

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

General Election 2020 schedule

Vote-by-mail: The Town Clerk and our amazing volunteers began mailing ballots as soon as the materials were delivered to the office. **Ballots can be returned by mail (PO Box 264) or drop box.** If you return your ballot via the drop box in front of Town Hall, it must be returned by 8:00pm on November 3. If you return your ballot by mail, it must arrive at the Town Clerk's office by November 6 and be post marked by November 3. Please note: mailing your ballot on November 3 does not guarantee a November 3 postmark. Plan accordingly.

In-person Early Voting:
October 17: 10am – 12pm



October 18: 3pm – 5pm
October 19-23: 12pm – 2pm
October 24: 10am – 12pm
October 25: 3pm – 5pm
October 26-30: 12pm – 2pm
In-person Early Voting will take place at Town Hall. Park in back.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3:

Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm. Voting will occur downstairs at Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Rd, Shutesbury MA. Wear your mask.

Questions?

Phone: 413-259-1204
Email: townclerk@shutesbury.org

Shutesbury Elementary enters fall with virtual learning, new staff

Jackie Mendonsa, Principal, Shutesbury Elementary School

School has begun! Students and staff at Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) began virtual learning on September 16. It has been a joy for the staff to see the students again! All students at SES were given supplies and materials to support their learning at home. Some of these supplies included workbooks, notebooks, blocks, balls, school supplies, paper, poster paper, math manipulatives, art supplies and a tech device. All students in grades Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade received iPad and all students in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade received computers.

Staff at SES spent the entire summer planning and preparing for a very unusual start of school! We learned about new technology, engagement and distance learning. We became very familiar with our learning platform, Google Classroom. Teachers met individually with every student and their family prior to the start of school to understand hopes, concerns and feelings about the coming school year. We also offered various "town hall" question and answer sessions with the school community, and some introductory technology virtual classes for caregivers and students. These class offerings will continue into the fall.

We are thrilled to welcome two new staff members to SES!

James Parsons is the new 4th grade teacher. Mr. Parsons is a very familiar face around the school. James was a staff member at the school for two years and is a parent to students who attend (and attended) SES. Mr. Parsons has called teaching 4th grade at SES his "dream job." His creativity, kindness, positivity and enthusiasm is a perfect fit for the post!

Mike Cortina has been hired as the music teacher! Mr. Cortina has been the music teacher at Swift River School for several years, making him a friendly face in the community. Mr. Cortina brings so much FUN to music. He is exuberant, exciting and kind.

We are so lucky to have these

A Letter from the Town Clerk

Grace Bannasch, Town Clerk
townclerk@shutesbury.org
Susie Mosher, 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.

Salutations Shutesburians! What a year, ammi right? This has been a time of monumental, consequential change for all of us. I am more honored than I can say to be serving my hometown at this particular moment in human history, and I am grateful beyond words to live in a community that takes good care of each other under the most difficult circumstances.

Many of you are new to town. Welcome! I cannot wait to meet you face-to-face! In the meantime, hello, I'm Grace. I grew up here, still live here and as of last June I am the Town Clerk here in Shutesbury.

What is a Town Clerk, you ask? An excellent question! And one I still have not figured out a concise answer to. I issue dog tags and raffle permits. Also birth, marriage and death certificates. I archive the minutes of Town business and I post the agendas of upcoming meetings on the public calendar. I administer all elections within our Town, local and state and federal, and I fulfill public information requests. I'm also the Town's archivist. And I answer the phone. I certify, verify, notify and signify. I may not know the answer to your question off the top of my head, but I'll know who you should ask. Give me a call. 413-259-1204.

Paper copies of Dog Tag, Vote by Mail and voter registration applications are all currently available from a Tupperware container that is set up outside the front door of

Town Hall.

The drop box is to the left of the walkway leading up to the front door, right at the edge of the lawn. Yes, your election materials can go in there. Yes, your taxes can go in there. Yes, your lovely handwritten note for someone in the building can also go in there. Essentially anything that you would normally hand to us or mail to us can go in the drop box. We check it multiple times a day and if ballots are being returned I also check it on weekends. It is very safe and so far sufficiently weather-proof.

This year, voters have three options to choose from while deciding how and when to cast their vote. You can vote by mail, and if you decide to vote by mail you can return your ballot by mail or by placing your ballot in the drop box. Or you can vote early in person from October 17 through October 30 (see the schedule on page 1 of this newsletter). Or you can vote in person on Election Day, Tuesday November 3, between 7am and 8pm. The choice is yours.

So many aspects of our lives are different now than what they were before, and those changes will continue. But amongst all the adaptations and mitigations, some things remain the same. Shutesbury is still a hand-count paper ballot town. We continue to use the same ballot box we've been using since 1934 (see page 1!). She may have a few creaky joints, but that iconic DING remains clear and strong when we turn that crank. Whenever I start to feel overwhelmed, I take a deep breath and remind myself that at the end of the day, this election will be largely the same as every other election we've ever had. The voter will get a paper ballot. The voter will vote. The paper ballot will go in the box. The crank will turn, the number on the front will go up. We will smile and laugh and chat, wave hi to each other in the parking lot on our way in and out of Town

Hall. We'll wear masks and put out hand sanitizer and open the windows. We will vote and we will count and we will have a successful election, just as we have done countless times before. This is Shutesbury, after all. We've got this. DING!

Of note

Dear Community,

In this space, I usually write about all the volunteers who helped prepare the last issue of the newsletter for mailing. You may or may not be aware that the Spring 2020 issue of *Our Town* was quite unusual. As always, our volunteer Newsletter Editor **Janis Gray** went the distance to bring you an edition filled with valuable Town news and information. It was the longest newsletter in quite some time and, because the pandemic prevented the usual cohort of volunteers from gathering to collate and fold, it was the first one to only be available on the Town website and not in the mailboxes of most Shutesbury residents. Thanks to the special efforts of Town Administrator **Becky Torres**, those residents without Broadband service received mailed copies.

Once again, Janis Gray's talent and dedication brought you the current issue. She corrals a multitude of articles with their various lengths and errors and organizes them into a cohesive result. This issue, as well as the Spring issue, is unique. To meet the needs of our community to receive the *Our Town* by mail, and because pandemic constraints are ongoing, the printing, folding, sealing, and mailing were outsourced. The routine of gathering to collate, fold, and tape is sorely missed as it was a time for easy conversation and connection. Oh, how we never know what we will miss until we do.

With wishes for your well-being,

Linda Avis Scott
Administrative Secretary

News from the Select Board

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, *Chair*, Rita Farrell, and April Stein

Shutesbury is growing and moving through interesting times. We enjoy the beauty of thousands of acres of woodland, wildlife, Lake Wyola, the Quabbin Reservoir. We have the rhythm of small town life as we see each other walking on the roads, hiking in the woods, swimming at the lake. There is also an awareness that school has started and no buses are picking the kids up or bringing them home, because our kids are having their education virtually. No sound of kids playing at recess at the school, no news of high school soccer or football. People are wearing masks as we live in a time of a pandemic and anxiety about our health and the health of people we love. The Select Board, with the help and talent of town committees/boards, town employees and the citizens of Shutesbury, has kept moving forward.

Shutesbury is also a town that is growing. Houses are selling and new people are moving to our community. Having Broadband, in addition to our excellent school and beautiful surroundings, has made our town more vital. As people move into town they are invited to look at the Town website, join Town Announce in order to get the news, and volunteer for the many committees and boards that are so important to the running of Shutesbury. Meetings are all done through ZOOM. Agendas are posted on the Town website, as are the access codes for attendance. Get involved in your town!

Annual Town Meeting was held on 6/26/2020, under a large tent with a sound system set up so we could hear from each other. The Board of Health set parameters, set by the State's guidelines, and with the help of volunteers, townspeople were socially distanced, wearing

masks and respectful of each other. Hours were spent in the planning for Town Meeting and it couldn't have happened without our Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Board of Health, Town Moderator, Fire and Police departments and the many people who volunteered to make it happen.

The Town planned for at least 20% reduction in State aid due to the pandemic. There was also concern that townspeople were struggling financially and the Finance Committee, with the support of the Select Board, agreed to use some of the Town's free cash in order to give people a \$2/\$1000 reduction on property taxes. The State did, in the end, level fund our budget, so at a Special Town Meeting on 9/3/2020 the Town voted to return the additional money to free cash, with the understanding that more



Top: Selectboard Chair Melissa Makepeace O'Neil addresses the Special Town Meeting September 3. Bottom: The weather was kind to those attending the meeting behind Town Hall.

financial challenges for the town are probable at this point.

Lake Wyola State Beach was very busy this summer. There was reduced parking availability, life guard hours, and staff available. Our Police and Fire departments worked hard to help make the summer safe for all.

Select Board, cont. on page 4

Our Town Newsletter Policy

Adopted by the Shutesbury Select Board
December 23, 2019

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

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



PRINTED ON RECYCLED STOCK
30% POST CONSUMER WASTE



As the effects of COVID-19 continue to affect our community, our municipal Broadband network **helps keep people connected to work, school, entertainment, healthcare and loved ones.** We are happy to be able to provide this community resource.

We continue to monitor townwide usage levels, and even at peak times we still have the capacity for three times the amount of bandwidth used (this means the data capacity flowing to our network from the outside internet).

The ability to provide up to gigabit speed to each home means all members in your household can be online simultaneously with no data caps even as children go back to school and adults continue to work online.

If you notice a slow-down of speeds it's likely due to your in-home network. Please see the Broadband FAQ page for a new article posted this summer for how to diagnose and fix most home network speed issues. <https://www.shutesbury.org/faq>

We had quite a few significant summer storms and are pleased to report that damage to our network was minimal, even when most of the town was without power. **A generator at the Town Hall keeps our network running even during widespread power outages.** As long as the distribution lines remain undamaged, the network can continue to deliver reliable phone and internet service. As long as you have a way to power the equipment in your home – either with a generator or battery backups – you will be able to stay connected. If you're interested in learning more about how to keep your home network running during a power outage, please see the FAQ page (link above).

Finally, we want to again mention that if you have internet, **telehealth options may be available to you.**

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 and can be a wise option, especially during cold and flu season, to protect yourself and others. 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 cannot 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, so ask your health care provider if this is the right option for you.

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

Select Board, cont. from page 3

The Select Board and Police Chief prepared a letter to the town acknowledging the tragic event that sparked passionate responses to systemic racism in our country. With the support of the Select Board, Chief **Daniel Fernandes**, with Officers **Kristen Burgess** and **Marcus Johansson**, held a forum entitled "Get to Know Your Police Department." This ZOOM meeting was well attended and moderated by our Town Moderator, **Paul Lyons**. The focus on community policing in our town, with the encouragement of an open dialogue between the police and the community, is the policy in Shutesbury.

With a \$12,000 grant, the Town was able to hire the environmental consulting firm, Fuss & O'Neil, to facilitate the writing of a report on Community Resilience Building relative to climate change mitigation in our small town. This is an ongoing project, with the opportunity for grants to help with our prioritized concerns relating to the impact of climate change on our community.

July 1 marked the beginning of **Rita Farrell's** term as a member of the Select Board. She replaced long term Selectboard member/town volunteer **Elaine Puleo**. In July, **Rep. Natalie Blais** joined our Selectboard meeting to offer her sincerest thanks to Ms. Puleo's many years of work and dedication to the Town of Shutesbury. Rep. Blais also acknowledged an article published on 7/4/2020 in *The Greenfield Recorder*, "Women Answer Town Government's call to Service in Shutesbury." Rep. Blais virtually presented Ms. Puleo a certificate stating the Massachusetts House of Representatives was offering their sincerest appreciation for Ms. Puleo's dedicated years on the Select Board.

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Tax 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 2. 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 change the mailing address of the check so generated from the Woburn address, which is that of the lockbox, to the Town Collector's address which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Because your checks are not accompanied by a bill, the lockbox company sends them to me for processing which results in a delay in crediting them to your account.

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.

Since the Town Hall is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can drop off your payment in the drop box next to the driveway in front of the Town Hall. Please place the payment in an envelope addressed to the Collector. If you want a stamped receipt, please put a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the bill.

Do NOT postdate your checks! I cannot accept such checks because they cannot be processed until the date on the check. They will be returned to you upon receipt.

"Why is the name of the previous owner still on my real estate tax bill?" is a question we are frequently asked. Under Mass. General Laws, the name of the person who owned property on January 1 of the year in which the fiscal year begins must appear on the bill. In the case of this fiscal year (2021) that date is January 1, 2020. We highlight the "in care of" designation to make certain the bill is delivered to the new owner and not forwarded to the previous owner.

If you will be receiving your mail at a different address during the winter, please notify this office when you will be leaving so I can redirect your bills and ensure that they will be delivered promptly. Please make certain I have your alternate address.

This is also the time to verify all information on your auto registration, license, and insurance documents. Your insurance company furnishes information to the Registry of Motor Vehicles during the last quarter of the calendar year that provides the database from which your motor vehicle excise tax bills on vehicles registered on January 1 are generated. It is essential that the place of garaging and both the mailing and residential addresses are absolutely correct to insure proper and prompt delivery of your bills. If you have an Amherst mailing address, that address should appear as the "mailing address" on your registration so it appears on your excise bill. Shutesbury must appear on your "place of garaging" so the tax bill is issued by Shutesbury for collection. Failure to have the correct mailing address may cause the bill to be returned as undeliverable and delays delivery.

The Town of Amherst has notified us that they will NOT be automatically sending bills whose owners reside in Shutesbury but have Amherst mailing addresses to

Shutesbury for rebilling. Should you receive a bill incorrectly from Amherst, please make certain all information on your registration is correct. If it is not, contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles (which can be done on-line or in person) to correct the situation. Once everything is correct, contact the Board of Assessors in Amherst to ascertain what information they need to abate the bill and to send it to Shutesbury. Please start this process as soon as you receive an incorrect bill as the bill will be due 30 days from the mailing date.

Let me remind you that any tax bill sent from this office should *not* be ignored even if it is on property you no longer own. The Town does not get notified if you dispose of an automobile, turn in your license plates, or dispose of personal property. You must notify the Board of Assessors by completing the appropriate abatement application.

If you move from Shutesbury, please leave a forwarding address and make certain you change your license and registration to indicate your new address and place of garaging. Any registration that lists Shutesbury as a place of garaging will result in an excise tax bill being sent from Shutesbury.

Remember, your unpaid excise bills from any municipality *will* follow you through the data base at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and its compact with other states. Unpaid bills can result in your inability to register a vehicle or renew your driver's license and registration.

Have a good autumn.

Ellen McKay
Town Collector

Assistant Town Collector wanted

The Town is seeking applicants for the position of part-time Assistant Town Collector. The Assistant Collector assists in the performance of the duties of the Town Collector and, in the absence of the Town Collector, the Assistant shall

Assistant, cont. on page 6

Volunteer opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering for the Town, you might consider attending meetings for the committees or boards listed below. Each one has at least one vacancy. Thank you for considering serving your community. Contact information for Town Officials is listed on the back of the newsletter.

- ADA Committee
- Constable
- Council on Aging
- Cultural Council
- Energy Committee
- Water Resources Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals (alternate member).

Assistant, cont. from page 5

perform the duties of the Town Collector and shall have the essential duties and responsibilities of the Town Collector, as described in MGL c. 41, sec. 37-39 and Chapters 58-61B. The salary is based on experience.

The position is for six hours per week in the morning and is to begin as soon as possible. The Assistant Collector will work 15 hours/week when the Town Collector is absent. Please submit a resume to Ellen McKay, P.O. Box 276, Shutesbury, MA 01072, in an envelope labelled – ASSISTANT TOWN COLLECTOR or place it in the Town Hall drop box. Call 413-259-1615 for more information.

From the Administrative Assessor

Kevin Rudden, Administrative Assessor

Here are two reminders from the Assessors' Office.

First, we'll be sending out applications for exemptions from Fiscal Year 2021 property taxes in November to residents who received exemptions in 2020. These forms will be due back to our office no later than February 1, 2021.

Others who may be interested in applying for an exemption can read

about the types of exemptions that are available by going to our web page, www.shutesbury.org/assessor. Or, call our office at 259-3790.

Second, anyone renting their property for short-term use, such as an Airbnb rental, is reminded to register with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Information about this is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/room-occupancy-excise-tax>. As of September 1, you also should be charging the 6% local occupancy tax approved by Shutesbury's voters at June's Annual Town Meeting.

One of the most common questions Assessors are asked is: "How do you set the tax rate?" The answer is a very simple mathematical equation: "tax levy" divided by "total valuation."

The "tax levy" is the amount of money being raised by property taxes to fund the town's operating budget in a given fiscal year. Voters approve the operating budget at the Annual Town Meeting. From that, you subtract state aid and local receipts (things like auto excise taxes, permit and license fees, etc.). The balance, called the "levy," is the amount that has to be raised through property taxes.

The "total valuation" of the town is calculated by adding together the assessed values for all residential, commercial, industrial and personal property in town. The total valuation for our current Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) should be known by the end of October.

Last year, Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), the tax levy was \$5,289,040 and the total valuation was 220,009,970. When you divide the tax levy by the total valuation, you come up with \$0.02404 – a tax rate of \$24.04 per each thousand dollars of valuation.

The tax rate can increase or decrease depending on what combinations of spending increases and decreases *and* valuation increases and decreases you have. For

Fiscal Year 2021, Town Meeting voters approved lowering the tax levy by applying what is termed "free cash" (more revenue coming in than forecast and/or less money spent than budgeted) to reduce the amount of tax dollars needed to balance the budget. This will result in a one-year property tax rate reduction.

The new Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate will be announced toward the end of November and will be incorporated into the property tax bills mailed out in late December and due to be paid by next February 1.

Special opportunity

The Shutesbury Fire Department is looking for Firefighters. If you are interested in learning more about a firefighter's responsibilities and training, contact Fire Chief Walter Tibbetts at 413-259-1211.

Council on Aging news

The Amherst Survival Center provides monthly food distributions to people in need. During this COVID-19 crisis, it might be harder for some of our seniors to get to there to pick up food.

In partnership with the Survival Center, The M.N. Spear Memorial Library and the Shutesbury Council on Aging have arranged for food to be delivered to the Library on the first Wednesday of each month. Volunteers then deliver it to the homes of participating seniors.

Details on how to sign up online can be found on page 9 of this newsletter. If you don't have access to a computer or need assistance completing the form, call Council on Aging Co-chair **JoAnn Bernhard** (413-259-1235) or Library Director **Mary Anne Antonellis** (413-259-1213). Print copies of the registration and food preference forms are also available by mail, at the Library and the Post Office.



From the Community Preservation Committee

The Shutesbury Preservation Committee (CPC) is pleased to announce that it will be accepting applications for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds this fall and winter for projects for the four eligible CPA activities: historic preservation, community housing, open space and recreation.

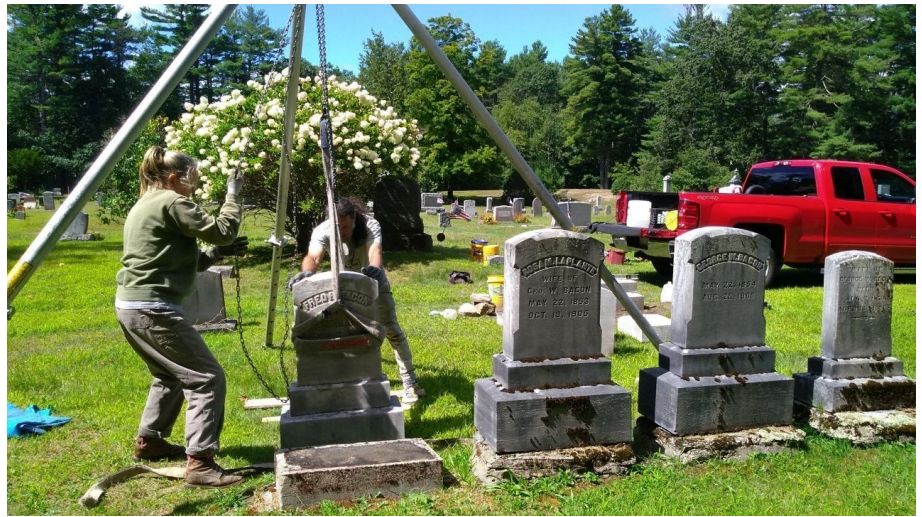
Projects approved by the CPC in the spring will be voted on at next year's town meeting. For more information on the CPA program guidelines and application process, please visit our webpage at https://shutesbury.org/community_preservation and look at the 2021 Community Preservation Plan.

Progress is being made on a number of CPA-funded projects in Shutesbury, including the construction of **the town's first Habitat for Humanity house** on West Pelham Road (shown below). This net-zero-energy, three bedroom house will be sold to a first-time homebuyer.

The restoration of gravestones at Shutesbury's West Cemetery, also funded by CPA funds, is well underway. (See related article on this page.) Work is being supervised by the Shutesbury Historical Commission.

As the CPC discussed ideas for

CPC, cont. on page 9



Cemetery Commission seeks new members!

Do you like visiting cemeteries, reading gravestones, preserving history? Have you ever wondered what the Cemetery Commission does? If so, we hope you will consider joining the Cemetery Commission.

We need TWO new members due to a retirement and a move out of town. We have been working on management of our three town cemeteries, creation of a Natural Burial area, new signage, and restoration of numerous gravestones and monuments.

The work is almost done on the present Gravestone Restoration project, supported by Community Preservation Act, Cemetery Commission and Historical Commission funds and a small state grant. The photo above shows the contractors, Historic Gravestone Services, at work repairing broken and badly leaning gravestones at West Cemetery.

As they note on their website, *"The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living."* — Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC).

Please consider joining the Cemetery Commission in honoring our dead through care of their resting places. Contact Chair **Walter Tibbetts** at 413-687-4158, or check the town meeting calendar for our next Zoom meeting.

Community gardens, anyone?

Recreation Commission

Have you always wanted a garden but lack a sunny plot? Or maybe you don't have the space? Maybe you just don't like to garden alone. Or maybe you don't relish the thought of hauling the huge stones Shutesbury land is famous for?

The Shutesbury Recreation Committee is considering the installation of a community garden for next spring. Gardening is a healthy outdoor activity for all ages. It brings people together, promotes sustainability and inter-generational recreation, and can be done safely in pandemic times like these. It's also a great learning tool for families.

We are asking town residents who might be interested in participating to please fill out this brief survey so that we can get your feedback. If you or some other resident does not have internet access and/or would like to have a paper copy of this survey mailed to them, contact **Elaine Puleo** at 413-259-1979. Many thanks!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWFB9S3>

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

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

Dear Friends,

It has been more than six months since the pandemic forced us to close our doors to the public. During this time, we have expanded digital collections, brought some of our programs online, and we have been making our collection available through curbside pickup. Visit our website, mnspear.org, to learn about the many different resources available through the Library.

We continue to work on making the Library safe for in-person visits for both staff and the public and we expect to be able to offer limited in-person use of the Library very soon.

In the meantime, our collection is available through curbside pickup, Monday through Friday. Visit the **CURBSIDE PICKUP** Tab on mnspear.org for the schedule. Once the Library is ready to receive in-person visitors, the schedule will change. The new schedule will be posted on mnspear.org and will be emailed through the Town Announcement email system.

Inter-library loan has resumed and we are getting deliveries two to three times each week, but hold times are inconsistent. The Commonwealth Catalog, which allows access to libraries across the State, has also resumed services.

CURBSIDE PICKUP ~ HOW IT WORKS

Search our online catalog to find items you want. Go to mnspear.org, click on the *Log in to Your Account* tab. Once logged in, search for items and place holds!

- When holds arrive, you will receive an automated email notification. When you receive this notification, email



library.director@shutesbury.org or call 413-259-1213 to schedule a pickup appointment.

- If you want an item that is on our Library's shelves, calling or emailing your request will yield faster service than placing a hold.
- If for any reason you aren't able to search the online catalog and place your own holds, we'll do it for you. Call or email with your requests. In your email include title, author and your preferred format. Include your preferred pickup time in your message.
- We are happy to select books, DVDs, etc., for you based on interest and availability. Just ask!

Same day pickup appointments for available items and items on the hold shelf are almost always available. Call or email to schedule a pickup.

- At the time of your pickup appointment, look for a bag with your initials on it on the blue cart on the ramp. Please take the bag with you.
- If an order is not picked up on

time we will hold it inside and schedule another pickup time.

RETURNS

All items, including items from other libraries, can be returned in the book return box at any time.

HOW TO LOG IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT

- Visit our website, mnspear.org.
- Click the *Log in to Your Account* tab.
- Enter your username (14 digit library card number) and password. If you don't know your username or password, email library.director@shutesbury.org or call 259-1213.

BROWSE THE "NEW" SHELF ONLINE

New items are added every week. Subscribe to our **Wowbrary** email newsletter to see what's new. Go to mnspear.org, click on the Newest Arrivals Tab.

FITNESS CLASSES ON ZOOM

Strength Foundations with Jay

This is an ongoing strength training class taught by Jay McWilliams. Equipment needed: dumbbells (3,5,8 or 10#) and exercise bands. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 9am.

Gentle Yoga with Dr. Kathy Sward

Equipment needed: a yoga mat, blanket, blocks, strap and pillows. Thursdays at 9am.

For more information or to join either class, email library.director@shutesbury.org.

These programs are brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Additional funding is provided by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and the Shutesbury Council on Aging.

Visit mnspear.org to learn about other online Library programs.

Free monthly food delivery for Shutesbury seniors through Amherst Survival Center's Senior Mobile Nutrition Program

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library and the Shutesbury Council on Aging are pleased to announce a new partnership with the Amherst Survival Center. The Survival Center provides monthly food distributions to those in need.

During this COVID-19 crisis, we realize that it might be harder for some of our neighbors to get to the Survival Center to pick up food. So we have arranged a partnership with the Survival Center to get food delivered to the M.N. Spear Memorial Library on the first Wednesday of each month. Our volunteers will then deliver food to the homes of participating seniors.

If you would like to enroll in the program, visit the Survival Center's

website, <https://amherstsurvival.org/> and click on the following link and complete the registration:

<https://amherstsurvival.org/foodpantryonlinereg/>

- Look for the question **Do you need delivery?** under the section marked **Pick up authorization.**
- Use the drop down arrow to choose **Yes.**
- A new field, **Coordinated Site Delivery** will appear.
- Click the drop down arrow and choose **Shutesbury Library.**

If you don't have access to a computer or need assistance completing the form, call Mary Anne at the Library, 413-259-1213, or call **JoAnn Bernhard**, COA Co-Chair, 413-259-1235.

Print copies of the registration form and food preference form are available by mail, at the library and the post office. Contact Mary Anne if you prefer to register using a printed form.

If you aware of a neighbor who would benefit from a monthly food delivery, but might not see this notice, please share this information with them.

CPC, cont. from page 7

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.

SES, cont. from page 1

two teachers join our school community.

As we head into the fall, our eye is on our possible return to in-person learning within a hybrid format.

The Union 28 Leadership Team, the local Board of Health, and the School Committee remain in communication around the health and safety of students and staff. We will communicate our plans clearly before any movement towards in-person learning occurs. The School Committee will meet on this before early November to discuss options.

This year, any family that wants to may opt into remote-only for the entire year.

I want to share a personal thank you with all of our student caregivers and the community of Shutesbury. The staff at SES are so deeply grateful for your kindness, compassion, patience, trust and support as we work REALLY HARD to make this a positive start of school for our community. We are listening to feedback, making adjustments and spending time trying to develop caring relationships with each family and student.

We promise to continue to communicate clearly, listen to your feedback, and work hard to ensure a meaningful, engaging and supportive learning environment for all of our students and teachers. We are a team and we will persevere and thrive in this new adventure!

Kind Regards,

Jackie Mendonsa
Principal



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

Return Service Requested

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

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 James Walton, Chair 413.259.5397	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 413-259-1626
ANIMAL INSPECTOR Nancy Long 413-259-1279	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 413-259-1211 or at home 413-259-1286	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE 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	Rita Farrell 413-259-1297
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	Michele Regan-Ladd, Co-chair 413-259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 413-259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING For Info., Med-Ride Program, Foot Clinic, leave message 413-259-3796	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 413-259-1214	TOWN CLERK Grace Bannasch 413-259-1204 Susie Mosher, Assistant
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 413-259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 413-259-1584	TOWN MODERATOR Paul Lyons 413-259-1556
CULTURAL COUNCIL Rory Valentine 413-256-0563	PERSONNEL BOARD Leave inquiries at 413-259-1214	TREASURER Ryan W. Mailloux 413-259-1801
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Nijadlik 413-772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 413-406-2767	TREE WARDEN Don Wakoluk 413-256-6736
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413-259-1279	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 413-367-0017	WEB COMMITTEE Gail Fleischaker 413-253-0565
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 413-253-7505	POLICE DEPARTMENT Daniel Fernandes, Chief 413-259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare 413-549-5330

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911