

Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – August, 2022



View of Shelburne Falls from town land on the transmission line – photo by Jim Perry

Hello friends in Shelburne and beyond:

This newsletter is coming to you from Vinalhaven, ME, and island community of 1,135 located 14 miles off the coast of Rockland in Penobscot Bay. As a select board member in a similarly sized small tourist town, I read the Vinalhaven town report with great interest for comparisons and contrasts with Shelburne. For example, Vinalhaven raises \$7.1 million of its \$7.9 million town budget from local taxes on a \$13.73 per thousand tax rate. That compares with our town budget of less than \$5 million on a tax rate of \$14.49 per thousand. Having an extra “shoreline tax” on those with waterfront properties makes a big difference! On the other hand, in Shelburne we don’t have a Sea Level Rise committee that helped the town raise the level of its causeway bridge 1.5 feet this year. Penobscot Bay is warming up faster than any other place on the East Coast – big changes under way on the seacoast.

Below is the August news for Shelburne in no particular order. Send me your news items for September by August 24. And help us reach more Shelburnians by passing this newsletter along. Subscribers can join by sending me their name and email address to andrewbaker1959@gmail.com You don’t have to live in town to subscribe, but let me know what town you do live in! Stay cool and enjoy the summer!

Town Treasurer/Collector News:

Find updates here: <https://townofshelburne.com/p/24/Tax-Collector-and-Treasurer>

Open Space Committee: Guided Hike along part of Shelburne's Fire

Tower Trail System (but, not climbing to the tower) – Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM.

UPDATED: Meet at the Fire Tower Trail kiosk on Route 2 & Halligan Ave.

Guided Fire Tower & Big Trees Trail Hike – The Shelburne Open Space Committee, Arms Library, and Deerfield River Watershed Association have partnered to lead a scenic and educational hike along the Shelburne Trails - Fire Tower and Big Trees interpretive trail system. A former Natural Resource Specialist/Forester will lead the hike through private lands he manages for public recreation/education. There are 7 interpretive panels and many tree identification tags to learn from along the way. We may detour to a scenic overlook too. What to Bring: Hikers should wear good walking sneakers or hiking boots and bring water to drink, a snack, sunscreen, and tick repellent or treatment. (The best tick treatment is to pretreat your clothing with Permethrin.) What to Know: We will not be climbing all of the way to the Fire Tower. This is rated as a moderate, 1 ½ mile roundtrip hike. The first half is uphill, but not too steep. Hikers should have a medium level of skill, but more endurance than last month's hike. There will be plenty of discussion stops along the way. The hike will most likely take about two hours. Where to Meet: Due a footrace in Shelburne Falls Village, we will instead gather by the trailhead at the intersection of Route 2 and Halligan Avenue at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 13th. Halligan Ave is located off of Route 2 about 200 yards North (West) of the Sweetheart Restaurant. Park on either side of the lower end of Halligan Ave. If you have any questions, or would like to pre-register (you will be notified in case of a need to reschedule) contact Jim at: drwa@deerfieldriver.org See you there!

Village Info Center – needs volunteers!

If you'd like to volunteer at the Village Information Center, shifts are for three hours, currently Thursday through Monday, 10:00-1:00 and 1:00-4:00. The VIC hopes to add more time slots as we gain volunteers. Apply at the Information Center or contact Tom Massa at tmassa@crocker.com or 413-625-2544.

Shelburne Falls Village Task Force news:

The Village Taskforce is up and running, with reps from local businesses, residents and town government from both Shelburne and Buckland, working to fill the communication gap left by the demise of the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. Next meeting (online) is **Wednesday, August 10 at 5:30 pm**. To get the zoom link, contact the August meeting facilitator, Jon Wyman at: jon.michael.wyman@gmail.com

Meet up with Village Businesses on August 17

If you'd like to network with Shelburne Falls Businesses, come to their monthly meet up on 3rd Wednesdays. Their next meet up will be at the Village Info Center on **Wednesday, August 17 at 6:30 pm**.

Shelburne Falls Military Band – Summer Concerts in August

All concerts start at 7pm. Bring a lawn chair and spare change for refreshments

August 3 – “Musicals” @ Fellowship Hall in Shelburne Center

August 10 - “Jazz” @ the Fire Station in Colrain

August 17 – “Band Favorites” @ Mary Lyon Church in Buckland Center

Arms Library Events for August

Sister Books About Hope in Action

August 5, 6:30 p.m. Under the tent in back of the library.

Two lifelong feminist activists have each released books harvesting decades of involvement in social change. Pat Hynes is the author of "Hope But Demand Justice" and Sarah Pirtle has brought back a revised edition of "An Outbreak of Peace." They are longtime members of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice Board who share insights grounded in hope.

Kites and Things That Fly!

August 6 at 11 a.m. In back of the Arms Library, in and around the white tent.

Join Dr. Bill Strader for a fabulous time learning about and making kites.

Says Dr. Bill, "I'm a lifelong kite flyer! I love watching, supporting and flying kites "and things that fly! So How about coming to see a Veritable Plethora of kites and things that fly!

We will see a wide variety of kites, assemble some...and even make your own Scottish Sled Kite."

Guided Hike along part of Shelburne's Fire Tower Trail System (but, not climbing to the tower) –

August 13, 9 a.m. Collaboration between the Shelburne Open Space Committee, Deerfield River Watershed Association, and Arms Library. See Open Space Committee article in this newsletter.

"Beyond the Beaten Path" Summer Reading Wrap-up Party

August 17, between 3 and 5 p.m. at the Arms Library

Stop by, join us and celebrate the ending to a great summer reading program. We'll have ice cream and prizes for the children and teens who have finished the event with us. Of course, if you wander in we will share ice cream with you, too!

Story Hour with Mr. Dave

Every Saturday at 10 a.m. Ages birth to 5 years.

Shelburne Cultural Council: Important Info for 2023 Grant Applicants

This year the Shelburne Cultural Council will change to Direct Funding for our project grants application program opening this fall! This means that, for the first time, *all* SCC grants we offer will be awarded up front rather than *after* your project has taken place.

We are pleased about this important improvement in accessibility to our grants. Previously, grant recipients were required to fund their projects and upon completion, collect Reimbursement for their expenses. The Mass Cultural Council is encouraging LCCs to switch to Direct Funding in order to transfer these funds to grant recipients as quickly as possible and thereby help them launch their projects. We also prefer to interact with our grantees on a basis of trust. We believe this funding method assures an equitable playing field for all artists and organizations regardless of economic status and streamlines the entire process for our grantees, the SCC and our Shelburne Town Treasurer.

To learn more about the application process and Direct Funding visit MCC's helpful link at:

https://massculturalcouncil.org/documents/lccguidelines_direct_grant.pdf

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have: shelburnelcc@gmail.com

Shelburne Cultural Council members currently serving: Owen Bragdon, Co-Chair, Jennifer Bauman, Treasurer, Kate Whittaker, Secretary, Linn Bower, Jacqui Goodman, Eben Sorkin, Barbara Watts.

August ConCom & Planning Meeting Dates:

Conservation Commission – **August 11**

Planning – **August 16**

(Look on Town Web Site for locations and zoom links: <https://www.townofshelburne.com/>)

Hilltown History Trail: Museums & Culture Tour Premiers August 13, 10 – 4

Why do you love the Western Massachusetts Hilltowns? The villages and towns that draw you today are the product of the people who lived and settled here for hundreds of years. Each town, with its quaintness and rural appeal, is a product of the industry and culture of the native and colonial people who resided and worked here, and still do!

The stories and technologies of the European immigrant settlers to these lands are memorialized in each hilltown through a volunteer Historical Society or Historical Commission. Almost all towns have an historical property that the Society or Commission manages - a collection of artifacts and architectural wonders from the past. These rural museums have limited open hours throughout the year, but for one day this August, six Hilltown museums will be open for you to visit – for free!

The 1st annual Hilltown History Trail in the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts will take place Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 10 am - 4 pm. Hilltown historical societies in Ashfield, Buckland, Cummington, Plainfield, and Shelburne Falls will open their museum doors to the public on the same day for a free day of exploring. Hop in your vehicle and ride the trail!

Participating museums include: Ashfield Historical Society Museum, 457 Main St., Ashfield, MA; Wilder Homestead, 129 Ashfield Rd. (112 S), Buckland, MA; Buckland Historical Society Museum, Corner of Upper Rd. & Charlemont Rd., Buckland, MA; Shaw-Hudson House, 286 Main St., Plainfield, MA; Kingman Tavern, 41 Main St., Cummington, MA; and Shelburne Historical Society Museum, 33 Severance St., Shelburne Falls, MA.

The Hilltown History Trail is produced by the Buckland Historical Society, www.BucklandMassHistory.org, and is funded, in part, by a Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals Grant.

A printable map of the museums on the trail is found at <http://HilltownHistoryTrail.org>

Contact Stacy Kontrabecki at learn@HilltownHistoryTrail.org or (413) 834-3423 for more information or to volunteer as a museum docent.

Highway Department Roadside Maintenance

Members of the Highway Department will be performing annual roadside maintenance which includes trimming trees and or shrubs that are encroaching the town's public ways (i.e sidewalks, roads, obscured signage, etc.). We understand that some of our residents strongly object to this type of trimming particularly those who have trees, shrubs, etc., planted on the edge of a town road or sidewalk. While we understand your sentiment, this work is a matter of public safety therefore we ask for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any specific concerns, please contact Select Board Highway Department Liaison, Robert Manners @ Townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov

Bridge of Flowers Road Race on August 13

To register, go to: <https://bofrace.com/p/17/Registration>

What's the new news? Join us Thursdays at 5:30pm (at Floodwater Brewery) to run or walk the race course, both 3k and 8k. It's a great way to get familiar with the route and meet some new friends.

- Butterfly Swing Band is providing post-race music at the Buckland-Sheburne Elementary School (flyer attached).
- Mo's Fudge Factor is giving out ice cream to ALL finishers, all ages, in addition to Floodwater's beer for 21+ finishers.
- Have you heard about the Marathon Sports gift cards for fastest times?!?!?
- \$300 for top men & women (\$200 & \$100 for 2nd & 3rd place) and an extra \$100 (men & women) for the quickest up the 'McCusker' Mile segment.
- Parking can be hard in Shelburne Falls on busy days, we hear ya. Check out this [map](#) which shows preferred parking lots (click and zoom to see the best lot for you) and some of the businesses who will be open on race day! Yellow is post-race party, green for entrants, purple for volunteers/visitors.

From Your Emergency Management Director - Hurricane Season Safety

This month I'd like to talk about hurricane safety. Although the Atlantic hurricane season is officially June 1 through November 30, the most active time for these storms in Massachusetts is late August through September. It is important to understand the difference between a watch and a warning so you know what to do to stay safe:

Hurricane Watch — Hurricane conditions are possible within the next 48 hours.

Hurricane Warning — Sustained winds \geq 74 mph associated with a hurricane are expected to affect a specified area within 24 hours.

Here is a quick list of things to do both in preparation for and during a hurricane:

- Assemble an [emergency kit](#).
- Follow instructions from public safety officials.
- Prepare for possible [power outages](#).
- Follow instructions from public safety officials.
- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies, including downed power lines and gas leaks.
- Know where to go if the need for evacuation arises.

Use generators and grills outside because their fumes contain carbon monoxide.

Do not walk/drive through high flowing water. Six inches of flowing water can quickly knock you off your feet. Cars can be swept away in just two feet of moving water.

Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions and those who may need additional assistance.

For details of these items and more detailed lists please go to the MEMA page on Massachusetts official website at <https://www.mass.gov/hurricane-season-preparedness> Or if you'd rather have me send you this information feel free to email me at EMD@townofshelburnema.gov and I'll be happy to send it to you.

Remember: Failure to plan is planning to fail. Stay Safe Everyone!

Tom Williams, Emergency Management Director

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day: September 24, 2022

Pre-registration required by September 16th. Online pre-registration for the 2022 collection will begin in mid-August, at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in late August at town transfer stations and town halls, as supplies last.

Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2022 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 24th at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 16th. Online pre-registration for the 2022 collection will begin in mid-August, at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in late August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers.

Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed. The collection is free for residents of most of the District's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at: franklincountywastedistrict.org. Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted at this collection. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Handle carefully, bring them to a municipal transfer station or a Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site" and hand to attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information visit: franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

McGovern Announces New Legislation on Designating Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Under Federal Law

On Monday, July 25th, 2022, Congressman James P. McGovern announced a new piece of legislation he is introducing to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. McGovern delivered remarks alongside local officials and environmental groups on the Stillwater Bridge in Deerfield in support of his new bill. The protections would preserve the river as an important natural resource and recreation space for residents of Western Massachusetts and Vermont.

Shelburne Falls Porch Fest call for volunteers:

Did you enjoy the 3rd annual Shelburne Falls Porch Festival last month? Want to help organize the 4th annual? Contact Paul Bennett at 4paulbennett@gmail.com

FRCOG Public Health Team update: healthy food access

One important topic in public health is healthy food access, or the ability to get healthy food, often around barriers like price, physical distance to stores, or a lack of nutrient-rich food. For many, summer can bring higher access to healthy food because it is convenient to stop at a local farm stand. A map of local farm stands can be found on the website of nonprofit CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture) – <https://buylocalfood.org>.

However, summer food access can be difficult for families whose children eat regularly at school cafeterias or simply because fresh produce can be pricey. Local options for meals for those under 18 are on Project Bread's website, projectbread.org. Additionally, Massachusetts developed a creative solution to increasing food access and helping strengthen local farms: the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). The program works alongside SNAP benefits (formerly food stamp dollars): anyone who is eligible for any amount these benefits has at least "an extra" \$40 dollars a month (as an instant, automatic refund) that can be used on produce and other food items without preservatives. HIP dollars are widely used year-round at farmers markets and benefit local farmers! Only certain retailers accept HIP, so check out CISA's website buylocalfood.org for information on where to redeem HIP. Or, chat up your local farmer at the market!

Questions about HIP? Or want to sign up? Check online at mass.gov; call the Food Bank of Western MA (413-992-6204—English and Spanish), Project Bread (800-645-8333—a variety of languages), or call Community Action Pioneer Valley (413-475-1570).

Walk-in Wellness hours

FRCOG public health nurses will be at the Shelburne Falls Senior Center every 4th Tuesday from 10:30am-12pm; in Colrain the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 4-6pm at Griswold Memorial Library, and in Charlemont at the Federated Church the 2nd Tuesday from 10:30am-12pm and again the 3rd Tuesday from 4-5:30pm during the Good Neighbors Food distribution. Walk-in Wellness hours are free and open to the public. Nurses can perform health screenings, assist with individual chronic health condition management, sharps disposal, among other services.

Editorial/content questions? Contact Maureen O'Reilly, community health educator/contact tracer at moreilly@frcog.org

WE SUPPORT

YOU FROM INFANCY

TO ADULTHOOD

The Mary Lyon Foundation Supports the West County Community from Infancy to Adulthood!

We'd love to welcome your new bundle of joy to the world and ensure they have the resources needed to learn, succeed and thrive.

Take a minute to complete our **Newborn Care Package form** by scanning the QR Code below, and we'll send you a package filled with essentials such as children's books, a onesie, and diapers for your growing family.



Hilltown History Trail

Saturday August 13, 2022

10 am - 4 pm

Western Massachusetts Hilltown historical societies will open their museum doors to the public on the same day for a **FREE** day of exploring!

<http://HilltownHistoryTrail.org>



Participating museums include:

1. Shelburne Historical Society Museum
33 Severance St.
Shelburne Falls, MA
2. Wilder Homestead
129 Ashfield Rd. (112 S), Buckland, MA
3. Buckland Historical Society Museum
Corner of Upper Rd. & Charlemont Rd.,
Buckland, MA
4. Ashfield Historical Society Museum
457 Main St., Ashfield, MA
5. Shaw-Hudson House
286 Main St., Plainfield, MA
6. Kingman Tavern
41 Main St., Cummington, MA



learn@HilltownHistoryTrail.org

This program is funded, in part, by a Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals Grant.



The Hilltown History Trail is produced by the Buckland Historical Society.

www.BucklandMassHistory.org

FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM

at Charlemont and Shelburne Transfer Stations



YES - DO Compost:

Solid food wastes:

- Meat, poultry, fish, bones, shells
- Cheese, dairy (no liquids)
- Eggs, eggshells
- Fruits, vegetables, peels
- Bread, rice, pasta, cereal
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

Paper:

- Paper napkins, paper towels
- Paper plates, paper cups, take-out containers (*BPI certified* preferred*)
- Waxed cardboard, waxed paper
- Cardboard/pizza boxes with stuck on food (rip up to save space)
- Paper egg cartons, molded fiber packaging (rip up to save space)

NO - DO NOT Compost:

- **NO** liquids
- **NO** plastic bags, wrappers, cling wrap
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** plastic cups, utensils, straws
- **NO** plastic, aluminum foil, metal, glass (*recycle* in container recycling)
- **NO** chemicals, hazardous residues
- **NO** beverage cartons, aseptic cartons (*recycle* with containers)
- **NO** frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, Chinese food take-out boxes, butter wrappers (put these in trash)
- **NO** kitty litter, pet waste, diapers
- **NO** disposable cleaning wipes



DO NOT DEPOSIT

MATERIALS IN PLASTIC BAGS!



- Paper bags (*recycle* paper if clean)

Wood:

- Wooden chopsticks, skewers, stirrers
- Small wooden fruit crates

Compostable plastic products:

- Compostable cups (i.e. Greenware)
- Compostable bags (i.e. BioBag)
- Brands must be BPI certified:

*bpiworld.org



Food waste and other biodegradable materials are hauled weekly to a permitted commercial composting facility. Plastic harms this process.

(To buy a home compost bin, contact FCSWD below. It is not recommended to put meat, poultry, dairy, or oily foods in home compost bins.)

Franklin County Solid Waste District:

413-772-2438; info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

MA Relay for the hearing impaired:

711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)



Site Compost Program at the

Charlemont and Shelburne Transfer Stations

Details on the Food & Paper Composting Program:

On May 10, 2022 a new food and paper waste compost program began at the Charlemont / Shelburne Transfer Station on North River Rd. There is no cost to participate in this program. The collection is open to residents of these towns only, during each town's operating hours.

Similar programs are successful at 10 municipal transfer stations and 25 schools in the county. Franklin County is a statewide leader in school and transfer station compost programs.

Why compost? Composting makes a valuable soil amendment from waste, saves money, slows climate change, and reduces trash. Households that separate their food waste for composting can potentially reduce their trash volume and save money on required town trash bags or stickers.

The Compost Cooperative has placed special receptacles at the transfer station. The containers will be emptied weekly, and the contents brought to Martin's Farm in Greenfield for composting. **This commercial composting facility is different from your average backyard compost system in that it can compost meat, bones, cheese, paper products, and other materials that are not appropriate for home compost bins or piles.**

The new compost program will accept many materials that are currently destined for the trash. All solid food wastes are acceptable including meat, bones, poultry, fish, cheese, dairy (no liquids), eggs, eggshells, shellfish, fruits, peels, vegetables, bread, grains, tea bags, coffee grounds and paper filters. Paper is also accepted: napkins and paper towels, paper egg cartons, paper to-go containers, and pizza boxes with stuck-on food. (Pizza boxes that are empty and free of food should go in paper recycling.)

It is very important to keep the following items OUT of the compost container: liquids; pet wastes, kitty litter, diapers; plastic bags, wrappers or cling wrap; polystyrene foam; conventional plastic, metal, foil, glass; or non-biodegradable items. Yard waste, leaves and brush are not accepted in this program.

To collect compostable items at home, residents can use a compost pail, 5-gallon bucket or any other closed container. The Solid Waste District office in Greenfield sells 2-gallon "Sure-Close" compost collection pails for \$5, by appointment: 772-2438. Check with transfer station attendant about the availability of compost pails at your town's transfer station.

To make clean up easier, line pails with newspaper, a paper bag, or a compostable BioBag. All “compostable plastic” bags must be BPI-certified; for more information, see bpiworld.org.

If compostable wastes are transported to the transfer station in a traditional plastic bag, the bag must be emptied into the compost container and then the plastic bag must go in the trash. Never put plastic bags in the compost!

As always, residents are also encouraged to compost at home. The Solid Waste District sells home compost bins to Charlemont and Shelburne residents for a subsidized price of \$25, by appointment. Please call 772-2438. For more information, visit: <https://franklincountywastedistrict.org>.

Questions? Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

Other SF web sites and social media:

Find more news about Shelburne here:

<https://www.facebook.com/shelburnefallsvillagenetwork/>

<https://shelburnefalls.com/>

<https://the-senior-center.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetShelburneFalls>

<https://www.armslibrary.org/>

Post Script: Town-Wide Tag Sale in 2023???

Last month we floated the idea of an annual town-wide tag sale on a single Saturday or weekend to bring more buyers to all of the tag sales and build success. Andrea and I offered to test drive the concept on July 16, so here is the follow up: We raised \$300 for 2 charities assisting people in Ukraine: Doctors Without Borders and World Central Kitchen. And when counting our quarters, we discovered another \$300 in the bottom of the cashbox from our previous tag sale four years ago that we forgot to deposit – double bonus for Ukraine!

So..... planning begins for 2023. With this amount of lead time we should get a good collection of tag sales coordinated. Send me your name and email address if you'd like to join in, and name your preferred dates in May, June or July. (Donating to charity is not a requirement – this can be for personal profit and slimming down of household clutter. The most successful part of our recent tag sale was the massive post-sale free pile on the curb. We were able to offload a couch, furniture, window blinds and many other items I dreaded having to take to a dump!

That's all we wrote!

..... Except for one last thing – see the poster below for info on the Shelburne Grange Fair on **August 27!**

Andrew Baker

Interim Newsletter Editor & Shelburne Select Board member

(want to join the editorial committee and write or edit for the newsletter? Send me an email.)

Shelburne Grange

FAIR



Sat. August 27, 2022
9 am - 4 pm
Fellowship Hall

Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne Ctr.

Free admission!

Fun for all ages!

- **Exhibits, crafts**
- **Food, music**
- **Tag sale**