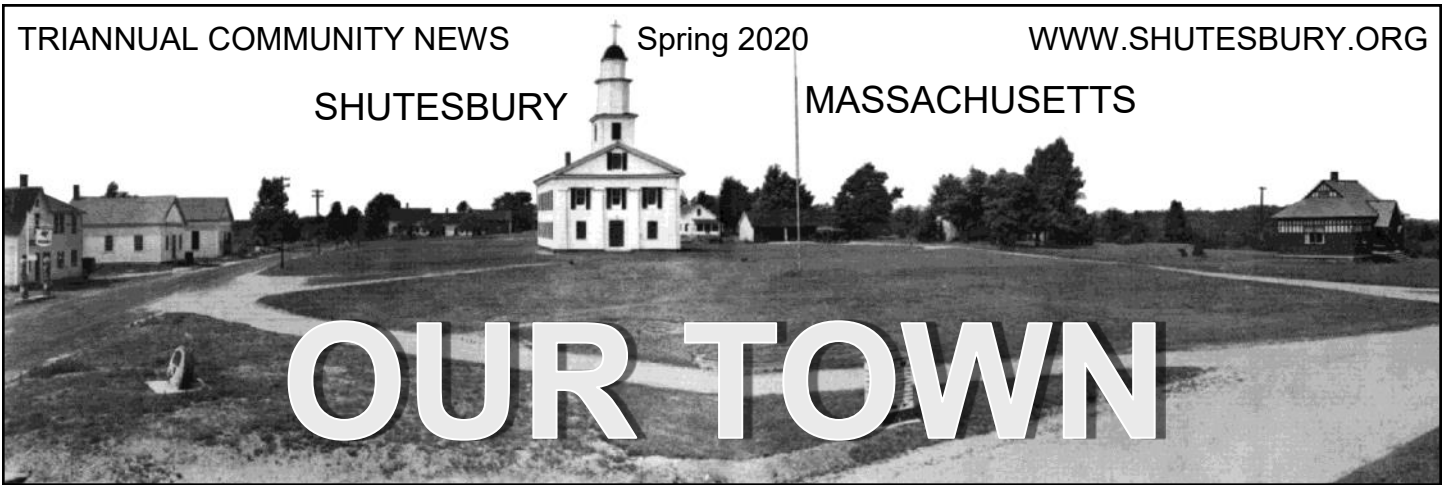


SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

The spirit of our community — updates from the Select Board

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Elaine Puleo, April Stein

Spring is arriving and there is a sense of strength, hope and community throughout our beautiful town. Less than two months ago we would have highlighted here the work

we've done over the winter to prepare for our new fiscal year.

Of course, all that has been overshadowed by joining with all Town boards and

committees to deal with the COVID-19 crisis and trying to manage the effect on our community. We all would like answers. We're all concerned. Hopefully, we're all practicing good hygiene, wearing cloth masks if and when we go into public areas, and practicing social distancing: staying at least six feet apart and congregating in no greater than 10 people per group. Together we will show the strength of our community bonds and we will come through this crisis.

For now, **your best source of information is the Town Announce email system** and checking for updates on the town website. If you have not signed up for Town Announce go to the shutesbury.org website today and sign up in the right-hand corner.

If you have children attending Shutesbury Elementary School who are on the free and reduced lunch program there is food assistance for you. The school sends out weekly information. While they are not at the school, you can email them with your questions.

If either you or someone you know needs help at this time, please contact the Fire Department, the Police Department or the Town Administrator. They will help you find assistance to get through. For those of you who want to help and don't know how, local grocery

stores' gift cards can be purchased and sent to either the school, the Fire Department or the Police Department, and they will distribute them to folks in need.

Let us keep our community spirit even though we must stay at a distance. We are fortunate to have open spaces to walk in and wonderful supportive neighbors to wave to. Staying at home is the easiest way to do your part to combat the spread of this disease. Please know that we, your Select Board, are here and working together (remotely) to do everything we can to help.

Now, **let's look at what we would have liked to have been telling you** that was most important only a few weeks ago.

Your Select Board has been working hard over the winter on **preparations for the 2021 budget and Town Meeting**; future planning for vulnerability planning; hiring personnel; supporting the annual ice-to-mud transformation of our roads, among many other things.

In February (which seems like a lifetime ago), the Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee worked together to present a united front to the Regional School Committee to request that we move to using the standard (statutory) assessment method (recommended by the state) with a five-year rolling average of the number of students from each town.

To that aim, the Regional School Committee heard our request and moved toward a more equitable assessment for our town. That means a **3% reduction in our Regional School assessment** over last year.

Select Board, cont. on page 6



Community Notification System (otherwise known as reverse 911)

As of August 1, 2019, the Town of Shutesbury has been using a service called CodeRED as our emergency community notification system to send important alerts and time-sensitive messages to residents and employees.

CodeRED, cont. on page 8

Town of Shutesbury

Important information Regarding Your Tax Bill

Under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19,” Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the town/city has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. See below.

1. The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020. June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is April 1, 2020 or May 1, 2020.

2. The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has also been extended to June 1, 2020. June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for applications on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is April 1, 2020.

This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions under clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2 and 17D (seniors, surviving spouses, minor children of deceased parent); 18 (financial hardship – activated military, age and infirmity); 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41, 41B, 41C and 41C1/2 (seniors); 42 and 43 (surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer

killed in line of duty); 52 (certain eligible seniors); 53 (certain eligible properties with septic systems); 56 (National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries); and 57 (local option tax rebates). This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5I and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

Information on exemptions can be found on the Assessor’s web page on the Town’s website (Shutesbury.org) or by contacting the Assessors by telephone at 413-259-3790 (please leave a message with return telephone number), e-mailing the office at assessors@shutesbury.org or sending written requests to Board of Assessors, PO Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Applications for exemptions should be mailed to the Assessors at the above address and must be received on or before June 1.

3. The town/city has also voted to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but BEFORE June 30, 2020. This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when payment of such bills are received at the Collector’s office before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if payment of the bill is not received at the Collector’s office by June 30.

This waiver only applies to the following bills: 2020 Real Estate and Personal Property Quarter 4, 2020, Motor Vehicle excise commitment 2 (bills number 1792 -1888), commitment 20 (bills 20001-20019) or any bills not yet issued. It does not apply to any overdue balance on the quarter 4 real estate or personal property bills.

NOTE - If the municipal offices are closed on the June 1, 2020 extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus or the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the governor on March 10, 2020, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are not extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10(b) of the Act.)

Messages can be left for the Collector at 413-259-1615 with return telephone numbers (return calls will be made mornings only) by e-mail to collector@shutesbury.org and by mail to PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Payments can be made through the UniBank on-line banking site. The link is found on the Town’s website (Shutesbury.org). To enter your information, you should enter the year and bill number without letters (ie 2020 for year and 165 for bill number) or click on “to search for your bill – click here” and enter the last name of the first name on the bill. Payments can be mailed either to the lockbox at Town of Shutesbury, Department 3520, PO Box 4110, Woburn, MA 01888-4110 or Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. **No payments can be made in person at the town hall as the town hall is closed to the public.**

Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher, Town Clerk
townclerk@shutesbury.org
Grace Bannasch, Assistant Town Clerk
assistant.clerk@shutesbury.org
413-259-1204
Website www.shutesbury.org
Town Hall is closed for now. We are available by phone or by email.

Any changes in plans and events listed below will be posted on the town website and announced by email, using the Town Announce system. Sign-up for notifications on the town website's home page – www.shutesbury.org.

FROM the TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE. For the health and safety of citizens, Town Hall is accessible by phone and email only at this time. The town website, www.shutesbury.org, is the main platform for official news, updates and information.

Thanks to Broadband, a majority (but not all) of Shutesbury households can access this

website. Share information if you have a neighbor without access. These are trying times, and volunteers and town staff are trying very hard.

Even with Town Hall closed, boards and committees are using Zoom.us to have virtual meetings to take care of town business. These meetings are accessible to the public. The town website calendar (<http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01072>) (see the left side bar) allows you to view the scheduled meetings. If you click on a meeting, the agenda page will pop up. The top of the page has instructions for how to join a Zoom.us meeting. Farther down that page, the agenda for will have the specific Meeting ID and Password to join the meeting.

DATES:

Friday, May 1 – Trash Bag distribution begins. See town website or **page 9 of this newsletter** for more distribution dates.

Friday, May 1 – Town Clerk begins mailing Absentee or Early Ballots upon request (details

below).

Wednesday, June 17 – Last day for voter registration for June 27 voting.

Saturday, June 27, 2020 - Annual Town Meeting and Elections.

TOWN ELECTIONS:

Legislation has increased opportunities for **Absentee Voting or Early Voting by mail for town elections.**

Step 1. Request a ballot. Requests for ballots can be sent in now. Ballots will be mailed out starting May 1, 2020.

Send a **signed**, written request (mailed or emailed), to the Town Clerk stating residential address, type of ballot being requested (Absentee or Early) and where to mail it. Or download either application form ([AV here](#)) or ([EV here](#)). Emailing a jpeg of your signed letter or application is also acceptable. Once your request is received, we will mail you a ballot, a ballot envelope (with affidavit and signature line) and an envelope in which to mail the ballot to Town Hall.

Town Clerk, cont. on page 4

Here are the seats on the 2020 ballot

All are for three-year terms. * = Incumbent

Board of Health – Vote for two

*Norene Pease, 19 South Laurel Dr.
Garrett Simonsen, 294 W. Pelham Rd.

Cemetery Commissioner – Vote for one

*Walter R. Tibbetts, 273 Pelham Hill Rd.

Library Trustee – Vote for two

*P. Savanna Ouellette, 205 W. Pelham Rd.
Melanie DeSilva, 291 Wendell Rd.

Planning Board – Vote for three

*Michael DeChiara, 56 Pratt Corner Rd.
*Steven Bressler, 43 Old Orchard Rd.
*Deacon Bonnar, 276 Montague Rd.

School Committee – Vote for two

*Daniel Hayes, 194 Wendell Rd.
*Stephen Sullivan, 444 Wendell Rd.

Select Board – Vote for one

Rita Farrell, 36 Briggs Rd.
Jeffrey R. Lacy, 7 Baker Rd.

Town Clerk – Vote for one

Grace Bannasch, 106 Sandhill Rd.

Write-In candidates must have a complete name and street address.
Stickers with this information are accepted.

Town Clerk, cont. from page 3

Step 2. Sign an affidavit. Early and Absentee **ballots** are exactly the same. The **affidavits** to sign on the envelope differ slightly. The Absentee Voter affirms they are a registered voter in Shutesbury using an absentee ballot because they will be absent from town on election day or are unable to vote due to a disability (now including the COVID-19 precautions) or religious belief.

The Early Voter signs affidavit affirming they are a registered Shutesbury voter but does not swear to any specific reason.

Your ballot affidavit envelope must be signed in order to be counted.

Step 3. Seal the ballot inside the signed envelope and put that envelope into the mailing envelope provided by the town. **One** first class stamp is all the postage needed. All mailed ballots must reach the Town Clerk by **noon on June 27.**

The legislation still requires the **opportunity to vote in person on Election Day, June 27.** The polls will be open from 8am to 2pm. Social distancing may still be required. Annual Town Meeting will convene at 9am. The location for both events is the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Rd. If any of these plans are modified, an announcement will be made on the town website, www.shutesbury.org.

Accommodations can be made for attending and voting on June 27. Please contact Becky Torres, Town Administrator and ADA Coordinator, ahead of time at 413-259-1214 or townadmin@shutesbury.org.

CENSUS: LOCAL and FEDERAL
On Monday, June 1, state law requires postcards be mailed out, inactivating those who never returned this year's TOWN census

form. You can reactivate your voting status by sending in the postcard or returning the census form. If you need a new census form, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

The 2020 FEDERAL census affects funding and representation for all of us in Shutesbury. As of this date, only 50% of Shutesbury has returned the Federal census forms. Unfortunately, no one with a Post Office Box address received their census letter since the government must mail or hand deliver the form to a verified **residence**. The strategy for census workers to drop off a packet is temporarily suspended. Here is some information about how to overcome this obstacle:

Households that have not yet received anything yet about the 2020 Census have three options:

(1) Wait for the 2020 Census letter and survey packet to be dropped off at the household in the future. Households will have until August 14, 2020 to self-respond. **OR**

(2) Go online to www.my2020census.gov and complete the survey without using a 12-digit Census ID. When asked to log in, click on "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." The next page will ask for the address of where you were living on April 1, 2020. Then submit your address accordingly. **OR**

(3) Call 844-330-2020 to complete the survey by phone without using a 12-digit Census ID. You will provide your address over the phone. For more information on how to respond by phone, including the phone numbers to call to complete the survey in 15 other languages and TDD, go to: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html>.

Do not worry if you fill out the survey online or by phone now, and then forget and fill out the paper form later. The Census Bureau

has a process to review households that submitted multiple responses.

Also, a question that has come up for some households that received their invitation letter in the mail: **What if the town or zip code listed in the mailing address does not match the town where I actually live?** The mailing address does not impact the data collected. The Census ID number on the 2020 Census invitation letter is geo-coded to the physical location of the household. The mailing address is only used to get the invitation letter from the Census Bureau to the household efficiently.

For questions about the 2020 Census, please contact Jessica Atwood from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments at jatwood@frcoq.org or our local U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, Elaine Arsenault, at elaine.m.arsenault@2020census.gov. Or learn more at <https://www.2020census.gov/> or <https://frcoq.org/publication/view/census-2020-preparation/>.

DOG LICENSES

The new 2020 – 21 Dog licenses are in. The current tags expire June 30, 2020, but you can get new ones now. You do not need to fill out an application if you have no changes from last year. You may send in the fee and a self-addressed envelope with TWO first class stamps and we'll mail out your new dog(s) tag. If you have changes to report, you can download the [application](#) and mail it in with your check and return envelope. If you need assistance, please call or email the Town Clerk.

ALL OTHER BUSINESS

In addition to voter registration, elections and dog tags, the Town Clerk still handles vital record requests, DBA Business Certificates, marriage intentions, notary services, oaths of office, and public record requests via email and phone.

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 received by this newsletter. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse any candidate.

School Committee	Select Board
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Dan Hayes
194 Wendell Rd.

I ask for your vote to continue serving on the School Committee, on Union #28, chair at the Collaborative (CES), representative to MASC Regions committee and member of the Transportation Commission for Governor Baker representing school committees throughout the commonwealth. I am active in sub-committees, MASC Division V, attend Day on the Hill, state and national conferences. My role has evolved, focusing on advocacy. Whether it be campaigning to limit charter school expansion, support implementing the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommendations or providing input on reducing transportation costs, I am fortunate to have time and flexibility. My goal is to maintaining what we have - an excellent, well-run, top tier school that teaches to the whole child and to all children.

Rita Farrell
36 Briggs Rd.

I'm running for the Shutesbury Select Board because I have the commitment and qualifications to serve as an effective leader for all residents. We are facing challenges in Shutesbury ranging from changing demographics to a fiscal environment that places a burden on our ability to continue the current level of services.

My Qualifications:

- Decades of leadership experience in town government: School, Finance, Recreation and CPC committees
- Shared administrator for 4 Franklin county towns
- Problem solver whose approach is reasonable, thorough and holistic

My Priorities:

- Balance fiscal responsibility while still investing in public services
- Advocate for more financial support from state and federal government
- Encourage collaboration and communication amongst town boards and officials
- Promote community engagement through communication and participation
- Embrace diversity and culture

Jeffrey R. Lacy
7 Baker Rd.

I'm running to offer broad state and municipal experience to the Select Board.

I'm a certified planner with 32 years of work with small towns. I have volunteered continuously from my first year in Shutesbury – Planning Board, Zoning Board, Old Town Hall Committee, school funding working group, and committees creating and updating our master plan. As an interested citizen, I participate at Finance Committee, Select Board, and all Town Meetings. Our kids went through the public school system.

I am socially liberal and fiscally frugal, supporting a transparent, inclusive process for any major Town endeavor, including proposals for a new library. I'm also concerned about Shutesbury having one of the state's highest property tax rates and the burden that places upon many of our households.

We Need You!

Available Seats on Town Boards & Committees

(These positions are filled by recommendation of the Board/Committee and appointment by the Select Board)

- Conservation Commission – 2
- Council on Aging – 1
- Cultural Council – 1
- Historical Commission – 1



Please Vote!

- Memorial Day Committee – 1
- Recreation Committee – 1
- Water Resources Committee – 1
- Web Communications Committee – 2
- Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate – 1

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the contact person for the Board or Committee as listed on the Town website under "Contact Town Officials," or on the back page of this newsletter.

Select Board, cont. from page 1

Through hard work by former Select Board member and current Planning Board member **Michael DeChiara**, we obtained a \$16,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant. We have hired Fuss and O'Neill to work with the town to help determine our greatest needs. The focus includes looking at the effects of climate change on our community. They will work with us to help the town identify our vulnerabilities and strengths in managing and dealing with the possible changes ahead due to climate change.

The Select Board has also been working with the Finance Committee in preparation for our Annual Town Meeting. The work is continuing, though Town Meeting has been postponed to the last Saturday in June (6/27/2020) because of the COVID-19 virus and the directives from our Governor limiting the number of people who can congregate.

Our last in-person meeting was on 3/17/2020 at the Town Hall. At that meeting the Select Board declared a State of Emergency, which, among other things, allows us to be reimbursed for emergency-related expenses. The Select Board discussed the need for citizens to use Town Announce and check the Town Website for updates and information. We also are using our new reverse-911 system, Code Red, Announcement capacity to let people know of the changes occurring during this unprecedented situation.

On 3/17/2020 the Selectboard voted to change Town Meeting from the last Saturday in April to June 27, 2020 for this year.

Our Town Clerk, **Susie Mosher**, is working with the State on final plans as to how to hold our Town Elections this year. This information will be on the Town Website. Should the State of Emergency still be in effect at the end of June, the Select Board will work on

alternatives to holding a live meeting. At this time, however, the assumption is that we will be meeting at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

Through this emergency, our Board of Health is central to managing any response to the COVID-19 virus and has been incredibly competent, professional and efficient in their response. They are working closely with the state officials. They regularly post updates and useful information on our town website, www.shutesbury.org. The Select Board supports their actions and their on-going work.

All Board and Committee meetings in town are now held on the Internet using the "Zoom" platform.

Gayle Huntress, MLP Manager, gave a training to all town officials. Information regarding meetings and how to access them through the "Zoom" Platform is available on the town website. Meetings are recorded and can be viewed upon request to the Town Clerk. Of course, meeting minutes will continue to be posted in a timely fashion on the town website.

Having Broadband Internet through this time has enabled those of us who can to work from home; our students to work on school work remotely; people to connect through the various video platforms available; and many other things. It's hard to imagine how difficult this all would be if we were using the old satellite, DSL or dial-up systems. Thank you all who helped make Shutesbury.net possible! When you see Broadband Committee members traveling through town, give them a wave or honk to show your gratitude.

With people at home, and (at six feet apart) walking on our trails or on our roads, there is a sense that we are all in this together, how important we are to each other and that through all this we will, as a community, thrive.

Sincerely,
Your Select Board

Restoration ahead for war memorial, gravestones

Janice Stone, *Historical Commission Secretary*

The Historical Commission has received a small grant from SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board) to help in the restoration of several veterans monuments in town. The grant includes repainting the war memorial on the Town Common and cleaning/repairing seven veterans' gravestone monuments at the West Cemetery. The latter is to piggy-back on a larger gravestone restoration project the Cemetery Commission is undertaking with funding from Community Preservation Act funds. (See related story on page 9.)



Photo of war memorial by Janice Stone

Our Town Newsletter Policy
Adopted by the Shutesbury Select Board
December 23, 2019

Our Town, published three times a year in January or February, April, and August or September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local community projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions must be strictly secular and nonpartisan and are subject to review, revision, and/or non-acceptance by the editorial board of the newsletter. Submissions promoting the sale of goods and services for private profit cannot be accepted. Appeals to any review decisions can be brought to the Select Board for further discussion.

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

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A Virtual Social Hour

The annual Social Hour, sponsored by the Select Board, is usually held the Sunday before Annual Town Meeting. It has been an opportunity to acknowledge and thank volunteers and staff who retired from their positions during the past year and to hear from candidates for elected Town offices.

This year, given the uncertainty about when we will be able to gather in person, we will honor those who have served here. The following is a list of those who have retired from their positions since the 2019 social hour and whose terms will end this year.

Tom Williams – Zoning Board of Appeals
Benjamin Caulton – Shutesbury Fire Department
Sue Essig – Open Space Committee

Elizabeth Fernandes-O'Brien – Recreation Committee
Tim Cook – Water Resources Committee
Diane Jacoby – Board of Assessors
Steve Schmidt – Board of Assessors
Susie Mosher – Record Storage Advisory Committee & Town Clerk
Leslie Bracebridge – Record Storage Advisory Committee
Susan Millinger – Record Storage Advisory Committee
Savanna Ouellette – Record Storage Advisory Committee
Linda Avis Scott – Record Storage Advisory Committee
Elaine Puleo – Select Board
Barry Field – Conservation Commission
Penny Jaques – Conservation Commission
Michael DeChiara – Web Communications Committee

Weezie Houle – Finance Committee
Eric Stocker – Finance Committee
Peter Nyzio – Registrars of Voters
Sanford Lewis – Sustainable Cannabis Development Committee
Don Wakoluk - Sustainable Cannabis Development Committee
Mary Lou Conca - Sustainable Cannabis Development Committee
Julia Agron - Sustainable Cannabis Development Committee
Paul Lyons – Lake Wyola Advisory Committee
Bob Thompson – Lake Wyola Advisory Committee
Asha Strazzerro-Wild – Broadband Committee
Ray Cusson – Cemetery Commission

With Special Appreciation for the Volunteers Whom We Have Lost

David Dann – Council on Aging
David Wheeler – Council on Aging

Andrew Fairfield – Med-Ride Driver
Anne-Marie Kenerson – Memorial Day Committee

~With sincere apologies if we have missed anyone~

News from the Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee

The Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee held a public hearing, as per the Community Preservation Act, in the Shutesbury Town Hall meeting room on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

This annual informational hearing is designed to allow public input into the committee regarding town needs and suggestions about how the committee can best address those needs.

This year, the Committee received one project proposal from

the Amherst Pelham Regional School, for a schematic design and engineering study for the restoration/reconstruction of the high school track and field.

If approved *at our Annual Town Meeting in June*, the costs for this project will be proportionately shared by the four towns.

As the CPC discussed ideas for worthwhile community preservation projects, it recognized that each successful project depends on a group of committed volunteers to organize the project, to complete a thorough application and see it through the review process, and to oversee implementation through project completion.

The committee actively encourages groups of volunteers to exercise their creativity and devote their energies to organizing and proposing projects that benefit all of our citizens.

We welcome projects, both large and small, that add to our cultural heritage while providing resources for open space, recreation, community housing and historic preservation.

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

We could not do it without you!

I am finding it very poignant to write about our newsletter folding parties. So much has changed since we were last together on February 9.

First, thank you to volunteer newsletter editor **Janis Gray**. She handles inquiries about submissions, reviews all content, and figures out how to include news and information from various Town departments, committees, staff, and community groups. After all the final edits are made, Janis delivers the content to Amherst Copy & Design Works for printing and picks up the finished product.

For each issue of the *Our Town* newsletter, a group of volunteers collates and folds materials. On February 9, after an icy start to the day, many folks showed up to help. A few for the first time! Many thanks to: **Andy Fairfield, Sally Fairfield, Joan Hanson, Diane Jacoby, Susan Millinger, Dave Mosher, Susie Mosher, Sandy Olken, Mie Piner, BZ Reilly, Christine Robinson, and Eric Stocker.**

I wish to acknowledge the death of **Andy Fairfield** on February 16, 2020. Andy was a lovely man to be around and a super newsletter collator. We will miss hearing his voice share stories from his very interesting life. When we are able to gather together once again, his presence will be sorely missed.

Here's how to join us next time: When an issue goes to print, there will be a Town Announcement about the date/time the folding will begin. Any amount of time is welcome! The activity is easy and the conversation interesting and fun.

Most sincerely,

Linda Avis Scott
Administrative Secretary

CodeRED, cont. from page 1

Along with emergency and critical messages, the CodeRED

notification system can also be used to notify the community about important but non-emergency information, such as road closures and trash collection schedule changes and other services.

What do you have to do?

If you received notifications from our old system, "Blackboard Connect," you are most likely in the new systems data base.

But if you have **recently changed your phone number, cell phone number, email address, or if you switched from a Verizon line to a voice over IP line**, this change most likely will not be in the system and you will not receive notifications on the devices or via email.

If you are **new to town**, you most likely are not in the system and will not receive any notifications.

Regardless of which category you fit into, **all residents** are encouraged to visit the CodeRED website and either sign up or update your information. To do this, go to the town website www.shutesbury.org, on the right hand side of the main page, under the picture of Town Hall, click on the link that says "Sign up for notifications." This brings you to a page that has links to sign up for "CodeRED," the Town email list and "My Town Government." Click on the link for "CodeRED" and follow the instructions on the introductory page. From there you can also download the "CodeRED" app. to your smart phone.

For those that like to do things from your cell phone, coming very soon is a "Text to enroll" feature.

We also have a paper application form that can be filled out and returned to the Fire Chief who can input this information for you. This form can be obtained at the Fire Station or there are a stack of them in the Post Office front entry. You can return them by mailing to the Fire Department, P.O. Box 295, Shutesbury, MA 01072 or return in person to the Fire Station.

However it is done, the most

important thing is to get your updated information into the system!

For more information on the CodeRED notification system or registration, please contact Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director **Walter Tibbetts** at 259-1211 or via email at firedpt@shutesbury.org.

One very important change that should be noted will be the "Caller ID" that shows on your telephone.

In this day and age when we are inundated with "Robo Calls," many of us will not answer the phone if we do not recognize the number. I myself tend to do the same thing. With this new system you will no longer see the number for the Fire Station on your Caller ID. You will now see the following displayed:

For emergency notifications
you will see
866-419-5000 or Emergency Comm.

For general non-emergency notifications you will see
855-969-4636 or General Comm.

Please copy these numbers down and place them next to your phone so that you can more easily recognize them. Initial tests have shown that some people have received some variation of the above information on their Caller ID. Please become familiar with what comes up on your phone so you can recognize and not ignore these potentially important calls.

It would also be a good idea to add these numbers to your contact list on your cell phones under the name CodeRED to make them more easily recognized.

One very handy new feature is the fact that if you missed the call and would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back and you will be able to replay the message.

Thank you and be safe.
The Shutesbury Emergency Management Team

Shutesbury Trash Bag Distribution Schedule 2020

If you run out of Town of Shutesbury trash bags prior to the distribution of the new, annual supply of Town trash bags, it is okay to use an alternate, similar-sized bag, such as a black trash bag.

Alternate bags will be picked up by our trash and recycling hauler only until trash bag distribution resumes on May 1. When you come for your new bags, bring your own bag to put them in.

Leverett Transfer Station stickers for Shutesbury residents can also be purchased at these times. FY20 stickers, valid through 6/30/20, are \$10. FY21 stickers, valid through 6/30/21, are \$20.

- Friday, May 1, 2:00 – 4:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, May 2, 9:30 – 11:30
(School Shed)
- Tuesday, May 5, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Thursday, May 7, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, May 9, 9:30 – 11:30
(School Shed)
- Wednesday, May 13, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, May 16, 9:30 – 11:30
(School Shed)
- Wednesday, May 20, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, May 23rd 9:30-11:30
(School Shed)
- Saturday, May 30, 9:30-11:30
(School Shed)
- Thursday, June 4, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, June 6, 9:30 – 11:30
(School Shed)
- Wednesday, June 10, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, June 13, 8:30 – 10:30
(School Shed)
- Tuesday, June 16. 3:00 – 5:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, June 20, 9:30 – 11:30
(School Shed)
- Monday, June 22, 5:30 – 7:00
(School Shed)
- Saturday, June 27, 8:30 – 11:30
(Town Meeting)
- Wednesday July 1. 5:30 –7:00
(School Shed)

Picking Up Trash Bags Buying Leverett Transfer Station Stickers

In order to ensure the safety of Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) volunteers and Shutesbury residents, the RSWC has developed a protocol for picking up trash bags and purchasing Leverett Transfer Station stickers. Below is the layout for bag distribution days at Shutesbury Elementary School.

**Old
RSWC Shed**
Pick Up Trash
Bags.
*One person at a
time.*

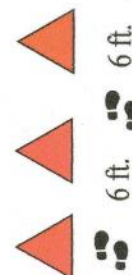
After checking in and paying for/picking up LTS sticker, pick up five packs of trash bags. Bring your own bag to put them in.



**Large
School
Shed**

Put \$ for LTS sticker in container and go back in line beside cones. RSWC worker will take money, put sticker in container. Then pick up the sticker.

**New
RSWC Shed**
Check in —and, if
desired, purchase
LTS Sticker



Form a line, standing six feet apart beside the cones

West Cemetery project nears next phase

Janice Stone, Cemetery
Commission Secretary

The Cemetery Commission is presently issuing an RFB (Request for Bid) for gravestone monument restoration at the West Cemetery, for work to be done this year. We have a list of the 18 highest priority monuments for restoration, based on the concern for the safety of the public when they are near these stones, and overall condition.

Town Meeting approved Community Preservation Act funding for this project a few years ago, which also included removal in the oldest section of some very large pine trees that were damaging gravestones with their falling branches. The tree work has been done and we are ready for the next phase.

If you happen to be in the back part of the West Cemetery you may notice metal rods painted red with pink flagging.



Photo by Janice Stone

These mark the high priority monuments for restoration by a professional. Please be careful around these and all gravestones.

Another important part of this project is a **workshop for volunteers**, to train them on how to safely and correctly clean gravestones. *We are looking for people interested in attending this workshop who will be willing to use this training to help clean more gravestones in the town cemeteries.* If you are interested, please contact Janice Stone at istone.shutesbury@gmail.com.



Planning a project? Contact the Conservation Commission *before* you start

Thinking of your warm-weather projects? Outdoor projects of any kind may be subject to review to ensure we are protecting Shutesbury's wetlands.

Check before you dig! Landscaping, construction, new structures or even upgrading existing structures may require action to guarantee there will be no impact to nearby wetlands. The Shutesbury Conservation Commission (ConCom) will help.

The ConCom wants to help property owners proceed with their projects while simultaneously protecting the valuable wetland resources that benefit everyone.

Why it matters: Wetlands maintain water quality and serve as critical habitats. They are vital for a healthy ecosystem. Countless critters, from amphibians to birds, depend on wetlands for food, shelter, and spawning. Massachusetts law protects wetlands and infractions are subject to penalties.

Projects you should consider: New landscaping, tree removal, new structures, retrofitting and new septic systems, stormwater drainage on your property, grading or excavation, or that new bocce court you've been dreaming of.

Who to contact: Our knowledgeable clerk, **Linda Avis Scott**, is there to help you through the process. She can help you determine what you need to do and how to go about it. Here are ways to engage:

1. Call 413-259-3792 and leave

a message, or email

concom@shutesbury.org.

2. Visit Town Hall during Linda's office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12pm. You can also pick up an informative brochure at Town Hall for more details. (Town Hall is closed during the State of Emergency – please email or leave a phone message)
3. Attend one of our meetings (from March to October, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm and from November to February, on the 2nd Thursday). It's best to call first to get on our agenda.
4. For more information about the work of the Commission visit our webpage at www.shutesbury.org/concom.

What Else to Know:

- The ConCom must sign off on all Building Permit Applications whenever digging is required.
- Near Lake Wyola, most proposed work must be reviewed by the ConCom before work begins.
- Don't wait till until your contractor is scheduled to contact us! It may take time to schedule a site visit by ConCom, and more time if wetlands are nearby.

We need Volunteers! Do you love the unique natural beauty of Shutesbury? Would you like to help the town protect and nurture it? We currently have two vacancies and are actively seeking interested community members to fill them. We are a group of volunteers responsible for protecting the town's natural resources. We meet one to two Thursday evenings per month and conduct site visits all over town, administer the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the town's General Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and manage town conservation land.

If you think this type of work might be for you, contact Linda and arrange to attend a meeting to see firsthand what ConCom is all about.



Gayle Huntress, *Town of Shutesbury Municipal Light Plant Manager*

In light of the current situation with schools closing, people being encouraged to work from home and public entertainment options ill-advised, our Town broadband network seems like a very timely and opportune asset. We wanted to give you some more information about how your Broadband Committee has prepared to ensure the stability and reliability of our town broadband network.

Here's how we have prepared:

1. Plenty of bandwidth: We have the capacity for 3X the amount of bandwidth (this means the data capacity flowing to our network from the larger Internet) than what we use during peak times. Gigabit speed to each house means all members in your household can be online simultaneously with no data caps.
2. Dedicated repair truck and crew. Our regular maintenance contract includes a dedicated truck and crew to be available for Shutesbury always, even during severe weather or other adverse events.
3. Backup bandwidth and a redundant connection: If our primary source of backhaul (again, this means the connection to the larger Internet) should go down for any reason we have a totally separate source and failsafe switchover to keep our network up and running. We also have a dedicated generator to keep the network running in the case of power outages.
4. Independent connections to the Internet. This means our back-

haul connections (see above) are not dependent on companies like Comcast, Charter, Verizon, etc. If their networks get overwhelmed it will not affect us (unless the overwhelm is a global one, of course).

5. Automated 24/7/365 monitoring. Our whole network is monitored constantly and remotely for any problems or outages. All this was already in place when our network was built but we wanted to assure everyone that we've put a lot of thought into making sure our network is safe and reliable as possible for all of us. We know it won't do anything to fix the current situation but we thought some assurance about your new network during this time of uncertainty would be welcome.

Sincerely, Your Broadband Team

P.S. Don't forget about telehealth! Telehealth means "visiting" your healthcare provider from the comfort of your home for non-urgent healthcare needs rather than visiting a healthcare facility or clinic. This is done using an Internet connection and video calling. You and your doctor can see, hear and talk to each other on the computer screen from your respective locations.

Here's how it works: First, ask your healthcare provider if they offer telehealth options. If not, ask your insurance carrier if telehealth is included in your plan and how to use the service. It might mean you'll need to see someone different than your regular health care provider.

If you can get the service, you'll get an appointment time and at that time you will follow the instructions they give you for going to a special website to log in. You will need to have a computer, iPad, laptop, phone or other device that has video and audio capabilities. Your provider may alternately offer phone only (no video) consultations if you don't have that technology available to you.

After a discussion of your symptoms and needs, the doctor will make a diagnosis and suggest follow up care, such as calling in a prescription for you. It may seem unusual that your health care provider can make a diagnosis from afar, but telehealth has been used successfully in this manner for years.

If a diagnosis can not be made remotely, your doctor may decide that further tests are needed. Your doctor will give you additional instructions such as visiting a lab, clinic or office as the next step.

By law your consultation should be private and secure. The provider offering the service will have more information about this if you have questions.

Not connected yet? Call our network operator, Crocker Communications, to find out how to get an installation: 855-415-7592.

From the Assessors' Office

Kevin Rudden, *Administrative Assessor*

Bringing broadband to Shutesbury has made a big difference to the town in a way you may not realize. According to local realtors, having broadband has put the town on home-buyers' radar screens.

Since Massachusetts requires properties to be assessed at full and fair market value, part of the Assessors' job is keeping up with real estate market trends. After just over 30 single-family home sales took place in Shutesbury last year, I interviewed local realtors last month to find out why so many people are moving here.

The main reason is that – before broadband – Shutesbury just wasn't on people's radar screens. Now that we have it, the other two reasons kick in: the lack of housing inventory in other communities within the greater Amherst area and the recent booming real estate market due to low interest rates.

Assessors, cont. on page 12

Assessors, cont. from page 11

Compared with area communities, Shutesbury's available real estate is considered to be one of the best values in the region, especially for families looking for a school system with a good elementary school and the higher grades being part of the Amherst school system.

Most of the recent sales were above the current assessed values because Shutesbury's housing prices were low when the town was not being considered due to the lack of broadband. Now, homes priced between \$200,000 and \$400,000 are selling quite well.

Even with a temporary market slump beginning in March due to fears about the COVID-19 coronavirus, local realtors expect the market for homes in Shutesbury to rebound later this year.



During the Town Hall closure to the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency, the Assessors' Office continues to function. You may contact us by:

- Telephone: 413-259-3790
- P.O. Box 276, Shutesbury, MA 01072
- Email: assessor@shutesbury.org

Our staff will be either in the Town Hall or working from our homes during this period. Depending on where we are, it may take longer than usual to respond to your communications. For the foreseeable future, any necessary home inspections will be done on an exterior basis only - unless the homeowner requests and/or agrees to an interior inspection.

Board of Assessors meetings will take place through web conferencing, per Governor Charlie Baker's March 10, 2020 [Executive Order](#).

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Tax Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

With the Town Hall being closed to the public for the foreseeable future, please be advised that you will not be able to come in to drop payments in the box outside my office or to pay bills in person. Please mail the payments to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. If you have any questions on your bill, please call this office (413-259-1615) mornings, leave a message if calling any other time or e-mail me at collector@shutesbury.org.

Due to the time it takes for mail delivery, it is imperative that you **PLAN 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 **ONE WEEK** before they are due to insure that they are received before the due date.

If you use on-line banking from your bank (not the Town's system) and mail it to the lockbox in Woburn, please be aware that the bill will come to this office for processing from the lockbox because it is not accompanied by a copy of the bill. To make certain the payment is received on time, **please** change the mailing address to Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072-0175. This will eliminate the bill going to the lockbox and being forwarded.

PLEASE make sure the memo information is correct and does not reflect information from previous payments (ie: 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, it won't get to the Town until almost a week

later which will result in fees and interest.

Your fourth quarter real estate taxes are now due June 1. I urge you to pay these bills promptly, as the next bill you will be receiving is a demand that will cost you an additional \$5 plus interest. If you need to set up a payment arrangement on your bill, please contact me as soon as possible. Although interest will accrue on any overdue portion of the bill, you will avoid the additional interest and any collection procedures beyond the demand that will accrue should you leave the entire bill unpaid.

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 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.

Payment of all types of bills **MUST** be received on or before the due date which is clearly marked on the bill. Please make note of these dates and make your payments accordingly. Always open all envelopes you receive from this office immediately on 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.

Be sure to notify this office if you 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 two weeks which reduces the time you have to pay the bill on time.

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 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of

Collector, cont. on page 13

Collector, cont. from page 12

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.

Please stay healthy!

Ellen McKay, Town Collector

Council on Aging places programs on hold

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting needs for social distancing, the Council on Aging (COA) has suspended until further notice the following services for town residents age 55 and over:

- The Med Ride Program, which matches volunteer drivers with Shutesbury seniors do not need a walker or wheelchair, but who are unable to drive or have no means of transportation to medical and dental appointments
- The Foot Clinic, which brings a registered Food Care Specialist to Town Hall once a month to serve residents by appointment
- Community Pot-lunches, held monthly at Town Hall in the Senior Lounge and open to all.

At its April 8, 2020 meeting, conducted via Zoom, the COA voted to fund a possible online yoga class should the M. N. Spear Memorial Library offer one in the future.

Developmental screenings for 3, 4, and 5 year olds in the 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.

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 any questions or concerns about your child's development, would like more information, or wish to set up an appointment, please call **Grace Griecci**, Shutesbury Elementary School's Preschool Teacher, at 413-253-1212 ext.140 or email her at griecciq@shutesburyschool.org

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

Shutesbury Early Childhood Program

The Shutesbury Elementary School Community (SES) 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, 2020 for pre-school enrollment, or 5 years old, on or before September 1, 2020 for kindergarten enrollment. Please contact the school for Fall/2020 enrollment information.

For more information, please call **Jessica Carlson-Belanger**, Main Office SES, 413-259-1212 x100 carlson-belangerj@shutesburyschool.org or **Grace Griecci**, 413-259-1212 x140 griecciq@shutesburyschool.org.

Save the date! Saturday, September 19, 2020!!

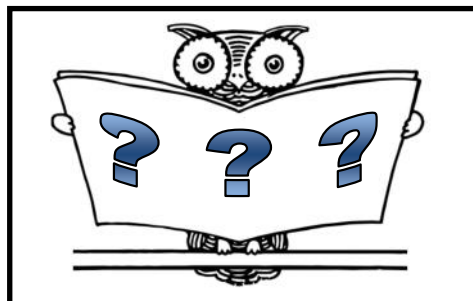
Celebrate Shutesbury celebrates our town, strengthens our community and provides a venue for townspeople to come together in a neighborly way.

Come out to support local organizations, Town Boards, local performance artists, local vendors and business owners, and town groups including the Shutesbury Elementary School PTO, the Shutesbury Recreation Committee, the MN Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury Fire and Police Departments, the Shutesbury Athletic Club, the Shutesbury Community Church, and more! Usual activities include pumpkin- and face-painting, a donut-eating contest, tag sale, book sale, church tea and bake sale, tours of emergency vehicles, food, and the ever-popular bounce house and obstacle course!

Sponsored in part by the Shutesbury Cultural Council. If you are interested in helping to organize or participate with an information booth, activity, or vending experience please email **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at carlsonbelanger@gmail.com.

Are you 55 years of age or older?

If you are not receiving *The Geezette*, the Shutesbury Council on Aging's newsletter please contact the Council at 413-259-3796 or coa@shutesbury.org.



The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

Dear Neighbors,

During this challenging disruption to our normal lives, please know that I am thinking about your health and safety. While the library building is closed, I am still working to bring you programs and services that might be especially useful during this time.

Mary Anne



Reading Streak

Shutesbury Reading Streak – 2020!

When author Alice Ozma was nine years old, her father made a promise: to read to her every night, without missing a night, for one hundred nights.

But once the pair met their goal, they couldn't stop. They continued their reading streak, which ultimately lasted nearly nine years!

In the spring of 2013, The Spear Library, together with the Shutesbury Elementary School Library, challenged families to participate in a reading streak.

We asked people to choose a partner and commit to reading aloud together for 10 minutes a day for 10 days. Grown-ups read to kids, kids read to each other, and then we celebrated!

Now, during this time of social distancing, many of us are finding ourselves with unstructured time. Reading is a terrific way to pass some of this time! It improves our skills, our memory, our empathy, and even our mood.

Now seems like a great time to bring back the Reading Streak! The Shutesbury Reading Streak of Spring 2020 can take on different forms.

1. Read-Aloud Version

Perfect for families with children, children and their parent or caregiver pledge to read together for a minimum of 15 minutes a day.

2. Silent Reading Version

Anyone who can read pledges to spend a minimum of 15 minutes a day reading.

Read alone in your room! Read sitting under a tree! Gather the whole family in the living room for silent reading time!



3. Listen to an Audiobook

Listening is reading! Download an eAudiobook onto your device and listen! Mary Anne likes to listen to audiobooks when she is cooking or folding laundry. Ms. L. (**Heather Lobenstine**) listens when she's out on long walks. When do you like to listen?

Weekly meetings on Zoom

Join Mary Anne and Heather Lobenstine and special guests for a weekly lunch-time meet-up on Zoom.

Wednesday mornings at noon, gather your lunch and join a Zoom call to connect with friends and neighbors and share about the books we are reading. Email library.director@shutesbury.org for the invitation.

StoryWalks

On Monday, April 6, we installed two StoryWalks, one on the Town Common and another in the field behind Town Hall. We will change the stories weekly.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

A **StoryWalk** is an outdoor reading experience of a children's book which has been deconstructed with the pages placed on signboards along the walking trail or in this case, around a field.

During this tumultuous time, with families home with small children, we wanted to create a safe, outdoor activity to be enjoyed by individual families.

Please enjoy the StoryWalks safely. Do not plan to meet other families there. Please hold on to small children to prevent them from touching the pages.

Once again, the StoryWalks are not a place to gather and should be enjoyed one family at a time.

Thank you for your cooperation as you enjoy this outdoor family activity.



online streaming platforms like Kanopy and Hoopla, allowing more uses per person per month.

The BPL eCard also provides access to Language Learning resources like *Little Pim* for ages 3-6, and *Mango Languages*, which provides courses in 70 languages.

Another excellent resource available with a BPL eCard is **Lynda.com**, a collection of Video courses in business, software, technology, and creative skills, taught by recognized industry experts.

To find these and other online

resources available through the Boston Public Library, visit their online resources page, <https://www.bpl.org/online-resources/>.

Online resources offered by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library:
eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and Video Streaming

To explore the free digital re-

sources provided by the Library, visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/> and click on the **Digital Books & Video Tab**. **Here is what you will find on this page:**

OverDrive

OverDrive is a free service offered by the library that lets you borrow digital content, eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and videos anytime, anywhere. Use OverDrive on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

For tablets and smartphone users, the **Libby app** makes borrowing eBooks and eAudiobooks through Overdrive easy. This short video explains how to create an Overdrive account using Libby. Call or email the library, 413-259-1213 or library.director@shutesbury.org if you need help getting started.

<https://youtu.be/L4HtuKfyp9k>

Acorn TV – New!

Acorn TV is video streaming, on demand of British Television. **Kanopy** offers streaming access to popular, independent, and documentary films. Your Shutesbury library card allows four films



Boston Public Library eCard

All Massachusetts residents are entitled to a Boston Public Library eCard, which can be used to access a rich collection of online resources. To apply for a BPL eCard, click here <https://www.bpl.org/ecard/>.

A BPL eCard offers access to

Library, cont. on page 16

Library, cont. from page 15

per month.

Hoopla is a digital streaming service for library users to access movies and TV shows, eBooks, eAudiobooks, and music using portable devices like smartphones and tablets. Your Shutesbury Library card allows you to borrow four Hoopla items per month.

Library by mail

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms it is safe to send Library materials through the mail. The Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library have agreed to fund postage for library items mailed to Shutesbury library patrons.

Mary Anne has begun sending items through the mail.

For now, this library-by-mail service will be limited to books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines, with a suggested limit of one to five items per household.

Packages will be mailed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Inter-Library Loan continues to be suspended, so items available are limited to the items in our collection. You can search our catalog here, <https://bark.cwmars.org/eq/opac/home?loc=272>.

If you find an item you need, email Mary Anne at library.director@shutesbury.org with your request. Please include your mailing address in your email.

Feel free to email or call with questions about our collection.

Returns?

The library return box is closed. If you have items that you borrowed from our library, they can be returned by calling 413-259-1213 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 3-6pm and we will place a box outside the door for your Shutesbury returns.

Please do not return items that are owned by other libraries. The Inter-Library Loan delivery is suspended and there is no place to store these items in our very small

library.

Items will not be marked overdue, and no fines will accrue while the Library is closed.

Programs

We have been experimenting with offering some of our regular programs on Zoom.

To join a program, email library.director@shutesbury.org and Mary Anne will send you a link.

Ukulele Musical Zoom-Along with Julie

Mondays in April
6:15pm – Beginners
7pm – Strum-Along

Strength Training with Jay

Tuesdays and Fridays at 10am

Bottles and Cans Collection Suspended.

Thank you to everyone who has been donating returnable bottles and cans. Those nickels add up to more than \$600 each year!

Please don't bring us your returnables now. Redeeming the bottles and cans under normal circumstances is a dirty job. And now, it seems best to avoid even a remote possibility of exposure to COVID-19.

Also, redemption centers are closed and we do not have storage. Thanks for your support and your generosity. We hope to be collecting bottles and cans again soon.

Friends of the Library news

Spring is usually a busy time of year for the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

For many years now, the Friends have organized "Spring Spruce-Up," a season-long event that brings teams of library enthusiasts to neighbors' doors. In exchange for a donation to the Friends' New Library Fund, the teams provide sponsors with one hour of yard work. Spruce-Ups not only provide opportunities for helpers and sponsors to support our important cause, but also strength-

ens community connection—neighbors meeting and working together, perhaps getting outside and getting dirty, and beautifying our town, one yard at a time.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, we were hopeful we could find a way to execute this year's Spring Spruce-Ups. But the virus is more serious than anyone expected and social distancing is the most important thing any of us can do right now.

Our other springtime fundraiser is the annual Library Giving Day. Last year, during National Library Week, supporters of our ongoing efforts to save for a future new library donated \$15,000.

The year before, you donated the same amount on Valley Gives Day.

We have been working together as a community since 2012 to save for a new Shutesbury Library. We have been donating, baking, raking, buying T-shirts, having tag sales, and more and *our efforts are working*. Right now, we have more than \$420,000 saved, which is remarkable for such a small town, and shows a commitment that inspires.

This year, Library Giving Day, a national event, is scheduled for Thursday, April 23. The Friends of the Library have decided to forego participation this year.

This in no way indicates that we are abandoning our dream of a new library. We are just pressing pause to allow library supporters to focus on managing this unprecedented crisis in their daily lives. This crisis is temporary. Our community and our library will be here when it passes. Who knows, maybe we'll celebrate with the world's biggest bake sale!

Library programs and services are likely to change.

Updates will be posted on our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/mnspearmemoriallibrary/>

LIKE us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary/>



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

PRSR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #305
AMHERST MA 01002

Return Service Requested

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 Gail Weiss 413-259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Princ. 413-259-1212	RECREATION COMMITTEE B.Z. Reily 413-687-3605
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Linda Avis Scott 413-259-6550	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 413-259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 413-259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Eric Stocker, Co-chair 413-259-1250	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 Lauren Thomas-Paquin 413-259-1602
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, Clerk 413-259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 413-259-1215	SELECT BOARD Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Chair 413-256-0312
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Bob Groves 413-259-1200	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	Elaine Puleo 413-259-1979
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis 413-259-1213	April Stein 413-259-1074
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 413-259-1286	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-chair 413-259-9129	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress Broadband Mailbox 413-345-2855
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Rita Farrell, Co-chair Allen Hanson, Co-chair 413-259-1623	Co-chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	Grace Bannasch, Assistant
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine 413-256-0563	PERSONNEL BOARD Anna Mundow 413-259-1668	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Nijadlik 413-772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 413-406-2767	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-259-1801
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