



Community Bulletin

August 14th, 2023

Dear Shrewsbury Families,

Please note the following announcements and information related to various events or activities that may be of interest to you and your children. Announcements from non-school sources are passed on as a courtesy if they meet the requirements of the [School Committee policy](#).

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School District Items

1. [Please Note](#) – Shrewsbury Public Schools Offers Meals at No Cost for Students

Shrewsbury Public Schools will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, Shrewsbury Public Schools will offer healthy meals every school day. The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during the school year 2023-2024, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits. This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot. For more information about this program, please click [here](#).

2. [Save the Date](#) – Music Drive by the Shrewsbury Schools Music/Theater Association, September 23rd

Please save the date for the 68th annual Music Drive, taking place the morning of Saturday, September 23rd. All high school theater and music students should plan to participate in this one-time, four-hour event to sell season concert tickets in our neighborhoods and help raise funds for our theater and music departments. This one event alone earns as much as \$16,000 for use by our performing arts directors and teachers, and we need full community support to accomplish this!

We are in great need of adult drivers! Each year we need 40 to 50 parents to help drive the students out on their routes. It is a tremendous task to find enough drivers to help us in this event. Please consider helping this year! Visit myssma.com to learn more and volunteer to drive!

Community Items

1. [Please Note](#) – Shrewsbury Parks & Recreation Programs

Pre-registration is required for all of the Parks & Recreation programs. Space is limited. Visit our [website](#) for more information and registration and follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates and photos!

Fall Program Guide

Save the date! The Recreation Department's Fall Program Guide will be released on August 11th. The guide will be posted on our Facebook Page and MyRec registration site. Registration for fall programs and winter youth basketball league will open on August 24th at 10:00 a.m.

Concerts at the Park

Hit the Bus Band on Tuesday, August 22nd, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Dean Park with a BBQ fundraiser hosted by local Scout Troops

Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Senior Center (98 Maple Ave)

Food Truck Thursdays

Thursdays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Lawn

Please [click here](#) for the Parks & Recreation website.

2. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Events (New)

50+ Job Seekers Virtual Networking Group

Come meet new job seekers to expand your network, news, and views with the Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group! If you are over 50 and unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, or re-entering the job market after a gap, this group is perfect for you.

The group meets on Zoom from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on first and third Wednesday mornings, with repeat sessions on the same topics offered in the evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesday evenings. Registration is required for each session (register [here](#) for morning sessions; register [here](#) for evening sessions). This group is sponsored by more than 60 Massachusetts public libraries. Find the full list of topics and registration [here](#). This group is sponsored by more than 60 Massachusetts public libraries.

SPL Spanish Conversation Club

Are you looking for a casual space in which you can practice your Spanish and learn more about the multiple cultures of those who speak that language? Join the Spanish Conversation Club most Tuesdays at the Shrewsbury Public Library (6:00 p.m. in the Learning Lab on the second floor). No registration required. Visit our [events calendar](#) to check dates.

¿Buscas un espacio informal en el que puedas practicar tu Español y aprender más de las múltiples culturas que hablan este idioma? Únete a nuestro club de conversación la mayoría de los martes en la biblioteca pública de Shrewsbury a las 6:00 p.m. en el laboratorio del

segundo piso. No es necesario registrarse. Visita nuestro [calendario de eventos](#) para verificar citas.

Library Writing Workshops

The Shrewsbury Public Library extends a warm invitation to all writers for writing workshops! Come join fellow writers from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on third Saturdays this summer (August 19) in a space dedicated to the craft of the written word - a space that encourages improvement.

During a writing workshop, writers share their work in the hopes of receiving positive, constructive feedback and suggestions. Workshops such as this are vital to a writer's growth, as getting different perspectives can help a writer see things they might have missed about their own work. It's also a great environment for fun, light-hearted conversations!

The workshops are hosted by [InfinityEd](#) and facilitated by published writer Ashton Hooley. This program will take place in person at the library; please register separately for each session on the library's [events calendar](#).

Wellbeing Laughter

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Tuesday, August 15th at 7:00 p.m. for a workshop on Wellbeing Laughter, a health and wellness practice that frees the body and mind of stress and anxiety in a light-hearted way. It uses science-based methods such as mindful breathing, gentle movement, and healing laughter as a fun way to optimize mental and physical wellbeing. This practice brings people together and unites them in a positive, shared experience of joyful laughter. Wellbeing Laughter lifts one's mood in a matter of minutes and provides a lighter perspective on life.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. This program will take place in person at the library; please [register](#) to attend.

SPL Spanish Culture Club

The Spanish Culture Club exists to provide an open and casual learning environment outside of the classroom to promote learning and practicing the language as well as to celebrate the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries around the world. This club is not only about learning Spanish, but learning about Hispanic culture: cuisine, idioms, movies, food, and more. The group will meet most second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Public Library; no registration required. Visit the library's [events calendar](#) to confirm dates (August 23rd).

Meet the Author: Tom Ingrassia

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Thursday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation by author Tom Ingrassia, who will discuss his "author journey," the fascinating story of how his book came to be, and how he is taking it from printed word to feature film.

First published in 2013, *One Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity By Following Your Dreams* (co-authored with Jared Chrudimsky) presents the inspiring stories of sixteen people from all walks of life who have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles in order to live their dreams. Through their powerful, first-person stories, these dreamers share a road map guiding the reader to discover how to live their life with vision, courage, determination, and passion. The book is currently being adapted into a documentary film, premiering in Worcester in September.

This program will take place in person at the library; please [register](#) to attend.

Summer Scares Book Discussion

Have you read at least one of the Horror Writers Association's adult [Summer Scares 2023](#) books? Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. for a fun, informal discussion and share your thoughts! No registration required.

The books are:

[Ring Shout](#) by P. Djèlí Clark

[Catherine House](#) by Elisabeth Thomas

[The Merry Spinster](#) by Daniel M. Lavery

An Introduction to Saltwater Aquariums

Have you ever dreamed of having a vibrant, colorful aquarium in your home? Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on August 24th at 7:00 p.m. with local expert Jonathan Rainey as he discusses the basics of planning, setting up, and populating a beginner saltwater fish tank. Learn how to best balance water chemistry, implement underwater vegetation, and select the ideal tank residents, as well as how to successfully maintain the tank once it's running. This talk will cover saltwater tanks, as well as give some pointers for freshwater tanks.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. This program will take place in person at the library; please [register](#) to attend.

3. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Events for Children

We have some great events for Children happening in August at the Library!

- Mondays, August 21st - [Infant Explorers](#) - at 10:00 a.m. For ages 0-2.9. A program for our littlest patrons to explore the world around them! This sensory program will have children 0-2.9 years old explore through touch, sight, and sound. This program is intended for you to engage 1-to-1 with your child. No registration. Please take a token, one per family, available starting at 9:30 a.m.

- Mondays, August 7th-August 28th - Play Chess - 7:00 p.m. All ages welcome! No instruction, but come and play against other people. There will be boards and timers available to use. No registration required.
- Fridays through August 25th - Summer Crafternoons - 2:30 p.m. No registration required. For grades kindergarten and up. Drop in for weekly themed crafting in the Children's Program Room. Adult supervision required.
- Monday, August 14th - Buzz... the Bee is Here – Spelling Bee for Kids - 6:00 p.m. Registration required. The Library's Spelling Bee is for kids entering grades 3 and 4. Participants will be picked through a lottery system. If your child gets in, you will be contacted by August 7th. If you are interested, please send the following information to splkids@cwmares.org starting July 31st: child's name and grade; parent's name, email, and phone number.
- Wednesday, August 16th - Kids' Talent Show - 6:00 p.m. Registration required. Does your child have a special talent that they'd love to share with a crowd?! Do they sing, dance, write poetry, or tell jokes? Sign them up for a spot in our talent show! Guidelines for performers: Performances must be kept to under 4 minutes. There will only be 1 minute of time between performers, so set-up should be minimal for each performance.
- Thursday, August 24th - Popstars and Popsicles – End of Summer Party - 3:00 p.m. You did it! Now.. Join the children's librarians to celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program with popsicles and karaoke fun! While supplies last. This is an all-ages family program.

Check our [online calendar](#) for more details and registration!

4. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Employment Opportunity

The Shrewsbury Public Library is hiring a part-time Youth Services Assistant. This is a non-benefited position. The Youth Services Assistant will be part of our dynamic Youth Services team and work in conjunction with the other team members and be responsible for planning and implementing fun, educational, and STEAM-focused programs for children 0-18. Please see the [full job description](#) for more information.

5. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library: Change in Rules for Age of Students Allowed Without an Adult

Please note: Students who are in Grade 6 or younger may not be at the library without a parent or parent's representative, and students in Grades 7 & 8 may only access the library unattended without a parent or parent representative for a maximum of two hours.

We've had many discussions with our library staff and community partners to try to create a safe environment for middle school aged kids. We restricted the students to the young adult and

community commons sections of the library, offered age-appropriate activities, and volunteered to help monitor and supervise the students during the time they were in the library. These efforts did help somewhat; but, put simply, we cannot safely supervise and manage the number of students at the library. Behavioral issues also continue to impact overall safety and disturb other patrons' use of the library. There is also concern for students' safety while walking to the library and through the center of town and in the parking lot, as many children have been observed to disregard traffic.

At a properly posted public meeting, the Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously on June 20, 2023 to change the Child Safety Policy regarding when children can use the library building without adult supervision in response to the above. The updated policy, effective July 1, 2023 reads:

Children through grade six must be continually attended and supervised by a parent or parent's representative while in the library. Children in grades seven and eight may be left unattended for a maximum of two hours.

6. Save the Date – Holy Cross Crusader Community Festival, August 24th (New)

Holy Cross Athletics will be hosting its first-ever Crusader Community Festival on Thursday, August 24th on the Hart Turf beginning at 4:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity for a meet and greet with some of our student-athletes from multiple sports, and a chance to be introduced to the sports they play and to participate in other fun activities!

This event is free and open to the public, and includes activities for all in attendance, such as on-field skill stations run by Holy Cross student-athletes and photo stations.

Participants are encouraged to wear sneakers and casual clothing in anticipation of light on-field activities. Parking is available in the Luth Athletic Complex parking lot. Those looking to participate must [register](#) in advance of the event. Fans are encouraged to register as early as possible - the first 100 registrants will receive a free Holy Cross foam finger!

Following the festival, all participants are encouraged to watch the men's soccer team take on Manhattan at 6:00 p.m.

All children (aged 12 or younger) in attendance will receive one free ticket to the Holy Cross football home opener on Saturday, September 2nd at 2:00 p.m. against Merrimack. Parents/guardians and all additional family members will be able to buy a ticket at a discounted rate in celebration of Community Day. Discounted tickets will be available for purchase on site, or through a special link that will be sent out following the event.

7. Save the Date – Barefoot Half Marathon, September 3rd

If you don't have any plans for "Labor Day Weekend, we would like to invite you to the third Barefoot Half Marathon on Sunday, September 3rd at 6:30 a.m. Have you ever witnessed someone running barefoot? Do you even know about this event that has been happening in Worcester county since the pandemic? The half marathon will start in Sterling and finish at Shrewsbury High School. You are invited to "Sweat for Education" or just cheer for the runners.

This event is organized by "Nap Briye," a non-profit organization with a mission to create a digital platform to provide good quality, free, and accessible education to underprivileged children in Haiti. Our mission is to reduce the percentage of people who do not have access to education and increase the literacy rate in Haiti. The Haitian educational system yields the lowest total rate in the education realm of the Western Hemisphere. Despite being the first black independent nation in the world, Haiti's economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability, increasing violence, and unprecedented levels of insecurity, which exacerbate fragility. Education is the key to success. Without education, there will be more insecurity due to delinquency. With education, we will have hope for a better future.

You can join us and "Sweat for Education," volunteer, donate, and tell your friends and family about this event. Check our [website](#) or google 2023 Barefoot Half Marathon. Feel free to share it on your personal social media and follow us.

8. Save the Date – Pack 62 Cub Scout Hike/Scouting Information, August 26th

You're invited to enjoy a short hike with the Cub Scouts and learn more about what scouting is all about!

On Saturday, August 26th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., scouts from Pack 62 will be leading interested families on a nature scavenger hunt at the Lake Street Park (430 Lake Street). Hikes start every half hour and go for about one mile. Pack 62 leaders will be on site to answer any questions you might have about Cub Scouts. This is a great activity for K-5th grade children and their families and a chance to learn more about scouting.

Email Robert Parry-Cruwys (vendant875@gmail.com) for more information and go to the Pack [website](#) to learn more about our organization.

9. Save the Date – Worcester Children's Chorus Auditions, August 23rd

Worcester Children's Chorus auditions are open! Children and youth ages 8-18 throughout Central Massachusetts are encouraged to sign up for WCC's auditions for the 2023-2024 concert season on August 23rd from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Assumption University.

The audition fee is \$25; financial assistance for audition fee and annual tuition is available. Tuition ranges from \$625-\$750 depending on age level.

Worcester Children's Chorus provides professional-level choral singing instruction and an enriching program for each child. Weekly rehearsals lead to exciting performance opportunities locally throughout Central Massachusetts in venues like Mechanics Hall, Polar Park, or Worcester Art Museum. The music education your child or youth will gain is meaningful, serious, and fun, or as we like to say, "serious fun!" Learn more about our after-school program for youth singers in Central Massachusetts by visiting our [website](#), or [click here](#) for the audition form.

10. Save the Date – SELCO Community Open House, August 18th

SELCO will be holding its first Community Open House on Friday, August 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at SELCO's service area at 30 Municipal Drive. Parking will be available at Paton School. This event will feature tours of the Johnson Substation, Touch-A-Truck, kids activities, giveaways, Boston Trolley Dogs food truck, free popcorn, bounce house and inflatable games, information on rebates and incentives such as heat pumps, EVs, weatherization, yard equipment, solar, appliances and more, Electric Vehicle displays, SELCO Stream demo and raffle, green screen fun sponsored by Shrewsbury Media Connection, and more! Click [here](#) for the event link and [here](#) for the Facebook link.

11. Please Note – Mandarin Classes for K and 1st Grade Students

Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has a few open seats in the K and 1st grade in-person Mandarin classes. The capacity is limited to 15 students per class. Higher-level classes are available online.

Time: Sunday afternoons during the school year, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: St. John's High School, 378 Main Street, Shrewsbury

For details, please visit www.MassBCLS.org. If you have any questions, email MassBCLS@MassBCLS.org.

Youth Athletics and Activities

1. Please Note – Shrewsbury Youth Soccer Fall Season

Registration is still open for the fall season for Shrewsbury Youth Soccer minis age groups (pre-kindergarten through grade 2). Our games are currently scheduled to start on September 9th, with practices starting 1-2 weeks before. Please [click here](#) to register.

We have migrated our Registration System to Sports Connect. Some important points for registration:

- If you do not currently have a Sports Connect account, you will have to create one and add each of the players you would like to register for the fall.
- You do not have to upload a birth certificate.
- No uniform order is required for Pre-K to Grade 2 (it is provided as part of your registration).

2. Please Note – Shrewsbury Youth Lacrosse Fall Clinic Powered by Scoops Lacrosse

Starting September 10th, Scoops Lacrosse will be running a 5-week fall lacrosse clinic open to boys and girls ages 3-8 in Shrewsbury. Scoops Clinics are designed for kids who are interested in learning as well as continuing their development of lacrosse. Kids will be broken into different groups based on age and/or skill levels. Most importantly, Scoops Clinics are designed for maximum amounts of fun, confidence building, and pure lacrawsomeness. The only equipment necessary is a lacrosse stick. We are pad-free at Scoops.

Click [here](#) to register. Reach out to alison.smith@shrewsburylacrosse.com with any questions!

3. Please Note – Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers

Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers is offering a 10-week program for grades 5 and up. No experience is required to participate! Participants receive an introduction to volleyball, learn from trained coaches, develop skills, and build a passion for the game. Our inclusive club brings kids and young adults (up to age 24) with and without disabilities together, providing enriching experiences for all. Our programs provide our community with the opportunity to increase physical activity, create new friendships, develop new skills, increase independence, and experience success.

The Blazers meet at the Open Sky Community Services Gym (4 Mann Street, Worcester). The program begins on Saturday, September 9th. Registration day is on August 22nd. The program is a collaboration between Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers and Open Sky Community Services' Community Membership Department. Please click [here](#) for the registration form and additional information.

Ask about our volunteer and mentorship opportunities! For more information, please reach out to our program contact, Susan Dunshee, at worcblazers@gmail.com or (508) 277-6986 or visit www.worcblazers.com.

4. Please Note – Shrewsbury Little League Girls Softball Fall Registration

Learn and play softball in a competitive and fun environment. The season runs from September 9th through October 22nd and is open to ages 4-16. No experience necessary. Practices will be held 1-2 times per week after school or on weekends, with one game per week held on weekends. Click [here](#) to register. Non-Shrewsbury players are welcome if your town does not offer a fall program. Any questions? Please email us at shrewsburygsb@gmail.com.
