

Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – November, 2022



And here are the last faint blooms of my obedient plants. Fall is falling fast and winter heating season is coming on. Look for info in this November issue from our Energy Committee on reducing your winter heating costs as prices rise. And don't forget to VOTE on or before Nov. 8!

This just in a few hours ago Halloween on Mechanic Street! (Warning - very scary evidence below) We count our trick or treaters one piece of candy at a time and ran out at 7pm at around 400 or so. A beautiful night in the village and many fine costumes. Thanks to our Police Dept. for helping make it a safe and fun evening.

But wait – there's more. Mattress recycling! Road and Bridge closures! A great documentary at the Senior Center! And much much more. Read on!

Help me spread the Shelburne e-news. Forward this newsletter to a few friends and encourage them to subscribe. Subscribers can join by sending me their name and email address to andrewbaker1959@gmail.com You don't have to live in Shelburne to subscribe, but do let me know what town you do live in.

Andrew Baker - Interim Newsletter Editor & Shelburne Select Board member

Town Clerk News: November 8th State Election updates:

As of this writing, 467 Shelburne voters have participated in the Early Voting process in Shelburne! And I anticipate a closing total of at least 600 "Registered Shelburne Voters" will have already voted by the time the November 8th Election Day arrives, with another 300-400 voters expected to show up on Election Day itself! If these numbers hold true, this will be the second largest voter turnout in recent history, at least in the almost nine years since I've held this elected position.

I, and all my election workers, are anticipating a busy, but great Election Day. And we're hoping that we'll see those of you who haven't already voted, "at the polls" on November 8th!

Here's the remaining schedule for early voting:

November 3, 2022 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm

November 4, 2022 - 11:00am-1:00pm

And State Election Day: November 8, 2022 State Election Day, Cowell Gym, 51 Maple St., Shelburne, MA. Polls are open from 7:00am-8:00pm

Joseph J. Judd, Town Clerk Phone: 413-625-0300 ext.3 Email: townclerk@townofshelburnema.gov

Community Preservation Act will be Question #5 on the ballot November 8

Voters in Shelburne will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Shelburne at the November 8 state-wide election. CPA will be question 5 in Shelburne following four state-wide referendum questions. (In other Franklin County communities, Question 5 is an advisory question about carbon pricing. In Shelburne, the Carbon Tax question is #6.) CPA is a local option tax that, if adopted, allows Shelburne to add a 3% surcharge to local property taxes to raise funds for community improvement projects – historic preservation, open space, recreation & community housing. Funds raised locally can be matched up to 100% with state funds generated from real estate transfer fees. **For more information on CPA, go to www.Shelburne-cpa.org**

Halloween is back in the Village!





Great Costumes!

Thank you Trick or Treaters!

Highway Department News: Bagged Leaf Pickup in the Village on Nov. 14

The Shelburne Highway Dept. will be collecting bagged leaves in the Village on Monday, November 14 (weather permitting). Bags containing leaves only should be placed curbside by 7:00 am.

Iron Bridge repaving & repair – **Tentatively scheduled for the week of Nov. 14.** Mass. Dept of Transportation will repave the Iron Bridge deck if the weather cooperates. The project will take approximately one week and will close the bridge to traffic. Repair of the Iron Bridge sidewalk has not yet been scheduled.

Shelburne Cultural Council: A record year!

The Shelburne Cultural Council received 44 grant applications this year – a new record! Stay tuned to see what cultural activities our town will be supporting in the coming year.

Shelburne Energy Committee News

Do Rising Fuel Costs and Upcoming Electric Rates Have You Worried?

Greetings Fellow Shelburnites,

It's time to dig out our winter slippers and favorite toasty sweaters! If you're like me, you're concerned by the recent news that National Grid's electric rate just went up three-fold. In mid-November, Eversource will release its new rate. Luckily, Shelburne homeowners may be somewhat buffered due to the 41-month aggregation rate that Shelburne and neighboring town's officials negotiated with DYNEGY and that was initiated in August of 2020. See:

https://www.townofshelburne.com/news/newsfile_159_Community_Choice_Power_Supply_Program.pdf

All Shelburne residents were automatically put on the aggregation rate, but were given the opportunity to opt out. If you opted out, you might want to consider opting back in. If you're not sure if you're in the program, look under "Supplier" on your bill, which would read "DYNEGY- SHELBURNE AGG."

To learn more about Electricity Aggregation, go to the Town of Shelburne, MA website and use the search feature. Search on the term "aggregation" and browse the entries for more information. The entry posted on November 16, 2021 describes how to opt in. It also describes how to find out if you may qualify for Eversource's Discount Rate which is available even if you're included in the aggregation rate.

Fuel Assistance: Speaking of discount rates, people at or below 60% of the median income rate are eligible to apply to get assistance with fuel bills. To learn more, visit the website of Community Action Pioneer Valley at <https://www.communityaction.us/> (browse all energy topics, including "fuel assistance"). If accepted into the program, even renters whose "utilities are included in rent" may be issued a check to help with their fuel costs.

Reduce the need: You may be able to reduce the amount of fuel your dwelling needs by having a home energy assessment through the Mass Save program. There are many incentives that vary by three income ranges (a moderate income range was recently added), but there is something for everyone. Go to our Shelburne-specific web portal to Mass Save, "masssave.com/Shelburne." (The "Get Started" icon and Shelburne specific phone number enables you to register for an assessment. I suggest browsing the entire webpage before registering, which enables you to learn more about the categories that apply to you and your home, rental unit or small business.)

Questions? Please, keep in mind that I'm happy to help you find answers to your questions about the Mass Save program. Feel free to give me a call or email or pay a visit to the Shelburne Energy Committee's table at the Indoor Autumn Market at Buckland/Shelburne Elementary School on Sunday, November 20 from 11am-2pm.

Enjoy the rest of this beautiful fall season!

Cynthia Boettner, Shelburne Energy Efficiency Advocate, Shelburne Energy Committee 413-325-5564,
cynthia.boettner1@gmail.com

Music Improv daylong workshop presented by Mary Knysh

May we invite you to experience the delightful way that Mary brings alive the joy of making music together through communication, collaboration and creativity? In this workshop you can discover a whole new level of musical expression, freedom and joy. Whether your interest is in creating spontaneous music by yourself or in facilitating a musical play for friends and communities, Mary's workshop will give you the foundation for bringing this into your life. This workshop features the work of Music for People (musicforpeople.org) started by David Darling in 1985. No experience necessary!!! Bring an instrument or play one of ours!!!

When: Saturday November 5th

Where: Buckland Shelburne Elementary School, 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls. Ma.

Time: 10 AM to 5 PM

Cost: \$125 (\$85 to \$125 to support all in joining us)

Shelburne Senior Center News:

Cycle of Memory Documentary: November 8 at 5:30 pm at the Senior Center

Join the Senior Center for a special intergenerational screening of "Cycle of Memory": the new award-winning documentary about two siblings' bicycle adventure to find memories of their grandfather lost to Alzheimer's. The film is 72 minutes long and will be followed by a Q&A with the film-maker. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Buckland Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. To watch a trailer of the film, click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser: <https://cycleofmemory.com/about/>

About the film: Mel Schwartz escaped the Great Depression on a bicycle adventure he'd remember for the rest of his life. But when Alzheimer's takes Mel's memories away, it's left to his grandkids to recreate the life-changing bike trip and find those memories again. Guided by old photographs of the 1945 trip, they search for places aged by time. But while searching for Grandpa Mel's past, the two are confronted with their own fraught history. If they're going to complete the turbulent journey, they'll have to face their own emotional potholes and tumultuous relationship. With the help of a grandmother learning to live alone for the first time, Mel's lifelong friend and co-adventurer on the bike trip, and a family collection spanning 1950s film reels to 1990s video tapes, Cycle of Memory explores the importance of intergenerational connection, healing painful pasts, and leaving a meaningful time capsule for the future. **Please call 625-2502 to pre-register.**

Book Club A Novel Idea Wed., Nov. 9, 2:30 p.m.

Favorite books, authors and genres are shared by all in the group. Notes of the meeting make it possible for members to pursue books and authors they had not previously considered, especially after another member's sharing of what it meant to them. The Book Club meets second Wednesdays each month. The novel idea is to bring one of your favorite books or info on your favorite author. If someone shares a book or author you may be interested in, the book may be shared or can be found at the library, which is open the same time of Book Club! Come one, come all, it's a Novel Idea!

Fall Prevention Series- A Matter of Balance

Mondays at The Senior Center 10-11 a.m., Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec 5, 12

[Matter of Balance](#) is specifically designed to reduce the fear of falling and improve activity levels among older adults. The program includes six, one-hour sessions. The program enables participants to reduce the fear of falling by learning to view falls as controllable, setting goals for increasing activity levels, making small changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. The curriculum includes group discussions, mutual problem solving, role-play activities, exercise training, assertiveness training, and a few homework assignments. Participants learn about the importance of exercise in preventing falls and practice exercises to improve strength, coordination, and balance. Participants also conduct a home safety evaluation and learn to get up and down safely. Class size is between 8-12 participants. Please call Juli with any questions and to pre-register at 625-2502.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 – "Knives Out 2-The Glass Onion"

Movies are free. There will be a limit of 20 attendees for each movie showing. Please call 625-2502 to pre-register by the Thursday before each showing. Movies begin at 1 p.m.

Men's Night Meetings

The Men's Night Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Call Don Bascom at 625-2970 to register.
Nov. 9 - Trip to Alex Mead Bikeworks

"Ask the Nurse" Tues., Nov. 22,

A FRCOG nurse is available at The Senior Center every 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:30-12. They can answer your health questions, take your blood pressure, check blood glucose levels, collect used needles and provide safe collection boxes for needle disposal. Each month the Nurse will provide information and resources on a specific health related topic. The resources, tips, and guidance can be invaluable to your overall health and wellbeing. This service is provided through Buckland and Shelburne's Cooperative Public Health Service membership with FRCOG. For more information, contact Nurse Lisa White at (413) 665-1400, ext. 114.

Juli Moreno, Director *The Senior Center, 7 Main Street Shelburne Falls, MA 01370* 413-625-2502

Planning Board Learns About Climate Smart Forestry

At its October 18 meeting the Planning Board heard a presentation from Andrew Randazzo, a Forest Ecologist from Mass Audubon. Andrew spoke on climate-smart forestry, and how communities can adapt to our changing climate.

Climate changes impact forests by extreme weather events, increased storm frequency and intensity, elevated drought risks, less snow, and rising sea level. Other forest stressors include more pests, such as the woolly adelgid which has affected many hemlock trees in our area, increased numbers of invasive plants, and reduction in tree species habitat. Climate-smart forestry involves both adaptation (maintaining forest health) and mitigation (carbon sequestration).

In the future, the Planning Board will be applying for a Municipal Vulnerability Grant and climate-smart forestry could be one of the components. Andrew also provided the following links, which may be of interest to forest owners. You can click on these links or copy and paste them into your browser:

→ Forest Carbon, Net Zero, & Climate Action Planning: Key Considerations for MA

Municipalities:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/50089/1330784/version/1/file/KeyConsiderationsForMAMunicipalities.pdf>

→ Caring for Your Woods: Setting Goals:

https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/48721/1280293/version/1/file/DCR4_SETTING_GOALS_61521.pdf

→ Caring for Your Woods: Adapting to Changing

Conditions: https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/48720/1280289/version/1/file/DCR6_CLIMATE_ADAPTATION_61521.pdf

→ Caring for Your Woods: Managing for Forest Carbon: <https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/ecological-management/habitat-management/climate-smart-forestry>

Shelburne Police Dept. Update

The Shelburne Police Dept. has begun posting its police logs on the Shelburne town web site:

<https://townofshelburne.com/> To find them, go to the Files tab at the top of the page and then click on Police Logs.

If you are traveling in Buckland in November, be aware of these construction-related road closures:

A 24-hour closure to THRU traffic on Conway, Summer, South Streets and Conway Road will take effect Monday, Nov. 7th and will last approximately 10 weeks. The work is part of an ongoing Conway Street road reconstruction project. Local traffic on either side of the closures will not be impacted but traffic to and from Conway Road in Buckland etc will not be able to access Shelburne Falls from this route. Businesses on Conway Street, Depot Street and Ashfield Street will remain open and accessible during the construction.

Work Area #1: Gardner Falls Road – Culvert Replacement

South Street will be closed where Gardner Falls Road meeting South Street and no thru traffic will be permitted. There is an anticipated stop-work date in mid-December until Jan. 1st during which the road will be temporarily re-opened to thru traffic.

Work Area #2: South Street at #18, #19, & #21 South Street – Culvert Replacement

South Street will be closed in the vicinity of #18, #19, & #21 South Street and no thru traffic will be permitted. The work will begin after Jan. 1st and will last approximately four weeks.

The detour signs are currently up and bagged but will be un-bagged when the detour goes into effect. Click here for a map of the [detour route](#) or copy and paste this link into your browser:

https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf356/f/news/detour_plan.pdf

Gregory D. Bardwell, Chief of Police 413-834-1661

Regional Mattress Recycling Program Begins October 24th

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is working with five towns to accept clean and dry mattresses and box springs for recycling. This program is open to residents in all District towns. The program is only for clean and dry fabric covered mattresses and box springs, including foam and crib mattresses.

Beginning on October 24th residents must take clean and dry mattresses and box springs to a recycling program in Bernardston, Colrain, Deerfield, Montague, or Wendell. The MassDEP now prohibits all clean and dry mattresses and box springs from going into the trash for landfill disposal and these will be rejected if brought to a transfer station for disposal.

All regional mattress recycling sites charge \$35 per mattress or box spring regardless of size. Check the specific information for each site before bringing a mattress for recycling. Site addresses, hours, and payment information is below:

- Bernardston Transfer Station, Nelson Rd, Thursday and Saturday 7 am – 5 pm. Checks only.
- Colrain Transfer Station, Charlemont Rd, Saturday 8 am – 4 pm. Cash or checks.
- Deerfield Transfer Station, Lee Rd., Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday 8:30-4. Checks/ money order.
- Montague Transfer Station, Sandy Lane Turners Falls, Wednesday 7-2:30 Saturday 7-12. Checks only.
- Wendell Transfer Station, New Salem Rd., Tuesday 12-5:50 & Saturday 7:30-3:30. Cash or checks.

Franklin County residents can also use the Greenfield Transfer Station on Cumberland Rd, which is open Tuesday through Friday 11-2:30 and Saturday 7:30-2. Mattresses and box springs cost \$30 each plus a \$5 host fee for out of town residents.

Shopping for a new mattress? Ask your mattress seller if they will take away your old mattress when they deliver the new one. Some retailers will include this service as part of the delivery, and some charge a fee.

District towns include Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or call 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

Contact: Amy Donovan, FCSWMD Program Director amy@franklincountywastedistrict.org

Emergency Management News

Hi Everyone. The hurricane season has past and the winter weather will soon be upon us. Winter can bring us some spectacular snowy scenery and lots of outside fun. It can also, as we all well know, deliver some unpleasant episodes of excessive snow and ice, which often leads to power outages. FEMA has a good saying, "Preparing Makes Sense". The time to start thinking about cold weather issues is now.

FEMA's three part recommendation includes:

1. KNOW YOUR RISKS. Prepare for the risks where you live.
2. MAKE A PLAN. Prepare yourself and your family before disaster strikes.
3. TAKE ACTION. Be ready to respond to and recover from a disaster.

FEMA has some great informational literature that will explain these points in greater detail. You can find this literature on the website, www.Ready.gov

As a reminder the Emergency Management Committee meetings are held in the evening the third Thursday of each month. Visitors are certainly welcome at our meetings. Remember, failing to plan is planning to fail.

Tom Williams, Emergency Management Director

Shelburne Farmers Market – November News

Indoor Autumn Market: Sunday, November 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Shelburne Falls Farmers Market hosts a special Autumn market event each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Location this year: Buckland Shelburne Elementary School (75 Mechanic Street, Shelburne Falls).

The 12th Annual Shelburne Falls Autumn Farmers Market will feature items from local farms, eateries, artisans, and churches. Items offered for sale will include: fresh produce, local frozen meats, fresh baked items, jams, jellies, marmalade, pickles, popcorn, wool products, plants, bodywork, maple products, leather work, local crafts, and a tea cup auction of local products. There will also be live music all afternoon. For more info please visit:

shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org.

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Energy Tips at the Indoor Autumn Market
Visit the Shelburne Energy Committee Table

November 20, 2022, 11 am- 2pm Buckland Shelburne Elementary School (Mechanic St.)

- “Spin to Win” spinner for energy tips (and a treat)
- Ask about Mass Save benefits, including rebates on energy efficiency appliances and mini-splits
- Where to find information on upcoming rebates through the federal Inflation Reduction Act
- How to find out if you are getting the aggregated electric rate
- Artwork Featured by Students from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District

Open Space Committee – November is the time to hike!

“Thank you” to all who came out and enjoyed our four guided, educational hikes this year! Want to go hiking when the trails are not crowded, the weather is not hot and humid, there are still a few leaves clinging to the trees, and there are no bugs or even snow on the trails? November can be the perfect time to hike. Climbing to the Shelburne Fire Tower on a hot summer afternoon can be unbearable, but climbing in November can be a truly enjoyable and peaceful experience. Be aware, however, if we have some unseasonably warm days in November, disease bearing ticks can still come out to play. We like to say that if you do not see a layer of snow on the ground, there are likely to be ticks present.

Shelburne Falls Area Information & Civic Association:

Our year end meeting will be held on **November 4th at 4:00 pm** at the Visitors Information Center. Everyone is invited. We will review our successes of this year, what you feel may not be working, and some of the other items we normally cover at year end. The minutes of the last meeting are attached. Hope you all can attend.

Tom Massa - President, SFAICA

Clothes Closet Alert: Where is the right place to donate clothing?

You are welcome to donate clean (preferably seasonal) clothes and shoes and boots and linens to the Trinity Church supported Community Clothes Closet (located in the basement of Cowell Gym and open for free "shopping" on the 2 and 4th Wednesday of every month 11-4:30.) Donations can be left at any time in the clothes closet collection shed outside the gym. Also you can put clothes in the collection bin at Neighbor's in Buckland, and at the Transfer Station. Please do NOT leave clothing at the Highway Garage or Town Shed or outside any of these other collection shed/bins. Marguerite Sheehan - Pastor of Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts

And Here Is a 2nd Option for Winter Coats:

Do you have any winter coats collecting space in your closet ready to let go of?

There is an immediate need for brand new and/or in excellent shape (that means no rips, stains, holes, broken zippers, buttons missing, worn through and smelly items) winter coats, in all sizes, for houseless, sheltered and financially struggling women, men and children in our community.

Gayle Davidson, Shelburne resident, (413 -522-8258) is collecting and distributing all winter coats to the 30 residents of the Franklin County Adult Shelter and all houseless persons. Call or text her and she will arrange to pick-up coats herself.

The rest of the coats will be available to those in-need at Trinity Church's free Clothes Closet, open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays every month from 11am-3pm, housed in the basement of the Cowell Gym, 51 Maple St, in Shelburne Falls. The West County Emergency Food Pantry is located there too and open every Wednesday, 11am-3pm, presently serving 120 people {elders, families with children, single and two-person households) in our community.

Donations of Thanksgiving supplemental food items at this time are greatly appreciated! Pantry goods and non-perishable items requested: Cereals, muffin/cake/cookie/brownie mixes, frosting, jello, pudding, piecrust, pie fillings, Bisquick, crackers, jams & jellies, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy, juices, tea bags,

Donations can be dropped off on Wednesdays between 11am-3pm or call/text Gayle to pick-up and deliver for you.

Mary Lyon Foundation News:

The Mary Lyon Foundation was honored to support the creation of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School's Career and College Counseling Center and celebrated its opening with a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 6, 2022. The Center, located in the high school's library, will provide a space for students to meet with college recruiters in-person and virtually to help prepare their post-graduation plans and complete schoolwork. The Mary Lyon Foundation obtained \$30,000 in grant funding for the Center through its partnership with the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation. To learn more about the Center and the Foundation's contribution here: marylyonfoundation.org/mary-Lyon-foundation-news/

Kristen Tillona-Baker - *Executive Director* **Mary Lyon Foundation** (413) 625-2555 marylyonfoundation.org

Town Treasurer/Collector News:

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

Volunteer Opportunities in Shelburne:

Looking for volunteers? Post your volunteer opportunity here! Want to Volunteer? Contact these folks:

Memorial Hall Association: Want to help renovate the Town's historic 400 seat Memorial Hall Theater, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall? MHA is looking for board members eager to help launch a capital campaign. For more information, contact Jessica Murrow at murrjessica404@gmail.com

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

Shelburne Falls Women's Club is looking for new members. Contact Penny Spearance at 625-9639

Village Information Center: The center is open to visitors from 10am to 4pm Thursdays through Mondays from May through October and is fully operated by volunteers. The center hosts visitors who come from around the world, and more locally, who learn about what to see and do in western Franklin County and beyond. Many more volunteers are needed. Interested community members can drop in whenever the center is open, or leave a message of interest at 413-625-2544. Those who volunteer receive an orientation, learn about what the area has to offer, and get to greet and meet some of our interesting tourists.

Shelburne Finance Committee: Want to help shape and oversee the town budget? There are still two open seats on the Shelburne Finance Committee. Send your nomination to Town Administrator, Terry Narkewicz at townadmin@townofshelburne.gov. Appointments to the FC are made by Town Moderator, Roland Giguere.

Other SF web sites and social media:

Find more news about Shelburne here:

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

<https://shelburnefalls.com/>

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

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

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

That's all we wrote. Send me news for December by Saturday, November 26