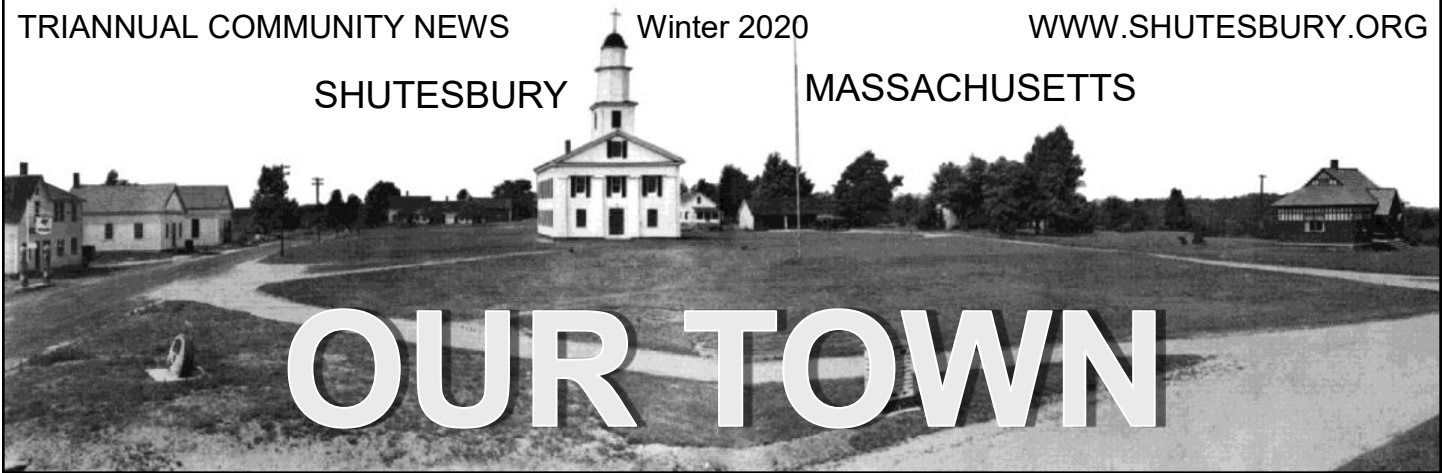


SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



OUR TOWN

Libraries in the Woods: A community read!

What happens when everyone in 20 or more small towns reads the same book? We are about to find out.

Staff at the public libraries in Shutesbury and many of our neighboring small towns are working together to create a series of programs designed to spark curiosity and conversation about an engaging topic.

You are invited to read *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Publisher's summary: "As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to

this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as "the younger brothers of creation."

Community Read,
continued on page 9

Help strengthen our connections to the past

Janice Stone, *Secretary,*
Historical Commission

Are you interested in preserving historic buildings and structures, and cultural stone landscapes such as stone walls and foundations, gravestones, and Native American sites?

The Historical Commission has a number of interests including these, and also in digitizing our records to make them more available to the public. We need one more member to fill out our

Commission and help work on these and other projects.

Learn more about the history of your town! For more info, check <https://www.shutesbury.org/historical-commission> or email Historical@shutesbury.org. We meet once a month, check the town meeting calendar for next meeting. Thanks!



Underground stone chamber, Shutesbury (Photo by J. Stone)

Town rings in 2020 with high-speed Internet!

Broadband Committee

2019 was a momentous year for broadband in Shutesbury. Construction started on January 2, and all 763 households that signed up were connected by the start of 2020! Big thanks to everyone for your patience and support throughout this very complex and long project!

On the budgetary front, we are happy to report that the final cost for the network came in under projected estimates. Along with additional state grant awards, this

Broadband,
continued on page 3

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM TOWN COLLECTOR

Dear Taxpayers,

We have been informed that the automobile values used in calculating the motor vehicle excise tax bills will no longer be rounded to

the nearest \$50. Hence, the amount of your bill may no longer end in \$.25 intervals.

This change is to bring the bill calculation into compliance with Massachusetts General Law per the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth.

This change will take effect with the bills that will be mailed out within the next two weeks.

Ellen McKay, Town Collector



Messages from the Town Clerk

Susie Mosher, Town Clerk, 259-1204, townclerk@shutesbury.org

Grace Bannasch, Assistant Town Clerk, 259-1204, assistant.town.clerk@shutesbury.org

Office Hours:

Monday 3:30 - 7pm
Tuesday 8:30am - Noon
Wednesday 8:30 - 10:30am
Thursday 8:30 - 10:30am
Thursday 5 - 7pm
Friday 8:30am - Noon

Other times available by appointment.

New Shutesbury residents:

Welcome to the Hinterland! For some, moving to Shutesbury is an adjustment to rural life. Peruse our Town website, www.shutesbury.org or stop by Town Hall and we will help you find out about resources and answer your questions. This newsletter has a handy phone directory on the back with phone numbers for specific departments, committees or boards. Once again, WELCOME ALL, nice to have you aboard, and make yourself at home!

Census One and Census Two:

You should have received your **blue** 2020 Annual Street Listing/Census form in the mail. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE return this form after you review, correct and sign it. Don't forget to list **all** members of your household, including children. If you can provide the address of anyone in your household who has moved away, that is a **big** help.

Returning this form keeps you on the active voter roll. Inactivated voters must bring identification and sign a form at the polls in order to vote. Your census form also lets us know how many people live in town. (Last count: 1,805.) **If you didn't get our census mailing, please contact the Town Clerk.**

The **coral** sheet in the mailing has information about local elections and the 2020 **Federal Census**, which starts in March 2020.

Your participation in the Federal Census is important because it counts toward federal funding and Massachusetts representation in Congress. If you are interested in working on the federal census, contact: www.2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-562-2020. Current pay rate is \$22/hour.

SUPER TUESDAY

Massachusetts is one of 14 states that will hold the Presidential Primary on **Tuesday, March 3**. Here are important dates to know:

Now – Absentee Ballot **Application** (required) can be found outside the Town Clerks' door and on-line at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>

Wednesday, 2/12/20 – Last day for new voter registration, address change, or change of party form. Extra Town Clerk hours that day, 2 - 4pm, 7 - 8pm. You can check online to see if you are already registered to vote: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

Monday through Friday, 2/24 - 2/28 – **Early Voting** during regular town clerk hours. More information about Absentee or Early voting on the Town Clerk page: www.shutesbury.org

Tuesday, 3/3/20 – Absentee ballots must be in the Town Clerks' mailbox (**12 noon**) or brought to the polls by 8:00pm. Registered voters can also vote absentee in person in the Town Clerks' office.

At the polls, everyone is welcome to use the assistive technology provided by the AutoMARK machine. Using this machine, the voter can adjust the print size and color, listen to the ballot read through headphones

and mark their ballot independently. Just ask for the AutoMARK ballot at the check-in table. Voters may also bring an assistant or request assistance to mark a paper ballot. We want to help all Americans vote!



The AutoMARK machine. Technical assistance to independently mark your ballot is available to everyone in Shutesbury.

Town Elections and Town Meeting

The Town voted on the last Saturday in April as a **NEW** date for our Town Election and Annual Meeting; the date this year is **4/25/20**.

This rite of spring is held at the Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Rd. Check-in starts at 8:00am with the election polls open from 8am to 2pm. Town Meeting starts at 9am. There are two check-in stations – one for the Town Election and one for the Town Meeting.

The annual trash bag distribution also begins on this important community day.

Some people have asked, "Why did the process change to check in by ROADS, not by last name?" There are over 1,000 last names in Shutesbury, but just 60 familiar road names. This gives the poll workers an advantage in finding your name more quickly on the voter rolls.

*Town Clerk,
continued on page 3*

Town Clerk,
continued from page 2

When a couple with different last names checks in, they are listed on the same page. The Recycling Committee keeps the trash bag distribution list organized by roads. So, with practice, this consistent method this will be easier and faster.

The seats up for election for 2020 are:

- Board of Health: 2 seats**
- Planning Board: 3 seats**
- Town Clerk: 1 seat**
- Cemetery Commission: 1 seat**
- School Committee: 2 seats**
- Library Trustee: 2 seats**
- Select Board: 1 seat**

Get nomination papers at the Town Clerks' office starting on January 21. Consider joining town government and being part of the process! Attend a few meetings, talk to friends and neighbors; it only takes 20 signatures from Shutesbury registered voters to get on the ballot.

Nomination papers are due back **March 6**. Candidate statements will be included in the spring edition of the *Our Town* newsletter. Absentee ballots are available for the elected seats only.

Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting is the public platform for the citizens to conduct town business. Reports from committees, the budget, zoning changes, many housekeeping articles, etc., are placed on the warrant and brought up for a vote.

The town mails a copy of the warrant, budget and other information to every household before Town Meeting. The warrant and budget will also be posted on the town website.

To read more about the Town Meeting process, please visit the home page of the town website: www.shutesbury.org

Another way to participate at Town Meeting is by submitting a Citizen's Petition to the Select

Board by **March 11, 2020** with an article be placed on the warrant. The petition must have the signatures of 10 registered voters from Shutesbury and the wording of the petition cannot substantially change once the petition is signed. Please visit the Town Clerks' web page for more guidance on making a citizen petition.

State law entitles registered voters to vote on Town Meeting warrant articles. Because most articles can be amended during Town Meeting, residents who are **registered voters must be present to vote in person** when the article comes up on town meeting floor.

Voter registration

If you are not already registered, the last day to register to vote in time for the Town Meeting and elections is **Friday, April 3**, with extra Town Clerk office hours on that date from 2 - 4pm and 7 - 8pm.

Dog Licenses

The new dog tags will be available on April 1, 2020. Once the summer gets rolling, it is easy to forget to renew by the expiration date, June 30, so you may want to get an early start. You can download the form from the Town Clerks' web page or pick one up outside our office door. We keep a copy on file of all current rabies certificates. If your dog has a new rabies vaccination certificate, please include a copy or let us know the vet's office and we will contact them for a copy.

Broadband,
continued from page 1

means that we have more choices for how to manage the project's long term capital costs. Over the next few months the Broadband Committee will work with the Finance Committee to decide on a borrowing structure and how to use the remaining town appropriated funds to benefit Shutesbury taxpayers.

The good news continues with our high take rate. Because 87% of

residents are ShutesburyNET subscribers, the revenue from monthly fees is higher than initially projected. The additional revenue may be used either to pay down the construction debt or to lower future monthly fees. Unlike cable and satellite bills which increase as time goes on, our network has the potential to lower fees for Shutesbury residents. This is our goal after essential operating and debt expenses are covered.

We'll be working on a website update early this year to focus on ongoing operations and usage questions. The broadband website will continue to be your best source for current information:

www.shutesbury.org/broadband.

If you need help with your Internet equipment, phone issues, voice mail, or have an outage, please contact Crocker Communications. They are available 24/7. **Support Department:** 855-415-7592 or ShutesburySupport@crocker.com.



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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30% POST CONSUMER WASTE

Updates from the Community Preservation Committee

Shutesbury's 2008 Community Preservation bylaw created a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) comprised of nine representatives of Town boards, commissions and committees with functions that are related to community preservation.

The FY2019 members of the CPC include **Rita Farrell** (co-chair/Housing Authority), **Allen Hanson** (co-chair/Finance Committee), **Chris Donta** (Historical Commission), **Linda Avis Scott** (Conservation Commission), **Michael DeChiara** (Planning Board), **Elaine Puleo** (Select Board), and **Margie Tighe-Saporito** (community member-at-large). Both the Open Space and Recreation positions are open.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) began fiscal year 2019 with its annual review of what it learned during the prior fiscal year and made minor revisions to the Community Preservation Plan as a result. This plan, and other information about the CPC, can be found on the its website at http://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

During FY2019 there were two applications for CPA funding. The first was from the Shutesbury

Buildings Committee for \$34,000 for **beginning restoration work on the Old Town Hall**. The second was for \$28,000 for **Habitat for Humanity toward the construction of a single family home** on West Pelham road in Shutesbury. The committee approved both projects and the corresponding warrant articles were passed at the May 2019 town meeting.

Since its inception in 2009, the Community Preservation Committee has funded 10 projects in Shutesbury, including the two mentioned above. The **West Schoolhouse** (FY2011, 2012), **Hearse House** (FY2013), **Elementary School Playground** (FY2016), **Elementary School Running Track** (FY2016) and **Old Town Beach Improvement** projects are complete, and pictures can be found on the CPC web page.

The **West Cemetery Gravestone Preservation** (FY2015) project is partially complete: The large aged white pine trees have been removed and the restoration of selected gravestones and replanting the cemetery with appropriate trees and shrubs is currently underway.

The **Top of the Lake/Canoe Launch** (FY2015) wetland permit application is underway.

The engineering study to develop a comprehensive plan for the removal of accumulated silt in the **North Cove of Lake Wyola** and

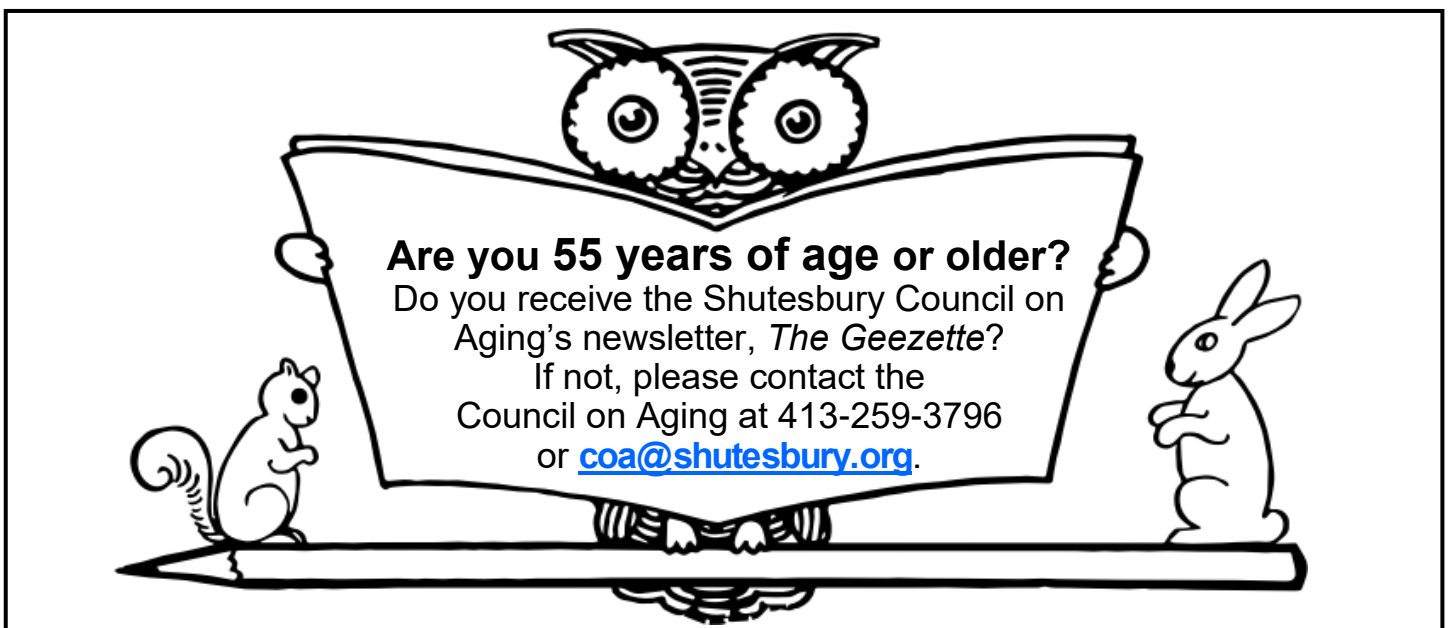
the ultimate restoration of the cove to its historical depths is undergoing leadership changes.

In total, 10 projects represent a total investment of \$179,750 in Shutesbury. More information on these and other projects can be found on the CPC website http://www.shutesbury.org/community_preservation.

All projects were conceived and executed by citizens of the town wishing to preserve part of the town's history and to improve and create recreational facilities for everyone to enjoy. Each successful project depends on a group of committed volunteers to organize the project, to complete the applications, to 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 its continuing interest, contributions, and support for our community's preservation projects.



As always, we could not do it without you!

First and foremost, thank you to volunteer newsletter editor **Janis Gray**. She fields inquiries about submissions, reviews all content, and figures out how to include news and information from various Town departments, committees, staff, and community groups.

Please see our updated "Newsletter Policy" on page 3.

For each issue of the *Our Town* newsletter and town-wide mailings, a group of volunteers collates and folds materials. The following folks conducted "the fastest ever" folding party for the Autumn *Our Town*: **Susan Gomberg, Joan Hanson, Catherine Hilton, Susan Millinger, Dave Mosher, Susie Mosher, and Becky Torres**.

Thank you!

Thanks, as well, to **Andy Fairfield, Susan Gomberg, Dave Mosher, and Susie Mosher** for their help in getting the December Special Town Meeting mailing out to our community.

Here's how to join us: 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.

Best wishes for your Winter,
Linda Avis Scott,
Administrative Secretary

Greetings from the Assessors' Office!

There have been two major changes in the Assessors' Office over the past few months.

First, **Kevin Rudden** became the Administrative Assessor in July after **Ken Holmberg** retired. Kevin serves on the Board of Assessors in Mendon, MA (in Worcester County), where he lives. He has earned the designation as a "Massachusetts Accredited Assessor" from the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO), and is pursuing professional designation from the Interna-

tional Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO).

Second, both **Steve Schmidt** and **Diane Jacoby** ended their tenures on the Board of Assessors at the end of the year. **Jeff Quackenbush** joined **Susan Reyes** on the board in January, leaving **one vacancy to be filled**.

Anyone with knowledge of municipal finance, real estate or construction would be an asset to the board. If you're interested, contact Kevin at 259-3790 or assessor@shutesbury.org.

Once appointed, board members have two years to complete the MA Department of Revenue's online Course 101 to learn more about assessing responsibilities such as real estate and motor vehicle excise tax abatements, statutory exemptions, and Chapter 61 forest, recreation and farmland properties.

The Board of Assessors' primary responsibility is to comply with Massachusetts state laws by ensuring that all property in the Town of Shutesbury is accurately and fairly assessed at full and fair cash value.

Under the board's supervision, the Administrative Assessor reviews sales and market conditions to reassess values each year, to perform a town-wide recertification of values once every five years, and to performs cyclical inspections of all properties once every 10 years.

The Administrative Assessor and the Board of Assessors do not raise or lower property taxes. Property taxes are assessed in an amount sufficient to cover the local Town Meeting appropriations used to operate the town each fiscal year to pay for services such as schools, roads, fire protection, law enforcement, etc.

If you have any questions about your valuation and how it is calculated, feel free to contact Kevin. Typically, he's in Town Hall from 10:00am to 3:00pm on Mondays through Thursdays, unless he is out inspecting properties.

You can take advantage of Shutesbury's new broadband capability to schedule an appointment or property inspection with Kevin online at: <https://shutesbury-assessor.appointlet.com>.

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Tax Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

With the winter upon us, the third quarter of our real estate bills are due on February 1 and the calendar 2020 motor vehicle excise bills for many vehicles registered on January 1 may have been mailed. Additionally, excise bills on vehicles registered late in 2019 are billed during 2020. The year for which the bill is issued is found in the upper right hand corner of the bill.

For everyone with an Amherst or New Salem mailing address, please check your registration to make certain the "Place of Garaging" is listed as Shutesbury. This is the information the Registry of Motor Vehicles uses in determining what municipality issues the excise tax bill. If you find incorrect information on that line, please contact the Registry and your insurance company to correct the information.

If you receive a bill on a car you have traded or on which you have changed registrations, do NOT ignore the bill. The Board of Assessors should be contacted to obtain an application for abatement. The forms are also available through the Assessors' section of the Town's website and should be printed out in landscape format for easy completion. The mailing address for the Assessors is PO Box 264, Shutesbury.

Our on-line bill paying feature allows you to pay your tax bills either directly from your checking or savings account with a fee of \$.25 or with a credit card for a fee based

Collector,
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Collector,
continued from page 5

on the amount of your transaction. To use this service, click on the Town's website and then on the announcement on the Home page.

For Real Estate and Personal Property taxes, you should enter 2020 for the year and just the bill number WITHOUT the RE or PP to enter the program. For motor vehicle payments, enter the year and bill number which is found on the top, right side of your bill. If you do not have this information, you are able to find your bill information by clicking on the notation "Need help locating your bill" after you indicate what type of bill you wish to pay. You then enter your last name and all bills in that name should be shown. Select the correct one and click on it and the amount due will appear.

Please note that the on-line feature cannot be used to pay any bill on warrant.

PLEASE PLAN AHEAD when mailing your tax payments to avoid

interest due to late payment. The date your payment is received in this office or by the lockbox is the date of payment for receipt purposes under Mass. General Law.

If you send a check generated through a bill payment function from your banking institution, please note that it may take over a week for the Town to receive the payment. If you have the bill generated on the payment due date it will definitely be late.

Please address these checks to the Collector's Shutesbury mailing address which is PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Do NOT use the Woburn address because the lockbox cannot process the payment because there is no bill enclosed, which results in the check being forwarded to Shutesbury and additional time elapsing before you payment is recorded.

If you receive a demand notice, you should pay it immediately, as you only have 14 days from the demand date to pay before the bill goes on warrant which results in a substantial increase in the fees.

If you have purchased your property after January 1, 2019, Massachusetts General Law requires that the previous owner's name remain on the real estate tax bill. Hence, your name will appear with an "in care of." There is nothing we can do to put the bill solely in your name.

The question has come up concerning the information found on the bills. All information is required either by Massachusetts General Law or by the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth. The Town and this office have no discretion on the statements printed thereon.

Before venturing out to pay a bill in person, please call this office at 413-259-1615 to check the answering machine to determine if I am here. If conditions are poor, I may not attempt to come to work.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Ellen

News from Shutesbury Elementary School

Jackie Mendonsa, *Principal*

Dear Shutesbury Community,

The students, families and staff at Shutesbury Elementary School have enjoyed a joyful, engaging and busy first half of the school year! Students have been immersed in engaging units of study. Below are some fun highlights of learning.

- Second graders proudly presented a museum of landforms that they researched, wrote about and built replicas of.
- Fifth graders enjoyed up to two visits a week from local scientists in the community that shared their research and learning. They also visited some scientists in their labs to see their work in person! Students got paired with a scientist "buddy."

- Sixth graders diligently worked on a Future City project. Future City is a national project based learning program where students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade imagine, research, design and build cities of the future (<https://futurecity.org/>). They presented this work at the Future City Regional Competition in Worcester!
- Fourth and Third graders were deep in writing units, creating and sharing incredibly entertaining and detailed stories with families and classrooms.
- Kindergarten students are learning and practicing "Number Talks." They are working and learning about how numbers come together and break apart. They are practicing talking about their mathematical thinking.

- First graders are piloting a special unit from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about people who work hard for justice. They are learning, reading and writing about bravery, kindness, compassion, empathy and determination.

All of our students have been enjoying two classes of Physical Education and one class of yoga per week. They have been creating masterpieces in the art studio. (Come and take a look at their amazing artwork on the bulletin boards!) Students have been integrating technology and classroom content in the computer library.

All of our students were part of our whole school musical review of

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School,
continued from page 6

Annie in December! This musical performance included costumes and a fancy backdrop (on loan from Ja'Duke!). Our new Performing Arts teacher, **Ms. Samm**, spent many hours ensuring a wonderful performance and it was indeed spectacular! (See photos below).

Our school continues to do very well academically. This fall we were classified as "Meeting and

Exceeding All Targets" by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We continue to outperform the state and many local schools in every content area. Last year, we saw a very large gain in our Science performance!

Our Fifth grade teacher, **Laura Ginsberg-Peltz**, applied for and received a STARS grant for our whole school. With this grant, all of our grade levels will work with Tedd Watt from the Hitchcock Center around a science standard

for their grade. This work with Ted will include lab-based work, and ranges from designing and conducting experiments to observing and classifying living things in our environment. Ted works closely with classroom teachers to create units that are engaging and memorable!

This spring we are looking forward to another school musical, band concerts, field trips, portfolios, the Spaghetti Dinner, classroom celebrations AND a

visit from the *Whalemobile* — a life-sized replica of a blue whale that students can learn from and be inside of! Many thanks to Town Library Director **Mary Anne Antonellis** for securing the grant for the *Whalemobile* for us!

As always, the school community is so grateful to the town for its constant support. We have an incredibly special place of learning that is joyful, meaningful and robust. We are very proud of the education that can be provided to the children of Shutesbury.

Happy 2020!

Pre-school and Kindergarten enrollment/ screening for 3, 4, and 5 year olds

In Shutesbury, developmental screening is available through the school as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs.

The screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development. This activity takes about 20 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

The Shutesbury Elementary School Preschool is currently enrolling children for the 2020-2021 school year. If you or anyone you know has children under the age of five, or you have questions or concerns about your child's development, please contact us for more information about the program. Contact **Grace Griecci**, Pre-k teacher, at 253-1212 ext.140 or at griecci@shutesburyschool.org

This service is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in its 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 griecci@shutesburyschool.org

Shutesbury Programs from the Community Network for Children

Free weekly Tales & Tunes

Come and enjoy stories, song and craft activities with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library.

Tales & Tunes will continue on Mondays, from 9:30 -11am. This program is facilitated by **Katie Tolles**, and is intended for children 0-5 years of age. Tales & Tunes is sponsored by the M.N. Spear Memorial Library and Union #28 Community Network for Chil-

dren program. See CNC Website for program and event schedules, <https://sites.google.com/erving.com/cncprogram/home>

For more information please contact Gillian Budine, 978-544-5157 or budine@erving.com.

Free weekly playgroup

Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the Shutesbury Elementary School. Shutesbury Playgroup will continue, on Fridays, for the school year, 8:45 -10:15am. This Playgroup is facilitated by **Joie Ciepiela** and is intended for children 0-5 years of age. Playgroup is sponsored by the Shutesbury Elementary School and Union #28 Community Network for Children program. Program not held during school closures. See CNC Website for program and event schedules, <https://sites.google.com/erving.com/cncprogram/home>

For more information please contact Gillian Budine, 978-544-5157 or budine@erving.com.

Free new baby gift bag

This special offer from Union #28 Community Network for Children is for new babies (birth to 6 months) and their families in the communities of Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell.

The first days and weeks at home with a new baby are among the most joyful — and overwhelming — you'll experience as a parent. Welcome Baby visits are a comfortable and comforting way for parents to connect with an early childhood expert and get information that you can use with your new baby and their siblings.

Welcome New Baby Gift Bags are free and made possible by funding from the Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant serving our five communities. For more information and to schedule a visit for you and your baby, please contact us, budine@erving.com or call 978-544-5157.

It's brush burning season

For burning permits until May 1, fill out a form at fcburnpermits@gmail.com or call Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200 early on the day you want to burn. Permits are for one day only, 10am - 4pm.

Thanks for a banner year!

Susie Mosher, *Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library*

As treasurer of the Friends, I keep track of the total of funds collected for the new Shutesbury library project. As I wrap up the numbers for 2019, I am thrilled to report that we have raised over \$420,000. How did our small, rural town reach this awesome landmark? It has taken time, a lot of effort, and generosity of many hearts.

We got to this moment because so many people have given their time and muscle as well as their dollars. Peeling potatoes for our dinners at the SAC, a plate of muffins for bake sales, an hour of donated labor to rake a yard for a Spring Spruce Up, volunteering to set up spreadsheets for bookkeeping, organizing a tag sale, returning bottles and cans, spreading the word and participating in programs that other people can benefit from, lending use of their truck to schlep pumpkins, books, tables, or whatever is needed.

People have stuffed envelopes, painted banners and signs, sold sweatshirts and aprons, set up or taken down innumerable events, donated a portion of their profits from their own activities, and more. The generosity of spirit and effort is a huge part of our journey that creates community as well as raising funds.

People have come to Annual Town Meeting to vote their support for setting aside \$25,000 a year to build a new library. That accounts for about half of the \$420,000. All this points to the power of inspiration, dedication, pulling together, and altruism. It is truly awesome. A deeply felt note of gratitude and thanks to all.

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road

413-259-1213

www.mnspear.org

Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

Open Every Day

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library is open every day. Our hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 11am - 1pm and 3 - 6pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 3 - 7:30pm

Friday: 3 - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Sunday: 3 - 6pm

Records and Burpee Traveling Zoo Present The Zoo Show!

Wednesday, February 19, Noon, at Town Hall. Meet and learn all about some wild animals!

Bark Basket-Making Workshop with Jennifer Lee

Sunday, March 15, 10am - 3pm, at Town Hall. Registration required. Please call 413-259-1213 or email library.director@shutesbury.org to register.

This is a messy process. *Bring an apron!* And **bring lunch**. Jennifer Lee will guide each participant in the creation of a unique bark basket. Bark and all necessary tools will be provided. Jennifer Lee has been enjoying making bark baskets for 40 years. Her interest began with the study of her Native American ancestors of the Northeast Woodlands. She teaches basket classes and educational programs extensively. The bark roots and branches are wild harvested by her family in the Northern Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts.

Jennifer Lee is enrolled with the Metis Nation of North America and the Northern Narragansetts.

A visit with Larry Spotted Crow Mann

Tuesday, March 24, 7pm, at Town Hall

Award Winning Writer - Poet - Native American Cultural Educator - Traditional Story Teller - Tribal Drummer/Dancer - Motivational Speaker - Consultant on Indigenous Pedagogy. Mr. Mann will be discussing Nipmuc history and cultural-political issues.

Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library

Susie Mosher, the Treasurer of the Friends of the Library, shared an update on page 8 about our progress with fundraising for a future new Shutesbury Library. We are grateful to the Friends and everyone who supports our collective efforts to save for our future and support the current operation of the library.

The Friends' next fundraiser is an Election Day Bake Sale at Town Hall from 7am until 7pm on Tuesday, March 3. We'll also have Shutesbury apparel and mugs available for sale. The Friends take cash and checks but not debit or credit cards. Donations of baked goods are needed. Sign up at the library. Thank you!

Museum and Parks Passes at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library

Thanks to support from the Friends of the Library and collaboration with the Council on Aging, the library has a selection of passes to area museums and attractions.

All of our passes are **walk-in loan only** (no holds or reserves). Call the library, 413-259-1213 to inquire about availability. None may be renewed.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Loan period: Seven days. Admits: All members of one household.

Children's Museum at Holyoke

Loan period: Three days. Half off regular admission for up to six people.

The Clark Art Institute Pass

Loan period: Seven days. Admits: One adult.

EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature

Up to two coupons per family per visit. Each coupon provides half price admission for up to two adults and two children.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

Loan period: Three days. Admits: Two adults and four children.

Historic Deerfield Loan period: Seven days. Admits: Four people.

MASS MOCA Loan period: Three days. Admits: Two adults and two children.

Mass Parks Loan period: Seven days. Provides parking for one car at Massachusetts State Parks.

Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens

Loan period: Three days. These passes are available to Shutesbury residents only. There are two types of Magic Wings passes, adult and child passes. The **adult pass** admits two adults. This pass cannot be used to admit children ages 3-17. The **child admission pass** admits one child ages 3-17 and each family can borrow two per visit. A family may borrow the adult pass and two child passes per visit. Admission for children under three is free.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

One pass per adult patron per visit. Each pass provides admission for two visitors for \$10 each.

Community Read,
continued from page 1

During March and April, join the community read by picking up a copy of the book and a brochure listing events at each of the participating libraries.

The libraries are still in the process of planning events designed to explore topics raised in the book, including book discussions, arts and crafts programs, and visits with local authors. We'll explore local ecology, Native American culture and history, and community.

Books are available at our own library and we have two related programs planned in Shutesbury.



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SHUTESBURY MA 01072

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HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

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

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BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213	April Stein 259-1074
CEMETERY COMMISSION Walter Tibbetts 259-1286	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Kate Cell, Co-chair 259-9129	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress Broadband Mailbox 413-345-2855
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM. Rita Farrell, Co-chair Allen Hanson, Co-chair 259-1623	Co-chair 259-1149	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING For Information, Med-Ride Program, Foot Clinic, leave message at 259-3796	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Leave inquires at 259-1214	TOWN CLERK Susie Mosher 259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 259-1584	Grace Bannasch, Assistant
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