

Good news, fun news, news you need to know

SHELBURNE, MA NEWSLETTER



June, 2023

Of flowers, furrows, and funding

Earlier this week, I turned the corner from the garage to the front door and was greeted by the opening buds of the columbines I planted a couple years ago. No matter how often I've seen this happen, it still seems magical when what was bare ground just a couple weeks ago produces such gloriously delicate blooms. It makes me anxious to see how all the newly furrowed fields will start producing the abundant harvests that characterize our beautiful area.

Last month I shared that Shelburne received a **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grant** from the Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. The planning process is a requirement for being designated a Certified MVP Community, which opens up myriad funding opportunities. The Selectboard has agreed on the consultant and, as of this writing, awaits finalization of the contract. Pending no delays, meetings with a core group of diverse stakeholders will start later this month. In my capacity as the Town Liaison to the MVP project, my goals are to keep the project **on track**, keep you **informed** of progress, and ensure that the planning process involves a **wide spectrum** of participants. We will convene a **public listening session** in the fall (currently targeted for November) to allow for the incorporation of townspeople's feedback in the final plan. You can reach me at tybiagi2@gmail.com. Please include 'MVP' in the subject line.

Speaking of sending along ideas, the submission deadline for next month's newsletter is **June 23**. Email your articles, ideas, and photos to E-Newsletter@townofshelburnema.gov, and be sure to **include the name of your group or committee** in the subject line of the email and any attachments (e.g., "AgCommittee-July"). That small step **really helps** with organization and timeliness of putting the newsletter together. Thank you!

Thank you, and Happy Summer Solstice!

Tricia Yacovone-Biagi

Town Hall News

Here are this month's updates on the Bridge Street construction project.

Water and Sewer System improvements are complete!

Paving. The road surface will be reclaimed, graded, and a new layer of pavement laid after the new water system has been installed and the temporary water bypass has been removed. (Final road surface paving will occur in the fall.)



Projected Start Date: Week of May 30.

Sidewalks. New sidewalk construction will 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.



Projected Start: Week of June 5.

Target Completion Date: July 15.

Trees. The two Honey Locust trees in front of Greenfield Savings Bank will be **relocated** and



still **need a home**. Anyone interested in having a tree planted along their tree belt should [contact Town Administrator](#) Terry Narkewicz at (413) 625-0300, X1.

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 all this information along to your business and apartment tenants.

FALLS CABLE STATION CHANGE

If you're looking for anything on Falls Cable, Comcast has moved it **to Channel 9**. Otis Wheeler told Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz, "Subscribers were notified in fine print on their February bill" but not everyone reads that. Please contact Wheeler at owheeler@gmail.com if you have questions.



The Town Collector and Treasurer Angelina J.

Bragdon, CMMT notes the next quarterly tax bill is due

on **August 1**. You can pay your taxes using the [online payment center](#) or by enclosing a check in the **gray lockbox** inside the foyer at the Town Hall. She can be reached at treasurer@townofshelburnema.gov or her office number: (413) 625-0300, ext. 6.

Fresh cookies await!

Anyone who loves to have fresh and delicious freshly made cookies at every meeting ought to consider volunteering as the Shelburne **resident to serve on the District School Committee for the Franklin County Technical School**. (I know from experience how incredible these cookies are!)

The committee includes members of the 19 district towns and meets in the evening of the **second Wednesday of the month**, ten months of the year. Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Barbara Williams says the committee members “work as a team,” have “very informative meetings” and “find it fulfilling to come here,” and that’s not just because of the culinary department’s homemade cookies at every meeting. But just in case tasty goodies are your sole motivation, she says there’s an annual school committee dinner, also prepared by the stellar culinary department.

If you’re hungry to help, (see how I did that?) and have a couple of hours for a once monthly meeting to donate toward the education of youth in our area, **submit a letter of interest to our Town Moderator**, Roland Giguere at rolandgig@gmail.com.



Specialized help in an emergency

Shelburne Fire Chief John Taylor alerts us to the availability of another service that can provide specialized help to people with a disability. The **Massachusetts Disability Indicator Program** offers a **free, voluntary service** that alerts 9-1-1 personnel that an individual with a disability may have unique safety, communications or other needs in case of an emergency.

This service was developed in consultation with organizations representing the mobility, hearing, speech and sight impaired communities, and is **available for landline, wireless, and VoIP telephone service** providers. The information provided will remain **confidential** and will **ONLY** appear on the dispatcher’s screen when a 9-1-1 call originates from the phone number(s) provided.

DISABILITY INDICATOR FORM for LANDLINE, WIRELESS, AND VoIP CONSUMERS

You are required to complete this form if you want your police department, fire department, or other emergency agency to know about you when you call 9-1-1 in an emergency from your landline VoIP and/or wireless device.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU SUBMIT A NEW DISABILITY INDICATOR FORM UPON CHANGE OF SERVICE PROVIDER, TELEPHONE NUMBER, OR ADDRESS TO KEEP ALL INFORMATION ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE.

Upon submission of this completed form, when 9-1-1 is dialed from your landline or wireless device, an indicator will be displayed on the dispatcher's 9-1-1 screen that will identify the disability indicator(s) that you have selected. This indicator(s) will be visible to the 9-1-1 dispatcher at the call center only when 9-1-1 is dialed from the number(s) listed below. The 9-1-1 dispatcher will then share this information with the first responders (Police, Fire, & EMS).

Image: Disability Indicator Form from Mass.gov

To request the service, residents in the Town of Shelburne can **complete the Disability Indicator Form** included in the newsletter and return it to:

911 Coordinator
Shelburne Fire Dept.
18 Little Mohawk Rd.
Shelburne, MA 01370



Boards & Committees

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Chair Carolyn Wheeler shares that the Shelburne Agricultural Commission met on April 27 at the Shelburne Center Fire Station to see a presentation by USDA Certified Professional Soil Scientist Albert Averill (albert.averill@usda.gov) of the American Farmland Trust. Averill provided a presentation about **Farmland of Local Importance** and announced that the Town of Shelburne and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have recognized farmland of local importance in Shelburne. Farmland of local importance consists of soil types additional to prime farmland soils and farmland of statewide importance that are suited for crop production.

The NRCS works with landowners to improve and protect soil, water, and other natural resources. It also implements the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** which provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing agricultural land easements from willing landowners. Eligibility for ACEP funding requires that the land consist

of more than 50 percent important farmland soils. Now that Shelburne and NRCS have identified farmland of local importance, **more farmlands may be eligible for federal preservation funding.**

Designations of farmland of local importance are stored here:

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/MA/documents> and information about NRCS Agricultural Land Easements are at [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)

Contact Natashia.Sawabi@usda.gov with questions about the program in Massachusetts.

Members of Shelburne Agricultural Commission:

- Carolyn Wheeler, Chair
- Prudence Wholey, Secretary
- Becky Ashenden
- Courtney Basil
- Sara Davis
- Jonathan Graves
- Ernest Kelley

BOARD OF HEALTH

Members of the Shelburne Board of Health will hold a **public hearing** on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 9:30 am via Zoom to review and consider adopting updated **Marijuana Regulations** and newly created **Body Art Regulations**. Copies of the draft regulations are posted on the [Board of Health's webpage](#).

Access the meeting via Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3590583442>, or by calling 1-929-436-2866 and entering the Meeting ID: 359 058 344.

CPA COMMITTEE, ANYONE?

The Town accepted the **Community Preservation Act** (CPA) bylaw at Town Meeting last month (Article 27 on the warrant) and it awaits approval by the Commonwealth Attorney General's office before it can be staffed. By statute, the Shelburne CPA **Committee** will consist of 5 required and 4 at-large members. Here's how that breaks down.

Five required members, one each from the following categories:

- Conservation Commission
- Planning Board
- Recreation Committee
- Town resident interested in historic preservation
- Town resident interested in affordable housing

Four members at Large, comprised of:

- One from the Open Space Committee
- One from the Agricultural Commission
- Two Town residents appointed by the Selectboard

Stay tuned here for **updates**, and in the meantime, think about **who would be a good committee member!**

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Shelburne Cultural Council is pleased to announce **two new members—Debb Makara and Beth Baron**. Welcome!

Debb has served Shelburne in a variety of ways for more than 10 years. She volunteers at the Visitor's Center, has worked with Hilltown Folk (their concerts at Memorial Hall), Piti Theatre, the Shelburne Falls Business Association and McCusker's market. She also served on the board of the Mohawk Trail Concerts for several years.

"My interests lie in all things cultural; especially appealing to me is World Culture. To see live music is one of my greatest joys."
—Debb Makara

Prior to moving to Shelburne, Debb worked for the local NPR station in Pittston, PA, as a recording engineer/producer. She has an Associates Degree in Fine Arts and currently works at the Gallery of Peterman's Boards and Bowls in Gill, MA.

Beth has been in full-time private practice as a massage therapist for the past 20 years.

She is currently a Somatic Experiencing Practitioner and is certified as a Restorative Exercise Specialist. This allows her to help people heal from trauma and chronic pain using touch, movement, and awareness.

In her early days as a sole-proprietor, she created "In Touch Community Fundraising", providing on-site massage at community events and donating the proceeds. Half went to an organization chosen by the event

sponsors and half to a local organization of Beth's choice. Her choice was always a smaller non-profit doing related work, but in a more local, more innovative, and/or more social justice-oriented way.

"I wanted to get the less well-known projects on the radar of people who might not otherwise learn of them. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun."
—Beth Baron

We know they will be a wonderful addition to the Council!

SCC members serve a 3-year term, must reside in Shelburne, and are appointed by the Selectboard. The SCC supports—via Mass Cultural Council grants—events and programs based in the arts, sciences and humanities. For more information, please visit: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/shelburne/> or email: shelburnelcc@gmail.com.



"The best part of the Education Concert is seeing joy on the faces of the students attending. Here are just a few of the thank you notes we received from this year's concert."
—Pioneer Valley Symphony, April, 2023.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

From Tom Johnson, Chair: The Shelburne Energy Committee (SEC) is investigating what options for **LED Street Light** conversion may be available for our town. Eversource has offered an interesting free installation of LED lights (now on display on Water, Church and Main Street).

We are interested to know if this is the most **cost-effective approach**. As a result, we are in correspondence with RealTerm Energy (RTE), a well-known and highly recommended street light consulting firm. RTE has provided a desk-top study that indicates how we can reduce our annual streetlight energy bill. Their approach appears to save even more than what has been offered by Eversource, using lights that may be healthier, more environmentally sound, and visually appealing. We are updating our community outreach sources and will **keep you informed** as we learn more. Questions? Please contact us via: energy@townofshelburnema.gov

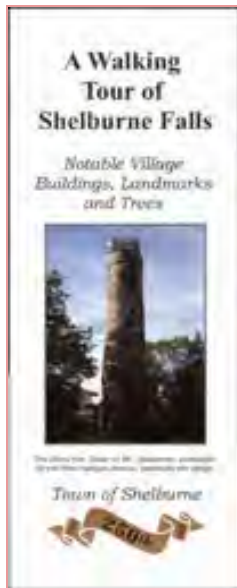
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Jim Perry announces a **June 10 Guided Walk: Urban Trees of Shelburne Falls, MA**. The Shelburne Open Space Committee, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Shelburne Falls Senior Center, and Arms Library have partnered to lead a scenic and educational, 2-loop walk around downtown Shelburne Falls. Our plan is to learn about the local, urban trees, their identification, importance, and management issues, including diseases.

What to Bring: Hikers should wear **comfortable walking sneakers, shoes, or**

boots and bring **water** to drink, a **snack**, **hat**, and **sunscreen**, etc. Village Walking Tour maps will be provided.

What to Know: This walk is rated as “**easy**,” but with **uneven sidewalks**, street crossings, etc. The walk is broken into **two loops**. The **first loop**, a **shorter and flatter** loop, will cover the lower Shelburne Falls–Bridge Street Business District and some back streets, and will loop back to the Arms library for those walkers who do not want to walk a longer distance (maybe 1 hour).



For those who want to carry on farther, a **second loop** will proceed up Bridge Street from the Arms Library and tour some of the back, **more hilly** streets before returning to the Arms Library (maybe add 45 minutes). Nothing too difficult is expected.

Where to Meet: Meet at the front steps of the **Arms Library in Shelburne Falls at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 10.**

If you have any questions, or would like to pre-register so that you can be notified in case of a need to reschedule, **contact Jim** at: drwa@deerfieldriver.org

See you there!



Hikers from Lady Slipper outing in May

PLANNING BOARD

The **next meeting** of the Shelburne Planning Board is **June 6 at 6:30 pm**. Agendas with the Zoom link to meetings are posted at <https://townofshelburne.com/f/0/12/>

At the last meeting (on May 9), the Board met with FRCOG’s Kimberly Noake MacPhee to discuss ways that **climate-resilient zoning changes** could protect water quality and river health. The board agreed to participate in her grant-funded **Watershed-Scale Zoning Project** which includes Shelburne, Greenfield, and Bernardston. The Board will meet again with MacPhee at our August meeting, rescheduled for **August 8**.

Speaking of schedules, the Planning Board’s July meeting will be held on **July 11** due to the holiday.

The Board’s **proposed bylaws passed** at Town Meeting (Articles 28 and 29), and await approval from the Attorney General’s office. That part of the process has an unknown time frame, but once they are approved, the updated bylaws will be posted on the Town website.

A member of our Planning Board also attends the bimonthly meetings of the **Regional Planning Board** for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). The May meeting featured three speakers.

1 Planning Director Peggy Sloan briefly shared information about the **FERC Relicensing** agreement which included new investments and improvements for recreation. She will provide more details at a future meeting.

2 Senior Land Use and Natural Resources Planner Allison Gage updated the Board on the **Clesson Brook Watershed [Climate Resiliency MVP Project](#)** and announced a virtual Community Meeting to be held at 6-7:30 pm on June 7 to present final findings. [Register here](#) to attend the meeting over Zoom.

3 The bulk of the meeting revolved around the detailed presentation prepared by Economic Development Program Manager Jessica Atwood about the draft Comprehensive **Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) [Annual Performance Report](#)**. She noted that the draft is [open for comments](#) and questions until June 7, 2023. Here are a few **highlights**:

*“Advancing strategies to retain and **attract a younger and more diverse labor force is imperative** to ensuring the future of Franklin County’s vitality and economy.” (p. 12)*

Franklin County’s **population** declined by 0.5% since 2010, but Massachusetts experienced a

population increase of 6.9% in the same period.



The county’s **unemployment rate** decreased more than a point-and-a-half and remains below the state rate (3.4%

vs. 3.8% in 2022). The report warns, though, that how these rates are calculated “does not tell the entire story,...(and) changes to the number of people engaged in the labor force is also important.”

*“Accommodations, like **Shelburne Springs**, are important to encourage visitors to extend their stay and **generate more economic activity**.” (p. 26)*

Atwood emphasized new **positive developments** in the area, including Shelburne’s very own new boutique hotel on Route 2, and a state grant FRCOG received to evaluate **downtown district management** models in **Shelburne Falls**, Greenfield and Turners Falls and provide recommendations for their sustainability.

*“Dynamic downtowns allow for **local ... sustain(ability)**, which is a benefit to residents ... and (can) encourage people to move to the region.” (p. 30)*

For questions or comments, please contact Jessica Atwood at jatwood@frcog.org before the close of business on June 7, 2023.

RECREATION COMMITTEE / PICKLEBALL

Newly elected member of the Recreation Committee Mary Lou Gallup sent in her monthly update about pickleball at the Cowell! Did you know that pickleball is the **perfect activity** for couples to enjoy together and adults to get active at whatever competitive level they want? She says:

*“As important as the exercise are the **interactions** on and off the court. Players from Shelburne and the surrounding hilltowns are **building community** and getting to know each other while being active **outdoors!**”*

She also shares these **important updates**:

We’re playing **6 times a week!** On an average day, outdoor play has 4 courts going with 15-20 players.

Sign up for a ‘softcourt’ if you want to play non-competitively (minimum 4 players).

Watch a demo! Tuesday, June 13 at 6PM Come watch a game and then pick up a paddle and give pickleball a try. Raindate Tuesday, June 20th 6PM

Take beginner lessons! Offered June 4th, 11th, 20th, signup required. Please read the description on the [SignUpGenius page](#).

Who can play? Age 16+, open to all. Lessons and clinics are only open to players from Shelburne and the local hilltowns served by the Recreation Committee. Free if outdoors and \$5 gym fee indoors (rain).

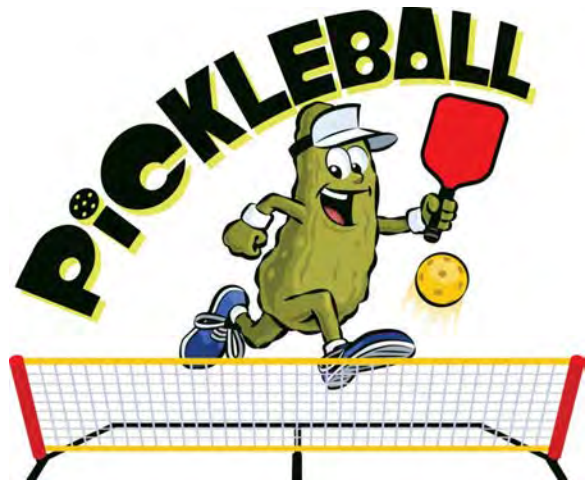


Image: [The Bedford Citizen](#)

What’s the news? There were 3 beginner lessons in May, and April and May featured the first outdoor league. Every Monday night, 25 individuals competed in ladder pools, playing 8 games each. The results determined placement for the next week’s games.

Contact shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com with questions.



Arms Library

Laurie, Sharin, Courtney, Cathy, Colleen and Carrie at the Arms Library want you to know that the Arms **remains open** and if you cannot find parking on Bridge St., park in back of the library or in the parking lot behind the Greenfield Savings Bank. If you're uncomfortable driving downtown during construction, give the library a call at **413-625-0306**, and if you are close we can deliver. For more details on any of our programs, visit www.armslibrary.org, call us, or [sign up for](#) our weekly newsletter.

"Find Your Voice!" this summer at the Arms Library. Help your children continue to develop their reading skills during the summer months, when they are probably away from school. It's not only a lot of fun, but may even help your child learn to love reading even more. And don't forget the fabulous t-shirts we have for anyone who finishes up the reading program!



Our **Summer Reading Program** begins with a drop-in sign-up on **June 24 at 1:30 – 3PM**. Readers who join our summer reading event will be given reading logs, swag, and various incentives throughout the

summer, as they explore new ways of “finding their voices”. We will have crafts, science, music, etc., to supplement our theme. Watch for more information on the website closer to the date.

Eveline MacDougall Author's Reading

On **Friday, June 9 at 6:30 PM** in the reading room. “Fiery Hope: Building Community with the Amandla Chorus” Founded in 1988, the **Amandla chorus** is based in Greenfield, MA and made up of singers from all over the Pioneer Valley. The name Amandla, suggested by a South African member, comes from the Zulu word for “power.” They continue to celebrate the power of community, and “Fiery Hope” is their story.

Guided Walk: Urban Trees of Shelburne Falls

Meet on the front steps of the Arms Library on Saturday, **June 10, 9:00 AM**. See the Open Space Committee's description in this newsletter!

Wednesday Afternoon LEGOs

For children and families. Join our small, but mighty creative, LEGO club, held every **Wednesday beginning at 4 p.m.**

Spring Book Sale

To be held in the lower level of the library and under the white tent out back. **All proceeds are used for the library**, as a means to supplement our regular town budget. Most recently the Friends have purchased museum passes, the picnic tables out back, furnishings for the library, bookmarks, our Bookpage subscription, refreshments for programming. And this summer the Friends, along with the MA Board of Library Commissioners, are sponsoring our Summer Reading Program.

D.K. McCutchen Author's Talk and Reading

Save the date! **Saturday, July 29 at 6:30 PM** for her upcoming book *Jellyfish Dreaming*.

Emergency Management Director's Page

Greetings. **Thank you** all for voting in the \$5500 capital expense at our town meeting last month. This money will be used **to transfer the emergency management radios** from the fire station to the emergency operation center (EOC) at the Police Station/Municipal Building on the Mohawk Trail. It's the last step in getting our EOC fully operational. Thanks again.



Speaking of a fully operational EOC, what we need now are more trained volunteers to help operate it. If you'd like to learn how to **communicate with radios, gather incident information** and plot it on a map, and assist with **supporting emergency responders** in the field, then come join the emergency management operations team. This team will be called upon to **assist committee members** with various duties in the EOC in the event of an emergency. If interested, please **email me at EMD@townofshelburnema.gov** for more information.

Here are the other projects the Emergency Management Committee is working on:

Cooling/warming centers where you can go when temperatures reach an extreme and you have no way to deal with them, such as the lack of air conditioning or heat due to a power outage.

Improvements to the town's emergency alert system. This system is subscriber-based, one that asks residents to sign up to receive text messages warning of coming emergency events and during them. For example, during the March snowstorm, messages may have been sent notifying you that Route 2 was blocked due to a fallen tree or that a warming center had just been opened. This communication system will be used for emergency events only. As you know, **communications during an emergency event are critical.**

As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or assistance you wish to offer, please feel free to contact me at EMD@townofshelburnema.gov.

**REMEMBER:
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IS A
WHOLE COMMUNITY
RESPONSIBILITY.**

Stay Safe!

Tom Williams
Emergency Management Director

Other news

MTRSD SUSTAINABILITY STUDY TOWN HALLS

Mohawk Trail Regional School District Superintendent Sheryl Stanton distributed a notice about Virtual Town Halls taking place this month to **discuss the district's Sustainability Phase I report**, which has been posted to the District's Google drive and can be accessed at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1clo6ch4lkAZai_woHT2TPgalwXsoE033. The link goes to a folder that includes the full report as well as individual reports for Buckland-Shelburne, Colrain, Sanderson, and Mohawk Trail Schools, among other documents. The town halls will take place on **Google Meet** at the following times:

June 5 from 9-10 AM at
<https://meet.google.com/scp-ehpn-tux?pli=1>

June 5 from 6-7 PM at
<https://meet.google.com/mwv-xbks-oax>

June 7 from 5-6 PM at
<https://meet.google.com/pgt-mahd-myb>

SENIOR CENTER

Director Juli Moreno says: As we enter the full swing of Summer, we try new things and cherish the familiar. There are exciting events coming up in the next few months. There is a sampling for everyone! Many thanks to our volunteers, our Board members, Council on Aging members and those who work behind the scenes to make our community so wonderful. Check out the highlights for the

coming month. Please contact us at 413-625-2502 to sign up for activities or visit the Senior Center's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetShelburneFalls/> or go to the [website](#). Recurring activities are shown in this newsletter's calendar.

Social History Project

Tuesday June 27th 1:00 p.m. -3:00 pm,
Shelburne Historical Society

After months of brainstorming, writing and exploring our history, we are excited to announce the public presentation of The Social History Project. Presentations on our **shared history of food, transportation, family dynamics and childhood games** we played will be shared. After each presentation there will be an audience discussion on the topic. The memories expand to what society looked like at the time of each memory review. Much thanks to The Historical Society in Shelburne for use of their space and partnering with us on displays and spreading the word!

CraftWorks

Join the CraftWorks group the **second Friday of every month, from 12-2 pm** in the large room at The Senior Center. Resources and tools needed will be supplied! In June, we will be making beautiful **floating candle citronella jars** to help you enjoy your outdoor areas with natural insect repellent! The second project will be constructing unique hummingbird feeders to decorate and fill. Get your creative juices flowing and create unique items for your home, or gifts. Please register so we are sure to have all the supplies needed.

Origami and Beyond

This class will be led by Alan Young. In addition to classic **folding**, you will learn **cutting**, **pleating**, wet folding, and **crumpling** techniques. You will leave every class with at least one completed piece and a new understanding of the versatility of paper. No prior skill required, and all materials provided free of charge. **June 7, 14 – 12 noon to 1 pm.**

Home Repair Program

A handyman volunteer is available to do **minor home repairs for seniors**, such as replacing broken windows, small plumbing and electrical jobs and other repairs. This is a **free service**, available to residents of Shelburne, and the senior is expected to purchase all the needed parts and materials. Voluntary donations are accepted.

If you **have a project or if you are interested in volunteering** to do home repairs, please call The Center. This program is funded in part by a Title III grant from the Federal Administration for Community Living and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Giving Groupies Needed

Consider becoming a Giving Groupie! We're looking for **reception help at our front desk** a few hours each week. It's an opportunity to make new friends. With so many benefits for both you and the community, volunteering really is a win-win situation!

CHAINSAW SAFETY WORKSHOP

Gregory Cox, Program Director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance announces that the Massachusetts Forest Trust is holding **reduced-cost two-day Safe Chainsaw Operation workshops for landowners and Tree Farmers** in the Woodlands Partnership area of western Franklin and northern Berkshire counties. These hands-on workshops, which normally cost \$300 per person, will cost **just \$100** thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation.

*Chainsaws are the most common tool used by landowners in managing and caring for their woods and trees. **Chainsaws are inherently dangerous** and proper maintenance and careful operation are necessary to avoid injuries or even death.*

The workshops will be taught by Game of Logging (GOL) instructor Bill Girard. Each workshop will cover Level 1 and Level 2 of the GOL curriculum.

Level 1 introduces participants to open face **felling** and the development of techniques to safely use it, and covers topics such as personal protective **equipment** and chainsaw **safety** features. Level 2 focuses on maximizing chainsaw performance through basic **maintenance**, carburetor setting, and filing techniques, and more **felling** is practiced.

This month's workshop will be held from **8AM - 4PM (rain or shine) on June 17-18** at Notchview Reservation on Route 9 in Windsor. Sign up by June 10 by contacting Greg Cox at 413-339-5526 or gcox@crocker.com.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Thomas Massa writes: Greetings from the Visitors Information Center at 75 Bridge Street in the village of Shelburne Falls! We are once again **open** for the 'tourist' season and **need volunteers** to staff the VIC. We are currently open from Thursday through Monday, with two separate **three-hour shifts** a day, 10-1 or 1-4. Even filling one slot a month is a huge help!

Some days are quiet and others busy. You get to meet people not just from the area but the world. The first two weeks in May had visitors from Ireland, Nigeria, the UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Charlemont, Ashfield, West Halifax in Vermont, and many other states. Please stop by and see how we support the village, the events, and the businesses of our local area. You may also call 413-625-6050 or email massa413t@gmail.com to find out more.

PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS

The FRCOG Public Health Team submitted some events that might be of interest to the general public:

Community members are invited to an in-person conversation and information session about the local **Age- and Dementia-Friendly Project from 1:30-4PM on Thursday, June 22, 2023** at the Cohn Family Dining Commons at Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive. Refreshments will be provided and feedback will be solicited. We want to hear your thoughts! There will be a resource fair featuring services for older adults from 1:30 – 2:00 pm, ahead of the 2:00 pm presentation about the current status of the project, data from the needs assessment

survey, and the problem statements created from the survey. We'll share thoughts about what actions to take to address the concerns, and some of the **age-friendly projects** already being undertaken locally. The event is co-sponsored by Greenfield Community College, LifePath and Franklin Regional Council of Governments. **Register here:** <https://lifepath.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/lifepath/eventRegistration.jsp?event=63>

RECYCLE YOUR TEXTILES

Franklin County Waste District's Jan Ameen sent along a notice about textile recycling. There's a **Salvation Army drop-box at the transfer station** to deposit any dry clothing regardless of its condition. It just can't be moldy. You can even donate single socks, belts that no longer fit, ties from the 1980s, and stuffed animals your ex gave you a while back! (And really, what's the downside to THAT?!) See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more details.

FRCOG ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022 report is now available online at <https://frcog.org/publications/frcog-annual-report/>. The town- and city-specific reports are here: <https://frcog.org/about/towns/>.



Legislative News

This page will provide information from our local elected officials. This month features MA Sen. Paul Mark and US Congressman Jim McGovern.

SENATOR PAUL MARK

After twelve years in the House of Representatives, Senator Paul Mark (Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire District) has completed his first Senate **budget** and is proud to announce that Western Massachusetts has secured **significant allotments** for various programs.



In education, Sen. Mark secured an earmark to level the **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** with the rest of the state colleges, and included enough funding for an MCLA **diversity educator program**. He has also secured **\$15 Million for Rural School Aid**—a significant increase from both the Governor's and House's proposed amounts—and **\$25,000 to support the Mary Lyon Foundation**, which promotes student success in Shelburne and the other eight towns in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District.

Sen. Mark was able to **double the amount of funding for the Opioid Task Force** in the Berkshire Sheriff's Department. This funding will help ensure that there are more resources for individuals involved in educational efforts to encourage treatment and for those facing or seeking recovery from substance abuse. He

also is proud to have secured a budget amendment of **\$75,000 for the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness** to support rapid response activities and crisis management in all four counties.

Senator Mark is pleased with the progress made and appreciates your support in these ongoing efforts to improve our region. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to his office at **(413) 464-5635** or attend his Franklin County **office hours** from 10 am-noon on June 13 and 27 at the Buckland Town Hall.

US CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN, MA-02

It's an honor to introduce myself as your Congressman. I represent the **Second Congressional District**, which now includes Shelburne. My team and I help resolve issues with **Social Security** and **Medicare** benefits, solve **passport** and immigration problems, fix issues with **Veterans** benefits, or can even help families plan a **trip to Washington, D.C.** Last year, we successfully secured nearly **three-quarters of a billion dollars** to benefit local projects and organizations for things like road repairs and funding for nonprofits working to end hunger.



I want to know **what matters to you** so I can champion the policies you care about in Congress. Please send an **email** through the contact form on my website homepage at www.mcgvorn.house.gov or **call** my Northampton District Office at 413-341-8700.



June 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	Every Tue.	Every Wed.	Every Thu.	1	2	3
Senior Center activities shown in color	10 am Tai Chi (at Trinity Church)	8:30 am Yoga for Seniors 10 am Healthy Bones & Balance	9 am Tai Chi (at Senior Center)			
4 Pickleball beginner lessons	5 9-10am, 6-7pm MTRSD Town Hall 2pm Caregivers	6	7 12-1 pm Origami 5-6pm MTRSD Town Hall	8	9 12-2 pm Craftworks 6:30 pm Author Reading at Arms	10 9 am Guided Walk 9am-3pm Arms Library book sale
11 Pickleball beginner lessons 9am-3pm Arms Library book sale	12	13 6 pm Pickleball demo [raindate 6/20]	14 9:30 am Bd of Health Public Hearing 12-1 pm Origami	15	16 12-1:30 pm West County Memory Café	17 8 am – 4 pm Chainsaw safety
18 8 am – 4 pm Chainsaw safety	19	20 Pickleball beginner lessons	21	22 Age and Dementia-friendly project, GCC 1:30-4PM	23 July newsletter items and photos due!	24 1-3:30pm Summer Reading Program sign-up (Arms)
25	26	27 1-3 pm Social History Project	28	29	30	

Notes

Other dates to remember

Every Wed. @ 4 pm – Lego club @ Arms

June 14 – Men's Night Trip to Pierce St. Ironworks (5 pm)

Virtual Trips at Senior Center: June 13 and June 27 @ 2 pm

July 29 – DK McCuthchen author talk @ Arms

August 1 – Next tax bill due



DISTRICT 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: Tuesday, June 13th and 27th, 9:00 AM to noon.

Town Hall, 8 Park St. Adams.

Great Barrington: Monday, June 12th and 22nd from 9:00 AM to noon.

Town Hall, 334 Main St. Great Barrington.

Dalton: Monday, June 5th from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Dalton Senior Center, 40 Field St. Dalton

North Adams: Tuesday, June 13th and 27th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

228 E. Main St, North Adams.

Pittsfield: June 7th, 8th, 21st and 22nd from 9 AM to noon.

773 Tyler St. Pittsfield.

Hampden County

Southwick: Monday, June 12th and 26th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Town Hall, 454 College Highway, Southwick.

Franklin County

Buckland: Tuesday, June 13th & 27th from 10 AM to noon.

Town Hall, 17 State St. Shelburne Falls.

Hampshire County

Williamsburg: Tuesday, June 13th & 27th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Town Offices, 141 Main St. Haydenville.

RECYCLE

Your Clothing and Textiles

A Salvation Army drop box
for textile recycling
is located at your town's
transfer station.



Donate, Recycle, Don't Throw Away



Broken zippers? Missing buttons? Stained?
As long as it's dry and not moldy ... it's acceptable!

Bring it ALL to the Salvation Army drop box at your town's transfer station!

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pants | • Coats | • Hats |
| • Shorts | • Jackets | • Socks (singles too!) |
| • Shirts | • Suits | • Purses |
| • Pajamas | • Scarves | • Comforters |
| • T-shirts | • Undergarments/Bras | • Sheets |
| • Jerseys | • Shoes (singles too!) | • Blankets |
| • Sweatshirts/pants | • Flip Flops | • Pillow cases |
| • Sweaters | • Slippers | • Curtains/Draperies |
| • Jeans | • Belts | • Table linens |
| • Dresses | • Ties | • Stuffed animals |
| • Skirts | • Backpacks, book bags | |

UNACCEPTABLE:

Carpets, rugs, oily rags, mattresses, bric-à-brac, wet, or mildewed items.

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

DISABILITY INDICATOR FORM for LANDLINE, WIRELESS, AND VoIP
CONSUMERS

You are required to complete this form if you want your police department, fire department, or other emergency agency to know about you when you call 9-1-1 in an emergency from your landline VoIP and/or wireless device.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU SUBMIT A NEW DISABILITY INDICATOR FORM UPON CHANGE OF SERVICE PROVIDER, TELEPHONE NUMBER, OR ADDRESS TO KEEP ALL INFORMATION ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE.

Upon submission of this completed form, when 9-1-1 is dialed from your landline or wireless device, an indicator will be displayed on the dispatcher's 9-1-1 screen that will identify the disability indicator(s) that you have selected. This indicator(s) will be visible to the 9-1-1 dispatcher at the call center only when 9-1-1 is dialed from the number(s) listed below. The 9-1-1 dispatcher will then share this information with the first responders (Police, Fire, & EMS).

The information provided on this form is confidential and will **only** be available to the dispatcher when a 9-1-1 call originates from the phone number provided on the form below.

The disability indicator information will remain in the 9-1-1 system until you submit an updated form to request a change or removal. **It is your responsibility to complete another form and resubmit it to your Municipal Coordinator when there is a change in the information described on this form.**

If the disability indicator form is not completed properly, the information will not be entered into the 9-1-1 system.

When filling out the form, be sure to type or write legibly in blue or black ink and:

- 1 Give your telephone number, full name, and home address.
- 2 Check the necessary box or boxes.
- 3 **Sign and date** the form.
- 4 **Submit the form** to your 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator for processing

If you have any questions regarding the contact information for your designated Municipal Coordinator, please email DisabilityIndicatorForm@mass.gov.

ATTN 9-1-1 MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS ONLY:
RETAIN ORIGINAL FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Form must be signed by both parties or it will be returned.

Once signed by both the consumer and the Municipal Coordinator, Municipal Coordinator should scan and email the completed form to **LDBSUPPORT@DDTI.NET**.

9-1-1 Disability Indicator Form LANDLINE, WIRELESS & VoIP - Individual Record

The filing of this document will alert public safety officials that an individual with the calling phone number (landline and/or wireless) has a disability that may hinder evacuation or transport. This information is confidential and will **ONLY** appear on the dispatcher's NG9-1-1 screen when a 9-1-1 call originates from the phone number(s) provided below.

***PLEASE NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUBMIT A NEW DISABILITY INDICATOR FORM UPON CHANGE OF SERVICE PROVIDER AND ADDRESS. ***

1. **LANDLINE** Telephone Number: (____)_____
2. **LANDLINE** Telephone Service Provider: _____
3. **WIRELESS** Telephone Number: (____)_____
4. **WIRELESS** Telephone Service Provider: _____
5. **VoIP** Telephone Number: (____)_____
6. **VoIP** Telephone Service Provider: _____
7. Name: _____
8. Address: _____
9. Town & Zip code: _____

Please check approved designations for inclusion in the 9-1-1 Database to assist public safety dispatchers in responding to an emergency at your address: **Any changes should be communicated to your designated Municipal Coordinator promptly.**

Check all that apply to indicate that someone at the address:

- ☐ **"LSS" Life Support System:** has equipment required to sustain their life.
- ☐ **"MI" Mobility Impaired:** is bedridden, wheelchair user or has another mobility impairment.
- ☐ **"B" Blind:** is legally blind.
- ☐ **"DHH" Deaf or Hard of Hearing:** is deaf or hard of hearing.
- ☐ **"TTY":** may be communicating via TTY.
- ☐ **"SI" Speech Impaired:** has a speech impairment.
- ☐ **"CI" Cognitively Impaired:** is cognitively impaired.
- ☐ **PLEASE REMOVE any designation presently on file.**
- ☐ **PLEASE CHANGE existing designators to those shown above.**

NOTICE: By initiating this document I understand that I am responsible for notifying my Municipal Coordinator of any changes with regard to the status of the above disability indicator(s). I further agree, I will indemnify, defend and hold the State 911 Department, Comtech, DDTi and my public safety dispatch location and municipality harmless from and against any claims, suits and proceedings (including attorney fees associated therewith) resulting from or arising out of the initial provision or updating of this information.

I understand this information will remain as part of my 9-1-1 record until such time as I notify my 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator to change or delete the same.

Signed: _____ (Consumer) DATE: _____

Signed: _____ (Municipal Coordinator) DATE: _____