



OUR TOWN

Toward greater access and transparency

Mike Vinskey, Michael DeChiara and Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil,
Shutesbury Select Board

HELLO NEIGHBORS! Greetings from the Select Board. As the season changes, we want to share some information about what has changed with us and with our town.

This July, we said goodbye to our 2015-2016 Chair, **April Stein**. We want to thank April for her six years of service on the Select Board. Especially as Chair, April provided gracious and thoughtful leadership. We also wish to welcome **Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil**, a native of Shutesbury, who began serving on the Select Board on July 1 with enthusiasm and brings with her a deep knowledge of our town.

This year the Select Board would like to continue exploring ways to make your town government more accessible. There are some small but meaningful steps we have taken.

For example, for the past year, every Select Board meeting starts with public comment. If you want us to know something, feel free to stop by and you'll have time at the beginning of each meeting.

We have also recently begun adding times to our agendas so you can plan on attending part of the meeting for the information you want. (*Did you know all agendas are posted on the calendar on www.Shutesbury.org?*)

We also want to remind residents that any email sent to selectboard@shutesbury.org will be seen by all three of us and will be acknowledged by the Chair (we are legally limited from making substantive responses).

Celebrate Shutesbury 2016! Saturday, September 17, 10am - 2pm on the Shutesbury Town Common

All Shutesbury community members are invited to celebrate our great little town!

Bake sale, book sale, bounce house, pumpkin painting, donut eating, BBQ, live music and entertainment, hula hoops, tours of Old Town Hall, fire trucks, ambulance, photo booth, community information, etc.

If you are interested in having a booth or activity at this gathering, please contact **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at carlsonbelanger@verizon.net.

This year we will also continue to explore more systematic ways to make town government transparent, accessible, and accountable.

This fall we will be hosting a meeting to better understand what information residents want/need in advance of road work being done in town. In addition, given information that has arisen as part of the solar development project, we are considering a discussion later this year about how to explore and acknowledge the possible role of Native people in Shutesbury's pre-

See Select Board, page 6

Broadband may start in Shutesbury in 2018 *Shutesbury Broadband Committee*

We're pleased to report after many delays and a state-wide pause put on all projects throughout the spring, Governor Charlie Baker has affirmed his support for the "Last Mile" broadband project and appointed special leadership to move it forward.

A special thanks to everyone who voted in support of our resolution to the Governor at the May Town Meeting and who signed our state-wide petition. These actions helped make our state leadership aware of the

critical and urgent nature of bringing broadband to rural areas throughout Massachusetts.

Since the pause was lifted, we've been assigned a Project Manager by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) who is working closely with the Broadband Committee on the next steps of the project. From our experience so far, we are very optimistic about our working relationship with him.

We can expect to see the professional pole survey teams out on our roads in September. In the meantime our Select Board is working on the attachment agreements with utility companies. These agreements are required to prepare the utility poles to accept the fiber-optic cable before actual construction can begin.

See Broadband, page 6

Broadband a priority before new library building *Kate Cell and Molly Moss, Co-Chairs, Trustees of the MN Spear Memorial Library*

The Trustees of Shutesbury's M.N. Spear Memorial Library would like to take this opportunity to update you

See Library, page 9

Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher—Town Clerk
1 Cooleyville Rd., Town Hall
Office hours: Mon. afternoon 3:30 – 6pm, Tue – Fri. mornings 8:30 – 10:30am, Thur. evenings 6 – 8pm, and by appointment
413-259-1204 town-clerk@shutesbury.org

Welcome to Shutesbury one and all!

What? Another election?! Yes, THE BIG ONE, Tuesday, November 8. For those new to town, our polling station is in the basement of Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Rd. The polls are open from 7am – 8pm. Copies of the ballot will be posted upstairs and downstairs in Town Hall and at the Post Office, Library and School. It helps to look over the information before you sign in to vote. Remember your reading glasses!

The last day for new voter registration is Wednesday, October 19, ending at 5pm. The state has a new website www.123voter to check on your voter registration status.

Newly registered voters may be required to show identification at the polls. Inactivated voters (those who did not send in the annual census form) will need to bring a piece of mail, a car registration, etc. that shows their name with their residential address.

A new feature for the November election is Early Voting (EV). From Monday, October 24 – Friday, November 4, registered voters can come to the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours (see above) to vote in person. Assistive Technology will be available. Or you can fill out an EV application and have the ballot mailed to you. Allow TWO WEEKS for the mail-in ballot process. EV is a lot like Absentee Voting without requiring any stipulated reasons. If you require an Absentee ballot, they will be available by Tuesday, October 12.

DOGS – Dog owners did pretty well getting their canines' rabies up to date and licensed. I now understand the process should be framed as a spring activity because of the June 30 expiration date. Next year I'll promote registration starting May 1st. Please be aware that state statutes impose a penalty for dogs with expired tags.

There is more information on the town clerk web page at www.shutesbury.org. Feel free to call me or stop by with any questions.

Shutesbury's visioning process moves forward

Meryl Ann Mandell, *Chair, Master Plan Working Group*

As many of you are aware, Shutesbury is preparing to solicit input from community members to build a shared vision for our town and its future. Towns and cities use visions both as a compass to guide future decisions and as a catalyst for action (so we can improve the town in the ways we jointly determine). Shutesbury's vision will also be a key component of the town's Master Plan when it is next updated.

By participating in upcoming activities, residents will give voice to their priorities for the town. Participation of a broad cross section of residents will be crucial to both select the right vision and to build momentum for us to jointly make our shared vision a reality.

This article provides updates on the significant progress which has been made, information about preparing for your involvement and next steps which will be taken to prepare for soliciting your input.

Progress

- Funds were allotted at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting to hire a consulting firm to guide the visioning activities. The goal was to hire a firm experienced in visioning, planning, facilitation and outreach skills. It was recognized that we needed expertise in how to engage a representative cross section of town residents as well as a firm that would help us, as a diverse rural community, determine and articulate what we want for our town.
- Early in 2016, 12 town residents were appointed by the Planning and Select Boards to develop, orchestrate and complete a town Visioning process. They were sworn in as the Master Plan Working Group (MPWG). The MPWG members are: **Mary Anne**

Antonellis, Michele Cunningham, Nancy Dill, Bob Groves, Al Hanson, Dale Houle, Dave Kittredge, Jeff Lacy, Meryl Mandell, Brad Spry, Mike Vinskey, Melissa Warwick.

- Between March and May, the MPWG developed a set of desired outcomes for this process and created a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Request for Proposal was distributed and two consulting firms, The Cecil Group and Beals + Thomas, responded to the RFP. Both groups were invited to participate in an evening of lively interviews and a mock 15-minute facilitation session with the MPWG.
- The Cecil Group emerged as the MPWG's unanimous choice. Following a very positive reference check, the Board of Selectmen acted on the MPWG's recommendation and collectively voted to award the bid to The Cecil Group at their August 16 Selectboard meeting.

Next Steps

FOR YOU: Start thinking of what you love about Shutesbury and ways it could be improved. Speculate on what you believe our future should be. Please watch for future communications to plan for your participation and keep abreast of developments.

FOR THE MPWG: There will be a kickoff meeting between The Cecil Group and the MPWG. This meeting will focus on 1) developing the public participation and engagement plan and 2) setting preliminary dates for public workshops.

For Additional Information

Contact the MPWG at mpwg@shutesbury.org.

You can also catch up on the Group's minutes at the town webpage: http://www.shutesbury.org/master_plan_working_group.

Volunteer opportunities

Because we are a small town, Shutesbury runs on “people power” – the energy and expertise of many volunteers. The Town welcomes new and long-term residents to become part of your town government. Due to vacancies, the following opportunities are available:

- Building Committee- 2 members - Appointed by the Select Board (3 year appointment)
- Conservation Commission- 1 member - Appointed by the Select Board (3 year appointment)
- Council on Aging – 1 member - Appointed by the Select Board (3 year appointment)
- Open Space Committee - 2 members - Appointed by the Select Board (1 year appointment)
- Personnel Board- 1 member - Appointed by the Moderator (3 year appointment)
- Planning Board – 1 member – Joint appointment by Select Board and Planning Board in lieu of election/ (appointment only until next election)
- Recreation Committee - 5 members - Appointed by the Select Board (1 year appointment)

For information about a particular position, including a description of what is involved, please contact either the Town Administrator, **Becky Torres**, at 413-259-1214 or townadmin@shutesbury.org OR the Committee/Board Chair. Listings of committees can be found at: www.shutesbury.org. It is encouraged that people interested in a board or committee consider attending a meeting or two in advance to better understand the workings of the committee.

With appreciation for newsletter volunteers...

Linda Avis Scott, *Administrative Secretary*

Janis Gray, our stalwart newsletter editor, volunteers her editing and layout skills to the publication of *Our Town*. Please join me in thanking Janis for her ongoing commitment to bringing our newsletter into form.

Behind the scenes of each issue, there are the volunteers who assemble the flyers, fold, and seal each newsletter. This is a time-consuming task and those who take time to help out are very much appreciated.

The folders for our Spring 2016 issue were: **Leslie Bracebridge, Sally Fairfield, Catherine Hilton, Susan Millinger, Susie Mosher, Sharon Raymond, Mark Rivers, and Mike Vinskey**.

Within a few days of folding the Spring issue, a group of volunteers assembled to collate and fold the Annual Town Meeting mailing: **David Dann, Ken Holmberg, Susan Millinger, Dave Mosher, Becky Torres, Mike Vinskey, Pat Vinskey, and Russ Wilson**. Many, many thanks to the volunteers whose contribution made these two important mailings a success!

If you would like to join in the community fun of assembling our newsletter, please let me know by calling 259-6550 or emailing adminsecretary@shutesbury.org.

NOTE FROM THE TOWN COLLECTOR

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury residents:

With the fall approaching, so, too, is the mailing of the next installment of your real estate and personal property taxes. This will occur the end of September with a due date of November 1. If you have paid both the first and second quarter amount with your first quarter payment you will not receive a bill for November. If you do not receive a second quarter bill, please check the middle portion of your first quarter bill as your total bill may be too small to generate a second quarter bill.

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

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 owns property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2017) that date is January 1, 2016. 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 sure 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. Failure to have the correct mailing address may cause the bill to be returned as

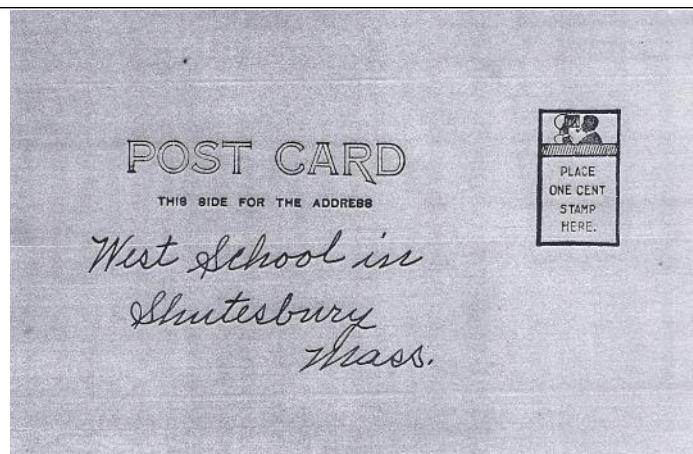
See Collector, page 5

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 projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions promoting the sale of goods or services for private profit cannot be accepted.

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

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30% POST CONSUMER WASTE





Front and back of a postcard of West School circa 1900

News from the Historical Commission

On Columbus Day, Monday, October 10, **Barbara Goodhind** will host our annual open house for the one-room 1842 West Schoolhouse at the intersection of West Pelham and Leverett Roads.

Drop in for a visit anytime between 1 and 3pm. Guests will be able to see old text books, wall maps and many other items found in old schoolhouses. If it's a cool day, remember to dress warmly as there was no heat and electricity back then, and none has been added since!

On Saturday, October 1, **Leslie Bracebridge** will conduct a hike to Temenos Retreat Center, which sits on the foundation of Shutesbury's famous 19th century healing Mount Mineral Springs Hotel. Meet at the Shutesbury Town Hall at 10am to carpool to the base of Mount Mineral Road.

We will see the names of early visitors carved into the

ledges, the foundation stonework from the original hotel, the carved figure in stone, a likeness of which is used as the logo of the New England Antiquities Research Association, and multiple other interesting stone artifacts.

Documents that the Commission have on file concerning the site will be available to enjoy. The hike is longer than some and somewhat strenuous. Please budget three hours for the longest leisurely hike and visit. Others who can find their way back independently are also welcome to join our hike for shorter amounts of time.

The Historical Commission continues to collect photos, stories, documents, and artifacts directly related to our town's history.

If you have something to share, a document, a story, an artifact or photo, please contact any member of the Commission. We can copy while you wait and/or we welcome you to speak at a meeting.

From the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Shutesbury Bulky Waste Day is Saturday, October 1!

Saturday, October 1 is Bulky Waste Day (BWD) at the Highway Department from 10am to 2pm for Shutesbury residents. Bring items that are too large for the trash, such as construction waste, mattresses, electronics, etc., etc. We do charge enough to cover the cost of disposing of these items, so bring some cash or your check book too. **DO NOT** bring hazardous waste or fluorescent bulbs to Bulky Waste Day (see Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, page 5).

We Need Bulky Waste Day Volunteers!
Please give the RSWC a hand that day if you can. We could use some strong volunteers to help things run smoothly at BWD. We have had several wonderful volunteers in the past, and their help made a huge difference. Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer, contact **Gary Bernhard** at 413-259-1235 or bernhard@www.umass.edu or **Meryl Mandell** at 413-259-1282 or merylm@crocker.com.

Please Note!

- ◊ TVs — CRTs and flatscreens — 32 inches or less will be \$20.00. TVs larger than 32 inches will be \$40.00.
- Computer monitors — CRTs and flatscreens — will be

\$10.00. All other electronics are free.

- ◊ All clean, white Styrofoam will be collected at no cost.
- ◊ Bulky rigid plastics (see page 5) will be collected separately and recycled at the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield. We will be charging between \$2 and \$5, depending upon the amount, to help cover the cost of the hauling.

Free by the Side of the Road

The week before each Bulky Waste Day is "Free-By-the-Side-of-the-Road Week." If you have items that you no longer need but might be useful to others, place them on the roadside during the week beginning Saturday September 24.

NOTE: Items placed on the roadside that are NOT picked up before Bulky Waste Day must be removed at the end of the week. Put them in trash bags or bring them to Bulky Waste Day. Shutesbury has a "Littering and Dumping Bylaw" that addresses items left by the side of the road longer than two weeks. The text of the bylaw is on the Town website, here: <http://www.shutesbury.org/bylaws>

See BWD, page 5

BWD, cont. from page 4

Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- Buckets with metal handles
- Milk/soda crates
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Landscape & microwave trays
- Totes — any size (*with metal*)
- Toys & Playhouses
- Pet carriers
- Coolers
- Shelving
- Closet organizers
- Dish drainers
- Flower pots (no soil)
- Traffic signs
- Recycling bins
- Garbage cans (any size)
- PVC & PET blister pack
- 5 gallon water bottles
- Plastic Auto Parts
 - Side-view mirrors
 - Headlights and taillights
 - Bumpers
 - Grills
 - Hubcaps

Not Acceptable Bulky Rigid Plastics

- PVC pipe/tubing
- Vinyl siding
- Plastic film (grocery bags, etc.)
- Flexible water hoses
- Flexible flower pots
- Other recyclable plastics
- Oil/gas/chemical containers

Collector, cont. from page 3

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 you no longer own. The Town does not get notified if you dispose of an automobile, turn in your license plates, or dispose of personal property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address and place of garaging.

Any registration that lists Shutesbury as a place of garaging will result in an excise tax bill being sent from

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sunday, September 25, 2016, 9am to Noon

Amherst Transfer Station & Recycling Center
740 Belchertown Road (Route 9), Amherst, MA

Household Hazardous Waste Collection day will be Sunday, September 25 at the Amherst Transfer Station & Recycling Center on Rt. 9 from 9:00am to Noon. Shutesbury residents can dispose of hazardous wastes at this event.

Fees: 20 (for up to three gallons/pounds), \$30 (for quantities between 3.1 & 10 gal/lbs), or \$50 (for quantities between 10.1 & 25 gal/lbs). Quantity is based on container size, not residual amount. Fluorescent bulb disposal fee \$1/bulb. Payment is due at the event; cash & checks will be accepted (no credit cards). Visit <http://www.amherstma.gov/recycling> for details.

Registration: Residents MUST pre-register in order to participate. You can register online at <http://www.amherstma.gov/recycling> until September 14. No registrations will be accepted after that date. If you can't register online, call the Shutesbury Recycling Coordinator, **Gary Bernhard**, at 413-259-1235 for paper registration forms.

Note: No latex or acrylic house paint will be accepted. (See below)

These items require special disposal and are welcome on collection day.

Yard & Garden

- Insecticides & Pesticides (bug sprays & strips, mothballs, rodent killers, flea powder)
- Fungicides
- Herbicides (weed, grass, & root killers)

Automotive

- Auto battery
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Carburetor cleaner
- Engine degreaser
- Gasoline
- Gas additive
- Motor oil
- Radiator fluid
- Transmission fluid

Household

- Bleach
- Furniture & metal polish
- Oven & toilet cleaner
- Spot remover

- Solvents
- Upholstery cleaner
- Toxic art/craft goods
- Mercury thermostats & thermometers
- Chemistry kits

Other

- Asphalt sealant
- Kerosene
- Lighter fluid
- Muriatic acid
- Oil paints/sealants/thinners
- Photo chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Refrigerant
- Roofing tar
- Rust proofer

Do NOT Bring

- Asbestos
- Empty Containers From Hazardous Products
- Explosives (Including Ammunition & Fireworks)
- Gas Cylinders
- Latex Paint (See Below)
- Medical/Infectious Waste
- Radioactive Material
- Prescription Drugs

Latex Paint Disposal Instructions

Latex and acrylic paints are problematic in their liquid form. In order to safely dispose of them in normal household trash, purchase paint hardener at an area paint or building supply store (Amherst Farmer's Supply, Cowls, Lowes, Home Depot). Compile unwanted paint from partially full cans into a single paint can and stir in the powder as directed. Do not replace lid until the paint has *completely hardened* in a well-ventilated, covered area. Once hardened, you may place the paint can in a trash bag with other trash. Several generous scoops of kitty litter may be used as an alternative to the hardener, but the drying process will take much longer (as much as several weeks). Put a note to our trash hauler on the trash bag saying that the paint in the can is no longer in liquid form, as paint cans are red flags for waste collection employees.

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.

Shutesbury Office of Emergency Management



On Saturday October 29, 2016. from 10am to 12noon, The Shutesbury Office of Emergency Management will be offering the FEMA Training class
"ARE YOU READY?"

This course gives you information for family home preparedness during a disaster or like emergency. The class will be held at the Town Hall meeting room in the basement. Asst. Director of Emergency Management **Mark Foster** will be the instructor. If planning to attend, please call 413-259-1211; if it's last minute feel free to show up.

Light refreshments will be available.

Select Board, cont. from page 1

and post-colonial history.

Operationally, we are trying to formalize our own work. This year, the Select Board developed its first-ever **policy manual to guide us and the Select Boards of the future**. We also instituted annual check-in meetings with all department heads. It is our hope and expectation that in 2017-2018, we will continue working with town committees and departments to find ways to expand transparency and accountability.

The Select Board is very aware and extremely appreciative that our town is dependent on the generosity, passion and expertise of volunteers. This past year we created a "help wanted" page on the town website, so that, as positions open up, residents can find out about them and get involved.

Elsewhere in this *Our Town* is a list of openings. New and long-term residents are all welcome to volunteer to make our town work better.

Key issues coming up this year include broadband and regional school district assessment.

As we all know, **broadband is vital to our quality of life and our town's future vitality**. We are happy to share that after almost two years of little progress with the state, it seems we are on track and moving forward. Shutesbury is extremely fortunate to have an incredibly committed and highly expert Broadband Committee that is now in active discussions with the state about planning our network build out. While still likely two to three years away, there is finally momentum. Please read the Broadband Committee's update on page 1.

In terms of the regional school assessment, we are also making progress. The assessment is the money

that Shutesbury, Amherst, Pelham and Leverett pay for support of our regional schools (middle and high schools). Last year, at Shutesbury's prompting, the other three towns agreed to shift the approach so that it incorporates a town's "ability to pay" rather than all towns paying an equal amount per student (the previous approach).

After some initial bumpy discussions, **all the towns are now in agreement about the concept of "ability to pay."** This summer and fall discussions have been taking place to find an "ability to pay" approach that is predictable, manageable, and affordable for all four towns.

Financially, we began this fiscal year in **good financial health**. Our town budget for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$6.1 million dollars. As of 6/30/16 we have \$801,167 in Free Cash (our town's checking account of sorts); this amount is certified later in the fall by the state. Our Stabilization account (our town's savings account) and Capital Stabilization account (our town's savings account for capital items) balance is \$1,025,271.

As your Select Board, we look forward to working with you to improve "our town!"

Sincerely *The Three M's*,

Michael Vinskey, Chair; Michael DeChiara and Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil

Broadband, cont. from page 1
to start in 2018. Our goal is to make Shutesbury one of the first towns participating in the "Last Mile" build to complete their project.

A significant aspect of the project that still needs to be determined is how our network will be operated once it is built and operational. We have been

pursuing WiredWest as our preferred model and Shutesbury is still part of the WiredWest group. However, this spring the state clarified their policy, which will not allow WiredWest to exist as a cooperatively owned entity.

Although WiredWest can still exist as an organization to regionally *operate* a broadband network, the lack of shared infrastructure ownership means monthly subscription costs, service and benefits will be different than what we initially expected.

We are awaiting more details of these changes so we can compare the "new" WiredWest with the independent operations model (like Leverett) which is our alternate plan. We know that we can run a sustainable, affordable network in Shutesbury independently, and will certainly use this model for operations if the regional model is less beneficial or may delay service delivery.

Note that all of these uncertainties relate to the *operations* of the network. Either way, we still have to work with MBI in building the network and are currently focusing our efforts on getting the build going as soon as possible. We are pleased that MBI is working with us to move Shutesbury forward despite the uncertainties of future operations. All towns participating in the "Last Mile" broadband project must follow a similar process.

As soon as we have more details we'll hold a town-wide informational meeting. In the meantime, please visit our website where we'll continue to post updates and newsworthy events as they happen: www.shutesbury.org/broadband

Your Broadband Committee

P.S. Many people have been asking what they should do about the \$49 deposit they paid to WiredWest. For the time being, we are encouraging everyone to refrain from requesting a refund. Shutesbury is still a part of the WiredWest group. If we withdraw from WiredWest, we will send out town-wide announcements along with instructions on how to get your deposit back.

News from Shutesbury Elementary School

Jackie Mendonsa , Principal

The staff at Shutesbury Elementary School is so excited to welcome in the 2016-2017 school year. The summer has been spent cleaning, planning and preparing for another fantastic year full of learning, friendships, and enjoyment. The front of our school landscaping has been freshened up and new "moose mascot" trinkets continue to be donated and adorn our halls.

One of the most anticipated changes to the school grounds is our new and improved younger student playground at the back of the building! School community members got together and applied for funds through the Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee and Shutesbury PTO to finance the playground.

The playground boasts new slides, a rock climbing wall, towers, chalkboard, xylophone and lots of neat spaces to play in. It is also ADA accessible. We are so thankful to the CPC, PTO and town for their support in this endeavor. The students (and staff) LOVE it.

We are also in the final stages of preparation for the 1/6-mile track that will be located in our upper field. This is another special project that was supported through the Shutesbury CPC, PTO and Shutesbury Community. We are hoping that this track will be completed in October. Students and teachers are greatly looking forward to using this track during the school day.

Residents of the town are welcome to come and use the track during off school hours (8:30a.m.-3:15pm), weekends, school vacations and summertime. We will send out communication about a ribbon cutting and opening ceremony when it is completed and ready for use!

We have some truly amazing teachers at SES. Over the summer teams of teachers worked in their classrooms, examined curriculum and met for some professional development. Updated math curriculum and technology supports (Investigations, Dreambox, CMP) and updated and aligned reading and writing curriculums (Lucy Calkins, *Words Their Way*, Fountas and Pinnell) are tools in teachers' planning.

We have happily welcomed some new professionals to SES. **Julie Tanguay** is joining us part time as a

behavior specialist/Board Certified Behavior Analyst and **Annie Foley Ruiz** comes to us as a part time English Language Learner teacher. **Steven Carra** is excited to be on board as our part time PE teacher, and **June Hellyar** is working as a para-educator.

Detailed information about events, classrooms, calendars, contact information, committees and the **Roadtown** are all available at our website shutesburyschool.org. We have several fall events planned, including the Welcome Back Potluck Picnic on September 9 and Open House on September 21.

The Roadtown, a newsletter that includes community events and a weekly update from me, is published each week. In thinking about the environment, we are encouraging families to utilize the website for this information. However, if you are interested in a paper copy of this publication, please contact the school and request it.

I am honored to be embarking on my third year as principal of this wonderful school. I am thankful to the school and town community for their support of this truly unique and special place for learning and growth. Our students are so fortunate to have the support and the ability to have access to high quality academics and engagement, but also the vital skills and experiences of creativity, kindness, imagination, the arts, nature, community, compassion, wellness, a growth mindset, and perseverance.

In appreciation,
Jackie Mendonsa

News from Union #28

The Leadership Team of Union #28 (Superintendent, Director of Student Support Services, Director of Finance



Just one of the structures in the new playground!

and Operations, and the principals from the four Union schools) will be working this fall with Chip Wood, a facilitator with Leading Together: Building Adult Community in Schools.

Learning Together is a professional development model for K-12 schools that draws on the principles and practices first articulated by Parker J. Palmer in his book, *The Courage to Teach*. We look forward to this work.

Free weekly playgroup

Enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the Shutesbury Elementary School gym. Starting September 16, the Playgroup will be held on Fridays from 9-10:30am.

This Playgroup is facilitated by **Joie Ciepiela** and is intended for children 0-5 years of age. It is sponsored by the Shutesbury Elementary School and Union #28 Community Network for Children. Program not held during school closures. See CNC Website for program and event schedules, <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/home>. For more information please contact Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email budine@erving.com.

Tales & Tunes

Stories, song and craft activities at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library will continue on Mondays, 9:30-11am. See details on page 8 of this newsletter.

Free Gift and Resource Tote Bag!

The Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC) would like to extend a welcome to your new baby with a free Welcome Baby Gift Bag. Your bag will contain books, health and safety items and valuable information about local services for you and your new baby.

Please call or email Gillian Budine, CNC Coordinator, 978-544-5157 or Budine@erving.com!

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is open every day. Our hours are as follows:
Monday and Wednesday: 11am -1pm and 3 - 6pm
Tuesday and Thursday: 3 -7:30 pm
Friday: 3 - 6 pm
Saturday: 10am -1pm
Sunday: 3 - 6pm

Library-sponsored programs

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library offers a wide variety of programs, for children, families and adults. All programs are listed on our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/>.

Book clubs

The Library supports two book clubs.

Roadtown Reads

The Shutesbury book club is a group of readers who enjoy reading and talking about books and more. We welcome everyone, from any town, whether you can make all the meetings or just one.

Meetings are monthly from September to May, on alternating Monday and Wednesday evenings, in book club members' homes.

We read fiction and nonfiction.

Book club information is posted on the RoadTown Reads Yahoo group. Interested readers can join at this URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/roadtownreads>.

Science Fiction (and Fantasy) Book Club

This new book club usually meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the library.

For the October meeting we will be reading *Coyote* by Alan Steele. Copies of the book are available at the library. Everyone welcome.

Gentle Yoga

with Carina Antonino DiMare
Wednesdays, 9am, at Town Hall, through November.



With funding provided by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and the Shutesbury Council on Aging, the library will continue to offer a free, weekly, gentle yoga class. Please bring a yoga mat.

Tales & Tunes story time

With support from the Union #28 Community Network for Children and The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, we offer a weekly *Tales & Tunes* program on Mondays from 9:30 – 11am, starting September 12.

Led by **Katie Tolles**, this program of stories, song and craft activities is for children 0-5 years of age.

Art, honeybees, and laughter! Save the dates!

1. Wednesday, September 28
7 pm at the Shutesbury Athletic Club
Stunning Still Lifes

Pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present an adult hands-on workshop, "Pastel Paint Stunning Still Lifes Like the Masters." This fun pastel painting workshop is designed for beginners to experienced artists. All materials provided. Free.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED,

please call 259-1213.

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

2. Wednesday, October 5^h

7 pm at Town Hall

Honeybees in our Environment

A presentation by veteran bee keeper Ken Warchol.

Travel inside a beehive to understand this mysterious social insect and the role it plays in humanity's survival on Earth. Ken will bring a variety of honey samples for tasting.

3. Saturday, November 5

Dinner at 6pm, Show at 7pm at the Shutesbury Athletic Club!

Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library Annual Meeting

The Trustees and Friends of the Library will serve a delicious dinner followed by a Family-Friendly Improv Comedy Show by The Ha Ha's!

Plans are in the works

for Family Movie Nights, Lego Club, a Chemistry Adventure Day and more.

Visit our website, LIKE the Library on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary/>, or stop in for more information.

C/W MARS

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is a member of C/W MARS, a large network of libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts. Our C/W MARS membership gives Shutes-

bury residents access to nearly nine million library items. Log in to your library account, search the catalog and request items which will be delivered to Shutesbury for pick up – usually within a week. We receive deliveries every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and email notifications are sent as items arrive.

How to log into your C/W MARS account.

Go to our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/>

- Click the “Log in to your ac-

count” tab

- Enter your library card number or user name
- Enter password
- Click Log in

If you don't know or you forgot your password, you may click *Forgot your password?* Then enter your library card number and click *Submit*. You will receive an email with instructions for resetting your password. If you prefer, you may call the library, 413-259-1213, and we will set a new password for you.

Library, cont. from page 1

on the status of the effort to build a new library in Shutesbury.

We love the cozy and charming M.N. Spear Library while recognizing its shortcomings: it still has no running water and no private work or study space, and the heating grate still melts your shoes during the winter and poses a danger to toddlers during story time. Our collection is still severely limited by the amount of space available and we are still not able to host many of our library-sponsored programs at the library.

While we still hope to help bring a new library to Shutesbury, at this time we see that our town's principal infrastructure need is for town-wide access to broadband internet. Until our town has a clear path for broadband, we do not plan to apply for a Massachusetts

Board of Library Commissioners grant. The trustees continue to support our small library in providing the best possible services to our town, while listening carefully to the needs and concerns of our neighbors through surveys and focus groups and in informal conversations.

Meanwhile, the trustees, the Friends of the Library, and Town Meeting continue to put money aside for a new building. We have \$261,506.68 in hand to build our new library. Of this, more than half—\$133,806.68—has been raised through the creative hard work of private donors and volunteers, through bake sales, pledge drives, bottle recycling, donations, and more. This May we raised \$8000 on Valley Gives Day, and during this year's Spring Spruce-Up, 20 volunteers did 15 garden/yard jobs for their neighbors to raise money for a new library. The

total private monies raised represent an extraordinary achievement. We will continue to fundraise enthusiastically so that when the time is ripe, the burden on taxpayers will be less.

Since 2007, Town Meeting has been appropriating funds for a new library, with a current total of \$127,700.00. The new library will be a town building, and the town is wisely choosing to save up over time. We are grateful to Town Meeting for its continued support of the library.

The trustees are proud that our little library has one of the higher levels of circulation/capita in the state. It provides great books and other materials, dozens of innovative events for townspeople for all ages, and the only library-based kayak lending program around. Please come by and visit soon.

Nextdoor Shutesbury

Paul Vlach, *Nextdoor moderator*

I invite you to go to www.shutesburyma.nextdoor.com to join nearly 600 other Shutesbury residents as they share information; request and receive recommendations on repair and service providers; discuss town issues; alert each other to crime and safety issues; and buy, sell or give away items. This is not a Town-owned system, but it serves and enhances our community.

You must be a Shutesbury resident, using your actual name and address, and join as an individual. Search engines and non-members do not see information posted or member info. If you have trouble joining, or questions, contact me at vlach@admin.umass.edu



Flowers and produce abound at the Saturday morning Farmers Market.



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

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Celebrate Shutesbury
September 17!

Resident
Shutesbury MA 01072

HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

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

ACCOUNTANT		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gail Weiss	259-1108	Jackie Mendonsa, Principal	259-1212	Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY		EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR		Dispatch 413-625-8200
Linda Avis Scott	259-6550	Walter Tibbets	259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR		FINANCE COMMITTEE		Gary Bernhard 259-1235
Rebecca Torres	259-1214	George Arvanitis, Co-Chair	259-1348	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ANIMAL INSPECTORS		Eric Stocker, Co-Chair	259-1250	Stephen Sullivan 259-1626
Denise Chiminiello	259-1020	FIRE DEPARTMENT		SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Nancy Long	259-1279	Walter Tibbets, Chief	259-1211	Fred Steinberg 259-9996
ASSESSORS		or at home	259-1286	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT.
Kenneth Holmberg	259-3790	HEALTH AGENT		Jennifer Haggerty 413-423-3337
BOARD OF HEALTH		David Zarozinski	549-3710	SELECT BOARD
Catherine Hilton, Clerk	259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		Michael Vinskey, Chair 253-4260
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE		Tim Hunting	259-1215	Michael DeChiara 259-1059
Bob Groves	259-1200	HISTORICAL COMMISSION		Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil 256-0312
BUILDING INSPECTOR		Barbara Goodhind	259-1428	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE
Jim Hawkins	413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY		Gayle Huntress 259-1905
CEMETERY COMMISSION		Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir.	259-1213	Asha Strazzero-Wild 413-478-8368
Marilyn Tibbets	259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES		TAX COLLECTOR
COUNCIL ON AGING		Kate Cell, Co-Chair	259-9129	Ellen McKay 259-1615
Med-Ride Program	259-3796	Molly Moss, Co-Chair	253-6717	TOWN CLERK
Marilyn Tibbets, Chair	259-1976	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE		Susie Mosher 259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION		Leave inquiries at	259-1214	TOWN MODERATOR
Leave inquiries at	259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER		Penelope Kim 259-1326
CULTURAL COUNCIL		Janis S. Gray	259-1584	TREASURER
Julie Stepanek, contact	387-5670	PERSONNEL BOARD		Gabriele Voelker 259-1801
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES		George Arvanitis	259-1348	TREE WARDEN
Timothy Niejadlik	772-1571	PLANNING BOARD		Thomas Houston 259-1508
DOG OFFICER		Deacon Bonnar	259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE
Nancy Long	259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR		Paul Vlach 259-1543
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR		John Letourneau	367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Maurice Gregoire	253-7505			Charles J. DiMare 549-5330

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911