

Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – April, 2022

Happy Spring! (Whisper my small and very chilly crocuses.) Enclosed are the news items you've sent me (arranged in no particular order) for the April issue – town news updates and some cultural happenings. Send me your news for the May issue by April 22. If you want to subscribe and are not already on our growing list, send your email to me at: andrewbaker1959@gmail.com Enjoy!



Police Shared Services Project:

The Towns of Shelburne & Buckland were awarded a \$200,000 grant from the MA Division of Local services to explore developing shared police services between the two towns. The grant will fund development of a shared services agreement, a community engagement and information sharing process over the coming year, interim funding for police staff, and, if the agreement is approved by both towns, infrastructure improvements at both police headquarters buildings to facilitate a new office configuration. The grant was awarded by Lt. Gov. Karen Polito at a state-wide grant award ceremony for Regionalization & Efficiency grants held in the Buckland town hall on March 24.

CPA Update:

The working group Shelburne residents exploring adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) held a 2nd public forum on February 16. The group invited Judy Loughlin of the Whately Community Preservation Committee to share Whately's experience using CPA funds from the town's voter-approved 3% surcharge on local property assessments to do community improvement projects in the areas of Open Space, Recreation, Historic Preservation and Community Housing over the past decade. If you missed the Feb. 16 meeting you can find the power point slides on the Shelburne town web site in the "News" section.

You can also attend the working group's 3rd public forum on **Tuesday, May 4 at 7pm on Zoom**. To register for that meeting go to: <https://bit.ly/cpashelburne> Janet Chayes of the Conway Open Space Committee will share Conway's experience using their CPA funds to accomplish community projects prioritized by Conway voters at their annual town meetings.

Treasurer News:

Check out Shelburne Treasurer/Collector's updates on her own mini newsletter at this link (copy and paste it into your web browser):

https://www.canva.com/design/DAE7zMuJO9U/DwzcRQrh32TiEajhj3zKRQ/view?utm_content=DAE7zMuJO9U&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

Village Taskforce Forming – a Few Seats Still Open:

At a recent “Village Summit” convened in March by Jessica Atwood (FRCOG) and Amy Shapiro (Franklin County CDC), participants agreed to create a Village Taskforce to bring together voices representing village businesses, residents and municipal officials in order to improve communications, direct community energy toward village events and improvement projects, and explore options for creating a successor organization to the now defunct Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. Summit participants agreed on a structure of up to 11 participants, with 5 representing village businesses, 4 representing residents of Shelburne and Buckland (2 from each town) and 2 representing municipal government boards (1 from each town).

In the first round of nominations, 7 people nominated themselves to serve. They include 3 business representatives: Ann McCormack – Water Street Barn, Missy Elie – Rethreads and Holly Sontag Ramirez – Blue Rock Restaurant. **There are 2 more open seats for village businesses.** John Wyman and Deborah Yaffee stepped forward to serve as Buckland residents and Brianne Benness will serve as a Shelburne resident. **There is an opening for another Shelburne resident.** Andrew Baker agreed to serve as a Shelburne municipal rep if no other Shelburne board member steps forward. There is an open seat for a Buckland municipal rep.

If you would like to serve on the Taskforce, contact Jessica Atwood of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) at jatwood@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x123

Virtual Movie Seasons from Pothole Pictures:

Pothole Pictures, our 400-seat historic town movie theater (upstairs in Town Hall if you haven’t been there yet) has been closed for the past two years due to COVID, after operating for 25 years as a volunteer-run weekend community movie theater. Recently, the volunteer crew has been discussing a possible re-start of Pothole Pictures in the summer or fall of 2022. In the meantime, Pothole Pics volunteer, Steve Earp, has put forth a suggested “virtual season” of movies that former patrons can watch at home, simply by taking out the many free DVDs donated by Pothole Pictures from past movies shown in Memorial Hall Theater on the big screen. Below is a “virtual season” selection from the many titles available at Arms Library:

2001 A Space Odyssey Sci-fi Stanley Kubrick 1968

In the Heat of the Night Crime Drama Poitier/Steiger 1967

The Producers Comedy Mel Brooks 1968

The Seven Samurai Japanese Kurosawa 1954

The Third Man Classic Noir Joseph Cotton 1949

Cave of Forgotten Dreams Documentary Werner Herzog 2010

Matewan Indie Drama John Sayles 1987

The Shelburne Falls Farmers Market is accepting vendors and musicians for the 2022 season, which begins May 27, 2022 and goes thru October 28, 2022. The market is located on the Baptist Lot Green at the corner of Main and Water Streets in Shelburne Falls on Fridays from 2pm to 6:30pm. Interested vendors and musicians can find more information and the applications on the website: shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org

CDBG News:

The Town of Shelburne has received a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant to complete Phase 2 of the Bridge Street reconstruction project. The grant will fund reconstruction of the street and sidewalks on Bridge Street between Baker Ave. and Mechanic Streets, replacement of the water main, new hookups for fire suppression systems and new street trees. In order to minimize traffic disruptions in the village business district during the busy spring/summer season, replacement of the water main will take place in September and repaving of the street and sidewalks will take place in Spring, 2023. Replanting of street trees to complete the Phase 1 project between the Iron Bridge and Baker Ave. will take place this Spring – dates for the work still to be scheduled.

Notes from the Arms Library:

There will be an Open Barn in Shelburne, MA on Saturday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 3rd, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. both days. Located at 180 S. Shelburne Rd in Shelburne, MA visitors are encouraged to please wear appropriate "farm" footwear, as the Open Barn will take place whether there is rain, shine, mud or snow. There are no kennel tours on these days.

Celebration for poet Martin Espada on **April 8th at 6 p.m.** Martin is the winner of the 2021 National Book Award for Poetry, for his "Floaters: Poems". Martin's reading will be followed by a book-signing and reception. Location: the Shelburne-Buckland Community Hall, 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA. There is no charge. Masks are required.

Local resident, retired Air Force Colonel, and former NASA astronaut Dr. Cady Coleman returns to the Arms, virtually, **April 22nd, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Join us for an "Ask Me Anything" with Dr. Coleman. Cady will talk about her adventures in space, show some amazing images and take questions about her experience, the recent SpaceX missions, or... anything!

"The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love" by Kristen Kimball - Book Discussion at The Arms on **April 29th, in person, at 6:30 p.m.**

The Arms Library Seed Library is open. Patrons are invited to pick out seed packets and try some new varieties. And if inspired, save their own seeds. We'll show you how in a future program.

Please call or email the Arms for details on any of these. 413-625-0306; armslibrary@gmail.com

Senior Center Hiring Update:

The Shelburne Senior Center has hired Julianne Moreno as its new Executive Director, replacing Amanda Joao. Julianne will start **April 11**. Outreach Coordinator Leane Dowd announced that she will retire this Spring. The Outreach Coordinator position is now posted on the town web site – see Employment Opportunities.

Easter Egg Hunt:

In the Village of Shelburne Falls: **Sunday, April 17 12: 00 – 1:00 pm**

FREE for little kids, teenagers and adults

Gather at 12 noon in front of McCusker's, Mo's Fudge Factor and Buckland Pizza. Kids under age 5 can gather at Baptist Green, at Water & Main streets.

Egg Hunt Parameters: State Street from West End Pub to McCusker's, Bridge Street (ending at Mechanic St.), Water Street, Cross Street, Church Street, Main Street (ending at Water St.), Mechanic Street (ending at Church St.), Baptist Green (which will include a kids area for children under age 5 at the triangle between Water and Main St.)

No eggs in parking lots or streets. Important: All eggs will be empty and can be redeemed for candy, toys, and gift cards at the Blue Rock Restaurant (Depot St.) between 12 pm and 1:30 pm.

COME! PLAY! LAUGH! HAVE FUN!

Questions? Or Donations? LizzyBoltz3@gmail.com

COVID Testing Updates:

- Starting April 1st, the free COVID community testing site at Greenfield Community College will close. **An up-to-date list of local places to get a COVID** test can be found at <https://frcog.org/covid> . If you do not have internet access, please call 2-1-1 to find a testing site.
- **Take-Home Tests** donated by Massachusetts Dept of Public Health are available to walk-ins at the Greenfield Health Department, the FRCOG, and all FRCOG Public Health Nurse Walk-In Wellness Clinics. Call 413-774-3167 x156 for more info.
- **Private insurance and MassHealth now cover rapid antigen tests** to have at home (up to 8 tests/4 boxes per month).
- **Private insurance** may allow online orders or reimburse the cost of the tests from a purchase receipt from a variety of retailers. Check with your insurance company about your coverage.
- **If you have MassHealth**, in-person pick up can ensure that your rapid antigen tests get covered:
 - At Big Y, Rite Aid, Stop and Shop and Walgreens, bring the tests (before purchasing) to the pharmacy to bill MassHealth directly.
 - At CVS, call the main store number (not the pharmacy) and order tests for pick up and they will bill MassHealth directly upon checkout.
- **Free N95 masks** (max 3 per person) are available at Baker's Pharmacy and at the pharmacies listed above.

Maureen O'Reilly - Community Health Educator, Contact Tracer
Cooperative Public Health Service
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
12 Olive Street, Suite 2 Greenfield MA 01301
413-774-3167 ext 206

Hiking and Walking in Shelburne:

The Shelburne Stone Fire Tower Trail, Big Trees Trail, and Ridge Trail to the High Ledges – The Stone Fire Tower Trail is a relatively short, but demanding hike up to the Shelburne State Forest - Fire Tower located on top of Massaemett Mountain. The Big Trees Trail bypasses some of the steepness of the lower Tower Trail and includes numerous interpretive panels and tree identification tags. The fire tower offers window views in all four directions. For those wishing a longer hike, the Ridge Trail on top of Massaemett continues on to the Mass Audubon's High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary, with its spectacular High Ledge view of the Deerfield River Valley. You can approach the Fire Tower from either Shelburne Falls or the Audubon High Ledges parking area. **Map & Brochure, 3-pages.**

https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Tower_Trail_Brochure_and_Map.pdf

Tick Season Is Here! - Ticks can be disabling or even deadly, and may be too small to easily see to remove. It is recommended you pre-treat your clothing with Permethrin for six weeks of protection. Allow your clothes to dry before you put them on. Never apply Permethrin to your skin. Lacking Permethrin, you can always use a product containing Deet, but it may not be as effective and you need to apply Deet prior to each hike off the pavement. For added protection, tuck your pants into your socks and check for ticks when you are back on the pavement and at home.

Dog & Cat Rabies Vaccination Clinic:

Hosted by: The Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Regional Dog Shelter & Regional Animal Control
www.fcrdogkennel.org

Clinic Locations:

TURNERS FALLS

Saturday, April 9th 2022 10am-12pm

Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter
10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls

HEATH

Saturday, April 23rd 2022 10am-12pm

Former Heath Elementary School
18 Jacobs Road, Heath

- # All dogs MUST be on a leash. Flexi or extendable leashes are not allowed.
- # All cats need to be in a carrier. No exceptions. Both 1 year & 3 year rabies shots available.
- # To be eligible for a 3 year vaccine you will need to provide proof of a previous 1 year vaccine at the time of vaccination.
- # We are hoping to have dog licensing available at this clinic as well.
- # Cost is \$20 per vaccination – payable in cash only

Kyle P. Dragon - *Animal Control Officer* Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Phone: (413) 768-0983 Email: kdragon@fcsso-ma.us

News from Trinity Church:

Trinity Church at 17 Severance Street continues a more than 30 year Free West County Community Meal every Friday evening at 5:30. Meals can now be taken "to go" or diners can once again eat in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Thank you to all the community volunteers who have cooked and served these delicious nutritious meals for over 3 decades!

Trinity Church also sponsors a twice a month free community clothes closet, housed in the lower level of the Cowell Gymnasium. Open for free shopping on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. There is also a drop off shed outside the gym where you can leave clean, seasonal, bagged clothing, shoes and linens. Please do not leave any donations outside the shed and read the sign for what are acceptable donations.

Church phone # for questions etc is 625-2341.
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Coming Musical Attraction with Fabric of Life:

Wise Geese - Sunday, June 5 - IN PERSON, Shelburne Massachusetts
(George Wilson-Rebecca Weiss-Becky Ashenden)

This will include an afternoon workshop, jam session in concert, along with lots of great food and company! For tickets and information contact:

Fabric of Life, 80 Bassett Road, Shelburne, MA 01370
(413) 203-9448 office@fabric-of-life.org

Annual Town Meeting..... Pre-Meeting!

The Shelburne Select Board decided to schedule a "pre-meeting" on **Thursday, May 26 at 6:30 pm** at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School to provide time for voters to talk through and learn about some of the more complex issues on the town warrant prior to the Annual Town Meeting on June 11. These include voting on formation of a new Senior Services District, considering adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and others. Look for the May newsletter for a more complete listing of town warrant articles. The deadline for petitioning an article onto the town warrant is **April 11**. Contact Town Clerk, Joe Judd, for information on how to do that.

Assessor News:

Reminder – two of our three Assessors are retiring this year in June. We need new Assessors! Consider stepping up to serve our town. Talk to the Town Clerk about taking out papers to run for election.

Editor's Essay – Shelburne Voices in the Walls:

It's been a busy construction winter on Mechanic Street, with three dumpsters filling up on our block alone! Andrea and I are finally renovating the rooms on our 2nd floor, one of many projects we've taken on since we moved to Mechanic Street 24 years ago. Fixing up an old house gets a person thinking about the people who lived in it before. In our case, a long time before as our Greek Revival was built in 1857.

We like to do the demolition part of our fix-up projects – in part to save money on the work we can do ourselves, and in part because it provides a fleeting opportunity to see the layers of the past revealed as we strip away the 1970s-era fake wood paneling and the well-trodden wall to wall carpeting. You can see the choices made by long-ago occupants in the layers of old wallpaper. And every now and then interesting oddments fall through the plaster lath.

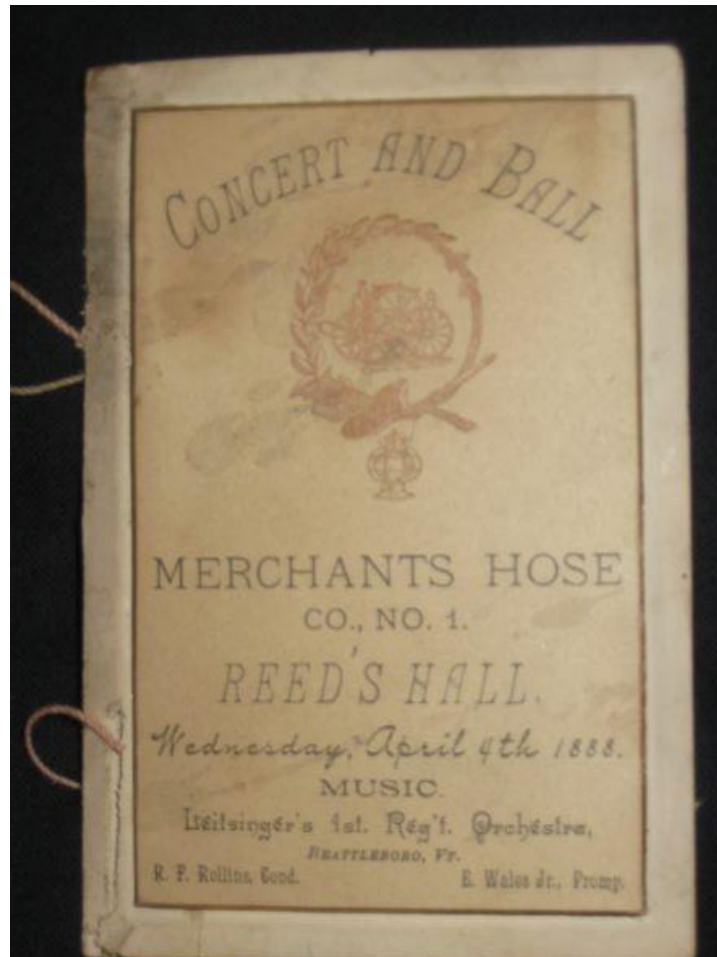
One small gem I'm sharing with you in this April issue is pictured below – a business card size booklet that somehow fell through the attic stairway and into the neighboring wall. It is a dance card for the Merchants Hose Concert & Ball held in Brattleboro, VT on Wednesday, April 4, 1888. Inside is a cover page describing the program and musicians followed by a two-page listing of all the dances – waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, a gallopade, Prince Albert's Reel, Portland Fancy, Chorus Jig – and room for dance partners to reserve a dance. Was this dance card wielded by the matron of the house – a mother of many with a friend or relative in the Merchants Hose Fire Company? Was she perhaps a young bride just married to an immigrant mechanic at the Lamson Cutlery? Or maybe a teenage daughter going to her first dance?

All we know is that someone named "Chris" signed up for a Contra at dance #7 and someone else less legibly requested the Lanciers. I only hope that when she got to the ball she was too busy dancing to fill up the rest of her dance card!

Who do you imagine she was? As it turns out, I happened to be reading Willa Cather's "My Antonia" in between swings of the sledgehammer – a marvelous memoir-styled novel about life on the Nebraska prairie in the late 19th century, and the friendship between a young boy and his immigrant neighbor Antonia, who hailed from what was then Bohemia (now the Czech Republic). In it Cather describes the arrival of a group of musicians who set up a tent on the town green and the excitement that erupted across the county when Saturday night dances were offered. I wonder if the same sort of social mixing occurred in more established New England towns. Did farm boys and merchant's sons compete for the chance to waltz with servant girls and factory workers? My Mechanic Street dance card holder has been boldly colored into my imagination by Willa Cather's Antonia and her Swedish girlfriends.

How would she have gotten to Brattleboro that evening in 1888? What for us is a half hour car ride up the highway would have been a half day horse and buggy ride on dirt roads. Or maybe she would have walked up muddy streets in town to the train Depot behind the granary (now the Salmon Falls Artisans Showroom) to ride the train to Greenfield, and then waited for another train up to Brattleboro. Either way, it was an expedition, perhaps with an overnight stay in the big city. Food and clothes to pack. Horses to manage. I wish for her that the dancing and the fiddle music made for a memorable journey that April evening 134 years ago.

"One more dance with your favorite partner, one more chorus from the fiddler's bow,
Follow the plow, the pen, the needle for one more year and down one more row.
Tree of life, hand of friendship, stepping stones in an endless chain –
Cut the strings that make you dance, you will still be dancing just the same...."
--- from the song, "Endless Chain" by Pete Sutherland (Metamora)



That's all we wrote! If you enjoyed this issue pass it along to a Shelburne neighbor and encourage them to subscribe, and to send in a short news item, community/cultural event, or a brief reflection on town life or times past. We are up to **227 subscribers** now, and counting ... we'd like to reach every Shelburnian so that we can all better engage in town life together.

--- Andrew Baker, Interim Newsletter Editor