Times of Shrewsbury

April 2012

ODE TO THE MIGHTY MAPLE

A couple of 60° days got the sugaring season off to a running start up here in the hills of Vermont recently.

Sugaring season has always been a very special time of year for me. My father was an amazing Sugeriar, innovative and well respected. Syrup ran in his veins. He was building evaporators up until just last year. One of his favorite stories was being over in Okinawa, Japan, and waking up one morning with a severe bout of homesickness—something he rarely claimed. One call later that day confirmed the first run of sap, so Dad grabbed some time off and beat it back to the good ole USA, in time to help with the majority of the boiling.

Dad said time and time again *"I smell the sap,"* and he would usually be dead on in his appraisal of what day would be the first day...the first day where the sun made the trees warm enough to begin to wake from their winter hibernation. Dad could also tell the second the season was over. Sap ran in his veins. He lived it, breathed it, dreamt it.

It was only natural that it passed down to me, his offspring, born just in time for sugaring. Mom's favorite story was that within my first month of life, Dad brought me to the sugarhouse the first day of boiling and gently held me over the evaporator, telling me to breath deep and enjoy because I would be smelling it all my life. She claims I was baptized right there by the sugaring gods.

Sugaring season was always "Dad and Me" time. Knee high, I remember trekking out to the front yard and learning to tap and hang buckets, then hauling it in the house to have it boil away on the wood stove, never making it to syrup. The smell of the steam, however, sweetened the house for weeks. It was long hikes to the sugarhouse out in the middle of nowhere, boiling with wood by kerosene lantern light. It was my job to can the syrup, as well as to eat as much as I could. I never got tired of eating the stuff and never got syrup belly.

I remember the food: hot dogs and hard-boiled eggs cooked in the evaporator; the dill pickles, ice cold out of a snow bank; the ham and cheese sandwiches with mustard and iceberg lettuce. Every year about this time, I just have to go out and buy my annual head of iceberg to go with my ham and cheddar cheese sandwich with my mother's baked beans and potato salad. All fished out of the lovingly made refrigerator, a wooden box buried in a snow bank.

The cold trip into the warm sugarhouse. The sound of the sap hitting the collections tank. The taste of it on my tongue. The occasional twig or beetle floating to the surface, before the sap made its final journey to the evaporator where it came to maturity. My Dad tweaking my nose and calling me Nut. The smell of the earth as she gently awoke around me. Thawing mud, the sharp tang of pine. The scent and taste of almost frozen water from a stream. The feel of the sun as it warmed my chilled skin.

This year, I cobbled together a couple of buckets that Raven dug out of a snow bank. Dirty but without holes. Some big blue taps I found, left over from 1978. Two old metal things I fashioned into bucket holders. And then, the drill. Of course as luck would have it, I couldn't find the right drill bit, so I ended up using one several sizes too small. As the three of us plus the dog stood there I drilled and drilled and re-drilled, trying to bore the hole large enough to accommodate the tap, and I could hear my father laughing at the sheer antics of it all, while gently chastising me that I need to be more respectful to the tree next year.

Finally! Mission accomplished. The sap was running into the hung buckets. The smell of excitement and sap was in the air. The temps being as warm as they were, a collection was in order the next morning, and the sap spent its day cooking away on the stove until it was halfway to syrup. The color started to change, the flavor developing, but not thick enough yet. I started with 3 gallons and cooked it down to about 3 cups, so I am going to leave it to you to figure out the finer parts of tapping, collecting and boiling sap into syrup. You could also visit your favorite local sugarhouse, as they could accommodate you in the sap department.

By Hilary Adams
thedomesticdiva.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Note of Thanks

A note of thanks is long overdue from the Bell family on Cheerio Hill. On November 24, ironically Thanksgiving morning, a fire broke out in the basement of our in-law addition to our log home. In retrospect of an event like this, you come away with many perspectives. Ours has been how much we have to be thankful for, but we are acutely aware of how many factors can change this scenario for any of us at any given time. We feel for those who have suffered from Hurricane Irene, fire or whatever, who have not been so fortunate.

First of all, how often could fire trucks have made it up a driveway like ours on Nov. 24th? We are 100% certain that we'd have stood out in the cold on most Thanksgiving mornings and have had to watch our entire home, contents, and memories disappear. Next, we doubt that the anonymous hero we want to thank receives the *Times of Shrewsbury*, but we've learned that the first call to 911 was a person traveling Rt 103 northwest in the early a.m. and someone spotted smoke in the beginning stages way up on the hill. Not only was he/she aware enough to note it as suspicious but pulled in to Mike and Chris Stewart's to get a more accurate address. Wow! Thank you, whoever you are. It's very likely you saved lives. If anyone can share with us who that person is, please do so.

Now, to the teamwork of the trained and heroic personnel of the Shrewsbury, Clarendon and Mt. Holly Fire Departments who sprang out of bed, gave up their planned deer hunts or holiday mornings with family and guests, without hesitation. Thank you once again from the bottom of our hearts. We have no doubt that their speed and skills were what kept this rapid moving fire from getting a hold of the rest of the house.

Lastly, to all who have heard of our mishap and offered help in the form of financial or material support, we thank you, but we want you to know we are fine. The emotional support and the love and the hugs are always greatly appreciated and needed.

So, we are back in the home we started out with and are choosing to box off the "addition" and plan to simplify it into a bedroom, walk in closet and small bath since Mary's folks are no longer with us. We are doing a lot of the remodel ourselves as time and funds allow.

Oh...we wanted to thank the "next generation" of fire department volunteers who "suited up" and came out and froze that morning. A lot were Little Leaguers that I coached long ago—young men now. Our future is in good hands. Enough said.

We ALL thank you,

The Bells—Regan, Mary, Jonathan, Amelia, and Max and Hunter

(**Letters** *continued on page 4)*

The Times of Shrewsbury

The *Times of Shrewsbury* is published monthly February through December. It is compiled by volunteers from material submitted by residents with the goal being to keep townspeople informed of what is happening in Shrewsbury. The views and opinions expressed in articles are solely those of the author and not necessarily those of the editors.

All submissions must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the submitting person. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing for length and clarity. If Letters to the Editor exceed 350 words, they will be subject to editing for length. Any opinion piece will be deemed to be a Letter to the Editor subject to this policy. All items including letters are printed at the editors' discretion. A letter writer of any letter that names a Shrewsbury resident or organization in a critical manner must get copies to that resident or organization and to the *Times* by the 10th of the month prior to publication or it will not run. If the named individual or organization indicates in writing to the writer and to the *Times* that they choose not to respond, the letter will run. If the named entity responds, the response and initial letter will run in the same issue.

There is no charge for: jokes, poems, essays, nature reports, family event announcements, or feature articles or letters that are non-political and non-commercial.

Articles and Advertisements: Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication; exceptions will be announced in the prior month's *Times*. If you have any questions, please email, or call Sandra Korinchak at 773-8930 ext. 223 or Chryl Martin at 492-2244.

Best Formats: *Articles:* Word or in an email message with no formatting. *Photos:* JPG. *Ads:* PDF file or Word document.

Monthly Advertisement Fees: Full page $40; 1/2 page $20; 1/4 page $10; Business card $5; Classified ad (15 words) $2. Payment is due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Co-editors: Sandra Korinchak & Chryl Martin

The Shrewsbury Times, P. O. Box 373, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Email: shrewsburytimes@gmail.com

Online: www.shrewsburyvt.org and www.rutlandrpc.org/townnewsletters.ph

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 7	10-12noon	*Vegetable Seed Distribution Day at the Meeting House
Apr 8		*Transfer Station will be closed
Apr 9	1-7pm	*Transfer Station will be open
Apr 15	4pm	*Book Club discussion at Shrewsbury Library
Apr 18	12noon	Prayer Shawl group meets at home of Judy Pitts. Please bring a bag lunch and let Judy know if you can attend: 775-0678. All are welcome.
Apr 19	10:30am	Parent Recess Group at the Shrewsbury Meeting House
Apr 21	7:30pm	*Writers Read program at the Library
Apr 24	6-9pm	*Town wide conversation about Shrewsbury at the Meeting House
Apr 24	12noon	Senior luncheon at The Doll House. Please call Tess Williams 492-2187 for reservations. All are welcome!
Apr 27	7:30pm	Gardeners' Roundtable program at the Library
Apr 28	6pm	*Mardi Gras Party with Muddy Rhodes Blues Band at Meeting House
May 1	7pm	*Shrewsbury Historical Society Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at the Museum
May 5		Green-Up Day (watch for news in the May issue)

* see elsewhere in newsletter for details

Deadline for submission to the *Times of Shrewsbury* is the 20th of each month

REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Board of Selectmen Meeting	1st & 3rd Wednesdays—7:00pm at Town Office
Bone Builders	Tuesdays & Thursdays—9:00am at Meeting House
Library Trustees' Meeting	2nd Tuesday—7:00pm at Shrewsbury Library
Mill River Union School Board Mtg	1st & 3rd Wednesdays—7:00pm at Mill River Union High School
Pierce's Store Take-Out Meals	Friday nights
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Mondays—7:30pm at Town Office
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Sundays—10:00am at Shrewsbury Library, upstairs
Shrewsbury Community Church Worship	Sundays—10:00am at Center Church
Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum	Open July thru October on Sundays 1:00-3:00pm
Shrewsbury School District Board Mtg	2nd & 4th Mondays—6:30pm at Mountain School
Shrewsbury Sno-Birds	2nd Tuesdays—7:00pm at South Station Restaurant
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Dept.	Thursdays—7:00pm at Cuttingsville Station
Conservation Commission	(February-May: 1st Monday—5pm) & (June-January: 1st Tuesday—5pm)

Shrewsbury Town Website: www.shrewsburyvt.org

Town Clerk's Office 492-3511
Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm; Closed Friday

Town Treasurer's Office
492-3558 or 492-3487
Wed 5pm-7pm

Transfer Station
Sun 8am-4pm & Wed 1pm-7pm

Shrewsbury Town Library 492-3410
Mon, Fri & Sat 10am-Noon
Tues & Thurs 7pm-9pm
Wed 10am-5pm AND 7pm-9pm

Cuttingsville Post Office 492-3585
Mon-Fri Counter 8am-11am & 12:30pm-4:30pm,
Lobby 7:30am-5:00pm
Saturday Counter 8am-10:30am; Lobby 7:30am-10:30am

Meeting House 492-6050 (Reservations: 492-3649)
Dog Warden Matt Danaher 492-3442
Shrewsbury Constables Matt Danaher 492-3442
and Pete Lajoie 492-3671
Emergency Management Irene Gordon 492-8282
Ambulance 773-1700
CVPS power outage 1-800-451-2877
Medical—Fire—Police Emergency Dial 911
Rutland Hospital 775-7111

MESSAGE FROM MONTPELIER

Legislative Report from Rep. Dennis Devereux

The heavy load placed upon our Committee on Government Operations was apparent the first week in Montpelier. Not only did we start making changes to legislative districts, but also realized that we would be required to quickly pass language to address the December court determination that keeps property tax adjustment payments from being a public record. The Town of Manchester had won its appeal to keep the information private. The bill (H.515) would hold harmless those responsible for disclosing property tax adjustment information prior to January 12, 2012. There is still an ongoing discussion in the Ways and Means Committee on how our municipal officials will provide this needed information in the future.

After weeks of discussing the population shifts that had occurred during the last ten years, it became apparent that Burlington would indeed get its tenth representative. This would force our committee to consolidate a district in the southern part of the state. Several plans and maps were offered after the decision that a district in Rutland County would be consolidated. I presented a final map to the committee that would not divide any town, dismantle an existing district, nor place any incumbents against each other in a single-member district in the county. This was not acceptable, though it did seem to some the more fair option. The final map voted out of the committee, which I opposed, separated the present district of Wallingford, Shrewsbury, and Tinmouth into three different directions, and removes some people from the Town of Wells to ensure that the numbers meet our criteria. The deviation from the standard set at 4172 was a minus 9.91% to a plus 8.99%, or a total district population between 3759 and 4547. The new proposed district will most likely be made up of the Towns of Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury. The bill has now moved to the senate, where they are working to adjust state senate districts. When Act 153 passed two years ago, it had my support because it started the discussion about how we might reduce the number of supervisory union offices to save money. I think many of us also saw it as a chance to improve some opportunities for students.

We constantly hear that there are too many superintendents in our state, and teachers mention there is too much administration. It became apparent during the school board supervisory planning meetings that a real concern is whether a newly created district board could have the power to close a school within the district. Much of the discussion I heard was about not having enough of an opportunity to make comments because it was moving too quickly, and the transition costs to implement the merger. My concerns about this cost were addressed in the bill (H.753), which provides reimbursement for consulting services at each step of the process. It would provide a grant of $150,000, less the previously paid services, to help with the incurred cost of combining offices. With the shifting of some services to the supervisory union level, I understand the budgets would likely increase. I approached some members of the Education Committee that I would be offering an amendment to allow a vote on supervisory Union budgets by Australian ballot for towns that vote in that manner. They are convinced we need to have more discussion, and do plan to take additional testimony for a future bill. By the time you read this article, the bill should be over to the senate, and hopefully they will not change its intent.
Please contact me at ddevereux@leg.state.vt.us, or with a message at 800-322-5616 or 802-259-2460.

Submitted by Representative Dennis Devereux

(continued from page 2)

Letters to the Editors

Littering Is Illegal

"PLEASE DO NOT LITTER ALONG OUR ROAD-SIDES!" Littering is illegal.

Aluminum beverage containers, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, and packaging do not decompose. It is needless for folks to litter and others pick it up! We all have some sort of rubbish bag in our vehicles. So use them and dispose or recycle it properly, not on our roadways!

See the Vermont Litter Laws, 24 V.S.A. § 2201 at www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes

Submitted by Lavinia Seide

Corrections to Town Report

At the Town Information Meeting, these corrections were made to the 2011 Town Report:
Dedication: Dick Adams was President of the Rutland County Maple Producers from 1969 to 1975.
Results of the 2011 Annual Meeting: Article 9 should have been 195 “Yes” and 61 “No”.
Other Town Officers: Kathleen Beauchain should be listed as Assistant Treasurer, and the names of Cynthia Thornton (Conservation Commission and Green-up Day Coordinator), Deborah Weaver (Conservation Commission), and Bruce Bullock (Development Review Board) were spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the errors.

Shrewsbury Board of Auditors

Shrewsbury Town Voting Results

One Moderator	1-year term – Eldred French
One Selectboard Member	3-year term – Bert Potter
One Town Clerk	3-year term – Mark Goodwin
One Town Treasurer	3-year term – Linda McGuire
One Auditor	3-year term – Jonathan Gibson
One Lister	3-year term – Steven Nicholson
One Collector of Delinquent Taxes	3-year term – Randy Page
One Grand Juror	1-year term – Barry Griffith
One Town Agent	1-year term – Barry Griffith
One 1st Constable	1-year term – Matt Danaher
One 2nd Constable	1-year term – Pete Lajoie
One Cemetery Commissioner	3-year term – George Richards (Write In)

2. Shall the Town approve a budget of **$3,451,611**, and appropriate and expend **$524,501**, to be raised by taxes or other revenues, to defray the general expenses of the Town, including highways? **Yes 258** **No 76**
3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$1,500** for the Town Office Reserve Fund? **Yes 245** **No86**
4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$1,500** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund? **Yes 260** **No76**
5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund? **Yes 249** **No 83**
6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$50,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund? **Yes 270** **No 83**
7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund? **Yes 240** **No93**
8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$26,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund? **Yes 260** **No 76**
9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$12,000** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House? **Yes 240** **No 95**
10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$25,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department? **Yes 263** **No 71**
11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library? **Yes 224** **No 110**
12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$2,000** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society? **Yes 223** **No 111**
13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$4,224** for dues to the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service? **Yes 279** **No 54**
14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District? **Yes 213** **No 120**
15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **$2,526** to help support the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice? **Yes 227** **No 57**
16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization? **Yes 250** **No 83**
17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? **Yes 242** **No 70**
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$700** to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging? **Yes 229** **No 84**
19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$1,192** to help support Rutland Mental Health Services? **Yes 219** **No97**
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$150** to help support the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter? **Yes 240** **No 77**

(continued on next page)

Shrewsbury Town Voting Results *(continued from previous page)*

21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$600** to help support BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont? **Yes 181** **No 33**
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$600** to help support the Rutland County Parent-Child Center? **Yes 193** **No 18**
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$500** to help support Vermont Adult Learning/Rutland County Basic Education? **Yes 206** **No 109**
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$500** to help support NeighborWorks of Western Vermont? **Yes 182** **No 130**
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$170** to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living? **Yes 211** **No 101**
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$35** to support the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council? **Yes 205** **No 105**
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **$500** to support the American Red Cross/Vermont & The NH Valley? **Yes 212** **No 98**
28. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 8:00 P.M., Friday, October 12, 2012? **Yes 281** **No 32**
29. Shall the voters vote to exempt from property taxes for a period of five years the properties which are located at 9800 Cold River Road and 23 Shunpike Road, and which are owned by the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department and are used exclusively for the purposes of such organization? **Yes 259** **No 55**
30. In the light of the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that equates money with political speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Shrewsbury vote on March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not political speech, that corporations are not persons under the United States Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the Town send its resolution to the Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure? **Yes 235** **No 73**

Shrewsbury School District Results

Article 1 To elect a town school district moderator for a term of one year. **Eldred French**

Article 2 To elect a town school director for a term of 3 years. **Adrienne Raymond**

Article 3 To elect a director to the Mill River Union School District #40 Board for a term of two years of a three year term. **Sally Snarski**

Article 4 Shall the town school district raise and appropriate the sum of $10,000 to be placed in the building maintenance reserve fund? **Yes 222** **No 111**

Article 5 Shall the voters of the Shrewsbury School District raise, appropriate and expend the amount of $1,004,392 for the operational expenditures of said school district, which includes the elementary school? **Yes 216** **No 118**

Article 6 Shall the voters of the Shrewsbury Town School District authorize the Shrewsbury Board of School directors to apply $14,348.00 of the bus replacement reserve fund to pay the Rutland South Supervisory Union's assessment for the Shrewsbury Town School District's share of the cost of the purchase or lease of buses by the Supervisory Union that provide transportation for Shrewsbury students, with the remaining balance to be transferred to the building maintenance reserve fund? **Yes 237** **No 97**

Article 7 Shall the town school district vote to authorize the board of school directors to borrow money temporarily from time to time as may be required to pay orders? **Yes 234** **No 99**

Mill River School District Results

ARTICLE 7 Shall the voters of the Mill River Union School District adopt an expenditure budget of $9,768,291 for school year 2012-2013? (by Australian Ballot) **Yes 764** **No 579**

(continued on next page)

Shrewsbury Town Voting Results *(continued from previous page)*

Presidential Primary Results

Democratic	Barack Obama	103
Republican	Newt Gingrich	14
	Jon Huntsman	1
	Ron Paul	46
	Rick Perry	0
	Mitt Romney	71
	Rick Santorum	46

Thanks to all the Poll Workers and Counters !!!!

Martha Sirjane, Joan Aleshire, Bill & Katharine Clancy, Barb & Barry Griffith, Susan Jensen, Betsy Jesser, Eliza Mabry, Gerry & Chryl Martin, Randy Page, Nelson Haley, Doris Perry, Adrienne Raymond, Bill & Donna Smith, Theresa Williams, Sharon Winnicki, Taffy & Hull Maynard, Joan Judge, John Wood, John Berryhill, Ann Vanneman, Lee Wilson, Mark Youngstrom, Andy Richards Peelle, Carol Goodwin, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt, Sally Jones, Julanne Sharrow, Mike Stewart

2012 is a Busy Election Year:

- Vermont State Primary: Tuesday August 28, 2012 (State Offices)
- General Election: Tuesday November 6, 2012 (Presidential Election, State Offices, Justice of the Peace)

Submitted by Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk

FROM THE SELECTBOARD

Hello neighbors,

The winter that wasn't. Wow, this weather is just not normal. I've got wood frogs and newts in my pond on March 19th. Unheard of in my time here. So another town Meeting has come and gone. All items passed as far as I'm aware of. Here are the statistics: of 886 registered voters in the Town of Shrewsbury, 339 turned out to vote. 38%. A generous count at the informational meeting says that approximately 60 of us turned up. By my own observation there was one individual in the room under forty. Not including the Shrewsbury Mountain Schoolers providing food and drink. Would a return to Town Meeting—voting from the floor—increase participation? I am conducting an unofficial survey. Let me know what you think. Call me at home, 492-3207, or email me: woodyselect@gmail.com. Or be daring and come to a Selectboard meeting—first and third Wednesdays.

Thank you to all who were elected or appointed to various posts and agreed to serve. Perhaps this is a place to insert that many people have served for multiple terms and are tired and would like a break.

In other news we continue to be baffled by the way FEMA operates. We are diligently submitting our paperwork and eagerly await some responses. The process is slow. Repairs around town will continue. We have applied for deadline extensions. Not all the projects we have to undertake can be accomplished in one season. The Brown Bridge has been denied any FEMA action. We are in the process of appealing.

The Listers have concluded their re-appraisal process for 2011. The last outstanding piece of litigation has been settled. Thank you Betsy, Sharon, and Steven. On to the Grand List 2012.

Happy Spring to all. Snow in April? What's your prediction?

Submitted by John Wood

Dog License

April 1st is the last day to license your dog without paying a late fee. State law requires that all dogs or wolf-hybrids over six months old be registered with the Town Clerk.

Outdoor Burning

Always Get A Permit
Call Forest Fire Warden:
Kevin Brown 775-6194(H) or 775-5518(W)
Deputy Warden: Al Ridlon, Jr. 492-3722(H)

Submitted by Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk

SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

They Come in Threes for the SVFD

In the SVFD, it has often been said, "They come in threes," and the month of March was no exception. On a balmy St. Patrick's day afternoon, the tones went out for the SVFD to respond in Cuttingsville where there was an odor of LP gas. Upon investigation, a remnant of TS Irene was found stuck in the beams under the Route 103 Bridge in the middle of Cuttingsville. A 100 pound LP gas tank that had obviously lodged under the center of the bridge during last year's flooding was emitting a faint odor of gas. Unless one is directly under the bridge, this tank is nearly invisible. Using some ingenuity and careful thought, the department placed an extension ladder up under the beam next to the tank over the rushing Mill River. After a rope belay was set up for safety, Assistant Chief, Al Ridlon Jr., carefully climbed the ladder and examined the main valve of the tank and found it open. He also checked the pressure relief valve and tapped the tank to ensure that it was empty. Satisfied that there was only a residual odor and that the tank was indeed empty and not dangerous, the SVFD left it in place for later removal when the water level is lower and proper equipment can be brought under the bridge. This will be a job for the gas company which was notified. Had the tank been full of LP gas, the situation would certainly have been quite dangerous.

On the very next day, the department was toned to a brush fire on Wilderness Road. It being a very warm and breezy day, the small brush fire quickly spread to leaves and dry undergrowth, then rushed up the hillside in a very remote area. Departments were called in from Clarendon, Rutland Town, and Mount Holly for additional manpower and equipment. Using pack pumps and a line of forestry hose, as well as rakes and chain saws, the departments cut off the rushing fire on the uphill side, and every ember was extinguished and double-checked. This fire burned two to three acres of hillside, and at one point posed a potential threat to a nearby home.

Call number three came on Monday the 19th when a brush fire was reported on Moonshine Lane. This fire was a bit more accessible, and the SVFD was able to contain and extinguish it quickly with water pumped directly from trucks as well as through the use of hand tools.

With record-setting temperatures and a lack of moisture due to the nearly snowless winter, conditions are right for brush, grass, or full-blown forest fires. Because of this, Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown is currently not issuing permits for burning until conditions improve. Should you have any questions about outdoor fires, please call Fire Warden Brown at 775-5518 or Deputy Warden Al Ridlon Jr. at 492-3722 for information and advice. The SVFD does not wish to start our "next round of three."

If you see questionable smoke or outside burning, please call 9-1-1 immediately. We would much rather respond to a small fire and extinguish it quickly than have a full-blown emergency situation in a difficult place to access. Please be careful!

Submitted by Bob Snarski

A Community Forum on the Future of Shrewsbury

Hosted by The Conservation Commission, the Shrewsbury Selectboard, the Shrewsbury Planning Commission, and the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

Shrewsbury is a remarkable town, as exemplified by the community's reaction to the flooding from Hurricane Irene—neighbors helped neighbors, doing the heroic and mundane, the magnificent and the messy. Everyone pulled together and pitched in! The work that followed and the 250th celebration exemplified the community's spirit and sheer "get'r done" hard work, from the Road Crew, all of the town officials, organizers, volunteers, to friends and family. All this and now what…?

The Conservation Commission asked this question of each other and thought it a good one to ask of the Town. Now what? What are we feeling after this iconic event? The Community Forum is an evening of getting together to share what is important to us as individuals and as a community. What is our vision for our future and our children's futures, what are our concerns? Nancy Bell will facilitate the evening. Please join us in this conversation.

SAVE THE DATE! The Community Forum will be held on **Tuesday April 24th from 6 until 9pm** at the Shrewsbury Meeting House. Pizza and beverages will be served at no charge. Everyone is invited and young people are encouraged to participate. Please RSVP to shrewsburyconservation@gmail.com or call Cynthia Thornton at 492-2255, so we can provide adequate refreshments. Thank you—see you there!

Submitted by Nancy Bell

*** HERO of the YEAR AWARD goes to CARL KAVANAUGH, who thawed out our frozen septic line last month, spending hours, even getting into the tank!—and donated his work to the library! A HERO'S HELPER'S AWARD goes to LISA, who helped Carl on the second day, and mopped the bathroom afterward! MANY, MANY THANKS!!

*** THANKS to THE VOTERS OF SHREWSBURY who approved our funding request for 2012; we appreciate your support at the ballot box, in individual donations, volunteer help, and coming into the Library to borrow books, movies and music; or just to visit.

*** We had a fine turn-out for HOWARD COFFIN'S program on Vermont's role at Gettysburg. Thanks to LISA for sending out e-mails to patrons to publicize the event, and for posting it on our web site. If you would like to be on our e-mail list, please stop by the library or e-mail to slibrary@vermontel.net

COMING EVENTS:

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 @ 4:00pm
Book Discussion: MIDDLEMARCH, 3rd discussion of 3

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 @ 7:30pm
WRITERS READ, with EDIE RHOADS, PENELOPE WEISS & JOAN ALESHIRE. Edie Rhoads is a young poet from Burlington, whose first book has just been published by the Vermont Council on the Arts. She is a graduate of the MFA Program at NYU. Penelope Weiss published her first collection of stories, STORIANA, last year. She worked for many years as an editor and is also a photographer and graphic artist. She read her work to a delighted audience at the library last year. Joan Aleshire will read from her new book, HAPPILY, just published by FOUR WAY BOOKS. HAPPILY is her fifth collection; her earlier books can be found in the Library. There will be a book signing and wine and cheese reception after the reading.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 @ 7:30pm
GARDENERS' ROUNDTABLE: BRING YOUR SUCCESS STORIES, GARDEN PROBLEMS & QUESTIONS!

FRIDAY, May 25 @ 7:30pm
YVONNE DALEY reads from A MIGHTY STORM, her book about Irene

NEW BOOKS include:

HOUSE OF STONE by Anthony Shadid: a memoir of finding and rebuilding his family home in Lebanon by the prize-winning reporter who died in Syria

THE STARBOARD SEA by Amber Dorment: an acclaimed first novel about sailing and coming of age in the 1970s

THE LEADERLESS REVOLUTION by Carne Ross: on grass-roots movements

QUIET by Susan Cain: on the value of thoughtfulness

NEW DVDs:
GAME OF THRONES, SEASON 1
MARGIN CALL with Jeremy Irons
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN with Michelle Williams

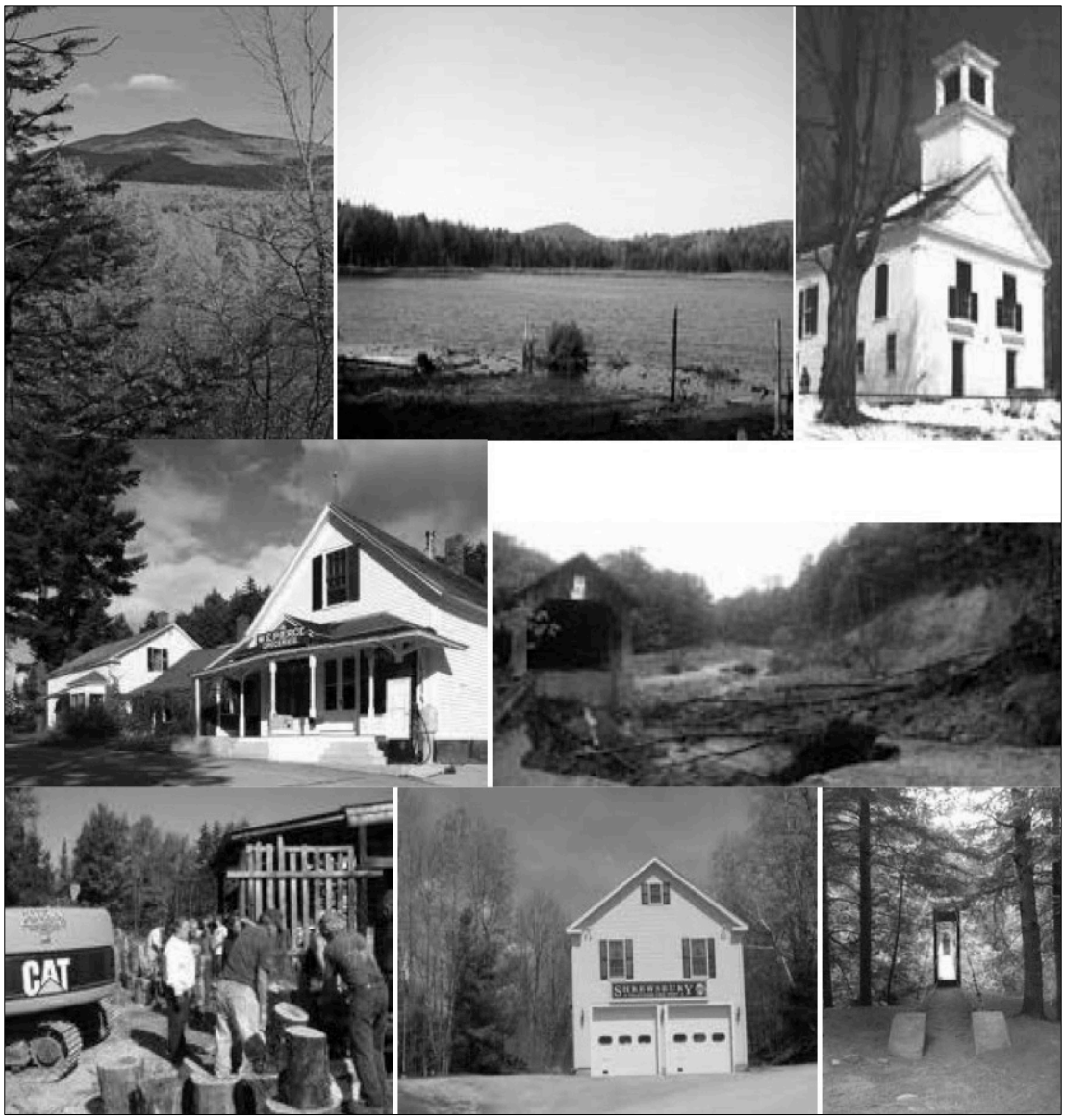
Show Me Gala Talent Show

The incredible and diverse Show Me Gala Talent Show will launch Friday, April 6 at 7:00pm in the Mill River Union High School Auditorium in North Clarendon.

Vermont talent of every variety will be showcased including rock, country, classical, pop and folk numbers; vocal and dance numbers and music of the flute, fiddle, trumpet, sax, uke, guitar, bass, drums and more more more. There will be acts that will soothe your soul, knock your socks off and tickle your eardrums.

Support local talent and Mill River. Admission is $5 at the door, $20 per family. Proceeds from this event benefit the Mill River Friends of Music organization which supports the music programs at Mill River. Contact Bear Irwin at birwin@rssu.org or 802-775-3451 x 224 with any questions.

Submitted by Cathy Reynolds



You are invited to a Community Forum on

The Future of Shrewsbury

Hosted by the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission,
the Shrewsbury Selectboard, the Shrewsbury Planning Commission
and the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

On Tuesday, April 24th at the Shrewsbury Meeting House from 6 to 9pm
a light dinner will be served

You are invited to join in a conversation about what Shrewsbury
means to you and what your vision would be for our town in the future

The gathering will take place in an informal setting around tables.
Free pizza and beverages will be served. Please bring your friends!
So we may provide adequate refreshments please RSVP:
shrewsburyconservation@gmail.com or call Cynthia Thornton at 492-2255

Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

THANK YOU!

The Shrewsbury Historical Society members thank all two hundred twenty-three townspeople who voted yes on Town Meeting Day for the Society's request for $2000 which will greatly help pay for some of the operating and maintenance costs of keeping up the Historical Society museum.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Shrewsbury Historical Society will be the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Tuesday evening, May 1, at 7pm at the museum. Dues must be paid on or before that date in order for members to cast their vote. New members, active or inactive, are always welcome. Dues are: Individual $10, Family $15, Contributing $30, Life (Individual/Couple) $125. Please make checks payable to Shrewsbury Historical Society and remit to John Elwert, Treasurer, 499 Shunpike Road, Cuttingsville, VT 05738.

WE NEED YOU!

Again the Society is reaching out to those in town who love history past, and present and the importance of preserving records and artifacts of our town for the future. Our members need your help and ideas to keep the interest flowing. Won't you give a hand and join us this year? The faithful few who attend meetings and care for the museum and plan for activities are hoping to see new younger faces and hear new younger ideas. As once upon a time, a famous poster of the 1940s in WW II showed Uncle Sam pointing—WE NEED YOU!—the same goes for 2012—we need you!

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2012

The SHS will be participating once again in the History Expo to be held on June 16th and 17th at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds. Would you like to help? More information about this in next column.

AUDIO TAPES CONVERTED TO CDs

The museum now boasts another collection for those who wish to hear interviews from 1971 until 1988 which were transferred from audio tape to CDs. There are 46 discs, some of which cover interviews with townspeople, plus concerts and several town meetings, Heidi Mitchell's organ recital, Marjorie Pierce singing folk songs, reciting poems and the "Statue of Liberty" program. The original tapes were transferred through the expertise of Ahmet Baycu, who was able to eliminate unnecessary noises. When the museum opens this summer on July 1st, through to October 28th, these CDs and DVDs will be available for your viewing and listening pleasure and can be borrowed for a week at your own home.

YE OLDE GIFT SHOPPE

The Society is also offering for sale the history book by Dawn D. Hance now being sold for $20, the annual Memories calendar when available, packets containing 250th Anniversary of the Charter information, cachet envelopes with the 250th special postmark, and by request, post cards featuring our town in early poses. This Shoppe became a reality when folks inquired about the Society's various endeavors as we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of our town in 2011.

Happy Spring – Happy Easter

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
2012 Annual Dues and Donations Request

Your support helps keep the museum viable, interesting and accessible. Your dues and donations will not only be used for the upkeep and care of the museum building, but will also help in the preservation of our town's history for future generations. Thank you for your support.

HELP PRESERVE OUR TOWN'S HISTORY
2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check payable to the Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc., c/o John Elwert, 499 Shunpike Rd., Cuttingsville, VT 05738.

Name_____

Address_____

Individual	$ 10
Family	$ 15
Contributing	$ 30
Life (Individual/Couple)	$125
or a Donation of $_____	

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

The Shrewsbury Community Church

Spring is here!

A time of Rebirth, Renewal and Regrowth. The birds are chirping, the crocus are poking up through the earth, the grass is turning green, the sap is running and there is the sweet smell of syrup in the air in Shrewsbury! What could be finer?

We celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs after the spring equinox. During the spring equinox the sun crosses the celestial equator and day and night time are close to equal. The day is 12 hours long and it continues to increase as the spring season progresses.

As the season of Lent comes to an end, members of the Shrewsbury Community Church reflect upon the meaning of Holy Week and Good Friday, the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. We remember where we have been and look toward our future with an open mind and a pure heart. We try to follow in the steps of Christ, who taught us to forgive and love one another. We rejoice in this message of forgiveness and love and we invite the community to join us in celebrating this Easter message on April 8th. This is a time that helps us to make or renew a commitment to be the best that we can be, so that our world is a better place.

> *Luke 24:46-47* And Jesus said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Let's Celebrate Spring! Announcing our 1st Annual Shrewsbury Vegetable Seed Distribution Day. Free vegetable seeds for families in Shrewsbury who would like to start their own garden. Whether you garden inside or out, you need seeds to start. Start a new Easter tradition by planting vegetables inside. Move them when there is no threat of frost to pots, boxes or garden. We will hand out seeds on Saturday April 7th, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the Shrewsbury Meeting House. Share your harvest with our community at a Harvest Dinner in September. Any questions call Lynette 775-0853 or Sue 492-3738.

Submitted by Sue Kelley

Calendar of Events:

Sunday April 1 – 10am: Reverend Cindy Yee will lead worship service

Saturday April 7 – 10am-12noon: Vegetable Seed Distribution Day, Shrewsbury Meeting House

Easter Sunday April 8 – 10am: Reverend Jerry Handspicker will lead worship service

Sunday April 15 – 10am: Reverend Christine Boardman will lead worship service

Wednesday April 18 – 12noon:
Prayer Shawl Meeting at the home of Judy Pitts on Cold River Road. Please call Judy at 775-0678 if you can come and bring a bag lunch. All are welcome.

Sunday April 22 – 10am: Reverend Bob Boutwell will lead worship service

Saturday, April 28 – 6pm: Mardi Gras to benefit the Helping Hand Fund

Sunday, April 29 – 10:30am: Earth Day Worship. A Southwest Association-wide worship at Grace Church in Rutland. Followed by lunch and annual meeting. There will not be a service in Shrewsbury on this day.

SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Mar. 22-Apr. 6	Yankee Candle Sale
Apr. 16-20	Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL
April 28	Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's
May 28	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

2nd and 3rd graders line up for ski lessons at Okemo

Shrewsbury Ski Program—Special Thanks

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time to help the students of Shrewsbury Mountain School enjoy skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing this winter. This program exists because you have been so generous and dedicated to providing our students with a unique and wonderful experience in the mountains that surround our area. We could not have had the great time on the mountain without you. THANK YOU and see you next year!!

Sincerely, The Students of Shrewsbury Mountain School

Find us on Facebook

Facebook!

The Shrewsbury Mountain School is now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyMountainSchool
You can find school events, student writing, and more!

Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser!

Help support the sixth grade trip to New York City and future Shrewsbury Mountain School class trips by attending our Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's in Rutland on Saturday, April 28th from 8:00am to 10:00am. This event is open to the public! Students from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade will be greeters, servers, and kitchen assistants. *LIMITED TIME OFFER: Through April 20th tickets are only $6.00!* Tickets after April 20th are $7.00 each or 3 for $20. To order now call 802-492-3435 or you can email Mr. Morrison at dmorrison@rssu.org and receive e-tickets that you print from your computer!

SMS PTO is Selling Yankee Candles

The PTO recently purchased 2 SMART boards to be installed in the preschool and the room shared by Mrs. Starinskis, Mrs. Suker, and Mrs. McCuin. Needless to say, this purchase has decreased our checking account balance significantly. We decided to once again offer the ever popular Yankee Candles in a fundraising effort to replenish our funds. The scratch and sniff catalog features candles, holders, and spring seeds. Funds raised will be used toward the purchase of playground materials, technology upgrades, artists in residence, field trips, and in support of special school events.
Sale Dates: March 22 - April 6 Want to place an order? Contact Michelle Suker 747-7745 or your local SMS student. All orders will arrive before Mother's Day.

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http://www.youravon.com/bferguson2366

NEWS FROM MILL RIVER

We would like to thank the Shrewsbury voters for helping to pass the Mill River budget. It is very gratifying to have the community's support as we work to chart a course for our students that will provide them with the skills they need while not over burdening us as taxpayers.

A choral festival featuring Penn State University's Essence of Joy, the Castleton State College Collegiate Chorale, the Mill River Union High School Senior Chorus, the Grace Church Festival Choir, and a performance by the combined choirs was held on March 3rd at the Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. Fifty-six members of our high school's chorus participated under the direction of Kristin Cimonetti. We were both privileged to be in the audience, and we offer our congratulations to all participants for their stellar performances. This was a wonderful evening and a very valuable experience for our students.

A Vermont Regional One-Act Drama Festival for high school students was hosted by Mill River Union High School on Saturday, March 10th. The five high schools participating were MSJ, Arlington Memorial High School, Fair Haven Union High School, Mount Abraham Union High School, and Green Mountain Union High School. Workshops featuring acting, movement, improvisation, and technical theater were presented. Stage 40 performed *The Ubu Plays* by Jeff Goode, which is an adaptation of the 19th Century play *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry. This play is a satire on political corruption and power. Hosting a drama festival is a monumental task, and we thank everyone involved for the hard work that went into making the festival a success.

Be sure to look for information elsewhere in this issue of the *Times* about the *Show Me Gala Talent Show* which will take place in the MRUHS Auditorium on Friday, April 6, at 7:00pm.

At the regional competition of Mathcounts, 7th grader Aislinn Gilmour participated in the 6th and 7th grade countdown round after finishing among the top 7th graders at the competition, and 6th grader John Graves placed 7th overall amongst all grades and qualified for the record countdown round. John also qualified for the Vermont State Mathcounts Competition on March 24th at Vermont Technical College. Eighth graders Cassandra North and Drew Mitchell have been meeting with John Graves and coaches Anna Tally and Richard Barker in order to help John prepare for the state competition.

Our Mill River Odyssey of the Mind team competed in the state wide competition in early March and received a second place in their division. They are onto the world competition in May to be held in Iowa.

Planning for the second season of the community garden is well under way. Science teacher Michael Gamache reports that students have started seedlings in their classes. They will be transplanting the corn, squash, pumpkin, and tomato seedlings outside sometime in mid to late May. They will also sow beans, carrots, onion sets and potatoes. These crops will be ready for harvest when the 2012-2013 school year begins (unless we get another Irene). The intent is to plant row crops that require minimum care (except rain) during the summer. There is also discussion about the early sowing of spinach and peas for cafeteria consumption this spring. Soil conditions will determine this. The pear tree orchard seems to have endured the winter; however, a couple of the apple trees have suffered from deer browsing.

Work continues on the community walking path. Displaced planking from the ravages of Irene have been replaced, and a spur trail paralleling the railroad track ends in a pretty grove of silver maple and black cherry trees. The enormous task of eliminating invasives has begun with cutting honeysuckles, making brush piles, raking debris, and putting bark mulch around the conifers that were planted. Finally, when the soil warms, staff and students will continue to plant wildlife-attracting shrubs and trees as well as wildflowers on the banks that connect the athletic fields to the wetland.

In April, the board will begin negotiations with the faculty for a contract covering the school years of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Submitted by Andy Richards Peelle 492-3648 and Sally Anne Snarski 492-3505

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Car, Truck, or RV Cleaned?

Call Carrie
Days 492-3339
Evenings 492-3923

Greetings from the Shrewsbury Library Music Department

I have to thank Jonathan Gibson for his guidance in this month's additions. We are adding 4 discs of classical music to the collection. After dialoging with me, he agreed to use one of his sources to procure the following discs for our community.

In case you haven't figured it out, classical music isn't one of the genres that I spend much time with, but there are many selections near and dear to my heart. Most are from my familiarity with the Warner Bros. Cartoons of my youth.

A favorite compose of mine is Aaron Copland. The first addition is Appalachian Spring by the New York Philharmonic and conducted by Leonard Bernstein. If you listen to only one (not necessarily recommended), listen to this one. It will bring smiles to everyone's faces, especially Rodeo.

The second selection is Vivaldi's The Four Seasons by The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

The third selection is Brahms Symphony No. 4 by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman and Daniel Barenboim. Two of my favorite classical players on this one. They are two of my favorites because they are talented enough to broaden their horizons and collaborate outside of the classical realm.

The fourth selection is Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 Pastorale & No. 8 by the Weiner Philharmonic.

My apologies for not being more descriptive with the selections, but again this isn't within my realm of comfort. Take the chance, enjoy if you are familiar and even if you aren't. Each of these is worth taking a chance on.

Here's to the sweet sounds,
Thomas Hartigan

Pierce's Store
Friday Night Dinners for April

April 6: Guest chef Joyce Wilson will make Mac & Cheese and a spinach salad with oranges, cranberries and a vinaigrette dressing

April 13: Guest Chef Donna Marzilli will make Chicken Parmesan with garlic bread and a small salad

April 20: Guest Chefs Doug and Sarah at Spring Lake Ranch will make a meal to be announced the week of April 20

April 27: Guest Chef Ludy Biddle will make a Beef Casserole with Ludy's grass-fed beef.

Meals will be available warm on Fridays 5:00 to 7:00pm…and on Saturday until they run out. It's best to call ahead and reserve your order!
492-3326

Men's Basketball
Open gym men's basketball in Shrewsbury at the Mountain School! If you're interested in a once-weekly friendly pick up game in town email daniel.sgalia@gmail.com

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3SquaresVT Elders Food Assistance

3SquaresVT helps you stretch your food budget and buy more food. It comes as a monthly dollar benefit either on a debit card called an EBT card or as cash directly deposited into your bank account. Older Vermonters who take part are not taking money away from others in need.

Elders with gross incomes below 185% of federal poverty levels do not have a resource limit, so savings don't count. The 185% income limit is $1,679 for a single person or $2,268 for a couple. If your income is over these numbers, you can still be eligible. If so, you do have a resource limit, but your house, car, and retirement savings do not count as resources. Your 3SquaresVT benefit will not count as income either, so your eligibility for other programs like Medicare will not be at risk. For more information or an application, visit www.vermontfoodhelp.com or call the Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

Kelly Giancola, Caregiver Coordinator

ALCHEMY GARDENS

2012 CSA Farm Shares

Sign Up Today!

Pick up a **box of fresh, local vegetables** each weekend at Pierce's Store or the Downtown Rutland Farmers' Market.

Dates: June 30-November 10 (20 weeks)
2 Share Sizes: Small-$200, Large-$400

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Scott Courcelle & Lindsay Arbuckle
802-492-2087
alchemygardens@gmail.com

www.AlchemyGardensVT.com

Host Families Needed

Interested in learning about another culture, another language? Several exchange students who will be attending Mill River Union High School through PAX—the Program of Academic Exchange—would love to teach you all about their country as they become fluent in English and learn about American culture and family life.

PAX students come from over 70 different countries. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 and arrive in August either for the semester or the school year. The students come with their own medical insurance and spending money. All they need is a bed, a place to study and a family willing to open their home and their heart to these great young ambassadors.

To learn more about hosting, please contact Kimberly Eckhardt at keckhardt08@gmail.com or at 802-824-3792. More information is available at www.pax.org.

Submitted by Kimberly Eckhardt

The Roving Reporter asked:

What does a person need to know about fiddlehead ferns?

- "Well….you need to know how to identify the ones you can eat." –FW
- "They're a definite green, not fuzzy, and can have a cellophane type coating. Don't pick them near the roadside, and watch for them around the end of April." –LvdH
- "They're gonna be early this year!" –BB
- "Pick them at low elevations first, and if you're too late just go higher! You only have about 3 days to pick them in the Spring." –TM
- "They grow in river bottoms and shady, moist areas. There's more than one type, but the Ostrich fern is among the biggest of the ferns around." –J
- "We can't divulge any secrets about where they are if you're trying to find out ." –LS
- "I picked 52 quarts one year!" –LA
- "Parboil them, then sauté in olive oil & garlic, salt and serve. –LvdH
- "You've gotta boil them and change the water three times." –PW
- "You could have a long life without fiddlehead ferns…but they ***are*** delicious!" –EF

HI!

ALL READY FOR THE MARDI GRAS?? HOPE SO. WE SHOULD CALL IT THE "BELATED MARDI GRAS." IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, IT'S ON **SATURDAY, APRIL 28th**, THIS YEAR. IT WILL START ABOUT 6 PM AT THE TOWN HALL. THE ADMISSION IS $8.00 PER PERSON, KIDS UNDER 12 CAN JOIN US FOR FREE.

ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A NONPERISHABLE FOOD FOR THE FOOD SHELF. THE PROCEEDS FROM THE MARDI GRAS WILL GO TO THE HELPING HAND FUND FOR LOCAL FOLKS.

THE MUDDY RHODES BLUES BAND WILL ENTERTAIN US STARTING AROUND 7 PM.

HOT DOGS, BAKED BEANS, SALAD AND DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED SO DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR APPETITE. AND, OH YEAH, COME IN COSTUME!! LAST TIME WE HAD A RIPROARIN' TIME AND DANCED 'TIL OUR FEET HURT. THERE WILL BE PRIZES AWARDED TOO SO THINK UP A GOOD DISGUISE.

SEE YOU THERE!

ANY QUESTIONS?
CALL FRAN 492-3706 OR ROXANNE 492-3675

Tinmouth Contra Dance

Come to an exuberant contra dance with Mary Wesley calling and toe-tapping music by Shirley White and Brendan Taaffee at the Tinmouth Community Center, Route 140 in the center of Tinmouth on Friday April 27 from 8-11 pm.

A contra dance uses square dance moves, but is done in long lines to live music. All dances are taught and you do not need a partner. Beginners are always welcome. Dances become more challenging as the night progresses, so early arrival is recommended for beginning dancers.

Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is $9, $7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available. For info or directions call 235-2718 or visit www.Tinmouthvt.org. The next dance will be May 25; there will not be a dance in June, July, or August.

News from The Transfer Station

Holiday Hours: Closed Easter Sunday, April 8
Open Monday, April 9, 1:00pm-7:00pm

Plastic containers: You do not have to take tops off plastic containers.

Reminder about glass jars and bottles:
Please rinse glass jars and bottles that we will be crushing. It keeps the grinder working smoothly and avoids a possible health issue especially in warmer weather.

Submitted by Bob Perry

Apartment Wanted

Dan and Tabita are looking for an apartment in Shrewsbury. Happy to talk about trading maintenance/cleaning services for discounted rent. We really want to stay in town!

802-558-2707 or daniel.sgalia@gmail.com

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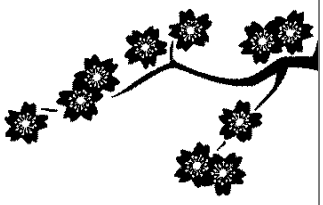

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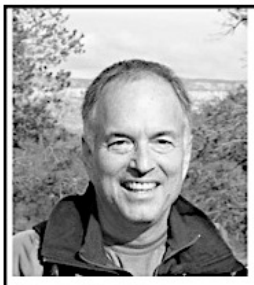

Do you have questions about
Shrewsbury Real Estate?
What's my property worth today?
Should I List now or wait?
Should I Buy now or wait?

Please give me a call and let my local
knowledge help you find the answers.

Gene Felder
home: 492-3633
cell: 558-9068
GeneFelder@vcpsir.com

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Nature Happenings and Garden Notes In and Around Shrewsbury

Sunday, Feb. 26— 10 degrees. The sun, pale gold in color, has just come up over the low hill just north of the knoll outside the kitchen window. This is an encouraging sign that spring is not too far away, and also a reminder that it is time to sow seed for onions, leeks and shallots. It is time to haul out that rock-hard, frozen bag of potting soil from the garden shed and also get the seed trays cleaned.

Friday, March 2— While skiing in Northam on the deepest snow we've had all winter (8 inches!) I found an interesting track story, beside the trail, in fresh powder. Broad wing marks with feathered tips and a plump body print told me that it was a Barred Owl that had dropped down to capture a mouse, whose tracks were also there in the snow. A quick stop at Pierce's Store turned into a lengthy visit with folks who had stories to share. Paul Sgalia reported 10 or more Red Winged Blackbirds at his feeders today. Another person had had an amazing night sighting of an albino flying squirrel, clinging to a tree recently. Scientifically named *Glaucomys sebrinus alba*, this rare albino is vulnerable to nighttime predators. Jerry Gardner, on one of his frequent woods walks, found tracks of a Barred Owl and Snowshoe Hare conflict, showing the hare had escaped. He also reports seeing Red Crossbills on Tin Shanty Road. Pierce's Store proves to be an excellent place to hang out and get the latest nature news!

Sunday, March 4— Seed sowing begins for the new growing season. It is always best to start with fresh onion seed because they do not hold well. By starting them early, the seedlings, which are like green hairs, will be ready for transplanting into fertile garden soil by the first of May.

Tuesday, March 6— "Sapsicles" hang on low sugar maple branches along the road. Observations, while out on a ramble on the eastern slope of Kinsman Hill, include the track trail of a small fisher, most likely a female, which began at the beaver pond and were lost in craggy rock ledge far up the hill. Deer tracks on the steepest section were seen along with heavily browsed crowns of Christmas and Intermediate Wood Fern. A porcupine's waddle marks are seen in the snow, a young striped maple stripped of its bark, and the porkie's trail leads into a large hollow log nearby, a perfect winter shelter for this prickly fellow.

Monday, March 12— As it approaches 60 degrees today, Snowdrops are almost visibly opening. They are the earliest of the flowering bulbs to appear in my garden and today honeybees, laden with orange pollen, were working at the tiny white bells.

Tuesday, March 13— A Woodcock in flight early this morning, its wings making an audible whirring sound as it flew over. This is a good two weeks earlier than usual.

Thursday, March 15— High up on the snowy slopes of Shrewsbury Peak, an abundance of moose sign was observed as we snowshoed up on our annual winter climb. At the transition from hardwoods to spruce fir forest, the moose tracks were numerous, and there were bed imprints where the animals rested. A closer look revealed long coarse hairs on the snow. Many trees—mountain ash and striped maple are their favorites—were left with long yellow scars where the bark had been stripped.

Friday, March 16— There are more signs of spring each day. Today the female Red Bellied Woodpecker returned with a mate! They both came to the feeders and were heard calling loudly in the old maple trees that line the road. They seem to be scouting out for a suitable nest cavity. That would be a first ever if they settle here to raise a family.

Saturday, March 17— The lettuce and spinach, covered with plastic sheeting for the winter, is coming back to life and showing new green leaves.

Monday, March 19— Song Sparrows and Robins singing. The early appearance of Tree Swallows swooping over the meadow, and the air is full of tiny winged insects. It reached 76 degrees in the shade today.

Tuesday, March 20— A happy spring to all!

Connie Youngstrom
Email: conniey@vermontel.net

The Times of Shrewsbury
P. O. Box 373
Cuttingsville, VT 05738

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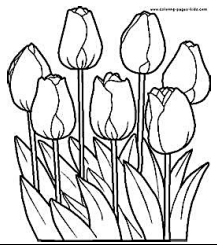
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