

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Some feedback on your feedback

Paul Lyons, *Town Moderator*

In the last issue of *Our Town*, I asked for feedback on why many voters don't attend our Town Meetings (TM). I'd like to thank the 20+ people who shared their thoughts and suggestions with me. Now, as we prepare for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, I want to share some feedback of my own, and address some of the recurring comments I received.

Clearly, there are many individual reasons for not attending TM. It's inevitable that for some, the meeting date will conflict with other family or life commitments. There's not much we can do about that, although the decision by voters in 2019 to change the date of the Annual Town Meeting did address recurring conflicts with a couple of other local events.

The (long) length of TM was also mentioned as a reason for not attending. That's an issue we DO have some control over, but it comes with tradeoffs. Meeting length is largely a function of: 1) the number of Articles on the Warrant, and 2) the amount of discussion we have on each Article. There are a lot of "components" in the operation of a town with an almost \$7M budget, so the Warrant will probably always include dozens of Articles. For the last two TMs, we've consolidated some of them into "consent agendas" to speed up the proceedings, and that has helped a bit.

Perhaps we can do even more consolidating. But I guess the good news here is that despite their length, TMs no longer last well into the evening, as they often did when I first moved to town!

Regarding the length of discussions, my goal as Moderator is to allow comments to continue long

**2022 Annual Town Meeting,
9am Saturday, May 21 —
outdoors, behind Town Hall!**

enough for voters to get a full understanding of the pros and cons of motions so they can make fully informed decisions. I know this sometimes results in lengthy discussions and some impatience. I will continue to work on "tuning in" to the will of the voters at those times, but it's also important that those who choose to speak on a motion be prepared and concise.

A number of respondents expressed concern about feeling "intimidated" when speaking at TM — especially when expressing views that are contrary to the predominant ones. I know this feeling is real and I want you to know that I'm exploring ways to address it. Some respondents suggested we

Feedback, cont. on page 2

New committee in town: Energy and Climate Action

Michael DeChiara, *Chair*

Thanks to the vision of the Select Board, there is a new committee in town. The Energy and Climate Action (ECAC) committee was created this winter and held its first meeting on March 29. Thanks to the

volunteers who agreed to serve on the committee: **Zoe Weizenbaum, Graeme Sephton, Nate Heard, Gail Fleischaker, Miriam DeFant, Leslie Cerier, and Michael DeChiara** (chair).

There are four primary functions ECAC is charged with: 1) research and recommend policies, approaches and projects regarding energy generation and conservation; 2) recommend climate mitigation goals and benchmarks; 3) review and make recommendations based on the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation plans, and 4) coordinate with town committees and boards to reduce

Shutesbury's energy footprint, build climate resilience, and explore opportunities for regenerative design.

What issues will we focus on? The Select Board asked that we focus on the following: energy (efficiency, conservation and generation), built environment, transportation, land use, water, solid waste, infrastructure, open space, agriculture, and forestry. How these are prioritized and addressed is still a work in progress.

Since the committee is new and the task is huge, we are beginning our work with fact finding, educating ourselves and prioritization. Any and

ECAC, cont. on page 3

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.

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, 3pm-5pm.

Salutations Shutesburians!

Mark your calendars, update your planners and set reminder alerts on your phones! Shutesbury's Annual Town Meeting and Local Election will take place Saturday, May 21, at Town Hall. Just like last year, Town Meeting will be held outside, and the Election will be held inside.

If you can't make it to the polls on the 21st, **applications for absentee ballots are currently available from the Town Clerk Office, and online.** You can find the application at

www.shutesbury.org both on the main homepage, and on the webpage dedicated to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting and Local Election.

You will also find a lot of other important information and resources on that page, like an explanation of Shutesbury's Town Meeting process written by former Shutesbury Moderator **Penny Kim**, and links to help you register to vote or update your voter registration information online. You'll find local news coverage about our upcoming election, along with an archive of all the Town Announce emails about the 2022 Annual Town Meeting and Local Election. And much more! The page is updated frequently, so check it regularly.

Speaking of Town Announce, **are you signed up for Shutesbury's official email list?** Signing up for Town Announce is the best way to stay informed about what's going on with town government.

Go to www.shutesbury.org and click on the Sign Up link. And if you believe you are already signed up,

but you have not been getting any Town Announce emails lately?

Check your spam folder.

Reminder: Annual Street Lists

If you have not already returned your annual street list form, please do so. This year, the forms are pink. If you cannot find or never received your annual street list, please contact the Town Clerk and I will provide you with a new form. Help keep our data accurate and your voter registration status active! Return your street list!

Feedback, cont. from page 1

use paper ballots or voting by mail to deal with this issue. Paper ballots have often been used at TMs, but they are very time consuming (and thus meeting lengthening), and thus have been (and should be) used very judiciously. Regarding mail voting, state law does not allow voting by mail for TM business so that option is not currently possible. (Note: during the height of COVID, the Massachusetts legislature did allow voting by mail for elections, but not for TM business).

However, another option that is currently being explored (and is used by an increasing number of other towns) is electronic voting. That option has its own set of potential issues that need to be explored more fully, but if it proves to be a feasible option for Shutesbury, you should be hearing more about it at a future TM.

A final topic that was mentioned by several respondents is the use of "minority reports" at TM. I explained my position on this at the 2021 Annual TM, but I suspect it may have been misunderstood so I'll clarify it here. Town boards and committees work hard during the year to bring their proposals to TM for voter consideration. That work often includes discussions involving differing views and opinions, but generally culminates in a vote or final committee decision about what will be presented to voters. Those decisions may not be unanimous, but that's often the case in democratic processes.

In keeping with my goal of facilitating fully informed voting, I welcome committee-sanctioned minority reports on important or

controversial issues, and I encourage committees to discuss and approve their use whenever appropriate. But there's an important distinction between sanctioned minority reports and unofficial "pop-up" reports at TM that are essentially continuations of previous committee deliberations. TM is not the time or place to continue prior committee debates, and as Town Moderator, it is appropriate that I not allow that to happen.

Beginning in 2021, I requested that the actual Finance Committee votes on all warrant articles with financial implications be listed in the warrant (so voters can know if committee votes were unanimous or not). And if not, voters can ask for an explanation – which I will then direct to the committee chairperson to address. And as always, individual committee members are always free to express their personal opinion on any Article from the audience microphone, the same as any other voter.

So, that's my feedback on your feedback. Thank you again to those who took the time to convey their opinions. I look forward to seeing many of you at the May 21 Annual Town Meeting.

Selectboard happenings

Your Select Board members, **Rita Farrell, Melissa Makepeace O'Neil, and Eric Stocker**, have been busy tending to town business over the last few months, including the appointment of the new Energy and Climate Action Committee (see story that begins on page 1!), approval of a new solid waste disposal contract, participating in the Police Study Group, and preparing for what promises to be a lively and action-packed **Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 21.**

Along with all of the above, we are working on a grant application for the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP), preparing for the hiring of a new Fire Chief this spring and a new Highway Superintendent late summer, and will be spending some time later this spring/summer working with other

Select Board, cont. on page 3

Select Board, cont. from page 4

town departments on how best to use the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that the town will be receiving.

We continue to hold our bi-weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings at 5:45 – always check the online town calendar for updates and the meeting agendas. We look forward to seeing you on May 21 at 9am at the Town Hall.

ECAC, cont. from page 1

input is welcome at ecac@shutesbury.org. Importantly, we recognize that this work cannot be done in isolation nor was it intended to be. Over the coming months and year, we will be reaching out to various town committees that have expertise and responsibility for specific issues (listed above) in the hope that all parts of town government can weave energy and climate issues into their regular work (some already are!). We also hope to engage the community since we recognize that many residents have expertise and/or passion about these issues. ECAC meetings are planned for Tuesdays at 7pm. For the time being we hope to meet every two weeks given the amount of work and our startup mode. As always, town residents are welcome to attend the open public meetings. Visit our webpage for more information as it comes available.

In closing, I am happy to announce that we already have consensus among our members – we are ALL excited about the challenge of this work and recognize the importance of it for the town. Onward!

**Messages from the Board of Health
Insect-borne diseases**

Seasonal reminder: Remember to watch out for ticks on yourself, your kids, and your pets. Avoid long grass and low brush, and check for ticks daily. If you find one, you can have it tested; visit <https://www.tickreport.com/>

Diseases carried by mosquitoes are also of concern. Last year the

state refused the requests of many towns in our area, including Shutesbury, to opt out of any mandatory pesticide spraying to control such diseases as Eastern Equine Encephalitis; fortunately there was no spraying so it wasn't an issue. We all need to do our part to keep it from happening: That means doing as much as we can to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on our own property and being very diligent about avoiding mosquito bites.

There's plenty of information about this subject and many others at shutesbury.org/health

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

This "bird flu," which is especially common in waterfowl, has been found in Massachusetts birds. According to the CDC, there is low risk of human infection, but domestic poultry is at risk. Avoid contact with wild birds, living or dead, and keep them away from your flock.

Covid

MA residents over 50 and the immunocompromised are eligible for a second booster shot; you can register for one at vaxfinder.mass.gov.

At least one booster has been shown to significantly reduce the chances of severe illness. There are also treatments available to reduce the severity of disease. Especially if you are at special risk for severe illness, if you test positive for Covid, you should discuss the treatment options with your healthcare provider.

The Commonwealth's Stop the Spread sites in our area are closed but testing is still available, and each household may order a second set of four free at-home self-tests from the federal government, through the U.S. Postal Service.

The CDC recommends that anyone unvaccinated or otherwise at risk for serious disease, and all members of the household of such a person, should wear a mask indoors. That said, we ask that you be considerate of election workers inside Town Hall and wear your mask while voting.

Stay in touch

The Board of Health communicates regularly with the town through the "town-announce" system, which allows us to send e-mails to everyone who has opted into the system.

These e-mails provide much more timely information than this newsletter, which must be prepared weeks in advance. There are only a few "town announce" emails each week (many of them from the Board of Health). You can sign up for this service by going to shutesbury.org and clicking on "Sign up to receive town e-mails" on the right side of the home page.



In broadband news, thanks to a relatively mild winter with only a few severe storms the number of repairs we've had to our mainline network is quite low. All of our winter repairs were related to drop lines (the fiber that runs to your home from the pole on the street).

You can help prevent unexpected outages as we move into the spring and summer by making sure tree limbs and vines are trimmed away from the fiber lines. You can also make sure any dead-fall has been removed that could be hazardous to the wires. As tree work, particularly near wires, entails personal safety risks we recommend you consult with a professional.

News from Shutesbury's Cemetery Commissioners

The Cemetery Commission invites all interested Shutesbury residents to two upcoming events.

The first is our annual **West Cemetery clean-up day** on Saturday, May 14, from 10am-2pm. Tools are provided and there will be tasks for people of every age and ability. We hope you will join us to help care for our local burial grounds. (Rain date Saturday, May 28.)

And back by popular demand, Ta Mara Conde will return on Saturday, June 4, for another

Cemetery, cont. on page 5

Candidates for Elected Office in Shutesbury 2022



Incumbents are noted with an asterisk * at the end of their names. All terms are for 3 years unless specified otherwise.

Board of Health (1 seat on the ballot)

Catherine Hilton* *5 Kinder Lane*

Constable (1 seat on the ballot)

Christine Robinson *134 West Pelham Rd*

Library Trustees (2 seats on the ballot)

Brad Foster* *579 West Pelham Rd*

Michele Regan-Ladd* *464 Wendell Rd*

Moderator (1 seat on the ballot)

Paul Lyons* *2 Old Orchard Rd*

Municipal Light Plant (1 seat on the ballot)

James Hemingway* *318 Locks Pond Rd*

Planning Board (3 seats on the ballot)

Jeff Lacy* *7 Baker Rd*

Robert Raymond* *145 Baker Rd*

Jeff Weston *13 Kettle Hill Rd (for 2-year term)*

School Committee (2 seats on the ballot)

Julie Martel *353 Locks Pond Rd*

Jennifer Taylor *20 Wendell Rd*

Select Board (1 seat on the ballot)

Melissa Makepeace O'Neil* *315 West Pelham Rd*

Don Wakoluk *215 Leverett Rd*

Statements from candidates for Town Election of Officers

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

Select Board

Melissa Makepeace-O-Neil
315 West Pelham Road

Shutesbury is a special place, a small town with people who care deeply about it. I have been lucky to call it my home for 46 years. I have had the opportunity to serve Shutesbury as a member of the Select Board for six years and decided to run for re-election. While serving, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to listen to our community's wide range of views, enriching and deepening our conversations. I come prepared with experience as a member and former Chair of the Select Board, as a Select Board representative on the Personnel Board, Emergency Management Team, subcommittees, and contract negotiation teams. I would like the opportunity to continue to serve the town we all love and the community of Shutesbury.

Planning Board (2-year term)

Jeff Weston
13 Kettle Hill Road

My wife and I moved to Shutesbury in 1993 with our two small children. After thirty-seven years as Science Teacher and Department Head, I am now retired. I feel that it is now time to give back to the town that has been so good to us. I majored in biology at Tufts University and have spent many years teaching AP Biology which included Ecology as well as both Conservation Biology and Restoration Ecology. I believe that I would bring to the Planning Board a strong understanding and appreciation of the beauty and wonder of our natural environment, which has helped to make Shutesbury such a wonderful place to live.

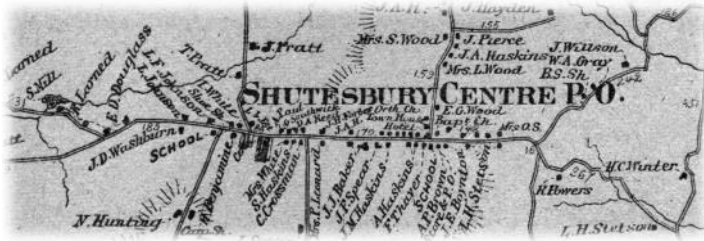
Dan Wakoluk
215 Leverett Road

As Shutesbury's Tree Warden with a strong background in environmental science, I am an unbiased advisor to the Conservation Commission and spent years as a member. I'm a veteran Army officer, trained as a democratic, inclusive leader. I support our near unanimously voter-approved bylaws, reflecting centuries of tradition as forested rural town residents. Shutesburians understand that protecting forest land is essential to protecting our drinking water and property values. "Solar and Forests, we need both." My opponent supports converting zoned Conservation Forest to urban industry. Our needed new library must rely on untapped funding like ARPA, not empty energy industry promises. I thank you for your vote during the last election and ask for it again... now that I'm officially on the ballot.

Moderator

Paul Lyons
2 Old Orchard Road

Greetings. I've been honored to serve as Town Moderator for the past 3 years, and if re-elected, I look forward to doing so for the next three. The Moderator position has a steep learning curve and in many respects, I feel like I'm still "learning the ropes". In Shutesbury, the Moderator has two equally-important roles: 1) presiding over and regulating the proceedings of Town Meetings; and 2) making certain committee appointments. I take both responsibilities very seriously, and I always strive to act with fairness, objectivity and in the best interests of our community in those roles. Thank you for your support.



School Committee

Julie Martel
353 Locks Pond Road

With a son in the high school and twin daughters attending the elementary school, I have deep respect for the staff, faculty, and administrators for their dedication and experience. As a parent, I've attended May pole and Morris dances, concerts, auctions, IEP meetings, spaghetti dinners, parent-teacher conferences, and field trips. I am an effective communicator and collaborator with a curious mind, commitment to social justice, and a wicked sense of humor. The last comes in handy as I live in a tiny house by the lake full of shouts, singing, cries, shrieks, giggles, yawps, yowls, and barks. I am pleased to continue to serve on the School Committee if elected.

Jennifer Taylor
20 Wendell Road

Hello fellow Shutesburians! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jen Taylor. I'm a local mom and Integrative Health Coach, with a strong background in and passion for education. I've been a resident for nearly 13 years and have served the community in several capacities over the course of that time. When we first moved to town, my older daughter, who is now 25, entered 6th grade. Now, my baby is poised to enter her 9th and final year at our beloved elementary school. It would be my great honor and privilege to serve on School Committee. I promise to foster the strong sense of pride, comradery, respect, and kindness we have come to expect. I really appreciate your support, always!

Library Trustees

Michele Regan-Ladd
464 Wendell Road

I am running for re-election as a Library Trustee, having served since 2007. I am excited about the possibility of a new library which we continue to work very hard towards making a reality.

My husband and I have lived in Shutesbury for 35 years. We built our current home 20 years ago.

I retired in June 2020 from the Amherst Public Schools where I was the Preschool Coordinator for six years. Prior to that I was the Early Childhood Coordinator for School Union #38 for 27 years. I also worked part-time for Erving Elementary, Pioneer Regional, and REACH. Literacy and exposure to quality books has been a lifelong passion for me.

Municipal Light Plant

Jim Hemingway
318 Locks Pond Road

If elected, this will be my second 3 year term as a member of the Shutesbury MLP, which presently includes Graeme Sephton and Steve Schmidt. As a team, the three of us work with Gayle Huntress, our ShutesburyNet manager, to bring you Gigabit internet and phone service. Currently I work with Graeme to provide tech support for our fiber network, and I have met many of you during some of my service calls to your homes, particularly during the start-up phase of ShutesburyNet three years ago. I have been professionally involved with telecommunications and consumer electronics for over 50 years. With your vote I hope to continue my work with the ShutesburyNet MLP Team for another three years.

Cemetery, cont. from page 3

Headstone Cleaning and Repair Workshop. This will be a two-part program, with an evening presentation on June 4 (on Zoom for sure, with possible hybrid in-person component), and hands on in the cemetery on June 25. Stay tuned for more information and an event registration portal.

In other news, the Cemetery Commissioners investigated the purpose and use of cement vaults for conventional burials and discussed changes to the rule requiring them. By unanimous vote, from now on the purchase and use of a cement vault will be optional.

News from the Open Space Committee

The Open Space Committee (OSC) is pleased to announce that the final draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan has been submitted to the Department of Conservation Services for review. As part of updating the Plan, last summer 186 town residents completed Open Space Surveys.

Open Space, cont. on page 6

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*

PRINTED ON
RECYCLED STOCK 30%
POST CONSUMER WASTE



A key take-home message is that residents want more information on places where they are welcome to walk or hike. To that end, the OSC plans to highlight places in town where you can get outside and enjoy the beauty of Shutesbury. Our first featured spot is Ames Pond.

Ames Pond, located in the north-east corner of town on the unpaved portion of Wendell Road, is well known to those who live nearby as Julian's Bower. Purchased by Julian Janowitz in the 1960s, this unique property features a spectacular mix of wetlands and forest, traversed by several miles of trails leading to a dramatic cliffside overlook. The property includes the 22-acre Ames Pond and its adjoining bog with a thousand-foot-long boardwalk—lovingly built by Julian. The land is also dotted with large sculptures created by Julian



Julian Janowitz sculpture Photo by Susan Loring-Wells

during his 50+ years of owning the property. Upon his death, he bequeathed the 143-acres to Kestrel Land Trust (www.kestreltrust.org/julian-janowitz-gift-art-nature/).

The new conservator has plans to improve access and make the site more welcoming to all (excerpted from Kestrel's recent blog article, *Building Trails that Welcome You*: www.kestreltrust.org/building-trails-2021-summary/).

Work has begun on the five-mile trail system — upland trails are being blazed and debris is being cleared—and more work is planned. The first phase will provide expanded parking and create a universally-accessible meadow trail to a platform overlooking the Pond. Shutesbury Community

Preservation Act funds for this first phase will be voted on at this May's Annual Town Meeting. The second phase would replace the deteriorating boardwalk with funds provided by a grant that has been submitted to MassTrails.

The Open Space Committee is excited about Kestrel's plans to make this spectacular spot accessible to all.

Recreation Committee events past and future

The Recreation Committee is pleased to partner with the Shutesbury Elementary School in holding a **Family Field Day on June 11** at the School at 10:30am. Rain date to be determined.

Steve Carra, the school's Physical Education Teacher, has enthusiastically offered his help with ideas and equipment. While the activities will be primarily for elementary-aged children and their families, we encourage everyone to come cheer on the participants! There will be refreshments, and of course, awards!

As a taste of what's planned, there will be dizzy bat relay race and fox tail tag games. Not sure what those are? Another great reason to come and find out! If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Elaine Puleo** at empuleo@gmail.com.

In addition to the Field Day, we have two other events planned, both in partnership with the M. N. Spear Memorial Library. *These events were scheduled to take place before publication of this newsletter.*

On April 30, **Zoe Weizenbaum**, co-owner of Ancient Pony Farm, was to lead a tour. The farm is run on the philosophy of land stewardship or permaculture, where every component or member of the system nourishes and supports the others. (If you missed that event but would like to learn more, Zoe will be offering other workshops as people plan for their community garden plots and their home gardens.)

On May 7, Brian Colleran, an expert on the eradication of invasive species, was to lead a workshop on the removal and safe disposal of invasive plants. One of the goals of the workshop is to enable people to go back to their homes and apply what they've learned.

From the Administrative Assessor

Kevin Rudden, *Admin. Assessor*

Updating Tax Exemptions Most tax exemptions available to Shutesbury residents were enacted by the state legislature decades ago. However, some have been updated during the past few years. The Board of Assessors has submitted articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant to ask Shutesbury's voters to accept the relevant state laws, which would allow us to offer the most recent revised exemptions to our seniors, veterans and other eligible residents.

Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption for Seniors At the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Shutesbury's voters approved asking our state legislators to file a home rule petition so that Shutesbury could offer another type of exemption to seniors. In April, the legislature's Joint Committee on Revenue took written testimony on whether to support the bill we submitted. We expect it to issue a "Favorable" recommendation, which means the bill will go forward through the rest of the legislative process. Stay tuned for updates.

FY2023 is a "Recertification" Year The new fiscal year that begins on July 1 is a "recertification" year for the MA Department of Revenue (DOR) to examine and approve Shutesbury's property values.

Although the DOR approves them every year, once every five years the state agency takes a much more in-depth look at the values and how they are calculated to ensure everyone is treated fairly and equitably.

This means you may see some DOR officials out and about the town this coming summer doing randomly selected double-checks on properties throughout the town. The Assessors' Office will also be visiting more properties than usual as part of the overall recertification process. **Anyone who may visit your property will be wearing either MA DOR or Town of Shutesbury identification.** While we understand that some people don't like to have their properties looked at, it's always better to let assessing staff take a look to ensure our information is correct.

School Committee shares concerns about leaky roof

The roof at Shutesbury Elementary School has been leaking for a long time and the School Committee is strongly advocating for it to be replaced. There are notes about the school roof leaking and discussions going back to 2015 for the roof replacement.

As time goes by, we are concerned that water has already impacted some of the flooring in the gym area, but continuous water leakage into multiple areas of the building is concerning; this could potentially lead to mold issues and cause structural damage.

The school has applied multiple times for state grants to defray costs to the Town, but each application for funding has been denied. Some funds have been committed for the gym roof. Funding has been proposed for engineering costs to assess the remaining part of the roof still leaking, but none for construction. The school has applied for grant funds again this year, but we are asking that the Town commit funds to replace the roof at our Annual Town Meeting. We believe that waiting will exacerbate problems, and costs to remediate problems caused by these water leaks will climb and possibly create disruption to students and learning.

Please, we implore you to commit resources for replacement of the roof at Town Meeting, even if we have to estimate a range until we get a firm estimate from the engineers. In the long run, fixing this ongoing issue now may prevent us from paying more for repairs in the future.

Three Community Preservation projects headed to Town Meeting

The state Community Preservation Act allows Massachusetts communities to create a local **Community Preservation Fund** to help fund open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Community preservation monies are raised locally through the imposition of a surcharge on the tax levy against real property, and these local funds are matched in part by state funding.

Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee (CPC) projects are community initiated. The application and funding process is straightforward and is described in the Community Preservation Plan available on the CPC website (https://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation). It should be noted that the CPC does not independently appropriate funding for projects, but rather submits warrant articles for funding of allowable projects to Town Meeting for its approval. This year, three articles will be submitted.

The first article, sponsored by the Shutesbury Historical Commission, seeks to repair and restore the historic mile guidepost on the Town Common. This antique guidepost has significant historic value and requires substantial restoration work to protect it from further degradation.

The second article, supported by the Recreation Committee, requests funding for the Kestrel Land Trust's Ames Pond project. [Related article, pg. 6.] This project will protect wetland and soil resources by improving the parking area, removing invasive plants, installing a crushed stone walkway at the trailhead, adding a new viewing platform, addressing degraded trail conditions, and making the area wheelchair accessible.

The third article, supported by the Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee, seeks support for the Kestrel Trust purchase of 34 acres of forested land with 2,000 feet of frontage on Pelham Hill Road. The parcel, which runs from just south of Baker Road to the Pelham town line, has high conservation value and is situated between two parcels of already protected land. It includes the headwaters of Amethyst Brook and features a historic dam/mill structure. The property would be preserved as open space and developed for passive recreation.

All of these proposals were reviewed and discussed at the CPC's annual public hearing on March 10, 2022. On March 17, the CPC voted unanimously to forward all three articles to the 2022 Town Meeting to be held on May 21, 2022.

The CPC has also received a request from the Recreation Committee to change the location of the

community garden from behind Town Hall to Lot O32. This project was originally approved at last year's town meeting (Article 13). This request does not affect the original funding or any details of the original proposal other than location. The request may or may not appear as an article at Town Meeting depending upon the recommendation(s) expected from Town Counsel.

The CPC invites all town citizens to become involved in maintaining and improving our town and retaining our history. 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.*

Council on Aging news

Age-Friendly Survey update Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey, Your participation is greatly appreciated. LifePath received nearly 2000 responses from across the region! Its team is now analyzing the data. The information will be used to create an Age-Friendly Action Plan and to apply for grants to improve conditions for people in Shutesbury and beyond.

Home COVID tests Medicare B beneficiaries, including those enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, now have access to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, authorized, or cleared over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost. People with Medicare can get up to eight tests per calendar month from participating pharmacies and health care providers.

Are You Over 55 and In Need of Foot Care? The Council on Aging (COA) home visit foot care program is staffed by FootCare 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

COA, cont. on page 8

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.

LifePath, our Area Agency on Aging, provides many individual in-home and community services that support Franklin County citizens 55 and over. Find 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 LifePathMA.org to sign up to receive *The Good Life*, LifePath's free weekly newsletter, in your email inbox each Monday.

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.

We have a vacancy! Your Council on Aging serves 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.

From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Trash Bag Distribution and Leverett Transfer Station Stickers Trash bag distribution began on April 27 and will go until Saturday, July 2. Every Shutesbury household is entitled to 50 bags (5 packs of 10 bags). Please make every effort to pick up your trash bags during this distribution period. If you can't pick them up in person at any of the listed times, ask a relative or neighbor to pick them up for you. Bags picked up after the distribution schedule has ended will be pro-rated to a reduced number.

The remaining trash bag distribution schedule is below. **Bags will be at the School Shed except for May 21, Annual Town Meeting day,**

when they'll be behind Town Hall:

Saturday, May 14, 9:30 – 11:30;
 Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 – 7:00;
Saturday, May 21, 8:30 – 12:00, behind Town Hall; Monday, May 23, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, May 28, 9:30-11:30; Tuesday, May 31, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, June 4, 9:30 – 11:30; Thursday, June 9, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, June 11, 9:30 – 11:30; Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, June 18, 9:30 – 11:30; Thursday, June 23, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, June 25, 9:30 – 11:30; Monday, June 27, 5:30 – 7:00; Saturday, July 2, 9:30 – 11:30.

This is also the time to get your sticker for the Leverett Transfer Station. FY22 stickers will be available for \$10 beginning April 27 (good only until June 30, 2022), and stickers for FY23, valid from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, cost \$20. See the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee web page for details.

A New Hauling and Waste Disposal Contract This year, the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee went out to bid for our solid waste/recycling hauling contract. While we were in the midst of that process, we learned that the co-generation facility in Agawam, where our trash has been sent for disposal for the past two years, went bankrupt and is going out of business. Yikes!

We received two bids, and the lower bidder, Casella Waste Systems, agreed to continue collecting our recyclables and trash pretty much as it has been done in Shutesbury for many years. We will continue to have what's known as "dual stream" recycling, which means that we separate containers and paper. Dual stream yields better quality recyclables and has less contamination than "single stream," in which people toss everything they think is recyclable into the same bin. In addition, trash and recyclable collection will be done with the same rear-loading trucks we are used to.

The other bid we received would have required automatic collection and large totes at every residence. The lower bidder will also handle trash disposal, and has agreed to a short-term disposal contract to handle the gap between the bankruptcy of our previous disposal contractor and July 1 when the new contract

will begin.

One difference between the system we've had for the past several years and the one that will begin on July 1 is that our new hauler, Casella, will be collecting from half our town on Tuesday and the other half on Wednesday. This will require an adjustment on our part, but we will make sure that information about the collection schedule is out well in advance. There will be no difference in the collection schedule until July 1.

It will come as no surprise that waste and recyclable management is more expensive today than it has been in the past. We have had remarkably good deals over the past 10 years, and the contract we have with Casella for the next five years is also a good deal, today, but it will cost Shutesbury about twice as much per year as our last hauling contract did. But that's still a lot less than it would cost Shutesbury households to individually contract with collection and disposal companies, as many folks in Amherst do.

What's Recyclable? What's recyclable changes from time to time, so the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has created a "Recyclopedia." All you have to do is put in the name of the item you have a question about, and you'll get the most current information about its recyclability. Check it out at shutesbury.org/recycling. You'll never have to guess again. The information is at your fingertips.

Note from the Town Collector

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,
 Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are nearly at the end of fiscal 2022 and the Town Meeting for fiscal 2023.

My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am – Noon and Thursday from 8:00am-11:00am. If you call during these hours and I don't answer, please leave a message. I'm either on the telephone or have stepped out of the office.

Due to the time it takes for mail delivery, it is imperative that you plan

Springtime at the school

Dear Shutesbury Community,

The children and staff and Shutesbury Elementary School continue to have a wonderful school year of learning. We have welcomed the spring weather with open arms! Classrooms are spending lots of time in our woods (especially the fairy woods) and grounds to learn in the beautiful sunshine. We recently completed our 8th annual SES School Spirit week! Students and staff participated in fun dress up days such as PJ and Stuffie Day, Hat Day, Bright Colors and Patterns Day, Backwards/Inside-out Day (wear your clothes backwards or inside out!), and School Spirit Day!

The fifth and sixth graders just finished up a major research and writing project! These students chose a famous person that they admire to do major research on. They then learned how to write a detailed report on this person and cited sources. Next, the students dressed as this person and presented a Living History Museum for our school and families outdoors. It was a fabulous event!

We look forward to a lot of fun and

enriching events this spring. **Grade 6 students will have an altered version of the traditional Spaghetti Dinner due to COVID.** This year, grade 6 students will actually cook and serve spaghetti to their families, and to the 5th grade students and their families, outdoors! We will not be selling tickets to the public for this event this spring. We are hopeful that next year, the public will be able to return to this tradition.

In the coming months we are also looking forward to an outdoor concert from the students that received string instrument lessons this year, Field Day, a SES PTO auction and fun event at the SAC, and a SES outdoor dance party! We are also thrilled to announce that we will have a fabulous Artist-in-Residence program with local artist Emily Neuberger! Emily will provide special art classes for students in grades PK-6!

We do not take being able to learn and grow together in person for granted! We continue to be grateful that our town and community value and support the special learning and growing opportunities that our wonderful school provides.

Sincerely,

Jackie Mendonsa, *Principal*

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.

For more information, please call **Laura Feltman**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x100 feltman@shutesburyschool.org or **Grace**

School, cont. on page 10

Collector, cont. from page 8

accordingly when mailing your payments. Under Mass. General Law, we do NOT use the postmark for date of payment but rather the date of actual receipt. You should mail bills at least two weeks before the due date on the bill to insure they are received before that date. You can also deposit them in the drop box outside the Town Hall. I empty the contents twice every work day.

Always open all envelopes you receive from this office immediately upon receipt. The bill you think is a real estate bill (and paid by your bank) may be an excise tax bill for which you are responsible.

If you use on-line banking from your bank (not the Town's system), please change the mailing address to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072-0175.

Please make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (i.e.: listing real estate or excise bill numbers from previous years or an

incorrect type of bill). Since your bill payment is NOT an automatic transfer into the Town's bank account, you must plan accordingly when authorizing the payment. DO NOT set up the payment on the due date as it won't get to the Town until almost a week later which will result in fees and interest.

If you are having financial difficulty paying your real estate bills, please contact me to arrange a payment plan.

Don't forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. All bills should be paid in full before you apply for the abatement. If this is not done and the bill becomes overdue with additional fees and interest before abatement, these must be paid along with any outstanding balance due on the bill after abatement.

Be sure to notify this office if you permanently change your mailing address to avoid a delay in delivery of your mail which is returned to me for forwarding. This can take as

much as three weeks which reduces the time you have to pay the bill on time. I am glad to forward bills if you are temporarily away. However, I must know this is the situation before you leave to avoid the bills being returned as "temporarily away" by the post office, which delays delivery to you.

Should a demand bill be issued on a motor vehicle excise tax, the law provides 14 days for receipt of payment before a warrant for collection is issued to the Deputy Collector. This results in at least \$ 22.00 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of the original bill will NOT be accepted and checks made out in the incorrect amount WILL be returned to the sender.

Some of you have been unable to pay your bills on-line. If the bill is on warrant, it cannot be paid on-line except through the Deputy Collector's office which can be reached during business hours at 413-527-2388.

Have a good spring and stay healthy.

Ellen McKay, Town Collector

Griecci, 413-259-1212 x140
grieccig@shutesburyschool.org

Preschool and Kindergarten enrollment/screening 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 have children under the age of five, or you have questions or con-

cerns about your child's development, please contact **Grace Griecci**, Pre-k teacher, at 413-259-1212 ext.140 or email her at grieccig@shutesburyschool.org

This screening is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already in our preschool program.

A warm hello from the PTO

Greetings Shutesbury Community!

Spring is welcoming us out of winter hibernation, and out from behind our masks. At Shutesbury Elementary School, spring can be found blossoming in the classrooms and sprouting on the playground. Our SES Parent Teacher Organization exists to support all kinds of learning at school through field trips, visiting scientists and artists, field day fun and other extensions teachers imagine.

This spring we have organized two exciting annual events: Our **Hanging Flower Pots** sale in April, and our **Silent Auction** on May

at the Shutesbury Athletic Club!

Families and teachers make up our school community and our PTO. We thank everyone from school and town who has supported us in the past, and hope that more will join us in the future. All we do for our students would not be possible without the support of the larger Shutesbury community, and we are grateful that so many are willing and able to give of themselves to make our efforts achievable. We will happily accept donations any time at [paypal.me/shutesburypto](https://www.paypal.me/shutesburypto).

With our deepest thanks and wishes for a healthy, happy summer,
Shutesbury PTO

Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC)

This program offers programming and basic needs support for families with young children in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell. Learn more about CNC at 413-422-0170 (call/text) or email Budine@erving.com

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

Save the dates!

The Library is pleased to be able to offer these opportunities for townspeople to gather this summer. These programs are funded by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. We are especially grateful to the Shutesbury Athletic Club who has warmly welcomed Library programming under its pavilion.

Ludlow Community Band

With Shutesbury's very own **Veronica Richter**, Co-conductor. Sunday, June 12, 6pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club. A lively concert with music for all ages, featuring familiar favorites including; Calypso Carnival. Disney at the Movies, and American River Song.

Jungle Jim Presents Camp Balloon Magic & Ice Cream Social Saturday, June 18, 6pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club. Join us for an interactive balloon show with lots of audience participation and tons of fun! After the show, the Friends of the Library will serve ice cream.

Berwick Fiddle Consort

Featuring Shutesbury's own **Julia Connor**. Saturday, July 2, 6pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club. The band will be performing original arrangements of traditional folk music in a relaxed performance atmosphere during which the audience is encouraged to connect with the band and the music by clapping and helping to keep the beat. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Shutesbury Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Fairies of the Seasons

Puppet show with Shutesbury's own **Anna Sobel**, Sunday, July 10, 6pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club. Every season has unique qualities: the trees look different, different kinds of

plants are growing, and people wear and do different things. In this magical show, set on a handmade dress that twirls as the year turns, each season has its own fairy that takes care of changing the natural world accordingly. That is, until a grumpy gnome decides to rearrange all the season fairies so things will stay the same all year round! Beautiful handmade fairy puppets and hand-felted animals invite young children to move, sing, and help the fairies of each season as they try find their way back.

Out of the Ordinary
The Library Loans Kayaks!
The Library's kayaks will be available beginning Wednesday, May 25.

Borrowing the kayaks is a little bit complicated and requires some advance planning. Kayaks are available to Shutesbury residents, with a valid library card, for use on Lake Wyola only. Everyone, ages 18 and up, who uses the kayaks is required to sign a policy and release form each time they borrow the kayaks. Children

ages five and up can use the kayaks when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Learn more about the kayak loan program on the kayak page on mnspear.org.

A Telescope!

The Library's telescope can be borrowed by adults with a valid library card. Borrowers must sign a user agreement. The loan period is one week.

A shout-out to the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library!

The Friends of the Library have been creatively and determinedly raising money for a new Shutesbury Library for the past ten years. Their efforts range from the small, such as collecting returnable bottles and cans one nickel at a time, to the large, such as the recent Library Giving Day, when 140 donors contributed \$37,000.

The range of activities and contributions of money and muscle has been heartwarming and downright inspiring. Over the years, dozens of volunteers have shared their creativity, energy, time, and enthusiasm with a singular purpose in mind: a new Shutesbury library.

Just look at this list of ongoing efforts that have only grown over the past ten years. The dedication and persistence is evident for all to see.

- Book Sales at Celebrate Shutesbury and combined with Tag Sales
- Bottle and cans collections
- A clothing drive
- Your votes in the Florence Bank Customer's Choice Community Grants
- Town Meeting and Election Day Bake Sales
- Community Dinners at the Shutesbury Athletic Club
- Spring Spruce-Ups
- Tag Sales
- Shutesbury Swag Sales
- Giving Days

This dedication and leadership on the part of the Friends of the Library has inspired a groundswell of support

for their new library fund. There is no doubt that the dedication of the Friends, with support from hundreds of townspeople, whether dropping off bottles and cans, stuffing envelopes, painting banners, or baking and raking, has contributed to the hopeful vision of a new Shutesbury library in our future.

Thank you. Thank you to the people who call themselves Friends. Thank you to the people who volunteer and contribute in countless ways. You have built community, fostered connections, and nurtured hope in our community. Your success is a remarkable achievement, plain for all to see.

Small Library Pilot Project

Last spring, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners announced the Small Library Pilot Project, an opportunity for one small town to receive a grant that will pay 75% of the eligible costs of a new library.

Conversations about the town's need for a new library began in 1995. This community of active library users has outgrown the beloved, one-room M. N. Spear Memorial Library. Library users want a library with room for expanded collections, space for educational and enriching programs, space to sit and read, and space to visit with neighbors. They want a facility that fosters literacy and lifelong learning while also serving as a community gathering place.

Last fall and winter, the Library Trustees and Director gathered data and community input while working on our Library Building Program and our Town's application for the Small Library Pilot Project grant.

Throughout the process, we posted announcements, documents, and meeting recordings on the Small Library Pilot Project page on mnspear.org. We hosted a dozen meetings to solicit input from the community, we toured the Erving and Leverett Libraries, we asked people to write what they wish for in a library on tags and place them on a tree on the Town Common, for all to see. The Trustees met weekly throughout the fall and have been meeting weekly since the beginning of April, when we learned that Shutesbury

has been selected to receive the grant.

As most of you know, the cost estimate for the proposed project is higher than we expected or hoped. We are continuing our examination of the cost estimate. Since the cost estimate is based on the building program instead of a design, and the costs of construction materials is volatile, it is important that we do our due diligence in estimating the cost of the project so that we can provide a fully vetted estimate to the Finance Committee, who will determine the best path toward funding this project. We will continue to update the community as more information is available.

A warrant article, with a "not-to-exceed" figure, will be presented at Town Meeting. If the Finance Committee recommends borrowing to fund some of the Town's portion, a debt-exclusion override may be required and a ballot vote will be scheduled.

Information about the Small Library Pilot Project can be found on the Small Library Pilot Project page on mnspear.org.

Friends of the Library fundraisers coming soon Town Meeting Café

Saturday, May 21, 8am – 1pm
A delicious selection of breakfast and lunch items, coffee and soft drinks.
Cash and checks only.

Friends of the Library Book and Tag Sale

Sunday, May 22, 10am – 3pm, under the tent at Town Hall.

Donate those books and other items that are cluttering up your space! Tag Sale items can be brought to the tent on Sunday, May 22 from 8am until 11am.

If you have items to donate but cannot bring them Sunday morning, please consider asking a neighbor to bring them for you. Tag sale items include books, toys, sports equipment, household items, small furniture, clothing and linens. The Friends of the Library Tag Sale is a great way to support the Friends' fundraising efforts and make sure your unwanted items find a new home. Thanks for the support!



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

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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 Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1211	RECREATION COMMITTEE Barbara Bigelow, Chair 413-801-9714
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Linda Avis Scott 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 James Walton, Chair 413-259-5397	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 413-259-1626
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long 413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 413-259-1211 or at home 413-259-1286	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Dan Hayes, Chair 413-230-4686
ASSESSORS Kevin Rudden 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 Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 413-256-0312
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Bob Groves, Chair 413-259-1200	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	Eric Stocker 413-259-1250
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis 413-259-1213	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress, Chair Broadband Mailbox 413-345-2855
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1286	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-Chair 413-259-9129 Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-Chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Allen Hanson, Chair 413-259-1623	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204
COUNCIL ON AGING For Info., Med-Ride Program, Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-205-9944
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine 413-256-0563	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar, Chair 413-406-2767	TREE WARDEN Don Wakoluk 413-256-6736
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik 413-772-1571	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 413-367-0017	WEB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker, Chair 413-253-0565
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413-259-1279	POLICE DEPARTMENT Kristin Burgess, Acting Chief 413-259-1279	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare, Chair 413-549-5330
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 413-253-7505	Dispatch 413-625-8200	EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Princ. 413-259-1212		