

Good news, fun news, news you need to know

SHELBURNE NEWSLETTER



April, 2023

Warm temps bring big changes

With the warming temperatures, construction projects around town will go into full swing, and the transfer station will resume its normal Tuesday hours. **See pages 2-3 for important details** about the second phase of the Bridge Street project and **page 14** for news on the pocket park pavilion and the transfer station hours.

The Town received guidance from the Massachusetts Division of Local Services that this newsletter, now that it uses a Town email address, must restrict announcements to events or topics that pertain only to Shelburne but are not from local businesses or private organizations. The Selectboard discussed that guidance during their March 27 meeting, and determined that it needs to **restrict content in the newsletter**. The board also

discussed the benefit and possibility of a town newsletter that would not depend on town revenue and could include a broader spectrum of news and events.

With that new guidance in mind, please send your ideas and town-related items **by April 23** for next month's newsletter to E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov. Please **be sure to include the name of your group or committee** in the subject line of the email and any attachments (e.g., "Open-Space_April"). That small step **really helps** with organization and timeliness of putting the newsletter together. Thank you!

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.

Let's **name the newsletter**! Send your ideas to E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov with "Name the newsletter" in the subject line. Try to find something that reflects our community, as well as sending a positive and unifying message.

Thank you, and Happy April!

Tricia Yacovone-Biagi

Town Hall News



Bridge Street Phase 2 Construction starts the week of April 3.

The Town of Shelburne received a Community Development Block Grant to repair a section of the road, from Baker Avenue to the Mechanic Street intersection. GEG Construction of Springfield has been contracted to complete the repairs, which include sidewalk and curb replacement/repair, new road pavement, new water lines and hydrant, sewer improvements, and tree replacements.

The **scope of work** involves sidewalk replacement, tree replacement, water system updates and sewer system upgrades.

Sidewalks in the project area will be replaced to eliminate the uneven, unsafe surfaces caused by intrusion of tree roots and to provide a consistent slope and width. Sidewalk ramp transitions will be made **ADA-compliant**, and curbs will be reset to better align with the sidewalk. Some building **entry steps** may be reset to bring the initial step height within building code and **new railings** installed. The **Memorial Hall** ramp and stairs will be replaced.



Trees will be replaced with species suitable for street plantings. The root systems of existing trees have caused sidewalk heaving and will be impacted by the water line work. Each tree will be placed in the same “Silva Cell” planting system as used for Bridge Street Phase 1. A total of **five trees** are

proposed for removal and replacement and an additional two trees will be planted.



The **current water system** is a hodgepodge of mains and services, most of which were installed circa 1911 and are inadequate for contemporary use. Most services are ¾” copper, which is smaller than the recommended size for contemporary domestic water flows to apartments, while the industry standard to support fire suppression systems and hydrants is a 6” service.

Grant funds will **replace the cast iron water main** and bring **new water service lines** as well as **6-inch service stubs** for future fire suppression systems to the buildings’ foundations. Extending the new services through the foundation and making plumbing connections are the responsibility of the property owners. The Shelburne Falls Fire District is working with property owners to plan connection of the new services through the foundation to the existing water pipes in the buildings.



The **sewer main and the manhole** at the intersection of Bridge and Main Streets will be replaced. The current sewer cannot be accessed by Sewer District staff, making it difficult to maintain sewer pipes and services on Bridge Street. Shelburne ARPA funds are covering the costs of sewer improvement.

The contractor plans to mobilize the week of April 3rd and complete work except for final paving and tree planting by the end of June. See next page for scheduling details.



The current schedule is shown below, and updates will be issued as construction progresses.

Sewer System Improvements. Tentative Start Date, **week of April 10.**

Water System Installation. Tentative Start Date, **week of April 10.** Duration: Approximately **5 weeks.** Work will begin with the installation of a temporary water supply to provide safe, potable water to all buildings in the project area. Cutover from the old water system to the temporary water supply will result in a short interruption of service; the contractor will provide a minimum 48 hours of notice when the cutover will occur.

Once all buildings are on the temporary water service, the contractor will begin installing the **new main around April 24.** The contractor will also bring new 2" water service lines as well as 6" service stubs for future fire suppression systems to the buildings' foundations. Building owners will contract separately to bring the new services into their buildings and connect to interior plumbing.

Tree Removal/Planting. Removal of trees as approved by the Select Board is scheduled for the **first week of the project** to make the water system work go faster. It is hoped that the Town's Tree Committee will provide recommendations for replacement trees to be planted in the fall.

Paving and sidewalks. TBD. The road surface will be reclaimed, graded and a new layer of pavement laid **after the new water system** has been installed. New sidewalk construction will then begin a section at a time, removing and pouring the sidewalk just in that section.

The contractor has been instructed to maintain building access at all times and will install temporary ramps to building entrances. **Final road surface paving will occur in the fall.**



Traffic and parking changes during construction. Pedestrian traffic will be accommodated to ensure that patrons have safe access to local businesses. Police details will be used to control traffic, as directed by the Police Chief. There will be **limited parking** in the project area on the north side of Bridge Street during water line work. Sidewalk construction will also **temporarily eliminate parking** in the section of sidewalk where work is occurring. Paving will require that traffic be detoured.



PROPERTY OWNERS: Please pass this information along to your business and apartment tenants.



The Selectboard is still seeking applications from Shelburne residents who want to serve on the first Board of Managers for the **West County Senior Services District.** The Board of Managers (BOM) will be responsible for developing a **transition plan** from the current management plan to the Board of Managers. The BOM will **present** its finalized plan to the Selectboard for approval, and will be responsible for **overseeing** the District's operations once approved.

To inquire about the position or express interest in serving, please **contact Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz** at townadmin@townofshelburnema.gov or 413-625-0300, ext. 1.



The Town Collector and

Treasurer Angelina J.

Bragdon, CMMT notes you can pay real estate, personal property, sewer, excise, and fire district taxes online using Shelburne's Unibank [online payment center](https://townofshelburne.com/p/24/Tax-Collector-and-Treasurer). She also produces an informative and helpful newsletter at <https://townofshelburne.com/p/24/Tax-Collector-and-Treasurer>



Voting registration for the Town Meeting and Town Election top

Town Clerk Joe Judd's priority list. To reach him about these or other

Town Clerk issues, go by his 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.

Important upcoming dates and news about open town positions:

- **April 6, 2023:** Last date to object to or withdraw nomination papers for this year's Town Election.
- **April 20, 2023:** Last date to register as a voter or change your party enrollment for the Annual Town Meeting.
- **May 2, 2023 Town Meeting** 6:30 PM at BSE
- **May 5, 2023** is the last date to register or change your party enrollment for the annual Town Election.
- **May 15, 2023 at noon** is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for the annual Town election.
- **May 16, 2023 Annual Town Election** 10 AM - 8PM at the Cowell Gym

Several town positions remain open after no one took out nomination papers. As the deadline for submission of nomination papers has already passed, please consider serving Shelburne as a **write-in candidate** for one of these positions:

- Mohawk Trail Reg. School Committee, 3 yrs
- Planning Board, 5 yrs
- Recreation (Rec.) Committee, 5 yrs
- Constable, 3 yrs



Speaking of open positions, the Franklin County Technical School is looking for a **Shelburne resident to serve on their**

District School Committee. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest to our Town Moderator, Roland Giguere. See attached letter from Executive Secretary Barbara Williams.



Correction! The March issue indicated that the annual **Town Meeting** scheduled for May 2, 2023 would start at 7 PM. It starts at **6:30 PM** at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School. (Photo: BSE Facebook page)



Emergency Management Director's Page

This month, 911 Data Coordinator and Shelburne Fire Chief John Taylor, fills in for Emergency Management Director Tom Williams with tips about house signage and a special program offered for homes with elderly or young residents.



Help us find you in an emergency! We want to remind residents, landlords, business owners, and everyone else that having your building **clearly numbered** can save valuable time in an emergency situation. Good signage also helps utility technicians, delivery workers, and even your family.

If your address is already clearly identified, we thank you! If it's not, here are some **rules to follow**:

- Use numbers that have a **contrasting background** and are at least **4 inches** in height.
- Put the numbers **under lighting** and facing the street.
- If your driveway is long, post the house number of **both sides** of a mailbox or sign pole near the end of the road.
- Keep numbers **visible** by trimming trees and bushes.

Also, remember that MA General **Law** specifies that every building in the Commonwealth must have clearly visible address numbers posted. **See the diagram** to the right and the **flier** at the end of this newsletter to learn more.



The Shelburne, Buckland, and Shelburne Falls Fire Departments are working together to provide **house numbers at no cost to you**

if your home has residents under age 18 or over 65. Here's a sample of the sign format:



If you are interested in a number sign, please email chief@shelburnefirema.org with your name, address, and phone number. Thanks!

John Taylor

Shelburne Fire Chief
911 Data Coordinator



Boards & Committees

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Energy Committee is sponsoring a **Home Energy Savings Workshop at 6:00-8:30 PM on April 27, 2023** at the Shelburne- Buckland Community Center, 53 Main St. in Shelburne Falls. Come learn how to access no-cost home energy upgrades to reduce your home's fuel needs! **No-cost energy-saving upgrades** may include insulation, air leak sealing, efficient appliances, and heating systems/mini-splits.

The program is designed for income-eligible Shelburne homeowners and renters, as well as landlords with **income-eligible*** tenants, but if you don't live in Shelburne, you can attend the workshop, too! To qualify for these benefits, residents need to receive **fuel assistance** or the **discounted electricity** rate. If you don't already have these benefits, Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV) staff will be present to help you determine if you qualify, and can initiate your application. If you qualify your assessment may occur as soon as May of 2023, followed by upgrades through CAPV later.

Pre-registration for this event is encouraged. Email energy@communityaction.us or call 413-376-1140. You can also register online at <https://forms.monday.com/forms/13f2b4e9208838f0e15cabe3f3ede5d3?r=use1>

The Energy Committee is also excited to announce its **partnership with Revise, Inc.**, through our Community First Partnership grant that helps link residents to Mass Save® benefits, even if they qualify* as moderate income or higher. Revise not only performs

home energy assessments, but also provides the recommended **energy efficiency upgrades** and links you to a heat pump contractor to explore the feasibility of **heat pumps** for your home. All qualifying Mass Save® benefits and incentives will apply. Although we are still working on all the final approvals and special Shelburne-specific registration page, you can already sign up for your assessment.

Preferred registration pathway: Register online at masssave.com/Shelburne or call **413-232-9922**. If you want to use Revise, say you want to “learn more” about Home Performance Contractors and choose Revise from the list. (Note that you are always welcome to choose another Mass Save® certified contractor if you wish.)

Alternative registration is available directly with Revise through their website at CallRevise.com or calling **888-976-1603**.

The benefits of using the preferred registration option above is that (1) the Shelburne Energy Committee will better be able to track its success in helping Shelburne residents; and, (2) you will be better connected with Cynthia Boettner, the Shelburne Energy Efficiency Advocate. Cynthia can help you find answers to your Mass Save® questions and help guide you through the process, if needed.

*Find income categories and benefits at <https://www.masssave.com/residential/programs-and-services/income-based-offers/income-eligible-programs>

Send your questions for the Shelburne Energy Committee to energy@townofshelburne.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Jim Perry of the Open Space Committee warns **THE TICKS HAVE ARRIVED!** (Though I admit to adding the all-caps.) He writes when the snow-cover is gone, ticks can be active any time the temperature is above freezing.



Source: CA Dept. of Public Health

Tick-borne illnesses can be **very severe** and taking steps to avoid tick bites is the key to not getting a tick-borne disease. The most common tick-borne diseases in Massachusetts are Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis. But, there are others too.

Far and away the **best tick treatment** is to pretreat your clothing every few weeks with **Permethrin!** Permethrin is extremely effective at **preventing** tick bites and **killing** ticks. Always follow the product instructions. Allow it to fully dry on your clothing (boots, socks, pants, shirts).

Never spray Permethrin on your skin.

Permethrin can be found on “insect+shield” clothing or in Sawyer 24 oz. clothing spray bottles found on Amazon.com

A **backup plan** is to only **repel** ticks. Repellents that contain DEET can be used on your clothing and on exposed skin, but are **not as effective** as wearing Permethrin treated clothing.

If you do not treat your clothing with Permethrin, we recommend **at a minimum**, wearing light colored clothes, long pants, and long sleeves, with pant legs tucked into tops of socks and **check your body and clothing** for ticks during and after each hike. However, when it comes to checking for ticks, those tiny nymphs (shown on the far left of the photo) can be very hard to see, especially if they burrow into your skin. Nymphs are, therefore, even more dangerous than adult ticks, which are easier to spot and remove.

Do you take the treatment of ticks and mosquitos around your property seriously? Sign up for a **UMass Amherst survey:** <https://www.newvec.org/itch>

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board now meets every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Agendas with the Zoom link to meetings are posted at <https://townofshelburne.com/f/0/12/>

The board held a public hearing regarding proposed by-laws for signs and affordable housing on March 21.



The proposed sign by-law includes the addition of the Village Residential district to the general regulations in section 9.4.5 and a new section 9.4.5.1 which will limit the maximum size of a commercial sign in the Village Residential District to 12 square feet in

area. This clarifies the sign bylaw that was passed at last year's Town Meeting and is still awaiting approval from the MA Attorney General's Office.



The proposed affordable housing by-law includes (1) a new definition; (2) changes to the Use Table; and, (3) new footnotes to the Dimensional Table.

1. **The new definition** for 'Affordable Housing Units' is *"Housing units which qualify to be included in the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory under M.G.L. Chapter 40B."*
2. **The new line in the Use Table** indicates the specific type and location of lot(s) used for affordable housing. The new line states: *Affordable Housing Units located on Town-owned undersized lots and on undersized lots sold by the Town to a developer to be developed as Affordable Housing Units: "SP" in RA, VR, VC, and C Zones; "N" in I Zone.*
3. **The new footnotes** to be added to the Dimensional Table address requirements for minimum lot area and frontage (new footnote g), and side yard setback (new footnote h).
 - a. **Footnote (g):** *Affordable Housing Units located on Town-owned undersized lots and on undersized lots sold by the Town to a developer to be developed as Affordable Housing. Lot Area 5,000 sq. ft.; Lot Frontage 50 ft. in all Zones except "I".*
 - b. **Footnote (h):** *Affordable Housing Units located on Town-owned undersized lots and on undersized lots sold by the Town to a developer to be developed as Affordable Housing and located on abutting lots, each of which meet the area and frontage criteria set forth in Footnote (g), above,*

may be constructed on a "zero-lot line" basis; that is, with no side yards between the two Affordable Housing Units.

The next public hearing about shared driveway for 278 Old Greenfield Rd is scheduled for 7 PM on **April 4, 2023.**

A member of our Planning Board also attends the bimonthly meetings of FRCOG's Regional Planning Board. The March meeting covered local and regional [Pollinator Plans](#) (see Shelburne's plan [here](#)) and provided an overview of short-term rentals.



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Shelburne Falls Pickleball, held inside the Cowell Gym during winter, has included play sessions, clinics, lessons and drills sessions six times a week, and brought in approximately \$5000 in gym fees since December! The program will be moving outside soon, with expanded programming, new nets, storage locker, and lots of **enthusiastic players.**

Pickleball is the **fastest growing sport** in America! In 2021, the average age of a pickleball player was 38.1 and that average is dropping. Check out [this video](#) of the **Men's Doubles Gold Medal Match** from 2022.



Speaking of doubles...SF Pickleball has completed its second month of weekly **Winter Doubles League** play. Each Saturday evening eight teams

participate in a competitive round robin format. (And you thought March Madness was bad.) Here are **some stats** to make even the most sports-trivia minded person drop a jaw:

- Thus far, more than **43** players on **21** different teams have played **216** games.
- **Eighty percent** of the teams have scored more than **50%** of the points possible.
- We've had **12 overtime** games, 8 of which were on one evening!
- There were **no undefeated teams** during play on March 18.

Not quite ready for prime time play? **Learn to play pickleball with us!** Sign up for **beginner lessons** on signup genius at <https://bit.ly/3N3HgNb>.

There's also a special **free pickleball bootcamp** for men over 16 years of age from the Hilltowns, offered from 1-4 PM on Saturday, **April 22, 2023** at the Cowell Gym. Beginners as well as those who have already started playing are welcome. Equipment will be provided, but proper indoor (gym use) footwear is required. Sign up is required at <https://bit.ly/3N3HgNb>.

To learn more about beginner lessons or the men's bootcamp, please contact Jay Readinger at shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com

Pickleball is open to all! Get your competitive game on through leagues, skill level play, special events and more. Also, if you are interested in SF Pickleball and want to share your ideas, take our 3-minute [Spring Survey](#) to

help us with our programming and planning. If you have any other questions, send them to shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com or call Mary Lou Gallup at 207-530-6316.

BRIDGE OF FLOWERS COMMITTEE

The Bridge of Flowers is scheduled to **open Saturday April 1st** for the 2023 season, weather permitting! That's such great news, only topped by the annual Bridge of Flowers plant sale, which will be held Saturday, **May 13 from 9 to noon** at the corner of Main and Water Streets (Trinity Church Baptist lot). Plants are available for viewing until the opening bell is rung promptly at 9 AM. Most of the perennials are dug from the Bridge of Flowers itself or other local gardens, and other plants will be sold at reasonable prices.

The sale also features several **art and crafts** vendors, a **refreshment** booth, **soil testing**, and a garden-themed **tag sale**. All proceeds benefit the Bridge.

If you are interested in helping with the sale, send an email through 'Contact Us' on the Bridge of Flowers website at www.bridgeofflowersmass.org.



SENIOR CENTER

Juli Moreno, Director of The Senior Center on Main Street in Shelburne Falls provides some historical background for the Council on Aging and how it works with the center.

The spark of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging ignited in 1974 when a group of senior center staff and board members gathered in Northampton, MA. Three years later, Massachusetts general law Title VII, Chapter 40, Section 8B established Councils on Aging across the Commonwealth, and two years later, the Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA). Councils on Aging and Senior Centers provide support services to older adults and their families and caregivers. The MCOA provides support and training to, and advocacy for, the Councils on Aging statewide.



MCOA has had a rich history throughout the years and has recently seen rapid growth. Advocating for Councils on Aging, MCOA has influenced increased Formula Grant local aid to the Councils on Aging, and provided capacity building and technical assistance to the Councils. It also holds an annual Fall Conference, which has grown to be the largest of its kind in New England.

Today, there are 350 established Councils on Aging in Massachusetts, and MCOA has rapidly grown to accommodate their needs.

The Shelburne Council on Aging members are Nancy Brewerm Sue Bishop, Sylvia Smith, and Penny Spearance. The group met in February

and will continue to focus on supporting the seniors of Shelburne. The group is working on a Conversation Café for the near future! Call 413-625-2502 for contact information.

Recurrent activities at the Senior Center:



Yoga (for Seniors only) Wednesdays at 8:30 AM

Instructor led, bring your own exercise mat. Cost is \$20 per month.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays at 10:00 AM at Trinity Church Thursdays at 9:00 AM at The Senior Center

Healthy Bones and Balance

Wednesdays 10:00 AM at The Senior Center
Free program designed to increase strength, mobility, flexibility, and balance.



The West County Memory Café

The Café is a **monthly** gathering of individuals with memory loss and their care partner. Come and enjoy some lunch, an activity, socialization and a chance to meet others experiencing similar challenges. This month's meeting is on **Friday, April 21, 12-1:30 PM.**

Men's Night Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month
April 12 Trip to Great Falls Aquaculture
Call Don Bascom if interested (625-2970)

**There are other activities available!
Call 625-2502 to learn more.**

WOMEN'S CLUB SPEAKER SERIES

Birds of our Meadows: Enhancing Habitat and Nesting Opportunities for Native Birds

Ornithologist Mara Silver will present a **free program** on the natural history and conservation of swallows and other native birds of our meadows at **7 PM, Wed., April 12**, at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls. The presentation is part of the Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club public speaker series.

Many species that belong to the group of birds known as aerial insectivores are showing alarming declines in the northeast, including both Cliff and Barn Swallows. Both species commonly breed in agricultural settings—they use barns and other farm buildings for nesting, forage in open fields, and use mud for nest-building.

Reasons for population declines include habitat loss, large-scale agricultural practices, competition from introduced House Sparrows. More recently implicated causes are pesticide use, climate change, and threats on migration and in wintering grounds. In spite of population declines, breeding success of Cliff and Barn Swallows can increase when habitat is improved at local nesting sites. These improvements can also benefit other bird species.

Mara Silver has been working on swallow conservation projects for the past 25 years. The primary focus of her work has been developing relatively simple management techniques to attract and enhance breeding success of Cliff and Barn Swallows at nesting sites. Mara holds an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation

from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she researched characteristics of river banks used by nesting Bank Swallows.

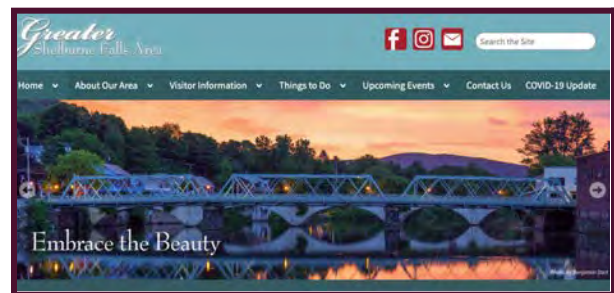
This program is supported in part by grants from Buckland, Charlemont-Hawley, Colrain and Shelburne Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club was founded in 1925 and continues to offer programs of community interest, along with support for local student scholarships and oversight of the Bridge of Flowers. New members are always welcome.

Other news

SHELBURNE FALLS VILLAGE TASK FORCE

The Shelburne Falls Village Task Force seeks feedback from the Shelburne Falls community on how to move forward with the ShelburneFalls.com website, which was created and administered by the now inactive Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association (GSFABA). Please **take this survey** to share your opinions about the website and how it should be funded and maintained. The survey closes **April 8, 2023**.



THINKING ABOUT SPRING CLEANING?

Community Health Educator and epidemiologist Maureen O'Reilly of the FRCOG Public Health Team says you can breeze into spring cleaning safely with these tips!

Before breaking out cleaners, it can be helpful to think about whether a surface needs to be cleaned (dirt removed) or disinfected (killing bacteria and viruses). Most cleaning can just use soap and water, but there are a few instances where disinfecting is good! Thinking before we clean can **limit chemical exposures** by choosing the right products for the job at-hand.

Find safer cleaning products. Cleaning products can irritate skin, eyes, or throat, and/or cause headaches. Chemicals in some products vaporize at room temperature and can cause serious health problems or even death.



The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a [Safer Choice Guide](#) of products that are safer to human health and the environment.

The American Lung Association has recipes for homemade, safer cleaners, which will not vaporize to harm the respiratory tract. Find them online at the [association's website](#).



Think smarter about bleach. Generations have used bleach as a cleaning product; however, bleach is a dangerous chemical that needs to be used carefully. **Never mix bleach** with other cleaning products, vinegar or ammonia. If mixed, it can produce a poisonous gas, which can be deadly.



Fresh air is your friend. Open a window or door to allow fresh air to ventilate before and after cleaning to stay safe.

Store cleaning products safely, away from [children](#) and [pets](#). Check the labels and make sure they are not left in extreme temperatures.

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

COMPOST YOUR FOOD WASTE

Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Waste District shares that as of Spring 2022, food waste **compost programs** are operating during regular hours at 14 out of 19 (74%) Franklin County municipal transfer stations, including Shelburne's! She notes that these programs are free of charge, but a residential access permit may be required. Please **see the flier** at the end of the newsletter for more details.

Why compost? Composting makes a valuable soil amendment from waste. It also:

- **Saves money on trash bags or stickers.**
- **Slows climate change.**
- **Reduces trash.**

Each participating transfer station has a **dedicated dumpster** or bins for the collection of separated food waste. The contents are removed weekly, and brought to a commercial compost facility in Greenfield or Orange for composting.



Commercial composting facilities **can accept** meat, bones, cheese, paper products (including those pizza boxes with stuck-on food), and other materials that are not appropriate for home compost bins or piles.



Here's a list of **what to keep OUT** of the compost container: liquids; pet wastes, kitty litter, diapers; plastic bags, wrappers or cling wrap; polystyrene foam; conventional plastic, metal, foil, glass; non-biodegradable items; yard waste, leaves and brush.

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.

To make clean up easier, line pails with newspaper, a paper bag, or a compostable BioBag. (Available online and at Green Fields Market.) "Compostable plastic" bags and similar materials must be BPI-certified; for more info, see bpiworld.org

If you transport compostable wastes to the transfer station in a traditional plastic bag, you'll need to empty the bag into the compost container and then put the plastic bag in the trash. **Never put plastic bags in the compost!**

SHELBURNE FALLS FARMERS MARKET



The Shelburne Falls Farmers Market is preparing for the upcoming summer season. It is looking to add more

vendors to the market, especially for baked goods, cheese, and mushrooms, as well as musicians. The application information is now on the website:

shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org.

The market **begins on Friday, May 24** and will be held weekly at 2 - 6:30 PM until the last Friday in October (fall hours are 2 - 6 PM). Located on the Baptist Green owned by Trinity Church at the corner of Main and Water Streets, it is just a few minutes walk from downtown.

SHOVELS READY FOR NEW PARK PAVILION!

Snow melt and warm spring weather on March 27 brought Eric Dean and his crew out to begin setting the six pre-cast **concrete piers** that will serve as the foundation for the new pocket park pavilion on the corner of Bridge St. and Deerfield Ave.



(Photo: Andrew Baker)

The crew is pictured here jackhammering a very large boulder seated in the way of one of the pier placements. The pavilion will provide shade and rain cover for the four picnic benches the Town installed at the pocket park last fall, after completing a 7-year lease with the lot's owners - Ancient Glacier LLC. In April, **Franklin County Tech School carpentry** instructor, Mike Nobrega, will bring his crew of 18 10th-graders out to construct the pavilion as their spring project. They will alternate in two groups of 9 students to all get **hands-on construction training**. Kristian Whitsett of Jones Whitsett Architects (and former Shelburne Finance Committee chair) generously donated construction drawings for the project.

HELP WANTED

The Shelburne Town Clerk's office is still 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.

NATURE WALKS TO LEARN ABOUT RESILIENCE

Shelburne Falls Fire District is co-sponsoring a tour of the **Fox Brook Reservoir** as part of the work to discuss the property's current forest stewardship **climate plan** and the options for **community engagement** in the Forest Climate Resilience Program funded through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the fromMassachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. The walk will take place on the 20th of next month, but other area walks are also planned for April and early May in neighboring towns. Please call or email Andrew Randazzo at 413-252-9534 or arandazzo@massaudubon.org to learn more about the other walks. See the attached flier for details about the May walk in Shelburne, and **stay tuned for** announcements about **Shelburne's MVP grant**.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Normal hours of operation for the transfer station will resume on Tuesday, April 4th:

- **Tuesdays** 10 AM - 7 PM
- **Saturdays** 12 until 5 PM



April 2023

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Senior Center activities shown in color | | Every Tue. 10 am Tai Chi (at Trinity Church) | Every Wed. 8:30 am Yoga for Seniors 10 am Healthy Bones & Balance | Every Thu. 9 am Tai Chi (at Senior Center) | | 1 Bridge of Flowers opens |
| 2 Bridge Street construction & tree removal starts this week | 3 2 pm Caregiver Support Group | 4 Transfer station resumes normal hours (10 AM – 7 PM) | 5 | 6 Last day to object to or withdraw nomination for Town elections | 7 | 8 Last day for ShelburneFalls.com survey |
| 9 | 10 <i>Sewer & water system construction starts (tentative)</i> | 11 9-11 am Sen. Paul Mark @ Buckland Town Hall* | 12 12:30 pm Great Falls Aquaculture 7 pm Birds of Meadows lecture | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Last day to register to vote in Town Meeting | 21 12-1:30 pm West County Memory Café | 22 1-4 pm Men's Pickleball Bootcamp |
| 23 May newsletter items and photos due! | 24 <i>Water main installation begins (tentative)</i> | 25 9-11 am Sen. Paul Mark @ Buckland Town Hall* | 26 | 27 6-8:30 pm Home Energy Savings Workshop | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | *See separate flier for details. |

Notes

Upcoming dates to remember

May 1 – Next tax bill due

May 2 @ 6:30 PM – Town Meeting at BSE (Time correction from last newsletter)

May 5 – Last day to register to vote in Town election

May 13 – [Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Day](#); Bridge of Flowers plant sale 9-12

May 15 – Last day to apply for absentee ballot for annual Town election (noon)

May 16 – Town election

May 20 – SF Fire District Woods Walk

May 26 – Farmer's Market, 2-6:30 PM

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

82 Industrial Boulevard

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

TEL: 413-863-9561

FAX: 413-863-2816



Richard J Martin
Superintendent

MEMO

To: Shelburne Falls Town Administrator, Town Clerk, & Town Moderator

From: Barbara Williams, Executive Secretary

Subject: District School Committee Appointment

Date: March 2, 2023

As you are aware, Angus "Terry" Dun of the Franklin County Technical School District School Committee resigned from his post as the representative for the Town of Shelburne

It is the hope of the Franklin County Technical School that the Town of Shelburne would actively search for a replacement to Mr. Dun's position of Representative for the Town of Shelburne.

As outlined in our District Agreement, members of the District Committee shall be appointed by the Moderator or Town Council President of each town. It is important that the enclosed paperwork be completed by the Town Moderator, along with a sworn statement by the appointee before the Town Clerk.

Please see that the attached form is completed as it relates to a new appointee and returned to the attention of Barbara Williams, Executive Secretary, Superintendent's Office, Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Blvd. Turners Falls, MA 01376.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 413-863-4239. Thank you for your help in this regard.

Enc.

Cc: Superintendent Richard J. Martin, Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chairman FCTSDC



ACCREDITED MEMBER NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, INC.

House Numbers

Is Your Number Clearly Visible from the Street?

Seconds Count in an Emergency

- Protect your family and your property by having large visible house numbers.
- Firefighters, police officers, and paramedics find you faster when your home is properly marked.
- A visitor, child or injured person may be unable to give clear directions.
- Emergency personnel from a neighboring community may be unfamiliar with your area.

Use Large Visible Numbers

- Numbers need to be at least 4-inches in height and facing the street.
- Put the numbers under lighting, and use numbers with a contrasting background, so they will be visible at night.
- Be sure to use the E-911 address for the property.
- If your driveway is long, post your house number on both sides of a mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.
- Be sure to keep numbers visible by trimming trees and bushes.

It's the Law

- Massachusetts General Laws C. 148, S. 59. specifies that every building in the state must have clearly visible address numbers posted.



FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380

Workshop on Home Energy Savings!



When? April 27, 2023, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Where? Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, 53 Main St.
Shelburne Falls, MA

For Whom? Income-eligible Homeowners and Renters
Landlords with Income-eligible Tenants
(special focus on Shelburne, but all are welcome)

What ? Learn how to access no-cost home energy upgrades to reduce your home's fuel needs.

- Learn about energy programs by Community Action Pioneer Valley
- Register for a no-cost weatherization assessment
- Register for an air source heat pump/mini-split assessment
- Sign up for fuel assistance
- Sign up for the discount electricity rate
- Find out if you already receive your Town's negotiated electric rate and/or how to sign up.

Pre-registration encouraged

Call 413-376-1140 or email energy@communityaction.us

Link to registration form:

[https://forms.monday.com/forms/13f2b4e9208838f0e15cabe3f3ede5d3?
r=use1](https://forms.monday.com/forms/13f2b4e9208838f0e15cabe3f3ede5d3?r=use1)

MEET REVISE If you learn you don't qualify for the income-eligible program, Shelburne's new partner, **Revise, Inc.** (a certified Mass Save Home Performance Contractor) can help. Revise can provide residents with moderate or higher incomes with their no-cost Home Energy Assessment and no- or low-cost recommended home upgrades.

This event is co-sponsored by Community Action Pioneer Valley and the Shelburne Energy Committee. Shelburne is part of the Mass Save® Community First Partnership, sponsored locally by Eversource to help residents save energy and money.

SAFER CLEANING RECIPES

With just a few basic ingredients, you can create household cleaners that are safe to breathe, nontoxic and eco-friendly.



General Purpose Cleaners

All Purpose Cleaning Spray

1 tbsp Castile soap
1 cup warm water

Mix in a spray bottle to clean counters, sinks, stovetops and toilets.

Big job? Add ½ cup pure Castile soap to 1 gallon of hot water. Add ¼ cup of lemon juice for a fresh scent.

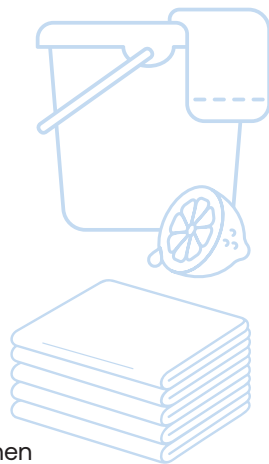
Window and Mirror Cleaner

1 part water
2 parts white vinegar

Spray and wipe clean for a streak-free finish.

Drain Cleaner

Pour ½ cup of baking soda down drain, then add ½ cup of white vinegar. Let fizz for 15 minutes. Finish by pouring 1 quart of boiling water down the drain. Repeat if needed.



Laundry Room

Powder Laundry Detergent

5 bars of Castile soap
6 cups washing soda

Cut Castile soap into cubes then put in a food processor, or use cheese grater to make shavings. Mix with washing soda.

Use 2 tbsp of the mixture per wash/load.

Fabric Softener

Add ¼ cup white vinegar to rinse cycle.
(Warning: Never use vinegar and bleach together!)

Static Cling

Use wool dryer balls.



Kitchen

Dish Soap

1 part liquid Castile soap
10 parts water
Mix together for dish soap.

Kitchen Cleaner

1 part water
1 part white vinegar

This combination creates natural disinfectant properties to kill certain germs like salmonella and E. coli

Stovetop Cleaner

1 part water
1 part white vinegar

Spray on, let sit for 10 minutes, then scrub grease away with soapy water.

Oven Cleaner

1 cup of baking soda
1–2 tbsp water

Mix to create a paste and apply to surfaces. Let stand 15–20 minutes. Use a scouring pad for scrubbing most surfaces.



Bathroom

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Pour 2–3 cups white vinegar in toilet bowl and let sit 3 hours. Scrub with toilet brush and flush.

Scouring Paste

¼ cup baking soda
1 tbsp liquid Castile soap
1 tbsp white vinegar
Make a nice thick paste and scrub.

Baking soda alone on a damp sponge is also effective on most surfaces including showers, tubs and sinks.



FOOD & PAPER WASTE COMPOST PROGRAM

at 14 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County, MA



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 (*recycle empty pizza boxes*)
- Paper egg cartons, molded fiber packaging (rip up to save space)
- 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)
- "Plastic" brands must be BPI certified:
*bpiworld.org



NO - DO NOT Compost:

- **NO** liquids
- **NO** plastic bags, wrappers, cling wrap
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **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!



*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)





WOODS WALK: FOREST HEALTH & RESILIENCE AT FOX BROOK RESERVOIR

SATURDAY MAY 20
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.- Shelburne, MA

Residents and the public are invited to join a woods walk to tour Fox Brook Reservoir. Forester Mike Barry, Mass Audubon ecologists, and Indigenous leaders will run the walk to discuss the property's current forest stewardship climate plan and options for future forest stewardship and community engagement.



SHELBURNE FALLS FIRE DISTRICT NEIGHBORS

LEARN ABOUT FOREST STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE PLANNING FOR FOX BROOK

PUBLIC WELCOME

CO-SPONSORS:

Shelburne Falls Fire District;
Forest Climate Resilience Program;
Mass Audubon;
Ohketeau Cultural Center;
Woodland Partnership of
Northwest Massachusetts;
Massachusetts Woodlands
Institute;
The Nature Conservancy

Courtesy of an MVP grant from
Massachusetts Exec. Office of
Energy & Environmental Affairs

FOR MORE INFO:

Register at
<https://bit.ly/sffddww1>
Email or call Andrew Randazzo
at:
arandazzo@massaudubon.org;
413-252-9534



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.