

Good news, fun news, news you need to know

# SHELBURNE NEWSLETTER



March, 2023

## Sap springs eternal

When Punxatawny Phil came out of his tree in early February, the humans around him declared six more weeks of winter, but you've probably noticed that the maple trees had other plans. The sap is running! I love hearing the *plink, plink* of its dripping into the metal pails. It reminds me of my first school field trip to Gould's sugar house when I was in first grade. Sure, the pails are old school and not as efficient as the vacuum tubing that stays up all year, but seeing them appear on the trees is as much a rite of Spring as the shenanigans in Pennsylvania, in my opinion. All the sugaring activity makes me hungry for a plateful of pancakes smothered in New England's liquid gold! Check out the list of Massachusetts Maple Producers who are participating in this year's [Maple Weekend](#) on March 18th and 19th.

As a first order of business, I want to **thank Andrew Baker** for starting this newsletter! I know many people appreciate having one location to get Shelburne's news. He asked for some help, and I find myself with a bit of free time, so I'm going to try my hand at it for a while. Please send along your ideas and items **by March 23** for next month's newsletter to [E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov). It's a little earlier than usual because I'll be attending a climate resilience conference the last week of March. Please be sure to **include the name of your group or committee** in the subject line and any attachments (e.g., "Open-Space\_April").

I'd love to include **photos** from our residents and visitors. If you have one or two photos that show the unique character and beauty of our town, please send them along, and be sure to include the location and how you want your (or the photographer's) name to appear.

Last, let's make like the maples and get our creative juices flowing to **name the newsletter!** Send your ideas to [E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov) with "Name the newsletter" in the subject line. More details will follow in the next edition.

Thank you, and Happy Spring!

*Tricia Yacovone-Biagi*

# Town Hall News



**IMPORTANT SURVEY!** Please follow this link to take the Town's [accessibility survey](#). Umass Boston's Edward J. Collins Center

for Public Management is conducting the survey as part of its work to ensure the Town meets requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **We need your help** identifying the barriers people with disabilities encounter in accessing Town facilities, programs, or services. Click the link above to take the survey, or copy and paste this link into your browser:

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

If you need help with the survey or want to complete it in a different format, contact Marcia Birmingham at [marcia.birmingham@umb.edu](mailto:marcia.birmingham@umb.edu). **Thank you** for helping to ensure Shelburne remains a great place to live for ALL of our residents.



**The Selectboard is seeking applications** from Shelburne residents who want to serve on the first Board of Managers for the

**West County Senior Services District.** The Selectboards for Shelburne, Buckland, and Ashfield will each appoint two members, one of whom must be a member of the town's Council on Aging (or its designee). The other may be any resident of the town who meets qualifications.

The Board of Managers (BOM) will be responsible for developing a detailed **transition plan** for shifting the oversight of the

present Consortium Agreement to the oversight of the Board of Managers. The BOM will **present** its finalized plan to the Selectboard for approval. Once approved, the BOM will be responsible for **overseeing** the District's operations.

The Shelburne Selectboard is particularly interested in applicants who have a firm commitment to the wellbeing of our senior population, and especially the oversight of the Senior Center and its service programs and outreach. The Selectboard welcomes applicants who have good interpersonal and organizational skills and the ability to think creatively and strategically. Former work in this area is not required, but any experience in governance, particularly at a non-profit, would be a plus. A good sense of humor is also welcome for this challenging but enormously gratifying work.

To inquire about the position or express interest in serving, please **contact Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz** at [townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov) or 413-625-0300, ext. 1, **by March 20**. There is no formal application form. Interviews will be held by the end of March or beginning of April. Please consider seriously this opportunity to serve our town as a member of the Senior Services District Board of Managers.





**Voting and elections** fill the list from Town Clerk Joe Judd. To reach him, go by the Town Clerk's Office in the Town Hall at 51 Bridge Street or call (413)

625-0300, ext. 3. His hours are Monday and Tuesday 10 AM - 5 PM, Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM, or by appointment. He notes several important dates for March and asks for people contact him to:

- **Register to vote or change party** enrollment.
- **Receive an early vote-by-mail application** for the annual town election on May 16, 2023.
- **Run for elected office** in the May 16 town election. See list of open positions below.
  - Nomination papers are available for **pick-up until March 16th** at the Shelburne Town Hall.
  - Nomination papers must be **returned by 5:00 PM on March 21, 2023.**
  - **Object or withdraw** nomination papers by April 6, 2023.

**Several positions are open for election.** Please consider serving Shelburne in one of these positions:

- Selectboard, 3 years
- Assessor, 3 years
- Town Clerk, 1 year
- Moderator, 1 year
- Planning Board, 5 years
- Recreation (Rec.) Committee, 5 years
- Rec. Committee, 3-year unexpired term
- Tree Warden, 1 year
- Mohawk Trail Reg. School Committee, 3 yrs
- Constable, 3 years
- TWO Shelburne Free Public Library Trustees, 3 years



**Public Forum #2 on Shared Police Services**

will take place at 6 PM on Monday, March 6, 2023, at the Buckland Town Hall.

Officials from the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne invite residents of both towns to the 2nd Public Forum to discuss the sharing of police services. Officials will present the draft Intermunicipal Municipal Agreement and proposed preliminary budget which reflects a scenario in which the Town of Buckland would partner with the Town of Shelburne to contract for police services effective July 1, 2023 and would no longer maintain a Town of Buckland Police Department.

If you are unable to attend the forum and wish to submit questions ahead of time to Buckland Town Administrator Heather Butler at [twadmin@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twadmin@town.buckland.ma.us) to have those addressed during the meeting. A link to the meeting will be available at <https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/>



**Correction!** In the February issue, we reported that that four 28-watt LED bulbs had been installed for demo testing at

Church and Main going north as part of the Eversource program to replace our 99 high-pressure sodium street lights with new energy-efficient LED lights, at no cost to the Town, and an annual savings of about \$5,000 in electricity cost. While the testing is ongoing, the bulbs there are **still the 51-watt demo**. All else remains the same. We will let you know when the 28-watt demo bulbs go in.

# Emergency Management Director's Page

Greetings. Last month I ended with a note on community involvement in emergency management. I'd like to elaborate on this thought. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA publish the [National Preparedness Goal](#) that was developed shortly after the events of 9/11. The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the **whole community to be prepared** for all types of threats, disasters and emergencies. The goal itself is succinct:

***A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.***

These risks include events such as natural disasters, disease pandemics, chemical spills and other manmade hazards, terrorist attacks, and cyber attacks.



As I mentioned last month, **preparedness is a shared responsibility** of the whole community. Whole community is not only town government officials but also

local businesses, community institutions, faith-based organizations, schools, media outlets and individual citizens. The phrase "whole community" means two things:

1. **Involving more people**, not just those on the Emergency Management Committee,

in the development of emergency operation plans that affect us all.

2. **Ensuring their roles and responsibilities are included** in those plans.

Even as individuals you and I have a big responsibility in preparedness. The effort we put forth readying ourselves for any emergency multiplies exponentially, adding to the success. Think of it as the individual bricks in a masonry building. All together joined to one another by an adhesive compound they form a structure, a building, or a home. This is how DHS and FEMA envision the **collective strength** of individual citizens within the community joined together with a shared responsibility of preventing, protecting, mitigating, responding to and recovering from any threats, disasters and emergencies.



In the coming months **myself and others will be visiting different groups and organizations** to explain further what I've discussed here. You may even see us at

static displays around town with some of the many informational pamphlets published by FEMA and DHS. Hope to see you sometime.

As always feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or issues. You can reach me at [EMD@townofshelburnema.gov](mailto:EMD@townofshelburnema.gov) or at 413-824-2518.

**REMEMBER:  
FAILING TO PLAN IS PLANNING TO FAIL.**

Thanks for your time,

**Tom Williams**  
Emergency Management Director



# Boards & Committees

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

Eighty-five residents attended a **heat pump workshop** with Mike Simon of Abode Energy Management, hosted by the Energy Committee on January 29! The committee has posted two recordings from the workshop through GCTV. Part 1, [What's All the Hoopla about Heat Pumps?](#) details the basics of heat pumps, how to maximize efficiency through weatherization, and how to access rebates. The second, aptly named [What's All the Hoopla about Heat Pumps? Pt 2, Q & A](#) includes a Q&A session and a presentation that covers maintenance, electricity rates and accessing income-eligible energy efficiency programs. (Apologies for the slide formatting problem.)

The Shelburne Energy Committee is currently embarking on a **partnership with the Home Performance Contractor, Revise**. This company can perform home energy assessments as well as provide the recommended energy efficiency upgrades. All qualifying Mass Save® benefits and incentives will apply. Revise can provide additional services that can help with energy efficiency. It partners with a heat pump installer as one option for exploring heat pump options for your home. Details will be provided in the April newsletter on how to access services from Revise under Shelburne's Community First Partnership. If you would like information sooner, contact Cynthia Boettner (see below).

An **event about energy saving programs** available to income-eligible Shelburne homeowners and renters is being planned.

Benefits include home energy assessments and upgrades, which could include no-cost heat pumps (mini-splits). To qualify for these benefits, residents need to receive fuel assistance or the Eversource discounted electric rate. Residents that may qualify for these benefits based on their income, but who do not yet receive them, will have a chance to initiate an application at this event. Tentative date: evening of April 27, location TBD. Community Action Pioneer Valley is partnering with the energy committee to bring us this event. Home Energy Assessments for qualifying Shelburne residents are projected to take place in May. Find a list of benefits through this program and an income chart here:

<https://www.masssave.com/residential/programs-and-services/income-based-offers/income-eligible-programs>

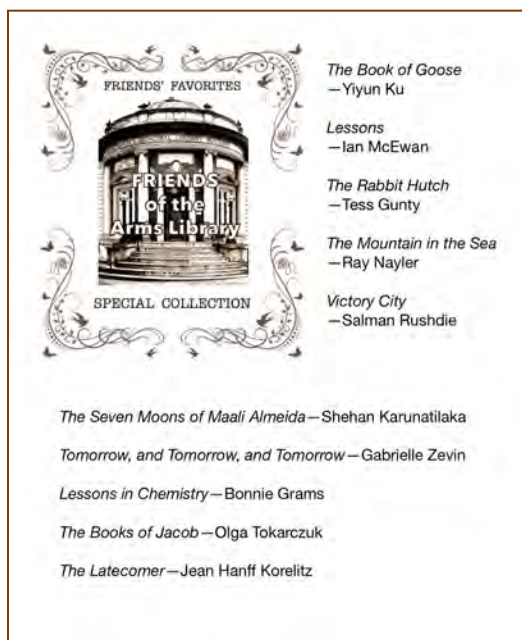
**For more info** such as resources on heat pumps, setting up a Home Energy Assessment that will give Shelburne credit for your actions, and the income-eligible program, contact Cynthia Boettner, Shelburne Energy Committee at [Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com)

The FRCOG also has an energy efficiency webpage at <https://frcog.org/energy-efficiency-learn-about-instant-savings-weatherization-and-appliance-rebates/>

*Shelburne is participating in the Mass Save® Community First Partnership, sponsored locally by Eversource to increase participation in energy efficiency programs among residents, small businesses, houses of worship and local nonprofits.*

## FRIENDS OF THE ARMS LIBRARY

We've added **ten terrific new books** to the Friends' Favorites Special Collection. You can find them on the 'book tree' on the left of the rotunda as you enter the main door of the library. We've got Salmon Rushdie's 'Victory City', 'Lessons' by Ian McEwan, and the very popular 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Gram, among others. Come check one out!



## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee continues this month's newsletter theme with an article by Jim Perry that co-member Peggy Warwick suggests is a great reminder about the "importance of preserving and sharing" our natural resources. Without further ado, here's **Maple Sugaring in March:**

*We hope you can get outdoors and appreciate the woodlands and fields of our area in late winter/early spring. The increase in light, with longer days, cold nights and warmer daytime temperatures, have already led to rising sap in our sugar maples.*

*When you are out exploring field edges, woodland trails, or back roads, notice the sap lines and buckets that have been actively gathering the sweet liquid since January, a treat for us locals.*



*The process of making syrup from sap is very labor and energy intensive. It typically takes 40 gallons or more of sap from sugar maples to make one gallon of maple syrup. But, our maple syrup is locally made, all natural, higher in vitamins and minerals, lower in net carbohydrates and calories, and so it is definitely healthier for you than the fake stuff made with corn syrup.*

*Please check out our maple syrup producers' products at one of the local gift shops, food stores, or the restaurants that serve real maple syrup on their pancakes, and enjoy!*

## PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board meets every first and third Tuesday at 6:30 PM over Zoom. Agendas include the Zoom link to meetings and are posted at <https://townofshelburne.com/f/0/12/>

The board is currently working on by-laws regarding signs and affordable housing. The public hearing about both topics is tentatively scheduled for March 21, 2023. Look for the announcement in the *Greenfield Recorder* and at the Town Hall in advance of the hearing.



A member of our Planning Board also attends the bimonthly meetings of the Regional Planning Board run by the FRCOG. The FRCOG is currently updating the [Franklin County Regional Transportation Plan](#) and would like public input from area residents. A **survey** is available until March 17, 2023 in English here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/franklinRTP> and *en español* here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RTPesp>

You can also [follow this link](#) (or copy and paste <https://rb.gy/2jf9mb> into a browser) to mark up an **interactive map** where you think improvements are needed.

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## RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Shelburne Falls Pickleball**, a program of Shelburne Recreation that's open to all, is going gung-ho with 6 sessions per week at Cowell Gym, lessons for those new to the sport, competitive team play on Saturday nights, *plus* clinics and lessons for those wanting to improve their game. Email [shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com](mailto:shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com) to express interest and to add your name to the list for announcements.

Pickleball play will move to the outdoor courts next to Cowell Gym on Maple Street in April. Visit [Shelburne Falls Pickleball](#) on Facebook to learn more. Come join the fun!



## SENIOR CENTER

Juli Moreno, Director of The Senior Center on Main Street in Shelburne Falls asks if you're looking to give back to your community? If so, she says, "We're **always looking for volunteers!**" Here are some ideas:

**Home repair** volunteers assist folks with basic and minor repairs, and provide consultation if a professional is needed for more intensive jobs. One gentleman used to be an electrician, another a carpenter; we've got a handyman, computer programmers, and even a rocket scientist!

You can't visit the Center in the Spring and Summer months without being amazed at our gorgeous flower beds, and creative gardens. The volunteer **gardeners** donate time and energy not just to plant, but to water, feed and love our flowers.



**Activity instructors** are vital to our community. It could be Drumming, Bones and Balance, or an art class. Sharing your expertise with others is a great way to enter into the role of volunteer. Do you know nature and could guide a walk, or bicycle and could lead a group around town? Your expertise is a gift to others.

**Chefs** at The Senior Center have provided not only hours of time and energy each month, but

they create magic in the kitchen, being thoughtful of nutrition while creating delicious meals and desserts.

**Reception** is a key role at The Center. Mary, Phyllis, and Ellen are the smiling faces and pleasant voices that greet you when you venture through the doors. The reception volunteers support callers, take FRTA ride requests, and are the front line to greet people and navigate requests.

**The Councils on Aging** in each town, the **Board of Directors**, and **The Foundation** are all groups of volunteers who meet monthly, serve on committees and directly affect policy and procedure as well as crucial financial support for initiatives for The Senior Center.

Last year, over 1146 volunteer hours were documented on behalf of The Senior Center! **Call 413-625-2502** to dip your toe into volunteer opportunities!



### Volunteer Spotlight on Ellen

**Eller**, one of our reception volunteers! Here's our Q&A with Ellen about volunteering here:

#### What was it that brought you to volunteer at The Senior Center?

I've been a member of the Buckland COA for years, but as an owner of a shop I never had much free time. Since the shop closed in December 2021, my time is my own so I try to use it happily.

#### What does a typical volunteer shift at Reception look like?

Answering telephones, taking messages for staff, has become a weekly gig I enjoy. I get to see and schmooze with a lot of people, which I've done all my life. Owning a newspaper



store was like being a bartender. Folks would belly up to the newspapers and we'd talk. Now I don't need papers as an excuse.

### **What would you tell someone about the benefits of being a volunteer?**

There's tremendous satisfaction in being an active member of a vital community team. It's an opportunity for anyone to share the experiences, hobbies and skills picked up over a lifetime, and keep them fresh.

### **What's something on your bucket list?**

Maybe a trip to Alaska. Also, maybe a dog if I could find the right one that my cat would accept.

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## **Businesses, etc.**

### **SHELBURNE FALLS FARMERS MARKET**

The Shelburne Falls Farmers Market will be held on the Baptist Green at the corner of Water and Main Streets, Shelburne Falls on **Friday afternoons from 2pm to 6:30pm, from Friday, May 26 until October 27, 2023.**

Barbara Goodchold reports that the market is in the planning stages and they are looking for more vendors, especially with baked goods, cheese, mushrooms, and ready-to-eat items. If you would like to **join the market** on a full or part-time basis, please visit their webpage at [shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org](http://shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org) for more information and to see last year's forms. The 2023 application forms will be posted on the website by the end of March. Preference will be given to vendors applying by April 26, 2023.

### **FUNDRAISER #1**

Who needs the NCAA's March Madness when we have our own basketball tournament right here at **3 PM on Saturday March 4 at Mohawk Trail Regional High School**? A mere \$5 entry fee per adult will get you into the Shelburne/Buckland Police vs. Shelburne/Buckland Fire game that benefits the school's **Athletic Association**, and there's no bracket necessary! (See flier.)

### **FUNDRAISER #2!**

Sandra Gaffey, Chair of Shelburne Falls Great Strides announces the **24th Annual Great Strides walk for Cystic Fibrosis** kicks off from Buckland Shelburne Elementary School starting at **1 PM on May 21, 2023**. For more information, leave a message for Sandra at 413-625-0227, or go to [https://fightcf.cff.org/site/TR/GreatStrides/74Massachusetts\\_RI?pg=entry&fr\\_id=9627](https://fightcf.cff.org/site/TR/GreatStrides/74Massachusetts_RI?pg=entry&fr_id=9627)

### **HELP WANTED #1**

The Shelburne Town Clerk's office is looking for someone to do a **calligraphy** project for the town this spring. Interested parties should contact Town Clerk Joe Judd at 413-625-0300, ext 3. The salary is negotiable.

### **HELP WANTED #2**

Vävstuga Weaving School seeks a **business manager** with business and organizational skills, who is self-motivated, and has an interest or experience with weaving. See attached flier or send an email to [office@vavstuga.com](mailto:office@vavstuga.com)



# March 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4 3PM Fundraiser for MTRHS Athletic Assoc. \$5*
5	6 6 PM Public Forum on Shared Police Services	7	8	9	10	11
12 12-3 PM Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic, 2 Care Dr., Erving*	13	14 9-11 AM Sen. Paul Mark @ Buckland Town Hall*	15	16 Last day to pick up nomination papers for Town Election	17 Last day to take FRCOG Transportation Plan survey	18
19	20 Application deadline for Senior Services District BOM	21 5 PM Deadline to return nomination papers	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 9-11 AM Sen. Paul Mark @ Buckland Town Hall*	29	30	31	
*See separate flyer for details.						

## Notes

### Upcoming dates to remember

**April 6** – Last day to object or withdraw Town Election nomination

**April 27** – *Energy Savings program event (Tentative)*

**May 2 @ 7 PM** – Town Meeting at BSE

**May 16 @ 10AM – 8 PM** – Town election at Cowell Gym

**May 21** – The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Strides walk for Cystic Fibrosis

**Please come enjoy the fun and laughs  
as these two humble rivalries Tip Off!!**

***Shelburne/Buckland Police***

**VS**

***Shelburne/Buckland Fire***

**Saturday**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**3:00pm**

**@ Mohawk Trail Regional High School**

**\$5 Entry for Adults**

**All proceeds to benefit the  
Mohawk Trail Regional High School  
Athletic Association**



**Special thank you to Colrain Ambulance for covering the event!**



# Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic

Erving Public Library  
**Sunday, March 12th 12-3pm**  
2 Care Drive, Erving

**Register online at [frcog.org/covid](https://frcog.org/covid)**  
(recommended, although walk-ins will be welcome).

**Get a free \$75 gift card**  
with any COVID  
vaccine or booster!  
while supplies last

Bring your ID,  
insurance card, and  
vaccination card!

- **Anyone over 6 months old** may be eligible for a flu and COVID vaccine, and can receive them at the same visit.
- **Insurance card needed for flu vaccine.** If uninsured, call a public health nurse at (413) 774-3167, or bring a \$28 check.
- **All COVID vaccines/boosters are no-cost.** A single Omicron-specific (bivalent) booster is available to those 5+ who received any other COVID vaccine at least 2 months ago.

**More information at [frcog.org/covid](https://frcog.org/covid)**





# OFFICE HOURS

Senator Paul Mark

Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin, & Hampshire District

## District Contacts

**Jon Gould, District Director**

*Jonathan.Gould@masenate.gov*

**Casey Pease, Constituent Service Director**

*Casey.Pease@masenate.gov*

**District Line:** (413) 464-5635

**District Office:** 773 Tyler St. Pittsfield, MA

## Berkshire County

**Adams:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 9 AM to noon.

*Town Hall, 8 Park St. Adams.*

**Great Barrington:** 1st and 3rd Mondays from 9 AM to noon.

*Town Hall, 334 Main St. Great Barrington.*

**North Adams:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 1 PM to 4 PM.

*228 E. Main St, North Adams.*

## Hampden County

**Southwick:** 2nd and 4th Mondays from 1 PM to 4 PM.

*Town Hall, 454 College Highway, Southwick.*

## Franklin County

**Buckland:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 9 AM to 11 am.

*Town Hall, 17 State St. Shelburne Falls.*

## Hampshire County

**Williamsburg:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1 PM to 3 PM.

*Town Offices, 141 Main St. Haydenville.*



**VÄVSTUGA WEAVING SCHOOL    SHELBURNE, MA 01370**

413-625-8241 (Tues-Fri 9-3 ET)    [office@vavstuga.com](mailto:office@vavstuga.com)    [www.vavstuga.com](http://www.vavstuga.com)

## **SEEKING A BUSINESS MANAGER**

We're looking for someone to join our small, but dynamic staff to manage our office. We offer numerous weaving classes and sell weaving equipment and supplies and books in our store, all in our beautiful rural location. Hours for this position are flexible, 28-40 hours per week. We'd like someone with business and organizational skills, who is self-motivated, and who has an interest in and/or experience with weaving. Being able to multi-task and deal with customers/students is essential.

Knowledge of word processing, Excel, and QuickBooks is desirable.

To contact us for more information and/or to arrange an interview,

send us an email at [office@vavstuga.com](mailto:office@vavstuga.com).

Please tell us why you are interested and include a resume.