

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Autumn Tidings from the Select Board

Your Selectboard members, **Rita Farrell, Melissa Makepeace O'Neil, and Eric Stocker**, have been busy tending to town business over the last few months. We continue to hold our bi-weekly meetings as hybrid meetings with the Select Board in person at the Town Hall, and townspeople can either be in person at Town Hall or join the meeting via Zoom. Our meetings are generally on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 – please check the town calendar at www.shutesbury.org for any updates and the meeting agendas.

The Select Board has appointed two new committees in the last few months. First, the Lake Wyola Stormwater Task Force will be looking at the issues with stormwater on both public and private property bordering Lake Wyola. Runoff into the lake poses serious concerns for the quality of the lake and this group will be making recommendations to the Town.

The Lake Wyola Boating and Safety Review Committee is examining the current bylaw that governs recreational activ-

ity on the lake to examine whether any changes are needed to the current bylaw and also to look at ways to improve enforcement of the bylaw.

Meetings of both these committees are open to the public and posted on the town calendar on the website. A large crowd of enthusiastic townspeople and state and federal legislators were on hand in early August to celebrate the groundbreaking for our new library. Construction is well underway and we are all looking forward to a ribbon cutting next year.

Town staff news: We are pleased to announce that **Dave Grenier** has been appointed as the new Highway Superintendent upon the retirement of **Steve Sullivan**, and **Abby Hernandez**, a new town resident, has been hired as the Administrative Secretary for the Select Board. **Matteo Pangallo** has been hired as the new Land Use Clerk for the Planning and Zoning boards. And the Shutesbury Elementary School welcomed **Anne Magill Diaz** as the new principal.

The town has been participating in a study by the Collins Center looking at the feasibility of regionalizing fire depart-

ments in the towns of Shutesbury, Wendell, Leverett and New Salem. Phase I of this study is complete and we have applied for funding to complete the next phase of this study, which will look at implementation of shared fire services.

The town was very pleased to receive a \$222,000 grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) which will cover the cost of the solar panels and battery backup for the new library.

Oversight of the gasoline leak and the PFAS contamination from the Shutesbury fire station continues, and we are working closely with our licensed site professionals from Tighe & Bond and the State's Department of Environmental Protection to address these serious issues.

And last but not least, **there will be a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 19 at 6 pm** at the Shutesbury Elementary School. The warrant for this meeting will be finalized in the next few weeks, but as of now we know that there will be articles from

- the Community Preservation Committee
- a citizens' petition
- an article to cover funding for the library assistant.

A Letter from the Town Clerk

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

townclerk@shutesbury.org

413-259-1204

Website: www.shutesbury.org

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Friday: 10am-3pm.

Wednesday: 10am-1pm, 3-5pm.

Friday: 10am-3pm.

Salutations Shutesburians!

Autumn of even-numbered years is always the busiest time in the Town Clerk Office, and that is especially true this year. Our department of two (including **Jeannette Kiely**, Assistant Town Clerk) is working round the clock to guarantee your right to vote this election season, while still providing non-election services such as dog tags and birth certificates and notarizations. It's a lot, but as the saying goes, we are Clerks. We make it work.

November 5, 2024 General Election

What's On The Ballot: The town website is your first stop for information, instructions and updates about the Novem-



Carrie Stone, top left, teaches poll workers before the spring primary.

ber 5 Election. In addition to voting on candidates for federal, state, and county offices, there are 5 questions on the ballot. You can find more information about these questions in the red booklet that the Secretary of the Commonwealth mailed to every household in September. Additional copies of the red booklet are available at Town Hall and on the town website.

When Can I Vote: It is up to you the voter whether you would like to vote by mail or in person. Mailed ballots start going out to voters in early October. If you want to vote by mail and are not already signed up, you can submit an application online or by filling out a paper application and submitting it to the Town Clerk Office. Links and forms are available at Town Hall and on the town website. The deadline to apply for Vote by Mail is October 29th by 5pm, but the earlier the better.

TIP: Use the TrackMyBallot portal on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website to check whether or not you are already signed up for Vote by Mail, when your ballot is mailed to you, and when your voted ballot has been received by the Town Clerks Office (congratulations on voting!).

If you prefer to vote in person, no worries! In person Early Voting will take place from October 19 until November 1. **In Person Early Voting Schedule:**

Saturday, October 19:

12pm-5pm

Sunday, October 20:

CLOSED

Monday October 21:

12pm-2pm

Tuesday October 22:
12pm-2pm

Wednesday October 23:
12pm-2pm

Thursday October 24:
4pm-6pm

Friday October 25:
4pm-6pm

Saturday October 26:
12pm-5pm

Sunday October 27:
CLOSED

Monday October 28:
12pm-2pm

Tuesday October 29
12pm-2pm

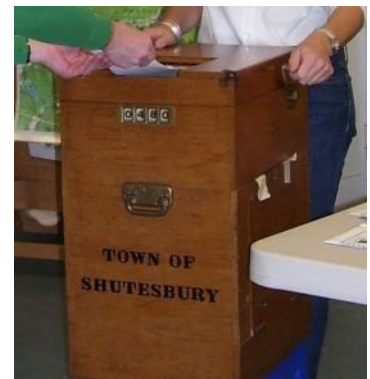
Wednesday October 30:
12pm-2pm

Thursday October 31:
4pm-6pm

Friday November 1:
4pm-6pm

And, of course, there's always the main event, Election Day. Polls will be open at Town Hall from 7am—8pm November 5.

Fun Fact: Shutesbury has been using our traditional wooden crank turn ballot box since 1934. Happy 90th birthday to the ballot box!



In non-election news...

Dog Tags: Dog owners should double-check to make sure your pets have a current license. The 2024 dog tags are green. If your dog tag is not green, you need to come to

the Town Clerk Office to renew. Applications are available at Town Hall and on the Town Clerk webpage.

Annual Street Listing: The Annual Street Listing will go out to every household in January. Please respond promptly. The data you provide is critical for the functioning of the town, and your responses are not public.

Halloween Candy Poll: The 4th annual Halloween Candy Poll will take place on Halloween on the Town Common during trick or treating. This is a mock election open to trick-or-treaters of all ages (no reading or writing required) to select a new lollipop for the Town Hall Candy Jar. This year the candidates are dum-dums, tootsie pops, and classic rainbow lollipops. Who will emerge victorious? The voters will decide!

(Ok, I admit this last item could be perceived as election-adjacent news.)

Sincerely,
Grace Bannasch, Town Clerk

ECAC Updates

The Shutesbury Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) is hard at work; there are projects underway and others planned to address climate and energy issues for the town.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Currently, residents using electricity from National Grid pay for two functions – the supply and distribution of electricity. Community Choice Aggregation is a state program to allow changes to the source of electricity (supply); distribution will still be

through National Grid. There are multiple goals of aggregating Shutesbury residents' electricity, among them lower prices (sought but not guaranteed), having electrical sources that are "greener" than state government requires, and more stable pricing (rates are locked in for the life of a contract).

At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, the town voted to begin the process of getting electricity for residents through CCA. Following that vote, the town secured the services of Colonial Power Group, as our CCA broker. Many other small towns in western Mass use Colonial and we have been impressed so far. The next step in the process will be to get a draft proposal of an aggregation plan for Shutesbury from Colonial. This will be reviewed by the town – details to follow. The intent of ECAC has been to offer three options for residents: electricity sourcing that makes electric prices cheaper than National Grid; sourcing that is "greener" than the state requirement, and sourcing that minimizes the use of forested land for solar. Residents can pick which plan they like. While this is ECAC's hope, we need to find out what is presented to us and then proceed accordingly.

If all goes smoothly with state agency approvals, residents could begin selecting their new electrical service in spring 2025. Prior to this time, ECAC will make sure that residents have enough information to make an informed decision. It is also important to note that while CCA may be attractive to many residents, anyone who wants to keep what they have as an electrical source can –

you opt-out. For those who have a solar system which allows you to earn net metering credits, as long as the account holder is receiving supply from National Grid, they are able to participate in the aggregation program and will continue to receive net metering credits from the utility. Net metering will work in the same way as before you joined the CCA program. For those receiving electricity from a third party through a contractual arrangement, for example ClearEnergy, there could be a penalty for ending the contract early – figuring this out will require some work with our broker, Colonial.

Climate Leader Community Program. In the past year, Mass. state government rolled out a new program, the Climate Leader Community Program that is intended to provide "tools and resources to help municipalities reduce emissions by electrifying non-electric energy uses and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation." The program is voluntary. ECAC has voted to pursue this option and seek support from residents. Being a Climate Leader Community will be beneficial to the Town, likely opening up new opportunities (including state grants) for us to become more "climate ready."

There are six things that a municipality must do to become a Climate Leader Community. Shutesbury already has done two – we have Green Community status (a previous state program) and we have a dedicated climate and energy committee – ECAC. Three of the other things ECAC hopes to bring to a 2025 town meeting for

consideration. These are:

1) a resolution that the town will work to be net zero by 2050, assuming state and federal financial assistance

2) a policy that, when financially feasible, the town will buy zero-emission vehicles first before other options; and

3) that the town will adopt a Specialized Building Code that is more proactive regarding climate and energy building than the 2023 Stretch Code we already must adhere to as a Green Community. The Specialized Code only impacts new construction or large/significant renovations (more than 1,000 sq feet or 100% of conditioned area).

The final step will be to develop a Decarbonization Roadmap, a plan for the town to achieve our goals. This will require a state grant which is not yet available. While this process may sound complicated, ECAC believes it is do-able and beneficial for our town.

Join Us. ECAC is looking for a fifth member to round out the committee. If you are interested in climate and energy issues as they pertain to the town, this might be the committee for you. Anyone interested should email Michael at ecac@shutesbury.org. We ask that interested individuals attend at least one meeting to get a sense of how we work and what we do.

Ask Us. ECAC has four members – Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Isaac Goldstein, and Michael DeChiara (chair). As these initiatives progress, ECAC will host information sessions. There is currently information on these two initiatives on the ECAC webpages.

Together, we are hoping the Town can make a difference for residents and do our part for the planet.

Shutesbury Finance Committee Report

On April 27, 2024 we held our first indoor Annual Town Meeting since the pandemic in 2020. The voters passed a budget for FY 2025 totaling \$7,208K, an increase of \$309K, or 4.5% over last year's budget. In the Fall of 2023, the Finance Committee, working with our Town Administrator and Department Heads, requested a "level services" budget. This is different than "level funding" in that it is assumed that to provide the same services each year, it is likely that the costs of those services will increase. In September, 2023, we wrote to the department heads with this request and set up a schedule of meetings prior to creating a final budget.

Over the year, we met with each department head to go over their level services budget for FY 25 including any proposed changes in staffing and/or operations. The Capital Planning Committee looked at the requested Capital expenses.

Highlights from the FY 2025 Budget:

- The voters of Shutesbury voted to pass a total budget of \$7,208K which was a total budget increase of \$309K or an increase of 4.5% over FY 2024.
- As per Mass General Law, the budget must balance the expenditures and the revenue. The Revenue

sources come from Residential Taxes (\$5,384K); Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property Taxes (\$327K); Estimated Net State Aid (\$747K; PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes (\$340K); Local Receipts (\$320K); WPAT Septic Betterment Loan (\$70K); Free Cash for Temporary Costs (\$70K).

- Residential Taxes make up the bulk of our revenue at 74.7% of the total.
- On the expense side, Education makes up 59.0% of the total budget. Other major expenses include Fire/Police; Highway/Public Works; General Government; Retirement, Unemployment, Medicare, OPEB; Health Insurance for town employees.
- Raises for Town Employees were a total increase of \$36K. This increase is based on the formula developed by the Personnel Board with the goal to keep our town's salaries competitive in Franklin County.
- The largest increases in the Town's Budget is reflected in the Elementary School Budget (increase of 5.8%) and the Regional School Budget (increase of 5.9%). The Elementary School Budget increase was driven by mandated educational needs as well as the loss of ESSER Funds that were from 3 stimulus bills from the Federal Government passed between 3/2020 and 3/2021 during the pandemic.
- The Regional School Budget increase reflects many hours of work on the part of the four towns, the regional school committee

and superintendent to create a budget that would maintain a high level of education while also facing significant budgetary shortfalls. Compromise was found with the modified statutory method being put aside for the year in order that none of the four towns have an unreasonably high increase in their assessment for FY 25. Members of our Finance Committee have met in September, 2024, with the new superintendent, Dr. Xiomara Herman (aka Dr. Xi) to begin to bring our town's concerns forward as well as to advocate for having the four towns in the region meet together before the usual meeting in December. The four towns met on September 28, 2024 to begin the budget process for FY26.

- The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Department Heads and our Town Administrator and Capital Planning Committee developed a plan to fund several items. These included a Police Pickup Truck (\$71K), a generator for the Highway Department (\$25K), Police Department Body Cameras (\$12K); A program for Gravel Road repairs and upgrades (\$12K), Storage container for the Highway Department (\$5K). These items will be paid for from the town's Free Cash and Capital Stabilization accounts.
- \$70K from Free Cash was used for non-permanent school costs (\$40K) and to gradually restore the funding of the building repair line item

(\$30K) into the operating budget.

- At the end of Town Meeting the projected remaining total of our Free Cash is \$1,363K.

We are beginning the process of preparing the FY 2026 budget. A letter to Department Heads was sent out with a request for level services budgets. A tentative schedule to meet with Department Heads has been started. The Finance Committee's meetings are on the Town's Meeting Calendar and the public is welcome to attend.

From the Assessors Department

Real Estate Tax and Community Preservation Act (CPA) Surcharge Exemptions:

Shutesbury offers a variety of **real estate tax exemptions for low-income seniors, veterans, and blind taxpayers**. Low-income property owners of any age may qualify, based on income, for exemption from the CPA surcharge. Explanatory guides and application forms are available to read at Shutesbury.org on the Assessors' department webpage. Applications were sent during the summer to all property owners who received partial exemption from their taxes in the previous year. If you did not get an application, or have never applied before, and you wish for more information, please contact the Assessors office. Applications are due on April 1, 2025.

Additionally, Shutesbury offers a "Means-Tested" exemption for seniors, which is based primarily on qualification for the "Circuit-Breaker-Form CB" on the Massachusetts Income Tax return, though high assets may disqualify applicants from this local option. Seniors who submit

Form CB for credit on their 2024 Massachusetts Income Tax Return are invited to contact the Assessors' office for more information about submitting an application in Shutesbury for the Means-Tested Exemption. Those applications are due on August 31, 2025.

Notice to Chapter 61 Applicants:

New or renewal applications for Chapter 61 classification for FY 26 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) are due on December 1, 2024. Chapter 61, 61A and 61B property owners enjoy the benefit of lower taxes and have the obligations of Chapter 61 land classification ownership. A very helpful property owner guide is available at www.masswoods.org under "Landowner Programs."

For more information about any of these options, or any other questions, visit the Assessors' Department webpage at Shutesbury.org, email: assessor@shutesbury.org, call the Assessors' office at 413.259.3790, or stop in during office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 AM to 3 PM, Wednesdays from 10 AM to Noon, or by special appointment.

Join the Shutesbury Cultural Council!

Are you passionate about the arts, humanities, or sciences? The Shutesbury Cultural Council is seeking new members to fill recent vacancies. As a council member, you'll review grant applications and decide how to distribute funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Members serve up to two consecutive terms of three years each and must have a demonstrated interest or record of service to the arts, humanities, or sciences.

Did you know *Our Town* is available online?

A digital version with clickable hyperlinks and color photos can be accessed on the home page of www.shutesbury.org.

Interested in serving on the council? Email culture@shutesbury.org to learn more.

Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the arrival of the fall, 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, please check the bottom 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 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 of the check so generated from the Woburn address, which is that of the lock-

box, to the Town Collector's address which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Because your checks are not accompanied by a bill, the lock-box is unable to process the payment until I notify them 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 address.

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 all bills for fiscal 2024. In the case of this fiscal year (2025) that date is January 1, 2024. 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.** 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 on 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.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should *not* be ignored even if it is on property or automobiles 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.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

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.

Ellen McKay
Town Collector



Learn about this Home Modification Loan Program!

A loan program established in 1999 by the MA state legislature gives homeowners the opportunity to modify or adapt their homes for a household member of any age with professionally documented limitation(s) or disability.

HMLP offers loans from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to property owners at 0%.

Borrowers sign a promissory note, and a mortgage is recorded as a lien against the property



to secure these loans. HMLP can also lend from \$1,000 to \$30,000 to owners of manufactured or mobile homes. Landlords with fewer than 10 units may be eligible for a 3% loan for a tenant who has a functional limitation. Borrowers sign a promissory note and a UCC-1 is filed against the home to secure these loans.

Please note that this is not a home repair program. For instance, it would not be able to rebuild a deck without modifying it in some way. Projects funded can include ramps and lifts, bathroom and kitchen adaptations, sensory integration spaces, fencing, as well as accessory dwelling units. This is far from an exhaustive list. If you are curious or have questions, please contact: **Mike Blasco** 413-223-5228

mblasco@fchra.org or watch this informative video: [Home Modification Loan Program \(HMLP\) – HRA \(fchra.org\)](#)



Update from the Library Building Committee

In June, the Town signed a contract with Construction Dynamics, Inc., a general contractor based in Clinton, Massachusetts, to construct the new Shutesbury Public Library.

Thank you to everyone who attended the groundbreaking ceremony on August 2. We were thrilled to see so many people come out to celebrate this milestone.

Work on the site began gradually, with trailers for the construction management staff and storage delivered at the end of July and early August.

Erosion controls were then installed and inspected by the Conservation Commission, followed by the clearing of trees and topsoil.

In September, the foundation and footings were excavated, forms were built and concrete was poured.

Additionally, members of the Library Building Committee attended the MHEC Expo to explore furniture and shelving options.

As of this writing, we are awaiting the connection of temporary power to the trailers.

Next steps will include the installation of perimeter drainage, underground plumbing, and electricity. In November and December, the contractor will focus on framing, roofing, windows, and temporary heating, which will allow interior construction to progress as winter sets in.

One of many lines of eager groundbreakers on August 2!



Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) serves our town's elementary age children.

As the only school in Shutesbury, SES is the focal point for accommodating 125 children from Preschool to Grade 6. SES is a dynamic learning community. Its mission is to lay foundations in the many critical areas of our children's education. We strive to nurture each child's curiosity, growth, and development, and to foster a lifelong love of learning.

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 have been 3 years old on or before September 1, 2024, for pre-school enrollment, or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024, for kindergarten enrollment.

For more information on enrollment, please call **Laura Feltman**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212



x100 feltmanl@shutesburyschool.org (main office) or **Grace Griecci**, 413-259-1212 x140
griecci@shutesburyschool.org (preschool)

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 40 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please call **Nicole Sutka**, Shutesbury Elementary Student Support Teacher, at 413-259-1212 sutkan@shutesburyschool.org

This service 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 (CNC)

CNC offers programming and basic needs support for families with young children in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Learn more at 978-935-4909-0170.

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, *Newsletter Editor*

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The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road

413-259-1213

spearlibrary@shutesbury.org

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

Community Halloween Party!

Saturday, October 26,

5:30 - 7:30 pm,

Shutesbury Athletic Club

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 grilling hotdogs and hamburgers, \$7 to \$10 each.

Halloween!

Thursday, October 31!

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. Many neighbors along Leverett Road look forward to seeing trick-or-treaters!

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!

Leverett Road is dark. Trick-or-Treat is safer if you wear some reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.

Trunk-or-Treat

Families who live away from the Leverett Road section of Town are invited to participate in Trunk-or-Treat.

Park along the back of the Town Common, decorate your car, and hand out treats!

Trick-or-Treat at the Library

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

Introduction to Needle Felting Workshop with Rory Valentine

**Sunday, November 3,
2 pm, at Town Hall**

This workshop is for adults and children ages ten and up with adult supervision.

Email library.director@shutesbury.org to register.

Discover the art of needle felting in this hands-on workshop, where you'll learn the basics of sculpting wool into creative shapes and designs using simple tools.

This program 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.

DIY Upcycled Mittens Workshop with Rory Valentine

Sunday, December 6, 2 pm at Town Hall

To register for this workshop for adults, email library.director@shutesbury.org.

In this workshop, you'll learn the art of upcycling as our skilled instructor guides you through the process of cutting, stitching, and finishing your own unique mittens. We'll provide everything you need, including sewing machines, tools, and a variety of colorful fabrics. If you have a special sweater at home that you'd like to repurpose, feel free to bring it along.

This program 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.

Museum and Attractions Passes

We are pleased to offer a limited collection of passes to area museums, parks and attractions.

All of our passes are loaned on a walk-in basis. Same day and next day holds can be arranged by calling the library, 413-259-1213 during open hours.

All passes circulate for one week with no renewals.

Our newest is a pass to the **Emily Dickinson Museum**. It admits up to two people at half-price.

For a complete list of passes, visit www.mnspear.org and click the link under the museum pic-

ture on the homepage.

New Online Wellness Resource - Ompractice

Ompractice is an online fitness and mindfulness company focused on live, camera-on classes.

Live Classes

They offer more than 100 live classes a week, designed to help students build their fitness, reduce stress, alleviate pain, increase mindfulness, and more. The platform is inclusive and accessible, with options for all fitness levels.

Video Library

Get a feel for a class before trying it out live with videos that fit into your busy schedule. Discover new classes and teachers that you'll love. Sneak in a late-night session before bed, or listen to one of our quick audio meditations during a packed day.

Ompractice is free for Shutesbury Library card holders!

Visit our website, www.mnspear.org, find Ompractice on the homepage and sign up and take a class today!

New! Specialty items for families to check out from the library!

Launchpads



Launchpads are tablets with educational videos and games

Wonderbooks



A Wonderbook is a print book with an audio player inside. You can read and listen at the same time!

Storytime Totes



Each tote contains five picture books centered around a specific theme, accompanied by a corresponding toy.

From the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library

Shutesbury Store on Election Day

Tuesday, November 5, 7 am – 6 pm, Town Hall

The Shutesbury Store features the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library's collection of Shutesbury Gear! Stop by to browse Shutesbury T-shirts, hoodies, caps, and mugs.

Cash and checks only, the Friends cannot accept credit cards for merchandise.

Roadtown Turkey Trot

The Friends are also excited to announce our 2nd Annual Roadtown Turkey Trot! Saturday, November 23, 9 am at Shutesbury Elementary School with a Children's Fun Run around the Elementary School Track at 9:30 am. This Thanksgiving-themed 5K race is open to walkers and runners of all ages.

Last year's Roadtown Turkey Trot brought together 173 partic-

ipants, their friends and families who cheered them on, and 40 volunteers. The event was a joyful community celebration, reminiscent of an old home day. Neighbors greeted one another with excitement as they waited for the start, and volunteers set up with smiles on their faces. The children's race around the track was a highlight, with kids eagerly collecting tickets to exchange for prizes. As runners returned to the gym for awards and raffle announcements, the lively atmosphere felt like a true community party, warming our hearts. We can't wait to recreate that magic again this year!

Whether you're a seasoned runner seeking a new challenge or a walking enthusiast looking for a fun way to kickstart your Thanksgiving celebrations, the Turkey Trot will be an inclusive event for everyone.

We are excited to share that our outreach efforts to businesses beyond Shutesbury's borders have yielded remarkable support for the race and our new library project.

Currently, we have 25 businesses that have generously stepped up as sponsors, and we couldn't be more grateful. Join us in extending our heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors:

1. Window World
2. Bueno y Sano
3. The New Salem Museum
4. B.T. Seamless Gutters
5. Hess McWilliams Veterinary Services
6. Greenfield Savings Bank
7. UMassFive College Federal Credit Union
8. Skinny Pancake
9. Integrity Development & Construction, Inc.
10. Pelham Auto
11. Amherst Fitness
12. Redbird Preschool
13. Sirius
14. Tandem Bagel Company
15. Boyden and Perron
16. Amherst Insurance
17. Sumner Heating Co
18. Hampshire Athletic Club
19. Marathon Sports
20. Dean's Beans
21. Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
22. New England 65+ Runners Club
23. Sam's Outdoor Outfitters
24. Carefree Cakery
25. SES PTO
26. Herrell's Ice Cream
27. Our town's very own Shutesbury Holiday Shop

You can stay updated on all of our sponsors and register for the race on our website,

roadtown.org/trot/ Your support and participation are instrumental in making the Roadtown Turkey Trot and our new library project a resounding success.

Thank you!

Donate an Engraved Paver to the New Library Honor a Loved One, Celebrate a Memory, or Show Your Support with a Lasting Tribute

Imagine walking up the path to Shutesbury's brand-new library, and as you step forward, your eyes land on something special — a paver, engraved with a message of love, dedication, or in memory of someone cherished. This simple stone isn't just a part of the walkway; it's a permanent mark of your commitment to our community.

Our library will be the heart of the community, a place of learning and belonging. With your engraved paver, you have the chance to be part of that story — to leave your mark on something meaningful that will serve Shutesbury for years to come.

The details! A minimum donation of \$150 covers the costs of one paver for this fundraiser.

Ordering each paver is a **TWO STEP PROCESS**: you must complete a **PAYMENT FORM** and an [ORDER FORM](#).

Links to these online forms can be found on the homepage of www.mnspear.org. If you are not comfortable with the online order form, paper copies can be picked up at the Library.

Each paver can have up to three lines of text with 30 characters, including punctuation and spaces, per line.

If you prefer, checks made out to FSML can be mailed to the following address.

FSML
PO Box 256
Shutesbury, MA 01072

Thank you for your contribution and your support for the new Shutesbury Public Library.





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

Return Service Requested

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit 183
Greenfield MA

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	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Chief 413-259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Abby Hernandez 413-259-6550	ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION COMM. Michael DeChiara, Chair 413-259-1059	PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE Sarah Fiske 413-531-0657
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 413-259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Ajay Khashu, Chair 917-582-4256	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair 413-801-9714
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long 413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Leonard Czerwonka, Chief 413-259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Sean Genereux 413-415-0657
ASSESSORS Leave inquiries at 413-259-3790	HEALTH AGENT Claudia Lucas 413-549-3710	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Anna Heard 413-406-2757
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Chair 413-259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT David Grenier 413-259-1215	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Jeremy Mailloux, Chair 413-259-1212
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Stephen Dallmus 413-367-9565	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Shannon White-Cleveland 413-423-3337
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE Mark Rivers, Chair 508-259-0972	SELECT BOARD Rita Farrell, Chair 413-259-1297 Melissa Makepeace- O'Neil 413-256-0312
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1286	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis 413-259-1213	ERIC STOCKER Eric Stocker 413-259-1250
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Matteo Pangallo, Chair 413-687-0402	SPEAR LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair 413-259-9129	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress, Chair 413-345-2855
COUNCIL ON AGING For general inquires and details on Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Beth Willson 413-259-3792	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204
CULTURAL COUNCIL Cara Brostrom 413-256-6871	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Christopher Demars 413-772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Nathan Murphy, Chair 413-341-0140	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-205-9944
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413-259-1279	Matteo Pangallo, Land Use Clerk	TREE WARDEN Dave Grenier 413-259-1215
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 413-253-7505	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 413-522-4757	WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker, Chair 413-253-0565
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Anne Magill Diaz, Princip. 413-259-1212		ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Jon Thompson, Chair 413-259-3792

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