



Community Bulletin

August 1st, 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](#).

School District Items

1. [Please Note](#) – Bus Privilege Registration 2023-2024 **(New)**
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Community Items

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12. [Save the Date](#) – India Society of Worcester’s India Day, August 5th
13. [Save the Date](#) – SELCO Community Open House, August 18th

Youth Athletics and Activities

1. [Please Note](#) – Take Charge Hoops Basketball Clinic, August 8th-11th
2. [Please Note](#) – Shrewsbury Little League Girls Softball Fall Registration

School District Items

1. Please Note – Bus Privilege Registration 2023-2024 (New)

Please note that the Powerschool [parent portal](#) is open from August 1, 2023 through August 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM for 2023-2024 bus registrations. For all the new families who just moved to town, welcome! Please register for your children's bus service at the parent portal.

For all late registrations that missed the deadline of June 30th, there will be a \$50 late fee automatically applied to your account when you register. For the families who registered but didn't pay before June 30th, there will be a \$50 late fee automatically applied to your account when you pay.

*Bus routes will be generated and released on August 21, 2023 for the students who registered and paid **before the deadline of August 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM**. Please note that registrations and payments received after August 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM may not be processed until up to two weeks after the start of the school year due to the potential need to rearrange routes due to late registrations. This means that current students not registered and paid by August 11 may not have transportation until September 12.*

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

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!

3. Please Note – Kindergarten Summer Fun Program

The Summer Fun Program is a great way to prepare your child for the start of kindergarten. Students will become familiar with their school building and experience the routines of a typical day in a kindergarten class. They will leave feeling more confident and ready for the first day of school!

All preschool students who will be starting kindergarten at Shrewsbury Public Schools in the fall of 2023 are eligible to register. The program will run in each of the five elementary schools, so please register for the location where your child will be attending kindergarten.

Cost: \$100*

Dates: Monday August 7th – Thursday August 10th

Hours: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Locations: Beal School, Coolidge School, Paton School, Floral Street School, Spring Street School

*Financial aid is available. Please contact Karen Isaacson, Director of Extended Learning, for more information at kisaacson@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Please note: Each class is taught by one of the kindergarten teachers at Shrewsbury Public Schools, but it may not be your child's specific teacher or classroom. Visit our [website](#) for more information on how to register.

Community Items

1. Save the Date – Purgatory Chasm Hike with Cub Scout Pack 62, August 12th (New)

Interested in a fun, short hike through the rocks and paths of Purgatory Chasm? Then join the scouts of Pack 62 on Saturday, August 12th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. as we travel on this half-mile trail. Will you dare to climb through Fat Man's Misery? All participants should bring plenty of water, good hiking/climbing shoes or sneakers, and sun protection.

Open to all residents of Shrewsbury. Cub Scouts are open to boys and girls from K-4th grade. To learn more about Pack 62, email Cubmaster Rob Parry-Cruwys (vendant875@gmail.com) or visit the [Pack website](#).

2. Save the Date – Worcester Children's Chorus Auditions, August 23rd (New)

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.

3. Save the Date – Barefoot Half Marathon, September 3rd (New)

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.

4. Please Note – Community Health Assessment (New)

A CHA, or a Community Health Assessment, is a way of gathering information about what the community's needs and resources are when it comes to being healthy. A CHA should answer the question: What does a healthy region look like and what more do we need to do to get there?

The 2024 CHA will bring together information on the health of the Greater Worcester region from varying data sources and through information provided by the community. We encourage anyone who works or resides in any of the following communities to complete the survey:

- City of Worcester
- Town of Grafton
- Town of Shrewsbury
- Town of West Boylston

The Worcester Division of Public Health, lead agency of the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA), in partnership with UMass Memorial Health, Fallon Health, and the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester is leading the effort. Other community organizations serve in an advisory capacity for the CHA including but not limited to local governments, non-profits, and healthcare institutions.

A CHA is meant to be a tool for the community to know more about the health concerns, resources, and priorities of the residents, students, and workers of the region. A well-done CHA ensures that resources go towards the issues that are most pressing, that organizations will work together to improve health in key areas, and that decisions are made with health in mind.

Please [click here](#) to take the 2024 Community Health Assessment. The deadline to respond is August 18th. We want to hear from you! Thank you for your valued input!

5. 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](#).

7 Scientific Reasons to Meditate Now

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Tuesday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. with Manish Saggar, PhD and Assistant Professor in Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, for a virtual presentation of neuroscientific data on how regular meditation practices improve physical, mental, and emotional health. He will also discuss how happiness and harmony can be gained by focusing one's attention during meditation.

Dr. Saggar directs the Brain Dynamics Lab at Stanford University, which is dedicated to developing computational methods for neuroimaging data to better understand individual differences in brain functioning. He received his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin and completed his postdoctoral training at Stanford. As part of his doctoral work, he developed computational methods to understand how brain activity changes with intensive meditation training. This program will take place virtually on Zoom; please [register](#) to attend.

Get Started with Libby

Want access to ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more, anytime and anywhere? You can with Libby! Bring your device and join the Shrewsbury Public Library for a class in our Learning Lab to get set up and familiar with the Libby app. The next session will be Friday, August 4th at 2:30 p.m. Registration is required; please visit our [events calendar](#) to sign up for your preferred date.

SPL August Movie Matinee: A Man Called Otto

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library for our Movie Matinee! A different film will be screened monthly in person at the library on a Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

On August 5th, come enjoy a screening of *A Man Called Otto* (2022 | Rated PG-13): "Otto [Tom Hanks] is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around." No registration required.

Effective Alzheimer's Communication Strategies

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Wednesday, August 9th at 7:00 p.m. to learn about the ways that different stages of Alzheimer's and other dementias affect an individual's ability to communicate and to get tips on better communicating with people living with the disease. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association. This program will take place in person at the library; please [register](#) to attend.

The Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation

Take a fun and enlightening journey through Boston Red Sox history on Thursday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. with the Shrewsbury Public Library and Martin Gitlin, author of *The Ultimate Boston Red Sox Time Machine Book*. This presentation features exciting and nostalgic videos of the greatest and most fascinating players, teams, events, and moments in franchise history. The program also includes trivia questions for patrons to ponder and covers Sox history from the Royal Rooters, who launched Red Sox Nation, to Babe Ruth, to Ted Williams, to The Impossible Dream Season of 1967, to Lynn, Rice, and '75, to the heartbreak of 1986, all the way to the four World Series championships and beyond. It will conclude with a question-and-answer period. Author Martin Gitlin will have autographed and personalized copies of his book available online following the program.

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

Classical Guitar Concert with Francesco Barone

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Saturday, August 12th at 2:00 p.m. for a concert with award-winning guitarist Francesco Barone. The first half of the program will feature music of the baroque and classical periods, including Mauro Guliani's Grande Sonata Eroica, as well as Lute Suite no. 1 by Johann Sebastian Bach. The second half will include music written in the 20th century, including Frank Martin's Quatre Pieces Breves (1933) and The Elves Suite (1984), a piece written by living Russian composer Nikita Koshkin.

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

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.

6. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Events for Children (New)

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

- Mondays, August 7th and 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.
- Monday, August 7th - Family Disney Trivia - 6:00 p.m. For all ages. Registration required. Do you love everything Disney?! Make your team and head to the library for the most magical trivia of the year! You'll get free pizza too! Registration is required. All ages welcome.
- 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.
- Wednesday, August 9th - Mission: Space - 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A and B. Explore the solar system and learn about space, no rocket needed! For kids ages 5+. 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 - Buzzz... 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.. Jjoin 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!

7. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Employment Opportunity (New)

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.

8. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library: Message from Library Trustees (New)

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.

9. Please Note – Shrewsbury Parks & Recreation Summer Programs (New)

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!

Youth Sailing - Offering sessions the week of August 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for ages 9-12. This program is being offered through a partnership with the Regatta Point Community Sailing and Parks & Recreation! Cost is \$495.

Concerts at the Park

- Holdin' Back the 60's Band on Tuesday, August 1st, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Dean 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

Food Truck Festival

Friday, August 4th, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Maple Ave Fields. Free and open to the public! Event includes 12 food trucks, artisan vendors, beer garden, inflatables, and other activities for kids.

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.

10. Please Note – Homeless/Migrant Family Assistance in Shrewsbury

On Friday, May 19, 2023 at approximately 4:30 PM, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), contacted the Town of Shrewsbury to inform Officials of the temporary placement of 12 families at a lodging facility in Shrewsbury until May 29, 2023. Additional information has been provided as of Tuesday, May 30, 2023 from DHCD advising that there are 40 families placed at the Shrewsbury lodging facility until further notice.

Effective Tuesday, May 30, 2023, a donation collection bin has been placed outside of the Shrewsbury Town Hall, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA. Donations may be dropped off during business hours and the bins will be monitored continuously by Town Staff. Below is a list of in-kind donations that are needed to support the families:

- Diapers (all sizes) and wipes
- Personal Care Items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, chapstick, feminine hygiene products, shaving cream, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc.)
- Ziploc Bags

- Laundry Detergent (pods only)
- New Children's Clothing (undergarments, socks, shoes for ages infant - 17)
- Over the counter medication for adults, children and infants (Tylenol, Motrin, Advil and Pedialyte, etc.)

For those who would like to provide assistance or additional support to the families, the Town of Shrewsbury will be accepting monetary donations to support the individuals and families at the shelter. Checks can be made out to the Town of Shrewsbury and should note Migrant/Homeless Shelter in the memo and sent to, or dropped off at, Town Hall, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Monetary donations will also be accepted online through [this portal](#).

For more information, please find this link to the original Press Release of May 25, 2023.

11. Please Note – "Entrepreneurial Skills to Build Your Best Future" Student Workshop

"Entrepreneurial Skills to Build Your Best Future" is a workshop experience designed to provide students with an introduction to entrepreneurial thinking and skills. This program is for incoming grade 7-12 students who own businesses, are interested in starting businesses, or are interested in entrepreneurship as a career path.

More than ever, young people are wanting to pursue entrepreneurial paths - but how can they know where to start? In this workshop, students will explore the mindset and tools that will help them take that first step.

The workshop will be led by Tim Hally and Justin Matsen, two Shrewsbury High School alumni and owners of Munq, a creative agency. They've built this workshop with material taught by Tim to undergraduate students at Clark University's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department.

This program will be held from August 14th through August 17th at Oak Middle School media center from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Twenty-five spots are available. Tuition is \$385 per student. Please [click here](#) to register your student or contact Tim Hally at thally@munqcreative.com if you have any challenges covering the tuition. We are here to help!

12. Save the Date – India Society of Worcester's India Day, August 5th

India Society of Worcester invites the public to "India Day," a free celebration of 60 years of service to the Worcester area, at the DCU Center on August 5th. Please email ID23@iswonline.org if you want to sponsor, or have a booth or choreograph, or if you have any questions. For more information, please see the [flier](#), [website](#), or [Facebook page](#).

13. 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.

Youth Athletics and Activities

1. Please Note – Take Charge Hoops Basketball Clinic, August 8th-11th (New)

Shrewsbury High School boys basketball coaches, Adrian Machado and Gerry Nowosacki, are sponsoring a 4-day basketball clinic for boys and girls in grades 3 through 12. The focus will be on individual skills through the use of time-oriented drill stations. The goal will be to learn, relearn, and execute the fundamentals of basketball, enhance one's skills, and be a better player and teammate.

The clinic will take place at the Shrewsbury High School gymnasium from Tuesday, August 8th through Friday, August 11th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For more information and to register, please [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Gerry Nowosacki at (508) 842-6014 or gym21rat@aol.com.

2. 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.
