, please check with your bank to see which parcels they pay.

If you use an on-line banking program, please read this paragraph carefully, because it's not as simple as you might think! Be aware that this is not a direct, immediate transfer of funds: No, the bank makes out and mails an actual paper check, and that takes time, so you need to plan ahead. Also, you must verify the bill/account number identifier that goes on the memo line. This is tricky: the bill number for real estate/personal property stays the same every year, but the number on the automobile excise changes every year. If the number isn't correct it creates difficulty in recording and crediting your payment. Finally, make sure that the mailing address for the check is Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072 — not the lockbox address in Woburn.

If you will be receiving your mail at a different address during the winter, please notify this office when

you will be leaving so I can redirect your bills and ensure that they will be delivered promptly. Please make certain I have your alternate address.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax: Now is the time to verify all information on your auto registration, license, and insurance documents. During the last quarter of the calendar year, your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to create the database from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills are generated. The place of garaging and both mailing and residential addresses, if different, must be absolutely correct to insure proper and prompt delivery of your bills. Shutesbury must appear on your "place of garaging" so the tax bill is issued by Shutesbury for collection. Without a correct mailing address, the bill may be returned as undeliverable, possibly resulting in a late fee.

Any tax bill sent from this office should never be ignored, even if it is on property or vehicles you no longer own, because the Town is not notified when you turn in your license plates or sell your property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application, available at Town Hall or at shutesbury.org/assessor. If you move out of Shutesbury, be sure to leave a forwarding address and update your license, registration, and place of garaging. And remember that unpaid excise tax bills will follow you wherever you may go and may result in your inability to register a vehicle or renew your driver's license and registration.

A question I hear all the time: "Why is the name of the previous owner still on my real estate tax bill?" This is temporary: By state law the name of the person who owned property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on all bills. So if you bought your house after January 1, 2026, the seller's name will be on the bill. We highlight the "in care of" designation to make certain the bill is delivered to you and not forwarded to the previous owner.

It's a lot of rules, I know! I don't make them, but we all have to follow them.

Ellen McKay, Town Collector

Be in the know! Sign up for town announcements at
shutesbury.org/announcement-list

4th Annual Town-Wide Birthday Party, October 4, 2026

SHUTESBURY TOWN WIDE BIRTHDAY PARTY!!

Everybody's birthday was celebrated on a beautiful fall Sunday, with cake and ice cream, games and dancing, and a good time was had by young and old alike.

Thanks to the Council on Aging, the Recreation Committee, and the Shutesbury Public Library for their support! See you next year on the common!



To see these photos in color and to follow live links, read the newsletter online at shutesbury.org/OurTownNewsletter.



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

Return Service Requested

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit 65
Amherst MA

General Election
Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Shutesbury Town Hall, 7 AM – 8 PM
Early voting October 17 – 24

Current 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		EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR	
Gail Weiss	413-259-1108	Leonard Czerwonka	413-259-1211	Andy French	413-774-3167 x. 112
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT		ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM.		POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Brennan Mailloux	413-259-6550	Michael DeChiara, Chair	413-259-1059	Devon Pelletier, Chief	413-259-1279
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR		FINANCE COMMITTEE		Dispatch	413-625-8200
Hayley Bolton	413-259-1214	Ajay Khashu, Chair	917-582-4256	PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE	
ANIMAL CONTROL		FIRE DEPARTMENT		Sarah Fiske	413-531-0657
FCSO Regional Animal Control	413-774-7340	Leonard Czerwonka, Chief	413-259-1211	RECREATION COMMITTEE	
ASSESSORS		HEALTH AGENT		Barbara Bigelow, Chair	413-801-9714
Leave inquiries at:	413-259-3790	Claudia Lucas	413-549-3710	RECYCLING COORDINATOR	
BOARD OF HEALTH		HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		Meryl Mandell	413-259-1282
Catherine Hilton, Chair	413-259-2122	David Grenier	413-259-1215	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
BROADBAND COMMITTEE		HISTORICAL COMMISSION		Anna Heard	413-406-2757
Gayle Huntress, Chair	413-345-2855	Henry Geddes	historical@shutesbury.org	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE		LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE		Leah Jack, Chair	413-259-1212
Frank McGinn	401-226-1830	Mark Rivers, Chair	508-259-0972	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT.	
BUILDING INSPECTOR		LAND USE CLERK		Shannon White-Cleveland	413-423-3337
Jim Hawkins	413-774-3167 x. 113	Matteo Pangallo	413-259-3792	SELECT BOARD	413-259-1214
CEMETERY COMMISSION		LIBRARY		James Walton	
Walter Tibbetts	413-259-1286	Mary Anne Antonellis	413-259-1213	Melissa Makepeace- O'Neil	
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM.		LIBRARY TRUSTEES		Eric Stocker	
Matteo Pangallo, Chair	413-687-0402	Kate Cell, Co-Chair	413-259-9129	TOWN COLLECTOR	
COUNCIL ON AGING		Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair	413-259-1149	Ellen McKay	413-259-1615
For general inquires and details on Foot Clinic,		OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE		TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE	
leave message	413-259-3796	Leave inquires at	413-259-1214	Calvin Elison	413-259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION		PERSONNEL BOARD		TOWN MODERATOR	
Beth Willson	413-259-3792	Leave inquiries at	413-259-1214	Nettie Harrington Pangallo	413-259-1556
CULTURAL COUNCIL		PLANNING BOARD		TREASURER	
Cara Brostrom	413-256-6871	Nathan Murphy, Chair	413-341-0140	Ryan W. Mailloux	413-259-1801
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES				TREE WARDEN	
Christopher Demars	413-772-1571			Dave Grenier	413-259-1215
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR				WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	
Maurice Gregoire	413-253-7505			Gail Fleischaker, Chair	413-253-0565
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	
Anne Magill, Princip.	413-259-1212			Matteo Pangallo	413-259-3792

**EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE,
& RESCUE SQUAD 911**