

Shelburne Town E-Newsletter – December, 2022



Holiday lights can be found in many places – here are a few colors of the season provided by the Japanese maple and its myrtle companions close by the entrance to the Bridge of Flowers.

Kudos to Whit Sanford and Nick Danilow and their team of volunteers for the wonderful holiday lights in the Village! Come by and stroll the village after sundown if you don't already do that regularly.

And Kudos to Missy Elie (Rethreads) and Crystal Stinson (Bridge St. Bazaar) and their numerous team of volunteers who put together another wonderful Moonlight Magic celebration.

Here is the news for December – a big win for the Bridge of Flowers, our new Pocket Park, funding for demolition of town eyesores, Holiday Concert, pickleball, youth basketball and more! 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.

Best of the season to each of you and your families,

Andrew Baker - Interim Newsletter Editor & Shelburne Select Board member



A new “Pocket Park” is taking shape in Shelburne Falls!

The Shelburne Select Board voted in October to approve a 7-year lease of the former Singley Furniture building lot at the corner of Bridge St. and Deerfield Ave. from the Ancient Glacier LLC (a partnership between Josh Simpson, Cady Coleman, Susan and Jon Stark) for use as a town park, following authorization by Town Meeting.

Anticipating completion of the lease, the Select Board approved use of a \$9,500 REDO economic development grant in June, secured by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to help spur downtown economic recovery from COVID impacts. That grant purchased 4 sturdy picnic tables made from recycled plastic and paid for the gravel and landscaping. While the tables pictured above are empty, they were busily occupied by locals and visitors during the fall leaf season.

Planning is now under way to partner with the Franklin County Technical School to design and build a pavilion to provide shade and rain protection over the picnic tables next season. The Town goes before the Zoning Board of Appeals on December 8 to request a variance to the 20' frontage setback requirement, in order to site the Pavilion about 10' back from the sidewalk. ZBA meeting is at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3590583442> Design plans and further grants are being sought to do terracing and landscaping of the site to allow for gardens, handicap seating and a concert area.

Select Board approves \$76,000 for demolition of two condemned houses

On December 1, the Shelburne Select Board voted to award a contract to the lowest bidder - Bourgeois Wrecking & Excavation -- of up to \$76,450 to demolish the two condemned houses at the end of Main Street (near the turnoff to the transfer station). Oil tanks, asbestos and all hazardous materials at 375 and 379 Main Street will be removed under 3rd party observation by Atlas Technical Consultants for an additional contract of \$4,750. The abandoned homes, which have been condemned for many years, will then be demolished and removed. Funding for the demolition will come from the town's allocation of federal ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) – funding Congress approved for COVID relief and economic recovery efforts.



Bridge of Flowers awarded \$2.3 Million MassWorks Grant on December 1

Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development for the Mass. Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development, came out to Shelburne Fall on Dec. 1 to announce a \$2.3 million MassWorks infrastructure improvement grant to the Shelburne Falls Fire & Water District for renovations to the Bridge of Flowers. These much-needed renovations to the Bridge will be the first in nearly 40 years. Marion Taylor led that effort in the 1980s for a bridge renovation that snowballed into a village-wide multi-million dollar downtown revitalization effort in the 1990s. Now it's time for another Bridge fix up. This grant will allow the Fire & Water District to replace the main pipe that carries water for the town of Buckland across the bridge (underneath the walking path). The interior steel stays that strengthen the bridge will be replaced. And the concrete surface cracks will get patched up. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. The Bridge of Flowers committee will be looking for temporary homes for the perennial plantings on the bridge during construction – perhaps the new “pocket park” gardens can help!

Winter Parking Ban Goes into effect December 1, 2022

The blue lights will be shown to warn people to remove vehicles from town streets during winter snow storms. Town Clerk, Joe Judd, and Highway Superintendent, Mark Shippee, are working with the FRCOG on a map showing alternate parking spaces during snow events. The map should be ready soon.

New “Winter” Transfer Station Hours start on December 6

Starting on December 6, the transfer station will be closing on Tuesdays at 4 pm instead of 7 pm. Adjust your recycling and trash runs accordingly.

Should Buckland & Shelburne Share Police Services? See the Public Forum on Nov. 16 here

A video recording by Falls Cable of the public forum is available here: <http://fallscable.com/portfolio/shared-police-services-forum-11-16/> Look for notices in this newsletter about the next public forum scheduled for February 2023. Shelburne and Buckland are currently sharing the services of police chief, Greg Bardwell this year. The goal of the working group of Buckland and Shelburne town officials is to bring a proposed InterMunicipal Agreement (IMA) for longer term sharing of police services to Town Meetings in the spring of 2023. The next public forum will seek community input on a draft version of the IMA.

Holiday Concert at Trinity Church on December 16

The Recital Chorus will present its annual Holiday Concert on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church. The program features rounds, carols, and music by Palestrina, Praetorius, Handel, Rossi, Vivaldi, and Vaughan Williams for chorus and soloists. The singers are voice students of Margery Heins from her home studio in Shelburne Falls and from GCC. Keith Rollinson will accompany. Donations at the door will benefit the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Everyone is invited to attend! Free admission - please wear a mask.

Pickleball News!

The Shelburne Recreation Committee Pickleball program has been going gung-ho this fall with five beginner lessons, five intermediate lessons, two demos and many well attended play sessions. Over 417 court hours of fun. Come join the growing pickleball community this winter in the Cowell Gym, on three well-lit courts. The December schedule includes play times for all levels, lessons, opportunities to work on your team play in anticipation of upcoming leagues..

Pickleball will be utilizing the gym Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The number of player per session is limited. Sign-up is required Cost is \$5PP per session for play or a lesson. Come join the fun.

For more information go to Shelburne Falls Pickleball or the Shelburne Recreation page on Facebook. To see the current schedule, learn more, or to sign up go to <https://bit.ly/3N3HgNb> Have questions or want to sign up for future notices, e-mail shelburnefallspickleball@gmail.com or contact Mary Lou Gallup 207-530-6316.

Open Space & Recreation Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP

We need your help! Shelburne's Open Space Committee and Recreation Committee are preparing to update our expired 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Shelburne residents, please fill out the community survey, either online (link below) or on paper. Your responses will help bring new grant money into our community and provide recreation opportunities you would like to see in Shelburne! With the town passing the Community Preservation Act in the midterm election, there will soon be a regular funding source for recreation & open space projects, so your survey choices will also be useful in guiding how the money is spent. Click the link provided to take the survey online (easiest method). Survey link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShelburneOSRP

Another option is to pick up and drop off paper copies of the survey at the: Town Hall; Arms Library; or, Shelburne Center Free Library.

Shelburne Senior Center – News & Activities

Spot the New Scams Presentation Wednesday December 7, 1-2 pm

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office will be at The Senior Center to review the latest scams and how to protect yourself from fraud. Presentation twist, it will be in Trivia Game format!

Senior Savvy Trivia Game

This is a fun, interactive game designed to test your knowledge about topics such as:

- Trending Senior Consumer Issues
- Credit Reporting and Money Management
- Phone, Internet, and Email Scams Targeted Towards Elders
- Elder Law
- The Adult Protective Services

Game questions are divided into four categories, with difficulty levels ranging from 100 to 500. Contestants will be provided questions and four possible answers. Are you up for the challenge? Please call 625-2502 to pre-register

Book Club A Novel Idea Wed., Dec. 14, 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 the second Wednesday of each month. The novel idea is to bring one of your favorite books or information 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!

Senior Learning Network Virtual Programs Tues., Dec. 6, 2 p.m.

"FDR Presidential Library and Museum-Christmas at the White House" – Jeff Urbin shares about Christmas at the Roosevelt White House.

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.
Dec. 14 - Trip to Mark Leue, the Luthier

The West County Memory Café Fri., Nov. 18, Dec, 16, 12-1:30 p.m.

The Cafe is a monthly gathering of individuals with memory loss and their care partner. Come and enjoy some lunch, an activity, socialization and meet others experiencing similar challenges. Sign up by calling Teddy at The Senior Center at 625-2502. There is no charge to attend, and donations are always welcome

Reminder: The Senior Center provides Outreach Services for residents of Shelburne. Residents who need help with Fuel Assistance, benefits applications, homecare, housing searches, connecting to local resources, or registering for Meals on Wheels can contact Teddy at 413-625-2502.

Thursday Weekly Lifepath Lunches – Meals are Thursdays at 11:30. Inside dining will allow up to 12 people to enjoy a hot plated meal, in the company of others, with safe distancing guaranteed! Monthly menus are available at the Center. Pre-registration is required by Mondays 3:30 p.m. by calling 625-2502. Suggested donation: \$3.

Yoga Every Wednesday at 8:30 am

We have a new Yoga Instructor, Kate Peppard. \$20 monthly fee. Call 413-625-2502 to register.

"Ask the Nurse" Tues. Dec. 27, 10:30-12

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

Shelburne Recreation Committee
**Youth
BASKETBALL PROGRAM**



This is a **free**, evening, drop-in program run by the Shelburne Recreation Committee at the Cowell Gym. This program is open to

all K-6 th grade Children in Buckland and Shelburne.

Skills & Drills for all!

**Scrimmaging Thrills for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders!
starts the week of December 12th.**

coed grades 1- 2 • Monday, 5:45-6:45 -coaches TBA

co-ed Kindergarten• Tuesday, 5:30- 6:30 coaches TBA

coed grades 3 to 4 • Wednesday, 6:15- 7:15 -coach- Fred Redeker

players in this 3 to 4 grade group are also welcome to play on Sat. Morning, but not required

co-ed grades 5, 6 • Thursday 5:30- 7:00 coaches- tba

players in this 5 to 6 grade group are also welcome to play on Sat. Morning, but not required

(See below for additional basketball opportunities.)

- This program will run through the first week of March.
- K-6th graders are welcome to join in at any week during this program.
- We will be looking 2 to 3 parents to take primary responsibility for grades k-2 and 5-6. A guide will be provided with games and drills to organize the hour. No experience necessary.
- Remember the Cowell Youth Basketball Program requires many parent volunteers in order to be successful!
- Fred Redeker, on behalf of Hilltown Basketball, is providing coaching staff for the 3 and 4 sessions at the Cowell Gym.

So Please Help Out!

- If you feel you can help coach or have questions, please contact
Diana Hardina at (413)625-9921, or dianahardina@gmail.com or
Fred Redeker at (413) 522-3450 or fredeker@gmail.com .



Additional basketball opportunities:

Hilltown Basketball sponsors games at the Mohawk High School on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

It also holds co-ed practices for a Hilltown team of grades 5 to 6 at Mohawk High School. Hilltown Basketball requires a \$30 fee for weekend participation. All of the Cowell Program players are welcome to participate in these games but no player is required. Please contact Fred Redeker at (413) 522-3450 or fredeker@gmail.com for more information.

Relocation of the Veterans' Memorial at BSE

Local Veterans requested that the Veteran's Monument and flag pole located on the grounds of BSE be relocated to an area that is more accessible. The MTRSD School Committee approved the relocation request and the Town is now in the process of finding a suitable location on town-owned property. The town anticipates coordinating the relocation in the Spring of 2023. Your suggestions for a suitable location are welcomed. Suitable Town owned properties include: Town Hall, Village Information Center, Arms Library, Shelburne Free Public Library, Cowell Gymnasium, and the Police Station.

Shelburne Falls Village Taskforce meets next on December 14 at 5:30 pm

Want to help revitalize Shelburne Falls? The Village Taskforce is looking at ways to continue and improve Shelburnefall.com as an information source for the Shelburne Falls village and surrounding area. It is also looking at potential models for a successor organization to the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. And the organizers of Moonlight Magic are always looking for new volunteers! Feel free to attend the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82067987432?pwd=aDR4VDV5MjVnWkx3OGJlbWNuZGxJZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 6798 7432

Passcode: 894356

If you have difficulty connecting, contact Jessica Atwood at FRCOG: jatwood@frcog.org

Community Preservation Act passes at Shelburne election

Shelburne voters approved the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as Question #5 on the Nov. 8 election ballot by a substantial margin – 457 yes votes and 322 no votes (over 200 voters left the question blank). The CPA will add a 3% surcharge on property tax bills starting July 1, 2023. The first \$100,000 of property value is exempted for all property owners from the surcharge. Low income property owners can request a complete exemption from the surcharge, as can low- and moderate-income senior property owners. It is estimated that Shelburne will raise \$90,000 in local taxes through the CPA that can be used for community improvement projects in four categories: Historic Preservation, Open Space, Recreation and Community Housing. Because voters passed the CPA at the maximum 3% surcharge level, the town is eligible to receive a 100% match from state CPA trust funds each year. If the full match is awarded, Shelburne can anticipate \$180,000 per year in revenue for community improvements. (Our neighbor towns – Conway, Sunderland, Whately, Leverett – have all successfully received a 100% state match for over a decade as CPA towns.)

The next step toward implementing the CPA law is to draft a warrant article defining how the town's Community Preservation Committee will be structured. The Committee will review proposed CPA projects, assist proponent with making their proposals eligible and worthy, and recommend projects for approval by voters at Town Meeting. The warrant article on the Committee structure will be presented for approval at Town Meeting in Spring, 2023.

From the FRCOG Public Health Team:

Holidays and Health

For many, the winter holiday season has a complicated relationship with the word "healthy"—either because we think we are not doing enough to maintain our health, or because we avoid thinking about health until January. Instead, it may be easier to ask ourselves, "What steps can I take to manage my health during the holidays?" Each of our answers may look different, and that is the point: We can each add our own ways to manage stress, incorporate exercise, and eat healthfully. Each day is an opportunity to practice healthy options.

Healthy eating

There are many, many resources that focus on nutrition around the holidays. Most offer this basic advice: act in small steps and remove the guilt. The Mayo Clinic's holiday nutrition tips suggest trying to adding in an extra serving of veggies, drinking more water, limiting soda and alcohol, and to "choose your splurges" to eat portions of seasonal food and actually enjoy it!

Exercise

Incorporating exercise can be easier when thinking of “increasing movement” over “improving fitness.” One resource—“Mass in Motion” on mass.gov—lists numerous ways to add in walks or create active TV time by using hand weights, doing calisthenics, or simply marching in place during commercial breaks. For others, setting timers to limit screen time (TV, computer and/or phone) are easy ways to purposefully make time for other things—like adding in a self-care activity or getting to bed on time.

Managing stress

Finding low-cost ways to manage stress during a busy and often expensive time is important. Examples include taking a walk or bath; calling a family member or friend; and writing in a journal. During the short daylight, simply getting outside for 10 minutes can be helpful. Starting or ending your day with a few minutes focused on breathing can feel grounding. Although we often let go of some routines and expectations, prioritizing ongoing support groups and meaningful connections can help us manage, relax and enjoy the season.

Shelburne’s Winter Parking Ban is in effect until March 31, 2023

Winter Parking Regulations

1. Snow Removal:

The Highway Department Superintendent or the Select Board may declare a “Winter Snow Event” when winter weather conditions require removing excess snow and/or ice from Town roads and streets. Winter Snow Events remain in effect until canceled and are often in force for more than one night. When the “blue” flashing lights are activated in the Village, residents are to assume that a winter snow event has been declared.

2. Overnight parking prohibited.

During a Winter Snow Event no vehicle may be parked on the streets or parking lots listed below between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. except for emergency situations involving medical, police, or fire personnel. During a Winter Snow Event vehicles may park in the off-street locations listed in paragraph #3 below.

Parking prohibited

- a. On all Streets and Roads;
- b. The parking lot behind the Greenfield Savings Bank, Keystone Market and the Art Bank Building

3. Acceptable Off-Street Parking locations:

- a. Behind Keystone Market (the second row furthest away from the building to Water Street)
- b. Cross Street parking lot
- c. Arms Academy parking lot (located on Church & Maple Streets)
- d. Cul-de-sac below the former Mole Hollow Candle (located off of Deerfield Ave.)

*Any vehicles parking in these locations must be moved within 24 hours after the Winter Snow Event ends or they will be subject to towing.

4. Penalties for violations.

- a. The owner of any vehicle parked in violation of this section shall be fined the sum of \$10 for each such violation. Each day a vehicle remains parked in violation of this section shall be considered a separate violation. In addition;
- b. During a snow event, any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be towed upon order of the Highway Department or the Police Department and the owner of said vehicle shall be responsible for the cost of said towing and any storage charges which may accrue.

Please note: it is the responsibility of each vehicle owner to ensure removal of his or her vehicle from the restricted areas during a declared Snow Event whether or not he or she has received notice.

That’s all we wrote. Send me news for January 2023 by Friday, December 30