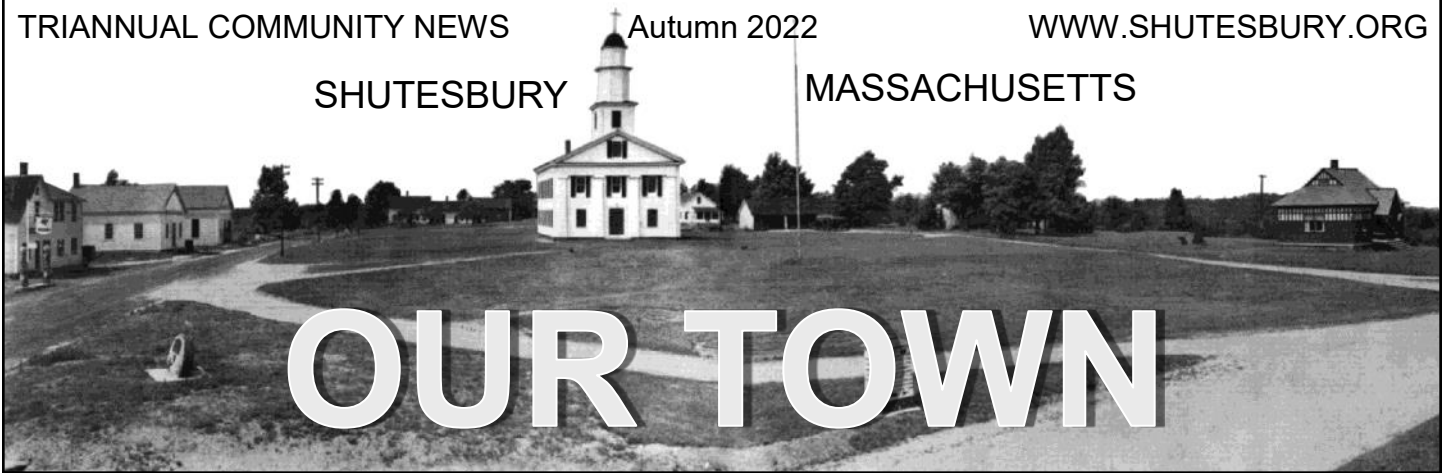


SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

A look at our 'level services' balanced budget Ajay Khashu, *Chair, Finance Committee*

On May 21, Shutesbury voters passed an annual budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The budget presented at Annual Town Meeting and ultimately approved by voters was the result of a collaborative process between the Finance Committee, the Town Administrator, and the heads of Shutesbury's various municipal departments.

In September 2021, the Finance Committee wrote to all Department Heads requesting that they submit a level service budget for Fiscal Year 2023. A "level services" budget delivers in the upcoming year precisely the same services that were delivered the previous year. This differs from a "level funding" budget, which would allocate the same amount each year, but rising costs would automatically create service cuts.

Over the year, the Finance

Committee met with each Department Head to discuss their proposed budget and any significant changes to their planned staffing and/or operations. During this same time, the Capital Planning Committee evaluated several proposed capital projects that were ultimately put to the voters in special warrant articles at Annual Town Meeting.

Here are some highlights from Shutesbury's FY23 budget:

- The Town of Shutesbury voted to approve a balanced budget of \$6,699,744 to provide municipal services during FY23. This represents a 1.1% increase from the Town's FY22 budget.
- Massachusetts General Law requires municipalities to prepare an annual budget that balances revenues with expenditures.
- The revenue side of our budget is derived primarily from five sources: 1) Residential property taxes, 2) Commercial and

Budget, cont. on page 2

ShutesburyNET's new Internet Service Provider!

Our Town's Internet Service Provider contract with Crocker Communications expired this summer. Instead of renewing our contract with Crocker, we have decided to partner with SHELDT (South Hadley Electric Light Department).

This means that SHELDT started handling our billing, technical support, repairs, and network operations in the month of September. You should pay any outstanding bills with Crocker Communications for services through the month of August.

We are making the switch because as part of a neighboring municipality, SHELDT simply can deliver more of what we need to run a stable, cost effective, reliable network. We are very grateful to Crocker Communications for all of their support up to this point.

Monthly costs for residents will **not** increase as a result of this switch. In fact, thanks to the great success of our townwide network, costs will be going down by about

Broadband, cont. on page 3

The new Library Building Committee is now up and running

The Shutesbury Library Building Committee was officially appointed by the Select Board on August 30 and had its first meeting on September 6. Committee members (in alphabetical order) are: Mary Anne Antonellis,

Stephen Dallmus, Brad Foster, Dale Houle, Penny Jaques, Molly Moss, Elaine Puleo and Jeff Quackenbush.

The Committee will make recommendations regarding the

design and function of the interior and exterior of the New Shutesbury Library. We will solicit input from the Board of Library Trustees, Spear Library staff, Friends of the Library, and the community at large.

We will familiarize ourselves with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' (MBLC)

Library, cont. on page 3

Our Town is available online

A digital version with clickable links can be found on the home page at www.shutesbury.org.

A letter from the Town Clerk

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

Salutations Shutesburians, and an amicable Autumn to all!

November Election

Election season continues to chug along here at the Town Clerk Office, and there is never a dull moment. Registrations, applications and ballots, oh my! The State General Election is on Tuesday, November 8. Mark your calendars and make your choices!

Thanks to a new state election law passed in July, known as The VOTES Act, all voters can choose to vote by mail if they prefer. If you would like to Vote by Mail, fill out an application and submit it to the Town Clerk Office by November 1. Applications are available online, at Town Hall, at the Library and at the Post Office.

There will be in person Early Voting in the downstairs room at Town Hall from October 22 to November 4. Check the website (www.shutesbury.org) for details.

Polls will be open on November 8 from 7am to 8pm.

Halloween Candy Poll

Welcome one, welcome all, to the 2nd Annual Halloween Candy Poll! Now that there's a nip in the air and the apples are dropping, it's time to pick a candy for the Town Hall Candy Jar to last us through the coming winter. Will Dum Dum lollipops win again? Or will a new contender make a sugary splash?

Only way to find out is to cast your ballot!

Part civic education, mostly about the candy, this mock election on the Common is the Town Clerk's contribution to activities you'll find there for Trick-or-Treaters. Suitable for all ages and creatures. From 5:30pm to 7:30pm, October 31.

Dog Tags

Check your dog tags to make sure they are up to date! This year the dog tags are orange. If your dog tag is any color OTHER than orange, you can get an application for a new dog tag online or in the Tupperware container on the table outside the Town Clerk Office door at Town Hall.

Questions or Comments?

Contact the Town Clerk

Email: townclerk@shutesbury.org

Phone: 413-259-1204

Office Hours:

10am -- pm, Monday, Tuesday
Thursday and Friday

10am --1pm and 3pm — 5 pm
on Wednesdays

personal property taxes, 3)

Budget, cont. from page 1

Local receipts (excise tax, court fees etc.), 4) PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes), and 5) state aid.

- o Our residential property taxes raise approximately 70% of the Town's revenues.
- On the expense side, over 60% of the Town's budget is spent on elementary and secondary education. Other significant categories of expenses include general government, highway/public works, fire and police services, health insurance, and other benefits for Town employees.
- Shutesbury successfully advocated for a 100% modified statutory method for assessing the town's contribution to the Amherst Pelham Regional School District. This resulted in a savings of \$64,000.
- The budget includes an increase of approximately \$60,000 for the Town's rubbish and recycling hauling. This is the result of the Town needing to negotiate a new hauling contract.
- The budget also includes an increase of approximately \$47,000 in Town employee

salaries; \$17,000 of that increase resulted from a 2.4% Cost of Living Adjustment that was provided to all employees not working under union contracts. The remaining \$30,000 resulted from a market alignment study conducted by the town's Personnel Committee. Members of that committee compared current salaries against what other Franklin County towns pay for those same positions. Ultimately, the Personnel Committee recommended modest wage increases for several positions.

- The Finance Committee also recommended funding strategies for several capital projects that voters ultimately approved at Town Meeting. Those projects included a new highway dump truck, police cruiser, SUV for the fire department, three electronic speed boards, a new accounting software package, an engineering study to replace a portion of the elementary school roof, and a new library building. The Finance Committee recommended utilizing appropriate amounts from the Town's cash reserve accounts – including Free Cash, Capital Stabilization, and Stabilization accounts – for several of those projects. In addition, the committee recommended borrowing \$225,000 for the highway dump truck and financing a portion of the building costs for the new library (approximately \$1.17 million).

We are currently starting the FY24 budget process. We are awaiting the results of the school roof engineering study, and anticipate a Special Town Meeting to approve funding for this roofing project. The Finance Committee's meetings are open to the public, and we encourage all town residents who have feedback or would like to learn more to attend those meetings.

Broadband, cont. from page 1

\$15/mo. Everyone must switch from Crocker to SHELD, since SHELD will be our new townwide provider.

Your broadband team is working hard to make this vendor switch as easy as possible for you. You don't need to get new equipment or change your device passwords or change your phone number. We are confident that there will be no interruption in services at any time during the switch.

There are two things everyone will need to do because of this change:

1) Set up new billing information and sign a user agreement with ShutesburyNET/SHELD. If you have an email address on file with us, you'll be sent an email with instructions on how to do this. Everyone will also be sent a paper mailed bill in case you miss the email or don't have email. Don't worry! We have a very long grace period during this transition so nobody's service will be shut off or penalized during the transition while everyone changes their billing.

2) Set up your voice mail box again if you get phone service through ShutesburyNET. The phone switch will happen later this fall. But in the meantime, you will still only have to pay a single bill from the new vendor. No need to pay Crocker separately for phone services. When it is time for the phone switch, we will let you know and distribute instructions on how to use your voice mail box and other features.

Please see our website for more information about this transition: www.shutesbury.org/vendor-switch

Library, cont. from page 1

Small Library Project grant program requirements, learn the history and background of the New Shutesbury Library Project, and carefully review the Library

Building Program approved for the grant award. Finally, the Committee will become informed about library trends and innovations.

Throughout the life of the project, the Committee will work collaboratively as a team with several consultants, including an Owner's Project Manager (OPM), an Architect, and MBLC Building Specialists. One of our major goals will be to develop a timeline, milestones, and plans for the project. A specific set of plans will be sent to the Board of Library Trustees for approval.

Our meetings are open to the public and are posted on the Town's meeting calendar. We aim to be as open and transparent as possible to the public about our activities. We will always allow the first 10 minutes of our meetings for public comment. Periodically, we will hold listening sessions where we can summarize recent activity and get resident feedback. There will be regular updates posted on our webpage: <https://www.shutesbury.org/library-building>. We want you to be a part of this wonderful adventure as we build the new Shutesbury Library! You also can email us questions and comments at LibBuild@shutesbury.org. We will take up any email questions/comments at our next subsequent meeting.

From the Recycling & Solid Waste Committee

It looks like we're past the "break-in" period with our new trash/recycling collector, and things seem to be going pretty smoothly now. We want to thank Casella for their responsiveness as our town adapted to a new collection schedule, and thanks to Shutesbury residents for their patience.

Our **new textile drop-off bin** has been available for a few weeks now, and it's been getting a lot of use. We've had one pickup so far, and CMRK responded immediately when the bin was

full. Any textiles, no matter the condition, can go in the bin as long as they're not wet, too dirty, or smelly. Thanks to CMRK and to those who kept an eye out to make sure the bin didn't overflow. In November, textiles will be banned from landfills and co-generation facilities, so it's great that we have our own collection bin in town. By the way, Shutesbury receives \$.07 a pound from CMRK for textiles collected from the bin. **[See page 8 for details, as well as other places that take unwanted textiles. — Ed.]**

Are you running out of trash bags? Packs of 10 can be purchased for \$20.00 at Town Hall during regular business hours and at the Leverett Co-op seven days a week. In addition, **Leverett Transfer Station stickers** may be purchased for \$20.00 at Town Hall.

We also have a few **recycling bins available for \$5.00**. Email recycling@shutesbury.org or call Gary Bernhard at 413-259-1235 to arrange to pick one up.

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 and Linda Avis Scott,
Newsletter Committee

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RECYCLED STOCK 30% POST
CONSUMER WASTE



Have an idea for a project to support our town? The CPC can fund it!

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 in all four eligible CPA categories: historic preservation, community housing, open space, and recreation. The committee encourages groups of volunteers to exercise their creativity in organizing and proposing projects, large or small, that benefit all of our neighbors.

This past year's Annual Town Meeting approved three new CPA projects: \$10,000 to restore and preserve the historic guideboard on the Town Common, \$22,000 for Kestrel Trust's project to improve recreational access to the Ames Pond trail system, and \$50,000 towards the purchase of the 34-acre Lot R-15 for recreational use and open space conservation. These projects will leverage more than \$316,000 in additional public and private funding for our community. Town Meeting also voted to authorize moving the community gardens—which were funded with a CPA grant by the previous Town Meeting—to the location of the planned new library.

Each successful project depends on a group of committed volunteers to come up with the idea, complete the application paperwork, lead it through the application review process, and then oversee implementation through completion.

The deadline for submitting the two-page Determination of Eligibility Form is in early December and, for projects that are determined to be eligible, the deadline for the five-page full application is in **late January**.

Projects approved by the CPC in the spring will be voted on at next year's Town Meeting.

For more information, or if you might have an idea for a project

that fits within one of the approved CPA categories, visit shutesbury.org/community_preservation or email cpc@shutesbury.org.

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

A note from your Energy & Climate Action Committee (ECAC)

Since ECAC was launched by the Select Board in spring 2022 to respond to the increasing challenges of the climate crisis, we have been busy. The seven-member committee has been meeting regularly to discuss measures the town can take to adapt to a changing climate as well as reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause warming and extreme weather events.

One of ECAC's first actions was to reach out to our Shutesbury community to learn more about our collective energy use through the Household Energy Survey. This survey gathered information on home-heating fuels, auto fuels, electricity sources, and residential solar arrays. The online survey ran from mid-May through mid-June and had a 20.6% return rate.

Thanks to all who responded! Noted areas of interest included community solar and solar storage, community aggregation to increase renewable-sourced electricity for our town, as well as periodic public forums/workshops on renewable energy options. Survey details are tabulated on the ECAC webpage (<https://www.shutesbury.org/energy-climate>).

One of the first initiatives that ECAC has begun exploring is called Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which can reduce residential electricity costs and increase "green" energy generation. This is an approach

to sourcing electricity already taken by over half of households in the Commonwealth, including in towns smaller than Shutesbury. Our exploration to see if and how Shutesbury can adopt this approach is underway.

ECAC is also doing initial research to expand the use of solar energy for our municipally owned buildings and land. This work is preliminary and we are looking to understand the options for the town.

Another important aspect of ECAC's work is to coordinate with other Town committees and boards to develop plans to reduce Shutesbury's energy footprint, build climate resilience, and explore opportunities for regenerative design. This fall ECAC hopes to reach out to committees that have been identified by the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan to explore how to assist these committees in advancing the priorities already identified by the town.

As always, we encourage Shutesbury residents to share thoughts and ideas with us. This can be done during the public comment period of our online meetings, which are usually at three-week intervals on Tuesdays at 7pm, or write us at ecac@shutesbury.org. We are striving to make ECAC's webpage on the town website an active source of information. We look forward to sharing more updates in the future.

Drupal wizard wanted!

The Web Communications Committee seeks someone with experience creating Drupal content to help maintain our Town website — updating other committees' pages as new members are appointed, for example, or helping to edit pages and menus. If you would like further information about joining the committee, write to web@shutesbury.org. Thank you!

A new year begins at the Elementary School

Dan Hayes, *Chair, Shutesbury School Committee*

Hello Neighbor,

We had a productive summer cleaning the school and getting it ready for students and staff.

The roof over the gym has been replaced and the scuppers and drainage system have been improved. We are moving forward with preparations to replace the roof on the remainder of the building.

On Friday, August 26, we had an evaluation of the building by the Commonwealth of MA Department of Public Health, Indoor Air Quality Program. The team inspected the building and grounds to assess any damage related to water and wind and determine if there were any issues relating to water intrusion. There is no mold issue; however they will compile recommendations on how best to eliminate water intrusion as well as mitigate issues moving forward. This is timely, as we can provide this feedback to the roof engineers, and we will create action steps to allow for greater ventilation in the rafter areas, where best to install gutters, and what best to do with vegetation around the building, including trees that are close to or shading the building.

Carpeting in nearly the entire building has been eliminated and replaced with rubberized tile (this has been on-going), and the ventilation system has been upgraded with improved filters. We are working with the MSBA (Mass. School Building Authority), applying for a grant to replace the boilers as they near the end of their useful life.

We are excited to welcome back energetic students and caring families, as well as a team of seasoned professional teachers and staff members; we also have a few new additions. We are

delighted to welcome Layla Hazen, Carrie Dogget, Kate Bailey and Kristen Avonti to our dedicated and talented staff!



Union #28 continues to focus on educational best practices and investigate best ways to address diversity and inclusion for all students.

Administration is also applying for a grant through the Town that will provide resources to analyze our current practices and governance structure, honing in on creating efficiencies in our operations.

Amherst Regional is moving forward to update and upgrade the track and field, and is working with all towns, including Shutesbury, regarding financing.

Developmental screenings for 3, 4 & 5 year olds

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. 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. It 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, call Grace Griecci, Shutesbury Elementary School's Preschool Teacher, at 413-259-1212 x 140 or email griecci@shutesburyschool.org.

Early Childhood Program

The Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) Community 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.

Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2022, for pre-school enrollment, or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2022, for kindergarten enrollment.

Please contact the school for Fall/2022 enrollment information. Contact Laura Feltman, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x 100, feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org or Grace Griecci, 413-259-1212 x 140, griecci@shutesburyschool.org.

A few words from the Board of Health

The one silver lining of this summer's drought has been – no mosquitoes! Still, please do not get complacent and relax your vigilance in preventing mosquito breeding and mosquito bites, and in avoiding ticks, which can be active all year long. For more information, see shutesbury.org/insect-borne.

As you are no doubt aware, a new Covid-19 booster has been formulated to target the Omicron variant of the virus, which is causing the vast majority of new cases. Public health officials hope that many people will take this booster and help prevent a major surge in the fall and winter months. The vaccine is now available.

If you are not receiving a weekly email from the Board of Health with this kind of information, we urge you to sign up for town announcements at Shutesbury.org.

Ramblings from the Open Space Committee

Open Space and Recreation Plan Approved!

The Open Space Committee is pleased to report that the 2022 Open Space and Recreation Plan received final approval by the Department of Conservation Services (DCS) on June 10, making the Town eligible to apply for DCS grants through May 2029.

A digital version of the plan can be viewed on the Open Space Committee's webpage: www.shutesbury.org/open_space

Lots of hard work went into pulling together the 270-page document. We thank the Franklin Regional Council of Government's staff for doing much of the leg work, especially Tamsin Flanders, who provided outstanding technical assistance.

We are very grateful to Jamie Malcolm-Brown and Susan Loring-Wells for the use of their photos which remind us of the beauty of our town. [Editor's note: See page 10 to learn how you can have Jamie Malcolm-Brown take your portrait at the library.]

Hike the New England Scenic Trail (NET) in Shutesbury. As part of our ongoing effort to let residents know where they can get outside to enjoy the beauty of Shutesbury firsthand, we highlight three sections of the New England Scenic Trail (NET) that pass through Shutesbury.

The 215-mile New England Scenic Trail (NET) traverses 41 communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts, extending from Long Island Sound to the MA/NH border. Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, the NET is primarily composed of the historic Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Monadnock (M-M-M) Trail systems. The 18 miles of Massachusetts Sections 13, 14 and 15 pass through Shutesbury. Use NET's *FIND A HIKE* (<https://newenglandtrail.org/find-a-hike/>) to view information and download trail maps for each section.



S-curves

Photo by Jamie Malcolm-Brown

(Find a color image of this photo in the online version of this newsletter, on the home page at www.shutesbury.org/!)

- MA NET Section 13 - 3.9 miles in Shutesbury and New Salem
- MA NET Section 14 - 4.6 miles in Shutesbury and Wendell
- MA NET Section 15 - 9.3 miles in Wendell, Montague and Shutesbury

You can start by exploring sections in Shutesbury, then expand north to the MA/NH line or south to Long Island Sound. To learn more, visit newengland-trail.org

Council on Aging update

We are happy to welcome Martha Favre as our newest member.

We still have a vacancy which we'd love to fill! If interested, please attend one of our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. See the Town meeting calendar for Zoom log-in information.

The latest edition of our *Geezette* newsletter was mailed in August to households with one or more residents 55 years of age

and older. There are about 510 such households in Shutesbury.

Please see shutesbury.org/council_on_aging for more on our activities and programs, as well as information on other resources.

LifePath's New HomeShare Program addresses the lack of affordable housing and the desire of older homeowners to remain in their homes. In the program, two or more individuals share a home and expenses to their mutual benefit.

Home Sharers must be 60 years of age or older, or an individual with disabilities. Home Seekers could be anyone 18 years of age or older.

The Sharer provides a safe, sanitary private bedroom and communal spaces in exchange for rent, help around the home or a combination of the two.

Contact Cindy Spelman, Housing/Home Share Program Director, at 413-773-5555 for information or visit lifepathma.org.

Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the fall approaching, the second quarter of your real estate and personal property taxes will be 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, 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 into an escrow account with your mortgage holder when you make your mortgage payment, do NOT pay your real estate taxes on your residential property. The bank will pay it from the escrow account. If you have multiple parcels, please check with your bank as to which parcels they pay.

If you pay bills with a banking program, please be aware that the paper check generated by your bank can take 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.

If you are mailing a check yourself, please change the mailing address from the Woburn address, which is that of the lockbox, 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 is unable to process your payment until I notify lockbox system of the type and number of the bill.

Please plan ahead when you mail your payments as it may take as much as a week to be delivered to any addressee.

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 (2023) that date is January 1, 2022. We highlight the "in care of" designation 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. During the last quarter of the calendar year, your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor Vehicles database, from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills on vehicles registered on January 1, 2023 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 online 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 personal 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 database 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.

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

PLEASE FEED ME!



Using the Recycling & Solid Waste Committee's new blue bin on Lot O-32 (across from 63 Leverett Road) will help you keep textiles and other items out of the waste stream, pass on things you no longer need, and even make a few dollars for our town.

Whatever goes in the bin must be clean, dry **and in tied bags**.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Clothing, all sizes and seasons
- Night clothes and robes
- Undergarments
- Purses
- Jewelry and accessories
- Lifestyle / leisure shoes
- All athletic sneakers
- Dress shoes
- Boots

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Ripped or moldy shoes and single shoes (missing their mates!)

There are other textile drop-off boxes in our area, although using them won't financially benefit Shutesbury! Two can be found at the:

- Leverett Transfer Station
- Amherst Regional High School parking lot.

Clean, dry textiles of all kinds, no matter what condition they are in, may also be taken to Goodwill or the Salvation Army in Hadley.

Wishing Linda well in her retirement

Rita Farrell, *Chair, Shutesbury Select Board*

I want to thank Linda Avis Scott for her years of dedicated service to the Town of Shutesbury.

I had the honor of working closely with Linda during her nearly seven-and-a-half years as Selectboard Administrative Secretary.

Linda is organized, artful and extremely intelligent. Her work has a mark of distinction, so careful and exacting. Linda never speaks an unkind word about anyone.

Life in Town Hall is full of surprises. Linda always rose to the challenge of unpredictable encounters, assisting residents with their needs. Linda did not just assist, she always educated, enriching her encounters.

Linda is always giving in her efforts to support the activities of the Select Board and the Town Administrator. I have to say "is," not "was," because more than six weeks after her official retirement, Linda continues to be there for us, because we have not yet found someone to fill her position. We are most grateful.

But we know the time is here to free her to her future! We wish Linda Avis Scott all the best in her retirement.



Linda Avis Scott



Farewell

Dear Shutesbury Community,

I am writing this letter with feelings of deep appreciation and awe. I am honored to have served our Town, over the past 16 years, in various capacities as an employee and volunteer. I

have had the pleasure of meeting and working with so many people. There are too many to mention here and I hope you know who you are.

As I journey into the next adventure of my life, I know I will treasure my Shutesbury memories. I know that I will miss you, the fine community that you are. I will miss my relationships, my dear Town Hall companions, in-person meetings, Zoom squares, newsletter folding parties, designing Town Report covers, annual social hours, serving library patrons, and so much more.

I will miss each Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Board member that I worked for and with.

I will miss "my boss," Town Administrator Becky Torres. I will miss serving on the Council on Aging and Community Preservation Committee.

Reflecting back, one of my greatest delights was serving on the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee, the group that brought Shutesbury a year's worth of celebrating in 2011.

I will miss the being known and knowing that comes with living here for 30 years.

Before bringing my letter to a close, I must acknowledge my collaboration with Janis Gray, our volunteer newsletter editor. As the Town Hall liaison for the newsletter, three times a year for the past seven-plus years, I have savored the chance to work and laugh with Janis.

And, finally, my very best wishes to Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis, the Library Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Spear Memorial Library, and the new Library Building Committee as they continue the invaluable work of constructing Shutesbury's new library.

With love and very best wishes,
Linda Avis Scott

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

Hours: Sundays: 3pm-6pm
Mondays and Wednesdays:
11am-1pm and 3pm-6pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays:
3pm-7:30pm
Fridays: 3pm-6pm
Saturdays: 10am-1pm

The Library and Covid

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect how we provide library services in Shutesbury. We continue to offer fitness classes and some other programming online. Online programming for children hasn't met the needs of our youngest patrons or their families, so last fall and winter, we partnered with the Community Network for Children to offer in-person story time. We held story time outside when the weather allowed, then in the basement of Town Hall when it was too wet or cold. This fall, we are partnering with CNC to offer a weekly Tales & Tunes story time on Friday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45am in the music room at Shutesbury Elementary School.

Thanks to the generosity of the Shutesbury Athletic Club, we have been able to offer some in-person programs under their pavilion. The pavilion keeps us dry if it rains and being outdoors is still safer. We have a fun family program planned for under the pavilion on October 16, and pumpkin carving on October 29.

The Library is open every day. It is still a very small, tight space where social distancing is impossible. The CDC is no longer requiring mask wearing but we, the library staff, feel safer if everyone is wearing a mask. Covid cases in Franklin County have increased in recent weeks and a surge seems inevitable as activities move indoors for fall and winter. We have masks available if you want to wear a mask but forgot one.



Family Fun Fair! Sunday, October 16, 2-4pm,

Shutesbury Athletic Club

Legos! Arts and crafts! Games! Snacks! Meet a fire fighter and climb inside a fire truck! Meet a police officer and sit inside a police cruiser. Meet Gillian from the Union 28 Community Network for Children and learn about opportunities and services for young families.

Storytime Backpacks

Storytime Backpacks are bags that contain five picture books and toys about a theme. They are designed to enable young children, ages three and up, and their families to explore familiar themes. The first three of five planned backpacks are ready to go. Stop by the Library to borrow the backpack about pets, babies, and farms. A bedtime story and foods backpack will be ready soon.

The backpacks are supported in part by a grant from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency

which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional support is provided by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

Community Pumpkin Carving Saturday, October 29th, 5:30 - 7:30pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club (Outside, under the pavilion, dress for the weather)

The Library will be providing **free pumpkins** for this event. Bring your own carving tools.

The SAC will be grilling hotdogs and hamburgers, \$3-\$5 each. We'll have s'mores for dessert.



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Halloween, Monday, October 31: Trunk-or-Treat and Trick-or-Treat

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.

The Fire Station opens its doors and serves warm cider and donuts.

The Police Department helps to keep traffic slow and safe.

Some families on other roads turn on their lights and give out treats — there are no limits on who can participate in Halloween!

Families who live away from this section of Town are invited to participate in **Trunk-or-Treat**. Park along the back (north side) of the Common, decorate your car, and hand out treats!

Meanwhile, to those going door to door, please remember that Leverett Road is *dark*. Trick-or-Treat is safer if you wear some reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.

The Library will be giving out treats from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Stop by to say hello!



Let's go Digital!

The Library offers lots of free digital resources.

Digital books, audiobooks and magazines are available through **Overdrive** via the **Libby** app.

Kanopy offers streaming video access to popular, independent, and documentary films. Your Library allows you to borrow up to four free films per person each month.

Hoopla is a digital streaming to access movie and TV shows, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and music using portable devices like smartphones and tablets. Shutesbury residents may borrow up to four items each month.

Visit the Digital Books, Magazines & Video page on mnspear.org to learn more.

Don't 'pass' these up

Thanks to support from the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and the Council on Aging, the Library offer passes to area museums and attractions. All of our passes are first come, first served.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Loan period: Seven days
Admits: All members of one household.

The Clark Art Institute Pass

Loan period: Seven days
Admits: One adult

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

Loan period: Three days
Admits: Two adults and four children

MASS Museum of Modern Art

Loan period: Three days
Admits: Two adults and two children

Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens

Magic Wings passes are available to Shutesbury residents only.

Loan period: Three days
There are two types of Magic Wings passes, adult and child passes.

- The **adult pass** admits two adults. This pass cannot be used to admit children ages 3-17.
- The **child admission pass** admits one child ages 3-17 and each family can borrow two per visit. A family may borrow the adult pass and two child passes per visit.
- Admission for children under three is free.

The Public in the Library

The Public in the Library is an art project designed to take a small snapshot of the people who use the Library in a moment in time.

A digital and print display will be created from portraits of people in the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Each participant/group will receive a digital file of the photo that they can have printed on their own.

The photos will be combined into a slide show that will be posted on the Library's website, and a print photo exhibit that will be displayed at the Library.

When the *new* Shutesbury Library is completed, the photo display will be installed there,

bringing a piece of the old to the new.

Shutesbury photographer Jaime Malcolm-Brown will take the portraits. There will be two opportunities to participate.

The first is **Sunday, November 6 from 11am –2pm**. A second date will be scheduled.

Appointments may be booked on our website, mnspear.org.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional support is provided by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

News from the Friends of the Library

As the planning for the new Shutesbury Library begins, the Friends of the Library continue their efforts to raise funds to support the new library project while also supporting library programs and services.

Fundraising events coming up this fall:

Tuesday, November 8, 7am – 8pm, Town Hall

Election Day Bake Sale and Shutesbury Swag Sale!

After voting, stop by the Friends of the Library Bake Sale for a delicious homemade treat.



Shutesbury T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and mugs will also be available. The Friends take cash and checks, but cannot take credit or debit cards for bake sale or swag items.

Donations of baked good are needed. Please sign up at the Library or on mnspear.org.

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 – Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity and the Friends' annual

**LIBRARY
GIVING
TUESDAY**
Donate at mnspear.org



year-end appeal for our new library fund. The Friends will be sharing more about Giving Tuesday as the date approaches.



**Friday, December 2, 6pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club
Soups & Stews Dinner during the Shutesbury Holiday Shop**

The Friends will be serving a delicious selection of homemade soups and stews, breads and desserts.

Ongoing efforts



Bottles and cans!

The Friends collect returnable bottles and cans. Donations of

bottles and cans with a deposit can be placed in the large container at the end of the Library ramp. Those nickels really add up.

Donate your old car

Donating your vehicle can help our new library fund grow!

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat to the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Your vehicle will be picked up for free, usually within 24 - 72 hours, and you may qualify for a tax deduction while supporting this important cause. Visit www.mnspear.org for more information.



Florence Bank Customers' Choice Community Grants!

This year, Florence Bank is giving \$125,000 to area non-profit organizations, based on their customers' votes.

The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library has won Florence Bank grants every year for the past eight years, totaling more than \$10,000 for our new library fund.

If you are a Florence Bank customer, please visit mnspear.org to find a link to cast your vote for the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Be sure to vote before December 31, 2022!

**Florence Bank
Customers' Choice
Community Grants**

Friends of the
M.N. Spear Memorial Library
**Help us win!
VOTE!**



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

Return Service Requested

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HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

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

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 413-259-1108	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Leonard Czerwonka 413-259-1211	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair 413-801-9714
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Vacant Leave inquiries at 413-259-6550	ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM. Michael DiChiara, Chair 413-259-1059	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 413-259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 413-259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Ajay Khashu, Chair 917-582-4256	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 413-259-1626
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long 413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Leonard Czerwonka, Chief 413-259-1211	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Dan Hayes, Chair 413-230-4686
ASSESSORS Leave inquiries at 413-259-3790	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas 413-549-3710	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Jennifer Culkeen 413-423-3337
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Chair 413-259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 413-259-1215	SELECT BOARD Rita Farrell, Chair 413-259-1297
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Stephen Dallmus 413-367-9565	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 413-256-0312
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis 413-259-1213	Eric Stocker 413-259-1250
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1286	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair 413-259-9129	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress, Chair Broadband Mailbox 413-345-2855
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Matteo Pangallo, Chair 413-687-0402	Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING For general inquires and details on Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine 413-256-0563	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-205-9944
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik 413-772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar, Chair 413-406-2767	TREE WARDEN Don Wakoluk 413-256-6736
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413-259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 413-367-0017	WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker, Chair 413-253-0565
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 413-253-7505	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Chief 413-259-1279	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Jeff Lacy, Chair 413-253-0705
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Princ. 413-259-1212	Dispatch 413-625-8200	

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