

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Updates from your Select Board

Hello Neighbors,
The Select Board changed members at the start of this fiscal year. We say goodbye to **April Stein**. We thank her for her service to the town and wish her well in other endeavors she is undoubtedly destined to pick up. At the same time, we give a big welcome to our new member **Eric Stocker**. We look forward to working with him.

As with the beginning of most fiscal years, the Select Board starts on a slow build-up of work and projects. So far in the few months of this fiscal year, keeping up on updates with our PFAS results at each of our meetings.

We have made many appointments to fill vacancies on our committees. Our committees and boards are so crucial to our small town and how work gets done. Thank you, volunteers.

We are working with the Library as the town walks through the process set forth by the MBLC Small Town Pilot program. The Library is doing site analysis to help the town make a decision about a potential site if Shutesbury were to receive the PILOT grant and if Annual Town Meeting supports funding.

We have begun the Police Study Group. It has held several meetings. **Sergeant Burgess** has been instrumental in outlining

Select Board, cont. on page 2

Autumn's in full swing at Shutesbury Elementary

Jackie Mendonsa, *Shutesbury Elementary School Principal*

Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) was thrilled to welcome our students back to school on September 1, 2021! The staff continues to work hard to ensure the health and safety of all and provide our students with an engaging, meaningful and fun learning experience. SES has a comprehensive Health and Safety Protocol Handbook that is available for anyone to view on www.shutesburyschool.org.

We continue to utilize the absolutely amazing school grounds that we are so fortunate to have at SES. Students have been eating lunch picnic style outside in the beautiful autumn

SES, cont. on page 5

Shutesbury property values are increasing!

Kevin Rudden, *Administrative Assessor*

The COVID-19 pandemic has had the opposite effect on the real estate market than originally expected. Instead of causing a decline in real estate sales and property values, it sparked a boom in sales – usually above both assessments and initial asking prices – and a rise in property values. This has happened not just in Massachusetts and New England, but throughout most of the country.

Why did this happen? The Warren Group, a Peabody-based company which collects and compiles data on real estate sales and ownership, attributes it to four factors:

(1) low mortgage interest rates, (2) an increase in first-time buyers (mostly “Millennials”), (3) the desire for more space to work from home and/or educate children during the pandemic, and (4) the extremely low supply of homes for sale.

The Massachusetts Association of Realtors reports that the median (midpoint) sales price of single-family homes in this state rose by 18.6%, from \$490,000 to \$552,000 between September, 2020 and August, 2021. The median price of single-family homes was \$464,058 for the period between February, 2020 and January, 2021, according to the association.

What does that mean for Shutesbury's assessed property values? For Fiscal Year 2022

Assessors, cont. on page 3



Two Kindergarteners enjoy a lesson during their "Forest Friday" activity

A Letter from the Town Clerk

Grace Bannasch (she/her/hers),
Town Clerk

To contact the Town Clerk:
Phone: 413-259-1204
Email: townclerk@shutesbury.org
Website: <https://www.shutesbury.org/townclerk>
Office Hours: M-F, 10-1 and 3-5

Salutations Shutesburians!

Anyone else remember back when Town Hall had penny candy? When I was a student at Shutesbury Elementary School, I used to volunteer some afternoons at the M.N.Spear Memorial Library. One of my favorite jobs was going across the street to Town Hall to make copies—not so much for the copying, but rather because it meant I got to pick something out of the penny candy drawer. That desk is still standing in the copier room to this day, and even though I know the drawer is now full of staples and paperclips, some part of me still expects to find candy every time I open it.

Recently, I casually related this story to a colleague in another state, as an illustration of the odd and beautiful moments that come with working for your hometown. A week later, a package was delivered to Town Hall, much to my surprise and mystification. Inside I found a note that said “For your penny candy drawer” and bags of butterscotch, maple and root beer candies. The candy now sits in a jar on my desk in the Town Clerk Office, and everyone is welcome to share in this unexpected sweetness.



While you’re grabbing a butterscotch, there are a few other things you can take care of while you’re here.

Dog Tags: Please check to make sure your dog tags are current. The 2021 tags are blue. If your dog’s tags are not blue, you can get an application on the Town Clerk webpage or at Town Hall.

Trash Bags: Yes, you can get trash bags at Town Hall. \$20 a roll.

Marriage Intentions: Are you planning on getting married soon? Come to the Town Clerk Office to file your intention! An explanation of this process is available on the Town Clerk webpage.

Voter Registration: You can register to vote online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> or you can register to vote in person at the Town Clerk Office. Mail-in voter registration forms are available in the hallway outside the Town Clerk Office.

Volunteer opportunities!

Here are some ways you might serve your Town:

- Council on Aging: one vacancy
- Fire Department: Firefighters
- Open Space Committee: one vacancy
- Water Resources Committee: one vacancy
- Zoning Board on Appeals: two vacancies for alternate members

If you are interested, please see the Town meeting calendar for a schedule of meetings and log-in information. It is best to visit the committee’s webpage and attend at least two meetings to learn about the committee’s work.

Select Board, cont. from page 1

the workings of the police department. She has given in-depth presentations regarding commu-

nity policing, police policies and day to day operations. The meetings have all been recorded and are available to the public. If you are interested in learning more, please watch the town calendar for meeting times and information. Police logs over the last seven years are being analyzed. A final report will be given to the Select Board soon.

As a reminder, we generally meet every other Tuesday. Our meetings are posted on the calendar page for our website www.shutesbury.org.

Rita Farrell
Melissa Makepeace-O’Neil
Eric Stocker

Our Town Newsletter Policy

Adopted by the
Shutesbury Select Board
December 23, 2019

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 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.

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

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A note from your Board of Health

We remind you to keep watching out for ticks and mosquitoes. Mosquitoes remain active into the fall months, and ticks are active all year round. For more information on how to protect yourself and your family, visit the Board of Health page on the town website: shutesbury.org/health

More timely information on COVID-19 than can be provided here is available at shutesbury.org/pandemic-information

You can get e-mails from the Board of Health and other town agencies, usually no more than one-two per week, by signing up on the home page of shutesbury.org. Scroll down to "Sign up to receive e-mail Town Announcements."

Don't use the Internet but want to keep informed? Call (413) 259 2122 and leave a message.

Have an idea for a project? Let your CPC hear from you!

The Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is pleased to announce that it will be accepting applications for CPA funds this fall and winter for projects for the four eligible CPA activities: historic preservation, community housing, open space and recreation. Projects approved by the CPC in the spring will be voted on at next year's town meeting. For more information on the CPA program guidelines and application process please visit our webpage at shutesbury.org/community_preservation and look at the 2021 Community Preservation Plan.

At this year's annual town meeting two new CPA projects were approved: \$2,500 of CPA funds for work on the trail system at South Brook Conservation Area and \$20,000 for the creation of a community garden on town owned property.

The construction of the town's

first Habitat for Humanity house on West Pelham Road was completed this Spring and is the new home for wonderful family. This net zero energy three-bedroom house not only received CPA funding from the Town, but many community members and the new owner contributed many hours to its construction.

Each successful project depends on a group of committed volunteers to organize the project, to complete a thorough application and see it through the review process, and to oversee implementation through project completion. If you have an idea for a project and want to preview it with the committee please contact the CPC via our webpage.

The committee actively encourages groups of volunteers to exercise their creativity and devote their energies to organizing and proposing projects that benefit all of our citizens. We welcome projects, both large and small, that add to our cultural heritage while providing resources for open space, recreation, community housing and historic preservation.

The Community Preservation Committee thanks the citizens of Shutesbury for their continuing interest, contributions, and support for our community's preservation projects.

Assessors, cont. from page 1

(which began on July 1), we are looking at sales in calendar year 2020 and previous years to determine property values. In a quick survey of fellow assessors around different parts of the state, I found them looking at increases of anywhere between 5% and 12% to be the norm for single family home values.

Although as of mid-September the state Department of Revenue (DOR) has yet to approve our numbers, it looks like single-family home values in Shutesbury

will be going up by about 6%.

This is lower than the average for Franklin County. The Warren Group found that sales prices in Franklin County rose by 6.9% in 2020 to a median price of \$239,538 for a single-family home.

Our preliminary calculations show land values rising by about 10%. This is in line with the increases the state DOR approved earlier this year for land protected under the state's Chapter 61 (Forest) and Chapter 61A (Agriculture) programs. These land values are increasing by 21.4%, and 9.7%, respectively.

Property Inspections

As the calendar year winds down, expect to see me visit your home on weekends if you bought a house in Shutesbury during 2021. This is part of the routine inspection we do when a house is sold.

First, we want to make sure our records are up-to-date – so that everyone is paying their fair share of property taxes. This is even more important when most sale prices in 2021 have been above our assessed values. This year's sales will be analyzed in depth when we look at the next fiscal year's assessments.

If you're not home when I stop by, instructions to set up an appointment will be on the yellow "door tag" I leave behind.

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers, With the fall approaching, the second quarter of your real estate and personal property taxes have been mailed with a due date of November 1. If you have 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,

Collector, cont. on page 4

please check the middle portion of your first quarter bill as your total bill may be too small to generate a second quarter bill.

If you pay bills with a banking program, please be aware that there is a paper check generated that can take the bank over a week to mail so please plan ahead. *It is imperative that you verify the bill number identifier you are using as a memo.* Your bill numbers change every year for all types of taxes and your failure to correct the bill number causes difficulty in recording your payment. Please change the mailing address on the envelope to the Town Collector's address, which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Because your checks are not accompanied by a bill, the lockbox company sends them to me for processing which results in a delay in crediting them to your account.

Please plan ahead when you mail your payments as it may take as much as a week for mail to arrive as the post office sorts mail in Connecticut.

If you do not feel comfortable coming into the Town Hall, you can drop off your payment in the drop box next to the driveway in front of the Town Hall. Please place the payment in an envelope addressed to the Collector. If you want a stamped receipt, please put a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the bill.

Do NOT postdate your checks! I cannot accept such checks because they cannot be processed until the date on the check. They will be returned to you upon receipt.

"Why is the name of the previous owner still on my real estate tax bill?" is a question we are frequently asked. Under Mass. General Laws, the name of the person who owned property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2022) that date is January 1, 2021. We highlight the "in care of" designa-

tion to make certain the bill is delivered to the new owner and not forwarded to the previous owner.

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.

This is also the time to verify all information on your auto registration, license, and insurance documents. Your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor Vehicles during the last quarter of the calendar year that provides the database from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills on vehicles registered on January 1 are generated. It is essential that the place of garaging and both the mailing and residential addresses are absolutely correct to insure proper and prompt delivery of your bills. If you have an Amherst mailing address, that address should appear as the "mailing address" on your registration so it appears on your excise bill. Shutesbury must appear as your "place of garaging" so the tax bill is issued by Shutesbury for collection. Failure to have the correct mailing address may cause the bill to be returned as undeliverable and delays delivery.

Should you receive a bill incorrectly from Amherst, please make certain all information on your registration is correct. If it is not, contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles (which can be done on-line or in person) to correct the situation. Once everything is correct, contact the Board of Assessors in Amherst to ascertain what information they need to abate the bill and to send it to Shutesbury. Please start this process as soon as you receive an incorrect bill as the bill will be due 30 days from the mailing date.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should *not* be ignored even if it is on property you no longer own. The Town does not get notified if you dispose of an automobile, turn in your license plates, or dispose of per-

sonal property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address and place of garaging. Any registration that lists Shutesbury as a place of garaging will result in an excise tax bill being sent from Shutesbury.

Remember, your unpaid excise bills from any municipality *will* follow you through the data base at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and its compact with other states. Unpaid bills can result in your inability to register a vehicle or renew your driver's license and registration.

Have a good autumn.

Council on Aging news

Do you know that our demographic is Shutesbury residents aged 55 and older?

If you are interested in learning about the Council's work, please attend one of our meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month. See the Town meeting calendar for Zoom log-in information. We have a vacancy!

Are You Over 55 and In Need of Foot Care? The Council on Aging (COA) home visit foot care program is staffed by Foot Care by Nurses based in Greenfield. These are the same nurses that staffed our in-person clinic prior to the pandemic. During the pandemic, the COA has used our Executive Office of Elder Affairs grant to partially subsidize the cost of home visits for current foot clinic participants.

New clients are welcome! We suggest participants donate toward the cost of their home visits. Grant funds will be used to cover the balance. If you are interested in learning more, please email coa@shutesbury.org or leave a message at 413-259-3796.

COA, cont. from page 4

Please see the COA's webpage at shutesbury.org to download "How to Be Prepared for a Medical Emergency" and for information about other local resources.

LifePath, our Area Agency on Aging, provides numerous individual in-home and community services that support Franklin County citizens 55 and over. LifePath provides help with Medicare, Medicaid, and MassHealth plans through the SHINE program (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders). For any questions or help, call their Information and Referral number at 413-773-5555.

Go to their website, LifePathMA.org, to sign up to receive *The Good Life*, LifePath's free weekly newsletter, in your email inbox each Monday.

Village Neighbors, a non-profit member/volunteer-run organization, helps adults 60 and older in Shutesbury, Leverett, New Salem and Wendell age in place by assisting with transportation, computers, small tasks at home, or friendly visits. To learn more, call 413-345-6894, write to Village Neighbors, P.O. Box 501, Shutesbury, MA 01072, or email generalinfo@villageneighbors.org.

Virtual learning and fitness opportunities:

Visit the M. N. Spear Library website, mnspear.org, for information about virtual learning classes and fitness programs.

Check out area college websites for information about virtual learning in retirement programs: Five College Learning in Retirement, and Greenfield Community College: <https://noncredit.gcc.mass.edu/browse/senior-learning/senior-symposium/>

Also, LifePath often offers free virtual health-related programs.

A letter from the Shutesbury School Committee

The pandemic and turbulent times continue. The School Committee is committed to ensuring that every child has educational opportunities and in an environment that is safe for students and staff alike. The school committee works with our administrators, Principal **Mendonso** and Superintendent **Culkeen**. They work closely with our local Board of Health, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Health as well as guidance from the Governor, state and other local agencies.

Collectively, we are all doing our best to navigate through this turbulence. We understand that apprehension and fear, uncertainty and confusion abound. We recognize that there is controversy surrounding vaccination mandates and mask requirements. We are asking for the community to help us; please, be patient, empathetic and understanding.

The School Committee and our school administration have everyone's best interest in mind. We are trying to balance the needs of everyone, prioritizing students, families and staff. Please know that we lament over our decisions, because

we care. If you have questions, please feel free to inquire, you will get a response. I would also request that as a community, as neighbors, we all take a deep breath and try to be understanding and exhibit kindness and compassion as we move through this very, difficult time.

With great appreciation,
Dan Hayes

SES, cont. from page 1

weather. Chef **Gail** and our new cafeteria assistant, **Katrina Kingsbury**, continue to astound us all with incredible lunches filled with fresh vegetables, homemade breads and soups and tasty main courses.

Our 5th and 6th grade classes partnered with Nature's Classroom to have a special outdoor and science-based day of learning on our own school property. Students engaged in shelter and mini-catapult making as well as creating their own mini-civilizations. Kindergarten students are engaging in lots of outdoor learning time, including "Forest Fridays" where they have nature-inspired lessons for the majority of the day.

SES, cont. on page 6



SES fifth graders gather in an outdoor science lesson in partnership with the Nature's Classroom program.

There's a lot of **new faces at SES!** We had several teacher retirements this year and so we welcome **Kim Salditt-Poulin** and **Nicole Sutka** as Student Support teachers and **Lauren Sullivan** as our new Speech and Language Pathologist. As part of our educational recovery plan from the learning loss during the pandemic, we have welcomed **Phoebe Hazzard** as a one-year intervention teacher. We had student need for a part time English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and so **Kevin McKeown** has joined our team this year to support students. **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** has transitioned from SES office administrator to an adjustment counselor split between Leverett Elementary School and Shutesbury Elementary School (also part of our recovery plan). **Laura Feltman** has joined SES as our new office administrator. If town members need to contact Laura, they may call the school or email feltman@shutesburyschool.org.

We continue to offer students vibrant and exciting art, physical education, music, and computer/library classes. We are also working with a schoolwide social emotional curriculum, Choose Love, that is taught by classroom teachers and supported by classes with our school psychologist Dr. Amadee Meyer and our adjustment counselor, **Jessica Carlson-Belanger**. For more information about the Choose Love program visit the "Choose Love Movement" website online. We look forward to some outdoor programs for our students this fall including a puppet show from local artist (and SES parent) **Anna Sobel!**

We send our weekly newsletter, *The Roadtown News*, every Friday. In it there are updates about the happenings of our school and community. You can access the *Roadtown* on our [school website](#) at any time. We look forward to an exciting fall and winter of learning!

Preschool and Kindergarten enrollment/ screening for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds in our community

In Shutesbury, developmental screening is available through the 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 20 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 or anyone you know has children under the age of five, or you have questions or concerns about your child's development, please contact us for more information about the program. Contact **Grace Griecci**, Pre-k teacher, at 414-253-1212 ext.140 or email her at griecci@shutesburyschool.org

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

Union #28 Community Network for Children

The **Union #28 Community Network for Children Program** (CNC) offers family programming and basic needs support for families with young children in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Some of the programs and activities are "Welcome Baby" gift bags: Tales & Tunes programs, Playground Play



groups and Babies and Books at our local libraries. We also offer the Ready Rosie Program for 3-year-olds; Parent/Caregiver Group Chats and parent education workshops; Ages & Stages Questionnaires to help parents and caregivers learn more about your child's development; as well as a Free Children's Clothing Closet and more!

CNC in-person programs are held outside and registration is required. COVID-19 safety precautions such as wearing masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing will be in place. These programs are most appropriate for families with children 0-5 years of age.

To sign up for CNC weekly email updates and to learn more about the CNC program offerings contact CNC at (413)422-0170 call/ text or email Budine@erving.com.

NEW FAMILIES WELCOME!

The Union #28 Community Network for Children program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Union #28 Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and donations from the Community.



In broadband news, more homes continue to get connected as properties exchange hands and new homes are built. We're pleased to report that close to 90% of all Shutesbury homes are connected to ShutesburyNET to meet their broadband needs, which is one of the highest rates in the state for any municipal broadband network. We realize there are not any other

viable options, but we are still very pleased that so many residents are taking advantage of this very special townwide service.

The amount of bandwidth used by residents is holding steady, even as children return to in-person schooling and some adults return to work outside the home. We continue to monitor the usage to make sure we have plenty of bandwidth to deliver continued high speeds to everyone.

If your in-home network isn't performing at the speeds you want, please see our website for information about how to diagnose and fix speed issues. In addition, our website has many frequently asked questions about network equipment, troubleshooting, what to do in a power outage and lots of other topics. Check it out!

<https://www.shutesbury.org/broadband/faq>

Rate Relief: In July we made two federal relief programs available to ShutesburyNET subscribers who meet certain income requirements. The Lifeline and Emergency Broadband Benefit Program each provide discounts on internet bills for eligible households. Together, both programs can reduce your monthly bill by almost \$60 and only one single application to determine financial eligibility is needed.

To apply online or download a paper application please see this website for more information: <https://www.shutesbury.org/broadband/lifeline>

Wired West Refund: There are 155 people in Shutesbury who have not yet requested to have their \$49 WiredWest deposit returned. Because the money is held in an escrow account, you must make the request individually, and in writing, to get your deposit back. For legal reasons it can't be done as a group request or sent to you automatically.

If you want to support the advocacy work that WiredWest continues to do for broadband throughout

the state you can request that your deposit be donated into their general funds instead of being refunded to you. If you don't either request the refund or donate your deposit, in writing to Wired West, the funds will be forfeited to the State's general funds in April of 2022.

For more information about how to request a refund or contribute your deposit please see <http://wiredwest.net/campaign/refunds/>

Hooray for Shutesbury recyclers!

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

At a regional recycling meeting a couple of years ago we learned that the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Springfield was going to have to charge municipalities for processing recyclables. The base charge would be \$90.50 per ton. We are fortunate that Shutesbury is a dual stream town (paper and containers collected separately) because the fee for single stream municipalities is \$150.00.

This change came about because other countries, China in particular, were buying fewer and fewer recyclables from the U.S., and American businesses that repurposed recyclables weren't able to use everything that cities and towns were recycling. However, the processing fee could be reduced if the market for recyclables improved over time and municipalities recycled well. Cities and towns could even make money rather than having to pay.

A calculation based on the previous year's recyclables sent to the MRF showed that if the market didn't improve Shutesbury could be



on the hook for an additional \$13,000 in recyclable processing fees.

Well, the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee is pleased to announce that for the past three months Shutesbury has received checks for recyclables sold by the MRF.

That means that not only has the market improved but Shutesbury has also done some excellent recycling. Shutesbury recycles between 35% and 40% of the waste stream, and the Committee would love to get that figure up to 50%.

So thanks to all those in town who are serious recyclers, and let's see if we can boost that recycling figure to 45% or even 50% in the coming year.

Want to reduce your stash of paper grocery bags?



Take them to the Library so they can be re-used in curbside pickup!

— *The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee*

Friends of the Library

The Friends have been actively fundraising for a new Shutesbury Library since 2011.

Clothing Drive

We are collecting gently used clothing, accessories and household linens until October 14.

If you missed the four collection days but have items to donate, please email library.director@shutesbury.org.

Returnable Bottles and Cans

Thank you to everyone who has been donating returnable bottles and cans. The Friends have been raising \$200 - \$300 each month by redeeming your bottles and cans. (Cider bottles do not have a deposit and should just be placed in your curbside recycling.)

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

Open for Walk-in Visits

The Library is now open for walk-in visits, no appointment needed, three days a week.

Masks must be worn while visiting the library.

Our new, open hours for the fall:

Wednesdays: 11-1 and 3-6
Fridays: 3-6
Saturdays: 10-1

As we all know, the Library is very small, so capacity is limited to no more than five visitors.

COVID-19 cases are on the rise. To help keep staff and visitors safer, visits should be brief.

Enter through the ramp door; the interior door will have a sign that says either, "come in" or "please wait."

We will continue to offer outdoor pickup *only* on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, and outdoor pickup will also continue to be available on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

The restroom is closed.

How to Book an Outdoor Pickup?

If you have received a hold pickup notice, you can book an outdoor pickup using our online scheduling system.

From the homepage of mnspear.org, under Outdoor Pickup, look for: "[Click here to schedule a pickup.](#)"

There are six steps to schedule a pickup.

Choose a date, then a time. Click "Confirm," then enter your name and email address, and finally, click, "Schedule Event."

You can also email library.director@shutesbury.org or call 259-1213 to schedule a pickup.

Small Library Pilot Project

We have created a Small Library Project webpage. There is a link on

the home page of mnspear.org and in the sidebar menu.

Mary Anne, Library Trustees and some volunteers are working on the Library Building Program, which is due by mid-October.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners defines the **Building Program** this way:

A library building program is a document, based in data collected from the community, that serves as a guidebook or set of instructions from the library director, trustees and staff to the architect.

The Building Program articulates the library's vision of its future and serves as a set of instructions to the architect. The architect confirms program requirements through independent investigation, and then begins conceptualizing a building that answers the needs expressed. Throughout the project, the Building Program serves as a yardstick to determine how true the design remains to that vision.

We are using data about how the community uses library services now, community input, and trends in library services to guide us as we work on the program.

We are also working on selecting a site for a new library. Two town-owned parcels of land are being considered: Lot O-32, which is at 66 Leverett Road, and land behind Town Hall.

There was once a working garage at Lot O-32. Some soil



testing in 2010 detected trace levels of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Under guidance from the DEP, the town did extensive follow-up testing of soils, ground and well water in and around Lot O-32 in 2011/12. PCBs were not identified in the follow-up testing.

This summer, the garage was demolished and piles of debris were removed by the Town.

On September 16, soil samples were collected from 10 locations on Lot O-32. The samples will be tested for PCBs Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). On September 9, ground water was also collected from the monitoring wells on Lot O-32 and behind Town Hall. The ground water is being tested for PCBs, VOCs, PFAS and potability. On September 8, a successful per test was completed behind Town Hall. Once we have the results of the testing, we will schedule a public meeting to share the results.

Wish Tree

We are also collecting input from townspeople about their library needs.

We have selected a tree on the Town Common, and have asked townspeople to share their ideas for a new library on the tree. We will collect wishes on the Wish Tree until September 30.

We are using this information to guide our decisions as we write the Library Building Program.



Here are the ideas recorded on the Wish Tree as of September 21:

Accessibility

A library big enough for a wheelchair to turn around in.

A Bathroom

A real bathroom, a better bathroom. This wish for a bathroom was repeated several more times.

Collections

- A book about transformers
- Mythology
- Large print books
- Tools that not everyone would have (levels, plumber's wrench, for example) and similarly rare kitchen gadgets (bundt pan, etc.) to borrow
- Board games, card games, RPGs
- A larger collection
- Toys
- Seed exchange
- Games and tools to share and maybe seeds too
- A reference section with a table for large atlases
- A place to loan share things - tools, cooking pans, games
- More poetry
- More books
- More room for more books
- A globe and a dictionary stand

Separate book section for science fiction, romance, westerns, etc.

Space for Children and Families

- Children's play area
- Beautiful interactive kids space for parents too!
- When I was a kid my local library had enough space and materials and welcoming staff so that I would take refuge and

explore other world in books. This gave me refuge from the stress of my own life.

- A bigger play room for children
- Space for Tales and Tunes and families to gather
- Space for parents of infants to come and see others when the isolation and effort overwhelms them
- A children's room
- A separate space and entrance for children
- Kid friendly area
- A place for kids to play outside with swings and slide and play structures, etc.
- Space big enough for Tales and Tunes

Spaces

- A place to sit and read, a place to study, a place to have classes or meetings
- A bathroom and a community room
- Play space and art exhibit
- More room, a bathroom, a lounge area
- Two cozy chairs in a quiet corner beside a window
- Big aisles



- Separate book section for science fiction, romance, westerns, etc.
- Wall-mounted maps of Shutesbury, Massachusetts, United States, and the world
- A study with computers
- A sit and read area
- Private study spaces
- Quiet study space
- Lots of soft secret reading nooks
- A music room

- Co-working space (with coffee)
- Window seats with cushions for reading and looking out
- Art exhibition space for local artist to display and sell it
- Computer room in the meeting room/music room
- A large meeting space for Tai Chi and Zumba
- Large capacity meeting room for the community
- A room for library programs
- Community space for watching films, listening to speakers, hearing poetry and fiction readings, workshops
- A community room
- Flexible community room to host events – movies, speakers, exercise, groups
- A covered outdoor space for music and festivals with sound

Program ideas

- Somewhere to go and stuff to do at night
- Learning garden
- Trivia night
- A community space for classes
- Electronic equipment to provide connection to authors and programs in collaboration with other libraries on a big screen
- A science club for teens
- A sleep overnight for kids

Miscellaneous

- A mascot animal
- Snacks
- A hotdog stand
- More wishing trees
- A bulletin board
- More stools
- More pom-poms
- A cafeteria
- Excellent HVAC for healthy air quality
- Windows I can open
- Wealthy and generous donors
- No funding from real estate taxes
- Oh I hope our new library can be uniquely beautiful like our current one, not institutional-looking and bland.



TOWN OF SHUTESBURY
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HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

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

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