**Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – June, 2022**

Welcome to the June issue. See below for meeting TONIGHT at the Grange. Enjoy this small collection of postings from around town. We are approaching 300 subscribers! If you’d like connect more of us Shelburnians to local news, forward this newsletter to your neighbors and encourage them to subscribe. For now, that means sending an email to me at: andrewbaker1959@gmail.com

Send your news for the July issue by Friday, June 24. Thanks!

Andrew Baker

**Shelburne Council on Aging reminder – Meeting TONIGHT on West County Senior Services District – Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30 pm**

Did you receive the flyer in the mail? Do you want to know more? The Shelburne Council on Aging has endorsed the formation of a West County Senior Services District and is having a Forum Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30 pm at Fellowship Hall (Grange Hall) on Little Mohawk Road.

Can’t attend? Scan the QR code in the flyer or go to The Senior Center website

([www.the-senior-Center.org](http://www.the-senior-Center.org)) for more information. There’s even a link to the Falls Cable recording of a previous Forum. If you missed the flyer, stop by the Senior Center at 7 Main Street to pick one up.

Be an informed voter at the Annual Town meeting June 11.

**Shelburne Senior Center**

The Shelburne Select Board unanimously voted on May 9 to hire Theodore (Teddy) Doucette as the new Outreach Coordinator for the Shelburne Senior Center.

**Recreation Committee News**

The Recreation Committee has scheduled the following drop-in events at the Cowell Gym:

* Basketball on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for players 35 and over.
* Volleyball on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 pm for players 16 and over.

There's a $5 fee per player.  Currently, masks are encouraged but not mandatory.

**Town Treasurer News:**

Find the Treasurer’s updates on the town’s website.

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

**Highway Dept. News – New Solar Powered Sign**

The Shelburne Highway Department wrote a successful grant application to the Mass DOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program and was awarded $20,435 to fund a solar powered message board. This item now does not need to be voted on for town funding at town meeting. And the message board will come in handy for many purposes – emergency notifications, Bridge of Flowers Road Race detours and other town activities. Congrats!

 

**Shelburne Falls Farmers Market**

The Shelburne Falls Farmers’ Market is located at the corner of Main and Water Streets in Shelburne Falls. Our 2022 market season is every Friday from May 27, 2022 to October 28, 2022. We are open from 2:00-6:30 p.m. every Friday, rain or shine!

Drop by for some fresh, local vegetables from our wonderful growers. Purchase fresh, home-made bread and other treats.  Pick up your local, pasture raised eggs and meat.  Find hand-spun wools and other hand-made gifts.

Every week we will have musicians playing on the green, and you are invited to come dance, play, eat or just relax and enjoy your Friday evening with us!

One Friday each month is dedicated to a special market day (if allowed this season, due to COVID-19 regulations). We will announce the dates once we are sure that these events can happen.

• Summer Solstice Celebration – June
• Children’s Day – July
• Barbeque Day- August
• Customer Appreciation Day – September
• Cider Day – October

Please visit our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Shelburne-Falls-Farmers-Market-169771329744332/) page for more updates on the market, our vendors, and our special days!

If you would like to be a vendor full or part time, please visit: [shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org](http://shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org) to find applications and information. The market is also looking for weekly musicians.

Shelburne Falls Farmers Market is a “maker only” market that was started in 2008.  It is now starting its 14th year!  Located on the green at the corner of Main and Water Streets in Shelburne Falls, the market will be held on Fridays from 2 pm to 6:30 pm. The market is run by a committee made up of long-time vendors. These vendors are Good Bunch Farm: organic vegetables and plant starts; Davenport Maple Farm: maple products, hermits (some gluten free) and photo greeting card; Barberic Farm: lamb, pies, preserves, eggs, wool, hand crafts; and Margaret Olin’s Healing Therapies: seated bodywork. Other full or part time vendors will be Freeman Farm: pasture raised meats including beef, pork, lamb, chicken, and various sausages; George Sweeney – Bladesmith: custom made knives; Native Shade – Nancy’s Backyard: native plants; Checkerspot Farm: native flowers and plants; Colrain and Sow: soy and coconut scented candles; Tiny Bouquet Co: flowers and vegetables; and occasional non-profit organizations. Being on the green is a great setting to come support our local farms and businesses, have a chance to visit with neighbors, and let the children play on the green while listening to local musicians.  For applications to become a vendor, find out who the musician of the week is, which vendors are at the market, and more information please visit: **shelburnefallsfarmersmarket.org** .

**Be a Part of Reading Off the Beaten Path –**

**This Summer at the Arms Library!**

Between 1 and 7 p.m. at the Arms, when you sign up for the “Reading Off the Beaten Path” program, each participant will receive their Reading Log as well as a Take and Make S'Mores bag. (For when they get home.)

The same day, beginning at 2 p.m. a guided walking tour of the Village will be led. The walk will be on mostly level sidewalks. Meet in front of the Arms at 1:45. Please bring your water and/or snacks. The walk should be an hour long. This is a good walk for all ages and most abilities.

The Arms is working together with the Shelburne Open Space Committee, and the Village Information Center, for hikes and village walks.

**A Summer of Exploration!**

This summer we will be spending time outdoors, and reading books about the outdoors. All ages can sign up for this program.

There will be hikes and walks, new books about the outdoors, prizes for completing summer reading logs, a book discussion group, a Journal and Hike taught by Kim Erlsev of the Conway School of Landscape Design, and a powerpoint and talk by local resident John Geyster.

Our first hike, led by OSC member Jim Perry, is set for 9 a.m.on July 9th. The trail to be hiked is the Mohican-Mohawk Trail. Hike descriptions may be found on the Shelburne town website: <https://townofshelburne.com>

The Arms is also working with the Village Information Center, and offering several self-guided Shelburne Falls Village walks, including a history tour, and a Mystery Tour.

A self-guided walk designed by the Open Space Committee that showcases unique trees, historical homes, and points of interest on the Shelburne side of the river, will be available.

Please check with the Arms about levels of ease of individual hikes and walks. All hikers will meet on the Shelburne Falls Village Arms Library front steps at 9:00 AM and we will carpool or drive individually from there to the trailhead. Bring water and snacks, and wear sneakers or hiking boots. Nothing with open toes.

**And Lots More!**

There are a number of other programs being offered in June: crafts, LEGOs, an author reading with Wendy Sibbison who wrote “Helen in Trouble', an ice cream social with Richie Davis who wrote “Good Will and Ice Cream”. More programs to follow throughout the summer!

Information: [www.armslibrary.org](http://www.armslibrary.org) , Facebook, 413-625-0306 or armslibrary@gmail.com

**Message From the Town Clerk**

2022 Town Meeting **Saturday June 11, 2022 10:00 am** - Buckland Shelburne Elementary School

 2022 Annual Town Election **Tuesday, June 14, 2022** Cowell Gymnasium 51 Maple Street,
 Polls will be open from 10:00 am till 8:00 pm

See the attached TOWN BALLOT 2022 for the list of candidates asking for your vote. See also the write-in opportunities – there are a few open seats.

**Shelburne Energy Committee News:**

**Community First Partnership with Mass Save® and All In Energy**

We continue to develop our outreach plans for the summer and fall for our Community First Partnership sponsored by Eversource. We have been in touch with Laurie Wheeler at the Arms Library to discuss ideas for partnering on outreach projects, with a possible evening presentation either in person or on Zoom. The team has also been working with Mohawk Regional High School on a post card to go out to town residents, with the students adding a message written by hand. Cynthia Boettner our Energy Advocate, as well as other committee members, have been attending weekly trainings with All In Energy folks, the lead vendor for the Community First Outreach Partnership with Eversource. We are getting help with setting up a direct portal for Shelburne residents and small businesses to request energy assessments.  We now have a dedicated phone number for Shelburne residents, landlords and small business owners to request services. If you are interested in participating, please request a no-cost energy assessment at [www.masssave.com/Shelburne](http://www.masssave.com/Shelburne) or by calling (413) 232-9922. Please be patient as we work through a steep learning curve. Our goal is to assist you in navigating the ins and outs of the program details if you need help.

With the higher costs of home heating oil, more residential and small business owners are interested in installing cold climate mini-split heat pumps (more to come in an upcoming newsletter). Please be aware that for residential customers to qualify for rebates from Eversource (up to $10,000 per home) for the equipment, you must first request an energy assessment from Mass Save and agree to install any recommended weatherization measures such as additional insulation prior to receiving a rebate. The program offers different avenues for participation, depending on your income level, but there are good incentives for everyone. Zero percent interest loans are available for financing, through local lending institutions. Mini-spit heat pumps provide heat even when outdoor temperatures dip below zero, and they cool very economically at extremely high summer temperatures, providing good energy efficiency. With increased demand, we are hearing that qualified installers have a backlog for sizing assessments and installation dates are pushing out into late summer and possible late fall.

Finally, if you have suggestions for the types of information you would like to hear about, or would like to be notified of upcoming local outreach events, please email us at energy@townofshelburema.gov. Someone will reply within 48 hours.

**Mary Lyon Foundation supports BSE 6th Grade students**

The Mary Lyon Foundation funded a special breakfast for sixth-grade students at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School! As part of their preparation to visit Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, Maine, they learned table etiquette when eating family style, including what a place setting looks like, where to place a napkin and other manners for such an event. In the third week of May, students visited the campus to learn outside of a traditional classroom and explore forest destruction and regrowth, ecosystems in swamps, and the impacts of prolonged flooding on plant growth. Learn more v about the work Nature's Classroom does across all of New England: ﻿﻿[https://www.naturesclassroom.org/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.naturesclassroom.org%2f&c=E,1,b1x60tnKFUuJCXTzbW75OEVIR8D4AA3UKM1Pz2LfGYhWGHxbPYpU25Q0CfO7qq2dBiKAUEYZDexUam6FDmsp1bYvB5LFP_EbpFJJdOK8agDriME1MxjkeQ,,&typo=1). To help the Mary Lyon Foundation continue to support programs such as this, please consider donating by visiting [marylyonfoundation.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fmarylyonfoundation.org&c=E,1,Bdh7Bd7Etz4Bk5RTI1NMVThcMfhS6ngaPIPNLr06nSSer2AdlRLgrff-GZ2DDOyS640OkAvWN_GAOhPJkEU7LHoNawJDLoPZjlSffsdzvhNm&typo=1).

Kristen Tillona-Baker - Executive Director **Mary Lyon Foundation**

26 Ashfield Road, P.O. Box 184, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 (413) 625-2555

**June events with Fabric of Life in Shelburne:**

**Fabric of Life Barnfest: June 11, 2022 starting at 1pm.**

After two years of being apart due to the pandemic, we are beyond excited to welcome you back to Bassett Road for our biggest fundraising and community event of the year! Barnfest is a full day event that includes local crafters and artisans, kid’s activities, music, dancing, food, and the weaving together of an amazingly vibrant community.

Barnfest flyer:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/FoL/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/barnfest-2022-poster.pdf>

Barnfest link:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/barnfest-2022/>

**Fiddle Workshop & Concert featuring the Wise Geese on June 5th, 2022.**

This event will include an afternoon fiddle workshop, jam session and concert, along with lots of great food and company!

Fiddle Workshop flyer:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/FoL/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Wise-Geese.pdf>

Program link:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/product/fiddle-workshop-jam-session-concert/>

**Maker’s Menagerie youth program June 20-24, 2022.**

Fabric of Life and Build Repair Grow are partnering to offer a magical program designed for young people and their young-at-heart grown-ups to practice a variety of skills and crafts.

Participants will build, create, explore and connect with other youth with shared interests. This program offers a unique opportunity for parents and children to spend time together in an engaging hands-on program. Register for a single day, three days of fun, or the entire five day immersive experience!

Maker’s Menagerie flyer:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/FoL/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Makers-Flyer.pdf>

Program link:

<https://www.fabric-of-life.org/product/makers-menagerie/>

Visit our [website](https://www.fabric-of-life.org/) Join us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/fabric_of_life_learning/) Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fabricoflifelearning) Subscribe to our [Newsletter](https://wordpress.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c01944ef49ffb29098e83c0c8&id=65d69b2ee1)

Learn more about us on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAz0AtY9LAnzINqswkM5oKw%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Mohawk Trail Concerts – at the BSE Band Shell outdoors!**

The waiting will soon be over!  Mohawk Trail Concerts' 2022 Summer Season kicks off on **Saturday, June 18** with two concerts, the first at noon at the Montague Common Hall, the second at 5 pm at the **Band Shell at 75 Mechanic Street in Shelburne Falls**.  The **Adaskin String Trio** with Pascal Archer, clarinet, will perform works of Beethoven, Crusell, and Ingalf Dahl.

On Sunday, June 26 at 5 pm, Court Dorsey will read poetry of Billy Collins, with Eugene Friesen on cello.  This concert will be at the Federated Church of Charlemont.

**Saturday, July 2nd at 5 pm** come enjoy the **Atlantic Brass Quintet** at the **Band Shell in Shelburne Falls**.  The program includes works of Joan Tower, Luciano Berio, Robert Paterson, Anthony Barfield, and Jeff Scott.

**Open Space Committee: Managing Invasive Species!**

**Invasive Plant and Insect Species Self-Guided Hiking Tour –** The Open Space Committee has created an invasive species self-guided hiking tour and brochure to help you learn about locally important invasive species that may be infecting and affecting your property. The tour begins at the **Shelburne Stone Fire Tower Trail** on **Halligan Ave off Route 2**.  A short way up the trail you will find an interpretive panel and brochure box with information about the Identification, Prevention, Early Detection, and Management of these detrimental invaders.  A few remaining invasive species have been labeled for you along the trail (for educational purposes).  A brochure can also be found on the Open Space Committee’s website at:  <https://www.townofshelburne.com/files/Invasives_Brochure_-_Shelburne_Open_Space_2pp__2021-04-19.pdf>

**Emergency Management: Introducing our new Director**

Greetings.  My name is Tom Williams, the newly appointed Emergency Management Director and a life-long resident of Shelburne.  My job is to serve you by leading a dedicated group of people, the members of the Emergency Management Committee, to plan and implement those projects that will reduce or, preferably, eliminate long-term risks to people and property from natural and man-made hazards such as flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, chemical spills, etc.  This proactive approach to mitigate the effects of these disasters helps us reduce or prevent loss of life, property damage and infrastructure failure.  We will also be there during any disaster to provide you the leadership and the means to keep you and your family safe.

As time goes on you will see and hear more from us as we work to expand our efforts.  You can follow us on the town’s webpage or attend one of our monthly meetings.

Let me close by saying I’m very happy to serve our town.  If at any time you have some thoughts, ideas, concerns, or want to offer some assistance please feel free to send me an email at EMD@TOWNOFSHELBURNEMA.GOV and let me know.  I look forward to hearing from you.

**Assessor Updates**

Fiscal 2023 starts July 1st. Preliminary Real Estate tax bills will be mailed on July 1st. The top portion is due August 1st, the middle portion is due November 1st, and the bottom is for your records. If you wish to apply for an exemption for your Real Estate taxes (Elderly (70+), Blind, Disabled Veteran, etc.). The applications will be available on the Town of Shelburne website under the Board of Assessors page starting July 1st. Please call the Assessors office and ask for details.

Excise Tax information - Have you:  Moved out of state? Sold your car? Had an accident that totaled your car? Has your car has been stolen? If you did not transfer your plate to another vehicle, please cancel your plate with the RMV. This will prevent you from receiving an Excise Tax for the following year on that vehicle. If your insurance company or dealership tell you that they are going to cancel the plate for you, be sure to have them mail you a copy of the plate cancellation receipt!

If you have any questions or concerns about Excise Tax, please call the Assessors office or you can find information online at the Registry of Motor Vehicles website at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/motor-vehicle-excise#-abatements->

**From the FRCOG Public Health Team:**

With the warmer weather, ticks are out-and-about. Ticks can transmit diseases to humans when they bite; the longer a tick remains attached to the skin, the higher the likelihood that it may spread bacteria that cause tick-borne illnesses.

In recent years, more than 34% of local deer ticks tested positive for Lyme and more than 5% for anaplasmosis, the two tick-borne diseases occurring most frequently in the Franklin County region. Although only deer ticks (aka black-legged ticks) can transmit Lyme and anaplasmosis, other ticks should be avoided because they can transmit less common diseases.

Luckily, there are many things we can do to prevent tick-borne diseases: Find prevention information at [mass.gov/mosquitoes-and-ticks](https://www.mass.gov/mosquitoes-and-ticks) and at **tickencounter.org**.

If you have been bitten (the tick is attached to your skin), remove the tick with fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible, and pull with steady, even force. Wash the bite area and continue to check for several weeks; if you develop flu-like symptoms or a rash, see a doctor.

If you need to test the tick for tick-borne diseases, save the tick in a small, plastic bag. Log on to [www.tickreport.com](http://www.tickreport.com/) and follow the mailing instructions. Identify ticks at <http://www.tickencounter.org>. Thanks to the Shelburne Board of Health and the FRCOG, residents need only pay $15 of the full $50 cost of getting a tick tested.

**New: local COVID testing sites and links to COVID resources**

With COVID-19 is still out there, it is still important to take precautions. The FRCOG website has up-to-date information on what to do if you are exposed to or test positive for COVID, county-wide testing options, treatments for COVID, vaccines and booster shots.  Visit the website at[**https://frcog.org/covid**](https://frcog.org/covid) . No internet? Give us a call: 413-774-3167 ext. 206.

**NEW**: A no-cost PCR testing site will open in Shelburne Falls starting May 31st. Testing via Curative will be open the public Tuesdays 9am-1pm and Thursdays 12 -4pm at Greenfield Cooperative Bank Community Room. Another no-cost PCR testing site has re-opened at Greenfield Community College (M,W,F 1-4pm). Book online at curative.com or walk-in with an ID (and an insurance card if you have one).

**Walk-in wellness hours**

A reminder that **walk-in wellness hours** in West County are open to the entire community, no appointment needed: FRCOG public health nurses will be in Shelburne Falls at the Senior Center from 10:30-12pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month; in Charlemont at the Federated Church the 2nd Tuesday 10:30am – 12:30pm and the 3rd Tuesday 4-5:30pm, during the Good Neighbors Food Distribution; at Conway Town Hall the first Friday of every month from 9am-12pm; and at Ashfield’s First Congregational Church during the first food pantry distribution each month from 3-5pm (next up areJune 14th, July 12th and August 9th).

Confidential services include blood pressure and blood glucose checks, support with managing chronic health conditions and self-management of medications, sharps disposal and container exchange.

This nursing service is provided each month by the Cooperative Public Health Service of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.  For more information, contact Meg Ryan, RN at mryan@frcog.org, 413 774-3167 x 158, or Lisa White, RN, lwhite@frcog.org, 413 665-1400 x 114.