



Times of Shrewsbury



February 2025

THE ART OF ICE CUTTING ON SPRING LAKE



Recently, community members in Shrewsbury have been asking if Spring Lake Ranch still cuts our own ice from Spring Lake. The answer is yes, though the act and purpose have changed over time.

In the past, we would cut for two or three weeks in the winter. Using our World War II military trucks (called “Navy trucks” at the Ranch), we would haul the ice to our icehouse and pack it in sawdust. The ice on Spring Lake used to be so thick we would drive our Navy trucks onto it to load up. Residents would be shown how to cut and pull from the open ice hole. We tied a rope around someone’s waist or held onto their belt to support them as they heaved enormous ice blocks out of the water.

Peter Grace, who once ran the Work Program here at the Ranch, designed chutes to help slide the ice from the Navy trucks right into the sawdust-filled icehouse. Later in the year, after 20-inch blocks melted to 14-inch blocks, we would pull them out and sell them to a nearby summer camp or give them to Solarfest in exchange for tickets to their renewable energy festival.

In recent years, the ice has not always cooperated. Once, we drilled a hole with our ice auger only to have water gush out and create a giant slush pond. As temperatures rise and the winters shorten, we have had to approach ice-cutting differently. With the wider availability of air conditioning, refrigeration, and icemakers, we no longer have a place to sell our lake ice, but that does not stop us from continuing the tradition. It is still our history and something we try to let our residents experience every year.

When asked about ice-cutting at the Ranch, a former Spring Lake Ranch resident reminisced about using lake ice to make ice cream on the Fourth of July in 1999. Pictures from six years ago show llamas joining Ranchers on the ice for the celebration. For many years, Ranchers took a polar plunge in the ice hole, and one long-time staff member shared the story of a wood-fired hot tub

This year, snow shoveling began in late January in order to prepare for cutting. We would like the ice to be at least 12 inches thick to cut, and we suspect that by clearing the ice early and removing the insulating layer of snow, we can thicken it up. This Valentine’s Day, we plan to gather on the lake and celebrate this traditional art. We will make a fire on the ice, play games of broom ball, and turn the blocks we pull from the lake into ice sculptures. Though we are a therapeutic work program, creativity and celebration are vital to the overall health of our community.

Our neighbors in Shrewsbury are welcome to join us on Spring Lake, Friday, February 14, at 1:30pm.

~Article by Anna Sutton and Doug Patton



Working with ice cutting tools is a Spring Lake Ranch tradition. Navy truck on the lake (above) in February 2013 photo.

Join us for a Family Square Dance

Shake off the February freeze with live music and dancing!

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 7, from 6:30-9 pm

WHERE: Shrewsbury Meeting House

WHAT: Live music from local fiddler Ida Mae Specker and friends, with dances called by Sarah Gibson.

We'll start with a lesson at 6:30. All experiences and ages welcome!

Suggested donation at the door.

What's New on www.ShrewsburyVT.org website?

Try the Shrewsbury JIGSAW PUZZLE! -see the link on the Home page. Complete the puzzle to reveal a historical image in Shrewsbury. (hint: you can change the difficulty for the player, by choosing the number of puzzle pieces).

And, as always . . .

Watch the Calendar for regular meetings, community events, and special events. Send requests for your event to be posted to:
shrewsburyadmin@vermontel.net.

Check the Town News & Announcements section on the home page for recent posts.

Find meeting minutes, town ordinances and policies, election results, town reports, and more posted on our own Shrewsbury town website! ~Submitted by Laura Black

Vermont State Senators:

Brian Collamore: bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us

Terry Williams: twilliams@leg.state.vt.us

David Weeks: dweeks@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont State House of Representative:

Kcwinter5783@gmail.com or 802-245-4190

The Vermont General Assembly is in session January thru June. To view committee member-ships, bills that have been introduced, track each bill's progress, and review committee agendas go to www.leg.state.vt.us. During the week you can contact your legislator by leaving a message at the State House by calling 1-800-322-5616 or 828-2228 (the Sergeant-At-Arms' Office).

United States Senators:

Senator Peter Welch

www.welch.senate.gov

Vermont Office: (800) 642-3193

Washington D.C. Office: (202) 224-4242

Senator Bernie Sanders

www.sanders.senate.gov/contact

Vermont Office: (800) 339-9834

Washington D. C. Office: (202) 224-5141

United States House of Representative:

Representative Becca Balint

Vermont Office: 347-461-4982

Washington D. C. Office: (202) 225-4115

Revised 2/1/25

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

The Times of Shrewsbury is published monthly from February through December, and compiled by volunteers from material submitted by residents with the goal of informing townspeople 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 of the submitting person and are printed at the editors' discretion subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters to the Editor exceeding 350 words will be subject to editing for length. Any information piece or informational political letters (without specific party or vote appeal) will be subject to the guidelines previously described.

A writer of a letter that directly names a Shrewsbury resident or organization in a critical manner must get copies to the resident or organization, and to the Times by the 10th of the month prior to publication or it will not run. If the named person 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, nature reports, family event announcements, feature articles, or letters that are not commercial. Also, there is no charge for appropriate notices of free items.

Articles and Advertisements: Deadline for submission is 5pm on the 20th of the month prior to publication; exceptions will be announced in the prior month's Times.

Ads in the Times are for area businesses, local non-profit events, and local ballot election advertisements.

Best Formats: Articles: Word or as an email message with no formatting. Photos: jpeg. Ads: jpeg or Word document.

Monthly advertising fees and relative sizes:

Full page	\$110	(7.5"w x 9.5"h)
Half page	\$60	(7.5"w x 4.5"h or 3.5"w x 9.5"h)
Quarter page	\$15	(7.5"w x 2.5" h; or, 3.5"wx 4.5"h)
Business card	\$10	(3.5"w x 2"h)
Classified ad	\$5	(15 words or less)

Payment due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

1/18/25

Chryl Martin

~ Rich Biziak

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

Email: shrewsburytimes@gmail.com

Online: www.shrewsburyvt.org and

<http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com>

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 26	4pm	*Science Book Club meets at the Library
Jan 27		*Petitions for candidacy of town positions due at the Town Office along with consent forms
Jan 28	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meets upstairs in the Meeting House
Feb 2	3:30pm	*Writer's Group at the Library
Feb 7	6:30-9pm	*Family Square Dance at the Meeting House
Feb 8	7pm	*Music Jam at the Russellville School House
Feb 14	1:30pm	*Spring Lake Ranch Ice Cutting event at Spring Lake
Feb 16	4pm	*Famous Books Blook Club discussion at the Library
Feb 22	1pm	*Prepare for your best growing season program at Russellville Schoolhouse (SAGE)
Feb 23	4pm	*Science Book Club discussion at the Library
Feb 25	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meets upstairs in the Meeting House
Feb 27	7pm	MRUUSD Annual Meeting in the Mill River Library
Mar 1	11am	*Informational Meeting at the Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
Mar 4	10am-7pm	*Election/Town Meeting Day; Polls open 10am-7pm at the Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
Mar 13	6:30pm	*Pierce's Store Annual Meeting. Potluck dinner starts at 5:30pm.

*see elsewhere in newsletter for details

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY
Online at
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com
www.shsrewsburyvt.org



Deadline for submission to *Times of Shrewsbury* is by 5:00pm on the 20th of each month.

REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Selectboard Meeting	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays – 6:30pm at Town Office
Bone Builders	Tuesdays & Thursdays--May-Oct: 9-10am; Nov-Apr: 10-11am at Meeting House
Development Review Board	4 th Wed -7pm at Town Office; check town website for agenda
Library Trustees Meeting	2 nd Tuesday – 7pm at Shrewsbury Library
Mill River Unified Union School Board Mtg	1 st Wed 7pm @ MRHS & 3 rd Wed. 7pm at MRHS unless otherwise warned
Planning Commission	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays 7pm at Town Office
Prayer Shawl Group	4 th Tuesday at 12noon upstairs at the Meeting House
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Sundays – 10am via Zoom; contact wildernessfriends@gmail.com
Shrewsbury Community Church	Sundays – 10:30am - Worship service
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission	1 st Tuesday @ 5:15pm via Zoom (Feb – May); contact vtzippity@gmail.com
Shrewsbury Historical Society	TBA Spring 2025
Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum	Closed for the season; open by appointment by calling 802-492-3324
Shrewsbury Singers	Sundays 9-10:30am and Tues 6:30-8:00pm @ Meeting House
Shrewsbury Sno-Birds	2 nd Tuesday – 7pm at Southside Steakhouse in Rutland
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department	Thursdays – 7pm at the Cuttingsville Station

Shrewsbury Town Website: www.shrewsburyvt.org

Clerk's Office	492-3511	Mondays & Thursdays 8:30am-1pm; Wednesdays 1pm-6pm (Fax 802-492-3383)
Town Garage	492-3656	(Follow prompts to report roadway blockage on non-work days)
Listers	492-2009	Available by appointment
Treasurer's Office	492-3558	Monday 9am-11am
Transfer Station	492-3867	Sunday 8am-4pm ~ Wednesdays 12noon-6pm
Library	492-3410	Hours: Mon 10am-12noon; Tues 7-9pm; Wed 10am-5pm & 7-9pm; Thurs 7-9pm; Fri 10:30am-12noon; Sat 10am-12noon
Meeting House	492-6050	Reservations: 492-3361 or julanne@vermontel.net
News Flash Email:	vtbenbeano@gmail.com or benbeano@vermontel.net	an email list for Urgent and reminder news information
Cuttingsville Post Office	1-802-230-1996	<u>Window Hours:</u> Mon-Fri 7:30am-10:30am and 11:30am-2:30pm; Sat 8am-11am <u>Lobby Hours</u> Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm and Sat 7:30am-11am
Burn Permit:	Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown 802-345-8668 or, Deputy Fire Warden Al Ridlon, Jr. 802-282-3642	
Animal Control Officer:	Adrienne Raymond 802-492-3578	
1 st Constable:	Aaron Haupt 558-9980	Game Warden: Tim Carey 793-2776
Emergency Management	Aaron Korzun 492-3362	Green Mountain Power outage 1-800-451-2877
Medical-Police-Fire Emergency Dial	911	Ambulance 773-1700 Rutland Hospital 775-7111

[Updated 9/1/24]

SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

The Selectboard meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7pm at the Town Office.

December 4, 2024: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Selectboard Interim Administrative Assistant: Nancy Bell.

Members of the public: Dennis Hallion

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the addition of a work in right-of-way for Allard Lumber on Gaynor Road. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Appointment-SWAC Representatives: Linda McGuire offered to be an alternate representative to SWAC. A. Korzun made a motion to appoint Bert Potter as representative to SWAC and Linda McGuire as an alternate representative. M. Cimonetti seconded.

Hazard Mitigation Funding: Nancy Bell met with the RRPC to discuss funding for the culvert on Northam Road. Other culverts are deemed a higher priority. Nancy says she may be able to also get funding for the other culverts.

Snowmobile Access-Old Plymouth Road Trailhead: Dennis Hallion would like for snowmobiles to be able to operate from Pierce's Store up Old Plymouth Road to the trailhead access. The Town's ordinance appears to already allow this if travelling from one's residence to access the trailhead.

PACIF Renewal: F. Wyatt has spoken with VLCT PACIF and they will be sending their list of Shrewsbury's equipment, buildings and payroll that they have. We can then update it with what we expect it to be in 2025.

Work in Right-of-Way – Allard Lumber on Gaynor Road: Allard Lumber would like to drag logs down Gaynor Road during frozen conditions. A. Korzun made a motion to approve the work in right-of-way for Allard Lumber on Gaynor Road. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Class 4 Highway and Trails Policy: Tabled until the 12/18/24 meeting when Laura Black can attend.

New Business/Open to the Public: Rebecca Rice recommends that the Town develop some procedure for communicating when the compactors are not functioning at the Transfer Station. She recommends that a Transfer Station employee notify the Town Office when the equipment is down.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 11/20/2024 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #12 for \$15,752.56 (\$8,940 for reappraisal) and Road Orders #12 for \$81,364.23 (\$66,555 for plow truck from ARPA funds). Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

December 18, 2024: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Selectboard Interim Administrative Assistant: Nancy Bell. Planning Commission and Selectboard Interim Administrative Assistant: Laura Black. Road Commissioner: Jamie Carrara. Regional Planning Commission: Devon Neary, Maggie O'Brien.

Members of the public: Jonathan Gibson

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

RRPC - Hazard Mitigation Funding: RRPC stated that VEM funding is available for the dam and the culvert but not for the culvert by itself. We wouldn't know if we won the VEM grant until sometime in 2026. We already have a Structures Grant for TH#2 culvert. The Selectboard decided that we cannot wait to replace the TH#2 culvert, so we will need to forgo applying for the VEM grant.

Class 4 Highway and Trails Policy: Laura Black went over another draft of the Class 4 Highway and Trails Policy. The Selectboard approved of the edits and will approve at the next meeting after the draft is cleaned up and printed for final review and approval.

Draft Permit for Working on Class 4 Roads: Laura Black provided a draft permit for working on Class 4 roads. Not all Selectboard members have reviewed the draft yet. Laura Black will discuss the draft permit with Jamie Carrara and get back to us with his feedback.

Review Process for Reclassifying/Discontinuing Class 4 Roads: Laura Black presented notes on Class 4 Highway & Trails Report with a proposed process for Selectboard to reclassify and/or discontinue some or all. Discussed beginning the process in Spring of 2025.

Recycling Compactor/Staffing: The Town of Shrewsbury leases the recycling compactor, so Hubbards is responsible of maintaining it. Jonathon would like for there to be a higher expectation of Hubbards.

Aaron Korzun made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved. Ended executive session. Decision that Margo Tabor is an employee of the Transfer Station.

New Business/Open to the Public: Laura Black proposed that we purchase a large monitor and stand for the Meeting House when we have meetings there. Rebecca Rice says that we have a grant for it. The grant money needs to be spent before the end of the year. The Selectboard approves in concept. Laura Black will check with the Meeting House Committee. Rebecca Rice requested that some of the grant money also be used to buy gift certificates for poll workers.

SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

The Selectboard meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7pm at the Town Office.

Budget 2025: Started working on the 2025 budget.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 12/4/2024 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #12a for \$17,063.99 and Road Orders #12a for \$15,228.69. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt
These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

January 1, 2025: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt (by video conference). Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Road Crew Member: Dan Cavoto.

Members of the public: None.

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with no additions. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Class 4 Highway and Trails Policy: Aaron Korzun made a motion to approve the Class 4 Highway and Trails Policy provided by Laura Black. Marc Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

Road Commissioner Position: Met with Dan Cavoto regarding the Road Commissioner position.

Went into executive session at 6:45 PM. Returned from executive session at 7:06 PM.

The Selectboard discussed the Road Commissioner position with Dan Cavoto.

Liquor License – Knudsen Properties: A. Korzun made a motion to approve the Second Class liquor license for Knudsen Properties. Marc Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

New Business/Open to the Public: None.

Budget 2025: Continued work on the 2025 budget. Went into executive session at 7:11 PM to discuss salaries. Came out of executive session at 7:34 PM.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 12/18/2024 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #1 for \$1,741.25 and Road Orders #1 for \$43,456.64 (\$20,773 for engineering of Northam culvert). Specific instructions for Orders:

- The payment for Tyler should be transferred from the Reserved Reappraisal Fund.
- The \$8,000 from the sale of equipment should be transferred to the Equipment Reserve

- Year end money secured for Reappraisal through filing fees should be transferred to the reserve funds.
- \$934 left in ARPA funds should be transferred to reserve funds.
- Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:41 PM

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

January 15, 2025 Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Transfer Station Administrator: Bert Potter. Treasurer: Linda McGuire. Lister: Clara Krueger. Delinquent Tax Collector: Steven Nicholson. Road Commissioner: Jamie Carrara. Road Crew Member: Dan Cavoto

Members of the public: Adrienne Raymond, Paddy Martin, Jonathan Gibson, Liesbeth Van der Heijden.

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with addition of excess weight permit for PVF Services LLC. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Transfer Station: Adrienne Raymond is concerned about the Transfer Station operations and the recyclables compactor frequently not working. Bert Potter says that the compactor has been fixed and seems to be working better than ever now. Discussed possibility of option of taking recyclables to Hubbards when the compactor is not working. Hubbards is not open on Sundays.

Jonathon Gibson would like for the Town to have a contract for the Hubbards compactor lease and would like for it to have some provisions for when the compactor is not working. Punch cards will no longer be sold at the Transfer Station. It was allowed due to COVID, but isn't allowed now. Punch cards will still be available at Pierce's and the Town Office.

New Business/Open to the Public: Clara Krueger would like to reiterate the Listers request to put on the March ballot to dissolve the Board of Listers.

Paddy Martin says that there was another accident on Route 103. He would like for there to be a permanent feedback speed sign in Cuttingsville.

Bert Potter thinks it would be an eyesore.

Excess Weight Permit for PVF Services LLC: Aaron Korzun made a motion to approve the excess weight permit for Pine Valley Services, LLC. Marc Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

Budget 2025: Continued work on the 2025 budget.

SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES
(CONTINUED)

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 1/1/2025 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #1a for \$11,444.76 and Road Orders #1a for \$16,253.00. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

A Notice from the Transfer Station
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025

Transfer Station Punch Cards will no longer be sold at the Transfer Station.

They will only be sold at the Town Office and at Pierce's Store during their respective office and business hours.

The sale of punch cards at the transfer station was implemented as a temporary measure during the Covid pandemic, but was never intended as a permanent arrangement.

~Submitted by Bert Potter , Transfer Station Administrator

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Review of Town Waste Disposal Options Needed

In December and early January, you may have tossed your recycling items – cardboard, glass, plastic – into the green roll-off. Or maybe you took them all back home because the compactor for unsorted recyclables was broken. Fortunately, it's been repaired. But the long period when it was non-functional highlights the need for our Selectboard to conduct an overall review of the Town's waste disposal operation and put in place measures to ensure the problems we've had do not occur again.

At present and for many years previous, the Town has had an arrangement for waste disposal with Hubbard Brothers, Inc. in Clarendon. Details have changed over the years, but basically Hubbard picks up the container with compacted garbage and also hauls away the recyclables. The company sends invoices for the cost of hauling (\$200 each time) and for disposal ("tipping fees" calculated by weight). Where Hubbard takes the waste and recyclables is uncertain, but a recent inquiry shows that Hubbard is State-approved to haul to a 33-year old incinerator in Hudson Falls, NY [garbage] and to the Rutland County transfer station (identified as "Casella/Rutland County Solid Waste District") [recyclables].

The Selectboard should know – and townspeople deserve to know – that Shrewsbury waste is being handled in the most economical and environmentally acceptable way. While service by Hubbard has existed and more or less worked for many years, there are other options. Our Union School District, for example, pays Casella Waste Management to service the waste container at Shrewsbury Mountain School just 100 yards from the Town Transfer Station. Now is a time for the Town to take a thorough look at all the possibilities for obtaining the best solid waste solution for Shrewsbury. Requesting competitive proposals from service providers would be a good way to compare available alternatives.

Whatever waste disposal and recycling provider we deal with, common business sense says the Town should have a written contract which specifies the services to be provided, the payment rate, how the waste is safely disposed of, and consequences for any failure to deliver the contracted services

(such as a minimum time to repair any malfunction or a penalty for not doing so). When asked if Shrewsbury has a contract with Hubbard, no one on the Selectboard knew for sure; it seems the Town has only an "at will" arrangement with Hubbard, meaning a verbal agreement that lacks clarity and enforceability.



"Can't We Do Better Than This?"
Overflowing roll-off

The Selectboard should commit to two actions: first, to undertake a public review process with citizen input and involvement to evaluate our existing and potential waste disposal and recycling options, and second, to adopt a written contract for provision of waste services, whether competitively bid or not. A firm commitment by the Board is needed at one of their February meetings. Otherwise, voters will have to decide whether or not to support the status quo at our Transfer Station when voting on the Budget at March 4 Town Meeting. If you have opinions or suggestions on this topic, please convey these to the Selectboard by phone, letter, or at a February meeting. Find contact info for our three Selectboard members on the Town website or at the Town Office.

~Submitted by Jonathan Gibson

Reflecting on Shrewsbury Planning Commission

In 2021, I wanted to know more about the behind-the-scenes work that happens on the town level, so I joined the Shrewsbury Planning Commission. I found the work of the SPC to be quite interesting. Our town governments have a long history passing the torch of civic engagement from one generation to the next, and it felt meaningful to begin to learn more about the broad range of volunteer effort that goes into the functioning of our town.

More specifically, the planning commission is a unique part of town government, because it is tasked with the responsibility of looking at our town from a very broad perspective: what are the parts of Shrewsbury that we want to continue to thrive for the next generation? What do we wish for our town's agriculture, schools, forests, fields, roads, businesses, historic sites, and buildings? The planning commission is tasked with, among other responsibilities, revising the Town Plan of Shrewsbury every seven years. The first time I read through our town's plan, I was amazed to read the detailed and thoughtful perspective on our town, and the vision for our future that has been refined over decades. The town plan is a document that matters: any changes to our town's regulations must show that they will support the goals of our town's plan, and the plan itself can be used by the town to support or oppose big changes to the town, in areas like land conservation or development.

I recently stepped down from the planning commission after a three year term, but plan to stay involved as a member of the public. The planning commission currently has multiple open positions, and it's a particularly interesting time to join: they are just gearing up to plan the revision of our town plan for adoption in 2026. I can also say that the three current planning commission members: Laura Black, Melissa Reichert, and Connor Self, are all wonderful people to work with and learn from.

If you're curious about joining the planning commission, feel free to contact me at 492-6265, or SPC Chair Laura Black at LBlack@vermontel.net ~Submitted by Ryan Beauchain

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

TOWN MEETING DAY

MARCH 4, 2025

**at Shrewsbury Meeting House
88 Lottery Rd, Shrewsbury, VT**

Polls Open from 10am to 7pm

Town meeting day is soon and is your chance to vote for local elected officials. Voting will be by Australian Ballot on March 4 from 10am to 7pm. There will be an informational meeting, which I believe will be held the Saturday before the election, March 1, 2025 at 11am at the Meeting House and this year with a remote option. The Warning will be voted on at a Select Board Special meeting January 29, 2025. It will be posted on the Town website as well as at the Town Office, Pierce's Store and at the post office. It will also be in the Town Report when it is sent out. The Warning will include the information for remote attendance at the informational meeting.

I anticipate receiving the ballots for the Town Meeting the first week of February. At that time, I can start mailing out absentee ballots and early voting can start. I will post the date I receive the ballots on the Town website and when early voting starts. You can request an absentee ballot either by sending me an email, giving me a call, or requesting one online from <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>.

It is also time to renew dog licenses. This year the license fee will be \$11.00 per neutered/spayed dogs and \$15.00 per unneutered/spayed dogs. After April 1, there is an additional late fee of \$4.00 per dog. The increase in the fees is due to an increase in the fees due to the state. Dog licenses are required by State Law and can be very helpful in the event that a dog goes wandering and ends up at the humane society or some other person who is looking for a dog owner. I have had numerous calls this year from folks trying to locate dog owners.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 802-492-3511, 9823 Cold River Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, or shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net.

~Submitted by Rebecca A. Rice, Shrewsbury Town Clerk

FROM THE BOARD OF LISTERS

Shrewsbury Voters,

There will be a Town Meeting Ballot Item to replace the Board of Listers with a professional assessor.

After much thought and discussion, the Board of Listers has voted to recommend that the town abolish the Board of Listers. It has become clear that the job of Lister is much more complex and technical than it was in generations past. We feel it is no longer a viable option for townspeople to take up the role of Lister as a part-time job. The tasks and knowledge required of Listers makes the job one that needs a professional to accomplish.

We propose that the town abolish the Board of Listers. To replace it, we recommend that the town hire a professional assessor. We also recommend that the town hire a local townspeople to assist the assessor and perform clerical duties for them in the town office. A professional will be able to accomplish the job more quickly, consistently, and in a much more cost-effective manner. We anticipate that the total cost to the town would be similar to the current lister budget. Hiring a local person to assist them will help further with cost reduction and will make sure that the local touch is still felt.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ryan, Chair, Shrewsbury Board of Listers; Clara Krueger, Lister

NEWS FROM MONTPELIER

Allow me to share the following thoughts from my legislative mentor, Jim Harrison, the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield.

Wednesday, 1/22, members of the administration will share their proposal to reform Vermont's education system and the way to fund it. One leading legislator, said the reform plan may be the biggest overhaul the legislature has seen in 50 years.

It's no secret that last year's increase in property taxes played a large role in changing the political makeup of the legislature in November. Understanding the new political dynamic and the message from voters, legislative leaders appear more open to hearing the Governor's reform suggestions this session.

Changing the status quo is never easy. Whether it is a change to a "Foundation Formula" like most states, where each district receives a flat amount per student from the state, or a change to Vermont's lowest in the nation staff to student ratio, there will be critics. The NEA and some other groups, for example, have argued that Vermont does not have a spending problem, but rather needs more income from higher earners.

The Governor is also taking a lead on improving public safety. In his weekly press conference, he outlined a plan to help us move towards safer communities. A few of the administration's proposals included:

- Repeal "Raise the Age law" for 19-year-old young adult offenders and reform our youthful offender procedures to ensure accountability.
- Revise bail laws to make it a tool courts and prosecutors can use to hold violators accountable. He indicated many view our status as a "catch and release" system which does not deter repeat offenders.
- Simplify extradition laws
- Build a system that can deliver a swift and sustained connection to addiction treatment and recovery by re-tooling and reinvestigating existing programs.
- Elevate the Department of Public Safety to the Agency of Public Safety, making its director a cabinet level position in line with its importance.

Other items of note: The highly anticipated Clean Heat Standard report from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was released this past week to the legislature. While the report estimated lower heating fuel increases than previously anticipated, the PUC concluded that the "Clean Heat Standard is not well suited to Vermont." The report went on to say "...achieving thermal sector greenhouse gas reductions consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act would be best achieved by building upon existing programs rather than overlaying a new and complex regulatory structure such as the proposed Clean Heat Standard."

Rep. Noyes, D-Wolcott, and I will be leading a bipartisan effort to phase out the Vermont income tax on social security benefits. Vermont is currently one of only nine states that tax this important benefit to seniors.

A new pro-housing advocacy group (Let's Build Homes) made of a wide range of people and organizations, says Vermont needs to build, build and build again to address the state's housing crisis. The former mayor of Burlington, Miro Weinberger, is the executive chair of the new group's steering committee.

Article by Jim Harrison, State Representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield.

Edited and Submitted by Rep. Kevin C. Winter, State Representative for Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Why I'm Running for School Board

My name is Kimberly Williams, and I am running for the Mill River Unified Union School District School Board.

My family and I are so grateful to call Shrewsbury home. We were drawn here by the natural beauty of this area and the incredible sense of community we've found among our neighbors. My son, now a sophomore at Mill River, has had a great experience as a student in the district. I care about our schools, and I want to do my part to ensure that our district is a place where all students feel supported, valued, and inspired to be lifelong learners.

Since March 2023, I've had the privilege of serving on the school board, filling a vacant position. During this time, I've gained a deeper understanding of our district's challenges and opportunities, and I'm eager to continue this important work on behalf of our community in support of students and staff. I currently sit on three board committees: Policy, Personnel, and Community Engagement.

Professionally, I've worked in the nonprofit sector for over a decade, and I'm approaching seven years with the Vermont Foodbank, where I serve as the Senior Manager of Community Engagement. In this role, I work with communities across the state to identify challenges and collaborate on solutions to create a thriving food system for everyone living in Vermont. I bring this same collaborative, community-focused mindset to my work on the school board.

As a school board member, I will work hard on behalf of our dynamic community, thoughtfully weighing decisions, and centering our students in everything we do. I know that the best outcomes for our schools come from listening, learning, and working together. I am committed to continuing to grow in this role to serve you, our families, and our students.

I'd love to connect with anyone in the community who has questions, ideas, or feedback. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kwilliams@millriverschools.org.

~Submitted by Kimberly Williams

SHREWBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION FEBRUARY – MAY MEETING NOTICE

We will meet virtually at 5:15pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Please contact Weezie Duda at vtzippity@gmail.com for details.

Times Financial Report 12/31/2024

Beginning Cash Balance	\$9,617
Receipts (donations & advertisements)	\$10,988
Expenses (printing, postage & supplies)	(\$10,896)
Year End Cash Balance:	<u>\$9,709</u>

Your donations and advertisements make publishing the Times possible! ~The Editors

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NEWS FROM LAUREL GLEN ASSOCIATION (LGA)

John P. Bowman's is a true "rags to riches" story. Born in January 1816 in Clarendon, he learned the tanning trade as a teenager and went on to become a very successful businessman.

We all know the beautiful mansion and mausoleum that he built on opposite sides of Route 103 in Cuttingsville, but do you know the love story behind Laurel Glen?

In 1849, John wed "Jennie" Gates described as warm-hearted and generous. They had a daughter, Addie who died after just four months. A second daughter, Ella, arrived in 1856. Studious and sweet, Ella was a homebody, her parents' pride and joy. Bowman established a business in Stony Creek, NY, where he had a beautiful home. He was a fair employer who paid his workers well. Overall, Bowman was a contented and loving family man.

But life was not always kind. The Bowmans lost little Addie; then in 1879, Ella also died. Jennie passed away six months later, leaving John heart-broken. He wanted to build a monument in Clarendon, but plans for a mausoleum were rejected. So, he turned to the cemetery in Cuttingsville near his first factory. Laurel Glen Cemetery and Laurel Hall quickly became beloved tourist attractions.

January 26 is Mr. Bowman's birthday. Help us celebrate his 209th birthday, remarkable life, and amazing legacy by supporting Friends of Bowman Mansion (501c3) with a tax-deductible donation. Since so much of the interior is original, this mansion is a rarity, and we need experts to make renovations. Donations can be sent to Friends of Bowman Mansion c/o P.O. Box 416, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 Or visit our Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/fcddde44> Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/7xaxtDDBn5AHM9dH/>.

Want to get involved?
laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com is our new email address!

"Did you know?" Just a reminder: Laurel Glen Cemetery Association of 1894 (Friends of Bowman Mansion) is a non-profit organization. We are an independent group, not sponsored by any other group in Town or elsewhere. We hope to recruit more helpers next year and to offer five or six open houses, three or four daytime and flashlight cemetery tours, and other programs (Teaser: Who wants to learn Victorian games?). There will be docent training and clean-up days. In the coming season, we plan to get the Conservatory functional. There are so many exciting things to do at the Mansion. Check the Times and Facebook for updates! ~Submitted by Pam Monder



Green Mountain Neighbors put most of its energy during 2024 into getting members and volunteers, and promoting services such as providing transportation, and assisting in some light household chores.

In 2025, we are going to be hosting various types of events. For its first event this year, Green Mountain Neighbors is pleased to sponsor "Antarctica comes to Vermont" presented by Sally Deinzer, daughter of John Dyer, the chief radio engineer on Admiral Richard Byrd's Second Expedition (1934-1935) to Antarctica.

This event will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 3:00 to 4:30pm. (inclement weather date Sunday February 9) in the meeting room on the upper level of the Wallingford Town Hall. Parking is available along the street and at the school across the street. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

During this expedition, Admiral Byrd stayed by himself for an extended period "Alone" which happens to be the title of the book by Admiral Byrd about his adventure.

There will be video from clips (transferred from 8 mm film) made by John Dyer during the expedition, and time for questions. Admission is free for members and volunteers with GMN while others will be charged \$5.00.

Light refreshments will be available.

If you have ideas for events that you would enjoy, please send an email to info@greenmountainneighbors.org or leave a phone message at 802-417-2292. And if you are interested in joining as either a member or volunteer, please use the same email and phone number.

~Submitted by Sally Deinzer

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SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SVFD wishes our town a Happy New Year! It's been a couple of months since our last article and it's been very busy for the SVFD. Since December 1 we have responded to four different motor vehicle accidents. Fortunately, only minor injuries occurred. The other calls included a request for assistance for Regional Ambulance, a tree down blocking the road, a smoke alarm, and two mutual aid calls to Mt Holly. One mutual aid call was cancelled while enroute and the second was a chimney fire that extended into the structure. A quick response from several departments contained the fire to a small area of the home.

SVFD Treasurer, Barry Griffith presented a proposed 2025 budget to members. The budget was unanimously approved by the membership and submitted to the Town for acceptance. Barry also prepared information for the auditor review. He prepared the Annual Report article and is now gathering all information for our 2024 tax filing. Barry continues to oversee our fundraising efforts, balance the accounts, and pay the monthly bills! I'm sure this list doesn't come close to touching on all the responsibilities he manages. We owe a big Thank You to Barry!! Thank You Barry for your continued commitment and efforts in serving the SVFD, and the Town of Shrewsbury. All you do is a critical role in our ability to successfully operate our department.


During our weekly meetings we completed an inventory of all the equipment on the trucks; performed operational testing on small engine equipment; reviewed our handheld radio communications protocol; completed recordkeeping on the firefighting gear and identified the replacement equipment and supplies needed.

Recently we have seen several reports of fires in Vermont that have been difficult to fight. The cold temperatures seem to increase the number of calls. One of the conditions that we all have control over is access to our properties. When 911 is called, it is the 911 address they use to inform the SVFD of the location of the property. It is so important to have your 911 address in a visible location. Often the numbers on homes are hidden, missing numbers, numbers too small to read and not reflective or even non-existent. Although you may believe what you have is sufficient, be sure yours doesn't fall into any of the categories above! Town folks can acquire a green reflective 911 sign through the town clerk for a fee. When you are around town, look for the green 911 signs as you drive by. The green reflective signs are very obvious and visible, especially at night. Another issue for first responders is accessibility. Emergency vehicles are large. If your snowbanks hide your numbers, driveway access is smaller than usual due to snowbanks, or slippery due to ice, we may not be able to get to your location. Several times we have had to walk to the structure and then return to the trucks to gather more equipment and walk back to the structure. Delays such as this impedes our ability to knock down an active fire situation! As we've experienced in the past, a quick response time is critical to minimize damage. SO, please take a look at the access and clear and visible identification on your property.

The SVFD is currently reviewing the opportunity to upgrade some equipment and review existing stations to meet the future needs of the community.

The fires in California have been devastating to thousands of people. Both the residents and the firefighters are dealing with unimaginable loss! Please consider a donation to an organization of your choice to support the efforts in California. Enjoy the remainder of the winter and.....

**REMEMBER
STAY FIRE SAFE!!!**
~Article by Jack Perry



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Shrewsbury Mountain School Girl Scout Members
Aria S., Kayla C., and Zoey G. are members of
Girl Scout Troop #64848.
Photo by Catherine Carrara

SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire

LIBRARY & FOOD SHELF HOURS

Monday 10 am to 12 pm

Tuesday 7 pm to 9 pm

Wednesday 10 am to 5 pm & 7pm to 9 pm

Thursday 7 pm to 9 pm

Friday 10 am to 12 pm

Saturday 10 am to 12 pm

Wonder if the Library has a book or DVD? Want to put a hold on an item or renew one you've borrowed? Visit our website: www.shrewsburylibrary.org.

To suggest a book to add to our collection, please contact Donna Swartz for children's and Young Adult books; and Joan Aleshire, for Adult Fiction and non-fiction. We can request books from other libraries on Inter-Library Loan, and will buy books depending on our budget and our collection's needs.

MANY THANKS to everyone who came and enjoyed our HOLIDAY COOKIE SHARE/SILENT AUCTION/PARTY, especially those who decorated the library; those who ran the auction so well; those who served cookies, baked, played music, poured wine, donated items, and bid enthusiastically! DONNA, LISA, GAIL, THOMAS, MARCOS, TRISH, ED, BOB, MICHELLE, CABOT, BEN, and SUZAN deserve special mention!

MANY THANKS to GEORGE WOODARD for bringing *The Christmas Calf*, his beautiful children's book, to the Library for a reading and signing. An appreciative group brought farm stories of their own, and bought books as holiday gifts. The library has a copy to be checked out and enjoyed!

The Library Report for the Town Report 2024: As we have for the past several years, the Library is requesting level funding at \$7,500 for essential operating expenses. Please read our Report and vote on Town Meeting Day in March!

50 YEARS! This year the Library is celebrating our 50th anniversary! As we plan to mark the occasion, we'll be announcing special events throughout the year. If you have an idea for a program or presentation you'd like to offer or attend, please contact Joan: joanaleshire@vermontel.net.

Continuing Programs:

Sunday, February 2 @ 3:30 pm: WRITERS' GROUP: If you have work you'd like to share with our friendly, supportive group of active writers, please contact Penelope Weiss (pw9@earthlink.com) or Joan (joanaleshire@vermontel.net).

Sunday, February 16 @ 4 pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB: We're reading Tolstoy's great novel, *Anna Karenina*, for the next several months. It's a real page-turner, a treat — long, yes, but full of life! If you'd like a copy to read and to join us, please contact Joan: joanaleshire@vermontel.net.

Sunday, February 23 @ 4 pm: SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: *Annals of the Former World* by John McPhee, a five-book compilation which chronicles the geological history of North America. We will read Book 1 – *Basin and Range*. Please contact Margery Salmon: salmonm@vermontel.net if you'd like to join.

New Books include:

- * *The Inner Clock: Living in Sync with Our Circadian Rhythms* by Lynne Peeples: A fascinating exploration by a scientist of how we experience time.
- * *Ingrained: The Making of a Craftsman* by Callum Robinson: A moving memoir of life and work by a Scottish woodworker.
- * *The Voyage Home*: A new novel by Pat Barker, based on *The Odyssey*.
- * *Patriot: A Memoir* by the late Russian dissident activist Alexei Navalny.
- * *Sugar Rush: A Memoir of Wild Dreams, Budding Romance, and Making Maple Syrup* by Peter Gregg. Gregg lives in New Hampshire, but gets his facts right!
- * *Water, Water*: Poems by Billy Collins, arguably America's most popular poet.
- * *Now or Never*: The new Stephanie Plum novel by Janet Evanovich.
- * *Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions* by John Grisham: The prolific crime novelist turns to non-fiction.
- * *Music in Rural New England Family and Community Life, 1870-1940* by Jennifer C. Post, with a chapter on Marjorie Pierce. (Thanks to Mark Youngstrom!)



Book Signing at the Shrewsbury Library

Celebrated Vermont Author and Illustrator George Woodard delighted an audience with a reading and book signing of his book *The Christmas Calf* at a recent gathering at the Shrewsbury Library.

~Submitted by Jenny Wellenius



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Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

To me, the best times spent at various events in the museum are when we have children visiting. They are told to please wear a pair of the white gloves if you want to touch something. Mostly they enjoy just running around feeling so proper wearing them at all.

I know I must have written about this event before: The Cook Family reunion called together with their many children and running around full of excitement was a little lad with a piece of paper in his hand (in white gloves mind you) and someone asked him what he was holding and he said "it's from George Washington", while in reality it was a handout given to family members. It was a joyful experience.

Another, at a Sunday opening Brian Winkler decided to show the wooden chain carved from a single piece of wood that was donated. The youngster was so impressed, he ran to get his Dad to see what he was shown. I think it is a treasure and it hangs from a shelf in the kitchen exhibit.

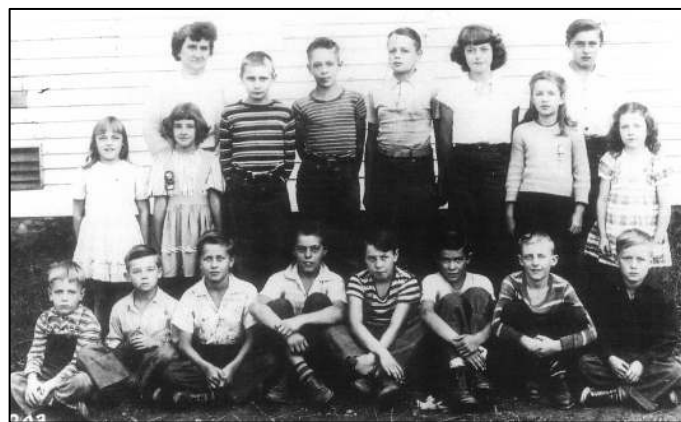
The day the members of the Community Church deeded the building to the Historical Society, the building was filled with another event. There was one senior gentleman who told the story of his early days and going to services in this church building. He used to get so hungry, as just behind the altar is the beautiful stained-glass window dedicated to members of the Foster family. Near the bottom of the piece, there appeared to him bunches of hot dogs as a design. The whole building laughed at that one! You have to take note of this.

One year Gracie Brigham arranged with the principal of Mountain School for the upper grades to be bussed to the museum. The group was divided into half and Gracie led them to the Laurel Glen Cemetery to tell them stories of folks who lie there. While inside, the teachers watched along with our members as the children would look all around and then sit and draw the object they liked best. The groups then took their turn for the cemetery tour. It happened to be a rainy day, but no one seemed to notice it. In years past, Gracie would lead folks on other cemetery tours, such as Halloween fun night time adventures. She also arranged to have the school kids who hatched tiny fish in school to release them in the brook by Pierce's Store. Another time she and Betsy Jesser prepared a Snow Day for the school kids complete with hot chocolate and hot dogs.

When I was in the 3rd or 4th grade, I remember climbing on a bus and off we went into New York City to visit the New York Museum of Natural History. What a thrill from dinosaurs to jewels of the world. A day never to be forgotten. On the way home, we stopped at a factory that makes saltine crackers and were given a small bag of their broken-up crackers. I still order them on my shopping lists.

In Memoriam

We remember three women who were former members who passed away during 2024. Annie Lees, who passed on June 21; author of our history book, Dawn D. Hance, who passed on September 1; and Margaret Field, who passed on December 21. We miss you all. ~Submitted by Ruth Winkler



1948 Cuttingsville School

Back row: Mary Stapleton (teacher), Conrad Waite, John Patten, Hubie Pratt, Emma Page, Sonny Haven(?).

Second row: Patsy Haven, Margaret Field, Frances VanGuilder, Grace Brigman (with a dress on!).

Front row: Joe Patten, John Ridlon, Peter Haven, Jack Haven, John Stewart, Al Ridlon, Sr., John Thomas, and David Pratt

In Memory of Margaret Field

August 15, 1940 ~ December 21, 2024

Shrewsbury Historical Society (SHS) sends condolences to the family of Margaret Field.

Margaret joined the SHS when she retired after a long career in nursing. Her home was the tall blue house on Town Hill Road opposite Stewart Lane. This house, containing two apartments, replaced the smaller house where Margaret and her brother, Bruce, grew up. They attended the school in Cuttingsville (now Shrewsbury Library) for grades 1-8, with Mary Stapleton as their teacher.

Margaret graduated from Rutland High School, married and raised three children: Karen, Dale, and Lisa. Lisa and Doug Rumrill's children, Sabrina and Ryan, grew up in the Blue House and attended the Mountain School. They graduated from Mill River Union High School. (Ryan graduated exactly 50 years after his grandmother!)

In her spare time, Margaret assisted her daughter, Lisa, and a jolly crew making Christmas wreaths in the garage.

This winter, Margaret enjoyed visiting with family and friends on the cozy back porch overlooking Town Hill Brook. Including Sabrina's daughters (Margaret's great grandchildren), four generations of Margaret's family have been watching deer in Al and Kim Ridlon's meadows. There's a bird feeder right outside the window, providing entertainment: chick-a-dees, nuthatches, doves, cardinals, and "baby cardinals," Margaret's name for tufted titmice.

It has been a pleasure having Margaret and her family a part of Shrewsbury all these years. ~Submitted by Grace Brigham



BOOK REVIEWS

- ***** *Fantastic*
- **** *Compelling page turner*
- *** *Enjoyable*
- ** *Just O.K.*
- * *Not recommended*

The Dorito Effect:

"The Surprising New Truth about Food and Flavor"
by Mark Schatzker

★★★★

This book illuminates the industrialization of the foods we are eating -- at least those we buy from our grocery stores. The urgency for haste in getting foods to market (meat, vegetables and fruit) has adversely affected the deliciousness and authenticity as well as the healthfulness of these foods. Think about those pretty red tomatoes that have no taste and the bland chicken that requires a lot of seasoning. There is a food crisis in our country.

"The French government decided to do something about their emerging flavor problem by creating a brand of chicken that actually tastes like chicken. For a chicken to qualify, it must be raised partly outdoors, eat a particular diet, and be at least 81 days old when killed (some are over 100.)" {page 183}

In the U.S., cruelty to the animals is never a consideration. Consider the young meat birds whose unnaturally augmented breasts make them unable to walk. Their feet just cannot support them.

When you read "with added flavoring" on your food labels, beware. It may seem like a subtle thing, but the flavorings are synthetically created in one of the many food labs, a highly profitable industry in our country, tricking us into thinking what tastes good IS good.

I am almost sorry I read this book, but I must give it 4 stars. Now, I am enlightened but alarmed. This book was a Shrewsbury science group selection.

~Reviewed by Marilyn Dalick

Chasing Chipmunks in the Sky

In 2008 when we went on our first hike with the Killington Section of the Green Mountain Club, we were greeted with friendly faces...but the most enthusiastic smile came from the inner spirit of an energetic furball named Burdock.



He rushed around the parking area to greet each arriving hiker; no jumping, no barking, no sniffing, no request for petting...just a genuine enthusiastic greeting from this four-legged fellow hiker. On the Trail he was never underfoot and rarely veered off very far from the group...except when there was a squirrel or chipmunk to chase!

Over the years Burdock, a Cairn Terrier, logged many miles with his companion, Jerry Parker, a Shrewsbury resident who says Burdock was always ready to go! The last time we walked with Burdock was in January 2024 when the photo of him was taken. Burdock led a small group of hikers up the Old Plymouth Road from the parking lot. When he got almost to the top of the first hill, he sat down and Jerry said, "Burdock is ready to go home." There was no whimpering, no complaining...just a polite resignation of "I'm done." He went home to celebrate his 18th birthday and passed in December 2024 to the land of eternal hikes...and I like to think he has an abundance of chipmunks to chase! ~Article by *Chryl Martin*

CRAFT EVENTS ARE BACK!

Saturday March 1 at 10am, we will be hosting an Embroidery Class for Beginners. Details for this event can be found on our Facebook page. If you like to craft and want to participate, suggest other lessons or even host, please email us. We'd love to hear from you!"

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The Shrewsbury Community Church



Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley



We had a joyous Christmas Eve Service! One of the highlights of the evening is always the kid's pageant! All are welcome to join us for Fun Day any Sunday

upstairs at the Meeting House from 10:30am-11:30am. We enjoy stories, crafts, snacks, and sharing time. We welcome parent participation. Any questions call Cortney Allard 802-683-7852 or Anissa Park 802-779-2248.

We have truly enjoyed our decorations at church during the holiday season! Special Thanks:

The Christmas Tree was given by: Nathan & Kate of Paxton Meadow Tree Farm

The Wreath on the front of the Meeting House was given: In Memory of Bill Smith by the Smith Family

Poinsettias & Wreaths in the Sanctuary are given:

- In Memory of Alex & Virginia Donaski by Elaine Ransom
- In Memory of Thomas J. Kelley & Annie Lees by the Kelley Family
- In Memory of Betty & Bob Braeutigam, Vera & Jim Macaulay by Karen Braeutigam
- In Memory of John Lorentz by the Lorentz Family
- In Memory of Fred Ramah, Ray & Rhea Roberts by Roxanne Ramah
- In Memory of Kevin Regimbald by his Mom & Scott
- In Memory of George E. Richards, Sally Jones, Curtis & Mary Over by the Over Family
- In Memory of Gerry Stone by the Stone Family

Invitation to the Community: Have you got the winter blues, cabin fever, or are you just plain sick of winter? Do you like to knit, or crochet, or want to learn? We are a group who gets together to knit, crochet, have a cup of tea, or coffee, and a dessert or snack. Please bring a sandwich if you would like to. We knit or crochet shawls, lap blankets, or baby blankets to give to folks in the community in times when comfort is needed or in times of celebration. Please join us the 4th Tuesday of the month 12noon-2:00pm upstairs at the Meeting House. Don't know how to knit or crochet? Come and



we will be happy to teach you! All are welcome! Questions call Roxanne 802-492-3675 or 802-770-3938.

Shrewsbury Community Church Calendar:

Tuesday Jan 28, 12 noon. Prayer Shawl Group Meets on the 2nd floor of the Meeting House.

Sunday Feb 2, 1030am. Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service and Holy Communion led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam.

Sunday Feb 9, 1030am. Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam.

Sunday Feb 16, 1030 am. Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam.

Sunday Feb 23, 1030 am. Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam.

Tuesday Feb 25, 12 noon. Prayer Shawl Group Meets on the 2nd floor of the Meeting House.

Community Food Shelf

Free Community Food Shelf at the Library in the front entry way. Those in need are welcome to help themselves any time the Library entryway is open. Limited hours are: Mon 10am-12noon; Tues 7-9pm; Wed 10am-5pm and 7-9pm; Thurs 7-9pm; Fri 10am-12noon; and, Sat 10am-12noon.

We have our additional Summer Food Shelf on the side porch at Pierces Store in North Shrewsbury. Those in need are welcome to help themselves.

Food Delivery and Assistance If you are unable to get to the Food Shelf at the library in Shrewsbury, we will deliver groceries to you. If you need items which are not available on the shelf we can provide grocery gift cards. Call Karen at 802-558-5991 or Sue at 802-779-4360 or 802-492-3738.

Community Needs

- Wedding, Funeral or Memorial Service Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; or Sue Kelley 802-492-3738, 802-779-4360
- Community Helping Hand Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; Sue Kelley 802-779-4825, 802-779-4360; or Karen Lorentz 802-558-5991. Shrewsbury residents experiencing financial hardship. Assistance can be given for basic needs (food, heating, gasoline, etc). If you or a neighbor are in need, please let us know!
- Pastoral Care, Home, Hospital Visitation, Outreach Requests: Contact Roxanne Ramah 802-492-3675 or Ruth Kinne 802- 775-5318.

MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Greetings from Mill River Unified Union School District. The board unanimously approved our proposed FY 2026 budget at the January 8 school board meeting.

Over the past five months we have worked to create a district budget that serves the needs of our students while recognizing our responsibilities to our community tax payers. To this end we have created a fiscal year 2026 budget with input from community members, district staff, and our board's finance committee. This proposed budget has many strategic cuts to spending with an important addition of two math interventionists to be shared among the elementary schools.

Other additions to the budget include, a high school special education social worker position, funding for high school summer programs, an upgraded registered nurse position (previously a nurse aide position), and the purchase of a new bus.

Even with these meaningful additions, as well as rising healthcare costs, staff increases, and general inflation, we have kept the total expenditure budget to \$22,042,475, or just a 3.32% increase over FY 25. Our total spending per student is estimated at a 5.12% increase, as we have also had a small decline in student numbers. We can expect that about half of the expenditure budget will be funded by the state education fund and other outside funding sources, and half covered by locally collected taxes.

At this time, final town tax rates with included CLA adjustments can only be projected as the state will need to adjust the yield number AFTER Town Meeting Day's budgets are voted on throughout the state. That being said, our local projections look better than the state's prediction of an average property tax increase of 5.9%. As of mid-January, we are projecting property tax rate percentage changes as follows; Tinmouth with a -10.3% decrease, and Clarendon 0.48%, Shrewsbury 1.18%, and Wallingford 0.57% with increases.

Again, these are our best current projections. Typically, the final numbers don't change much, but this year given some changes in the 2024 yield bill, we believe there could be a little more movement, perhaps a percentage point or more.

The board feels this proposed budget best serves the needs of our students while recognizing our responsibilities to our community tax payers, and the question of its approval will be on your Town Meeting Day ballot.

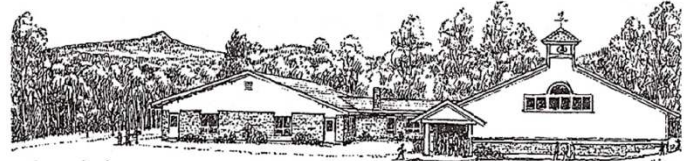
The ballot will also ask voters to authorize the district to transfer \$300,000 of current surplus funds to the building sinking fund. This is existing surplus money from this fiscal year that will go towards large facilities projects such as school floors, heating systems, parking lots, etc.

Looking forward we are keeping an eye on changes in education at the state level. Governor Scott's inaugural address called for "an entirely new student-centered funding formula," as well as "a new simpler governance structure." We should have more clarity on these proposals in the governor's upcoming proposed state budget. We welcome positive change, and we have a plan in case nothing changes.

We welcome your budget questions and comments at our annual meeting on Thursday, February 27, at 7:00pm in the Mill River Library. School board members are not required to attend all Town Meeting Day informational meetings, but are going to make every effort to be present for questions at these meetings as well.

You can find more information about Mill River Unified Union School District, our board, and meeting agendas and minutes at <https://www.mruusd.org>. You can find information on upcoming school board meetings and their virtual sign in information at <https://www.mruusd.org/board/calendar>

~Submitted by Steve Abatiell



SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Important Dates and Information:

2/17-21: February Break

Winter FUN! Our students LOVE winter at SMS. We have snow building and sledding on campus during recess each day. We also have an amazing Winter Sports program. Our K-2 students go ice skating at the Spartan Arena and our 3-6th grade students ski and snowboard at OKEMO. We have an anonymous donor who supports the OKEMO experience each year and we are super grateful for their generosity! We also have outstanding caregiver volunteers who support our students learning these new skills and having fun!

SMS Sustainability expands with composting. Our grade 5 and 6 students have been composting in our bins by the garden and collecting data to ensure proper processing. This is such a huge and meaningful step in our mission of sustainability and we thank everyone for their hard work! Huge thanks to Stephen Abatiell, Scott Courcelle, and Mrs. McDonough for their support and guidance!

Our PTO has been hard at work supporting students at SMS! Here are some of the highlights of their dedication so far this year!

1. They hosted a milk and cookie reception at the Winter Music Concert
2. They sponsored an ALL-SCHOOL field trip to Spartan Arena where students and caregivers ice skated together.
3. They have raised over \$90,000 for our playground project. We are moving forward with a design and hope to be able to install it this summer! The playground committee is hoping to raise a bit more funds for wood chips and final touches to complete this project for the students.
4. They are hosting a FREE movie night at the school for families to enjoy time together.
5. And they have many more exciting projects and events planned for this Spring!

Thank you SO MUCH to our PTO!

~Kristin Cimonetti, Principal

802-786-3995 kcimonetti@millriverschools.org.



Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

Trail Camera Picture of the month

The Elusive Fisher – Numbers in Decline

Despite often being called a Fisher Cat, a Fisher is not a cat, nor do they catch fish. They are omnivorous, eating small rodents, squirrels, rabbits, birds, eggs, fruit and carrion. The fisher is one of the few animals that prey upon porcupines. They are solitary except during mating season, when the male and female travel together. The male is larger than the female. Especially noticeable is the male's larger, broad head. The female looks for a hollow in a tall tree for her nesting den. Fishers can rotate the ankle joints of their hind legs almost 180 degrees, allowing them to climb down a tree head first.



Fishers are critically important to Vermont's ecosystems and data suggest rodenticides may play a large role in their decline. According to Audubon Vermont, there are more than 175 rat poison products available on the open market. These products vary in the level of risk to rodent-predators. Also, there are many basic non-lethal preventative measures can reduce rodent infestations. A ban on the use of anticoagulant rodenticides would be environmentally beneficial and a moratorium on fisher trapping would add needed protections for this vulnerable and important species.

Biologists from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department were among the researchers who found that 98% of the Vermont fishers they studied tested positive for anticoagulant rodenticide compounds. Results demonstrated that fishers "are highly exposed to a wide spectrum of [anticoagulant rodenticides] across Vermont." The authors stated, "the near universal exposure of the fishers sampled suggest that [anticoagulant rodenticide] exposure is widespread and represents an underestimated health risk to wild fishers." The data included in Vermont Fish & Wildlife's furbearer newsletter indicates that the fisher population is in decline.

The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission is concerned about rodenticide use and is working to host a future program on this subject. In addition to the declining fisher population, fox, bobcat, raptors and even pets can be affected.

Resources: *Mammal Tracks and Sign*—Elbroch and McFarland Audubon Vermont; Vermont Fish and Wildlife's – Furbearer Newsletter (most recent).

If you have a wildlife picture or track to share, please contact:
~Submitted by Linda Shelvey lpurdyshel@gmail.com



SNO-BIRDS NEWS

I was hoping to have more optimistic news about our trails by this time but, I really do not. Mother Nature is really not helping us have nice trails. There is 15+" of snow up high but with the water

bars the state installed we need at least 1 to 2 feet more to fill the ditches. We have been out trying to fill them but we need more snow before we can go back out. We were digging so much to fill them in that we were leaving a lot of bare areas. It is very rough on our equipment. We were sure that we would be winching because of the ditches but to our surprise did not have to.

The trails are {open with caution} as the legend on the VAST Map shows with alerts posted as we do not want our members getting hurt. We did get all the way to the Highway Garage in Mendon last Friday with very slim conditions in many areas and the snow had no body to it. You sink to the ground when the Tucker and drag goes over it.

Our club members work so hard all year round clearing the trails and working on the tread area, fixing bridges, and this year installing a sponsor board, and the snow conditions are not good in mid-January! I have seen other users out there and they seem to be having a good time with the trails and some members have ventured out carefully to get some time in.

We appreciate the members being patient as the conditions are out of our control at this time. Rest assured when the snow comes, and as John said to me " it all ways does " we will do our best to make the trails as nice as we can. We are staying hopeful that the snow comes and we can be riding right up to April 15 the last day of the season! there has been seasons that we had to shovel to close the gates! Think Snow!



The photo is John Hogan cutting one of two big evergreen trees, Bruce Pike who was helping took the photo.

~Article by Roy Arthur

COVID TESTS

The Town Office still has a supply of free COVID Tests for those in town needing them.

~Rebecca Rice, Town Clerk



The gardens at the Mountain School are sleeping peacefully under a layer of snow, and while plummeting the sledding hill may be the top activity on the school grounds, maintaining the compost and caring for the apple trees is right behind.

Ms. McDonough's 5th/6th class has risen to the challenge of caring for the compost in the snow and wind, and has shown great dedication and school leadership doing so.

Ms. Levin's 3rd/4th class has protected the trees from snow tunneling rodents by keeping the snow below the level of the protective screens.

At the Russellville Schoolhouse we have eased back into winter community music circles in December and January. The first two month's music jams were well attended by old timers and new friends. Songs were shared out of "Rise up Singing" or taught in the moment or followed along, or, as happened in January, composed on the spot! Who knew a cold toe could provide such a soulful inspiration for a blues number?

Guitars, banjos, fiddles, a stand-up bass and even something called a "nose harp" (it wasn't passed around) livened the nights. Come join us on the second Saturday of the month through the winter and lend your voice, your ear or an instrument, commonplace or obscure, to the jam! Our next music share will be on February 8.

As we find ourselves surrounded by the cold, now is the time to prepare for the growing season ahead! Join Scott Courcelle of SAGE and Alchemy Gardens on Saturday, February 22 at 1pm, in a discussion that will help to prepare you for your best growing season ever! We'll discuss techniques for better planning as well as how to best manage soil health, weeds, pests and disease. This event will take place at the Russellville Schoolhouse. Donations to SAGE are welcome.

SAGE, Shrewsbury Agricultural Education & Arts Foundation, has a mission to support and promote sustainable farming and other arts that nourish community life. For more information about SAGE: contact Stephen Abatiell at educate.sage@gmail.com, Joan Aleshire at 492-3550 or visit www.sagevt.wordpress.com. Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date event details at ShrewsburySAGE and find our sustainability and arts videos at:

www.youtube.com/@sagefoundation.

~Submitted by Stephen Abatiell

Shrewsbury Agricultural Education and Arts Foundation

- Feb 7 @ 7pm: Music Jam at the Russellville Schoolhouse
- Feb 22 @ 1pm: Prepare for your best growing season yet!, Russellville Schoolhouse

REINBOW RIDING CENTER NEWS



Reinbow Riding Center recently held its Annual Meeting and welcomed new board members Jacquelyn Bode Marston of Castleton, Donna Merkle of Rutland, and Sharon Lickerman of Mount Holly & New York City. In addition, Mary Jane Osborn will now serve as an honorary board member. Outgoing board member Brett Lertola was thanked for his service.

Jacky and her husband have bred, trained, competed and enjoyed Morgan horses for decades. She is a clinical psychologist by profession, worked in community mental health and holds a license in alcohol & drug counseling. Jacky was also a board member of the Vermont Morgan Horse Association. She strongly believes in the special human/animal connection to promote healing.

Donna is a retired schoolteacher who has taught and worked with hundreds of young children with special needs. As an adjunct faculty member at the University of Vermont and Castleton University, she also taught graduate courses to other educators. In addition, she has served as President of Vermont Council on Reading and was an active board member for the New England Reading Association. During the summer months, Donna enjoys working as a national facilitator for Literacy Institutes at various schools around the country. She also enjoys working as a Reinbow Riding Center volunteer.

Sharon brings years of expertise in child development as an A.M.I. Montessori Educator, and also represents AMI at the United Nations. Her own daughter has experienced the profound impact of the programming at Reinbow Riding Center. Mary Jane, the founder of Reinbow Riding Center, recently retired as instructor and program director of the organization since its inception in 2008. She continues to support the organization as a dedicated volunteer. She will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as an Honorary Director sharing her institutional knowledge and expertise with the organization into the future.

Brett served on the Board Finance Committee. He is a math educator in the Rutland School System and was recently promoted to Associate Principal of Rutland High School. Brett recently stepped down from the board due to his increased commitments.

Our mission at Reinbow is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and /or cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience. We strive to meet the needs of every individual that participates in our programs, mounted or unmounted, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information about Reinbow Riding Center and our programs please check out our website: reinbowridingcenter.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and LinkedIn! Contact us at programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer with us contact janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org.

~Submitted by Janet Upton

Jockey Hill Farm in 2024: A Retrospective

2024 was a year of continual change at Jockey Hill Farm. From heavy flooding and erosion to fierce winds toppling trees across our property to the onslaught of invasive plant and insect species, we're experiencing an increasing number of climate change impacts. While these aren't surprising, their intensity and frequency has been. Over the last five years, we've undertaken numerous initiatives to adapt to these impacts with the aim of preserving our forest for future generations. Little did we know when my family and I took on this endeavor the range and depth of actions we would need to take to adapt to these impacts, with assistance from many experts across the State.

Of course, we have had some successes and failures. Our plantings of hybrid American chestnuts and red oaks have done well. Of the 50 chestnuts we planted from The American Chestnut Foundation (ACF), 43 have survived and are generally flourishing. These trees are part of a large scale, multi-year initiative to reintroduce chestnuts across the eastern U.S. Among the eight species of climate resilient trees we've planted, our success rate has been about 30% due to deer and moose browsing, heavy rains, rodents eating tree roots and stems and poor soil conditions. The introduction of climate resilient trees, trees that have potential to migrate north from warmer climates, is part of a growing trend to identify trees that can survive in our climate in part to replace species that may succumb to the impact of climate change.

In early August, Redstart Consulting in Bradford, Vermont, under funding from USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), treated an infiltration of seven invasive species in the southeast corner of our property. In 2025, Redstart will treat the remainder of these invasives. They were rapidly invading roughly three acres of patch cuts completed in 2010 inhibiting the expected regeneration of the forest. Based on experience with other patch cuts at the farm, our patch cuts have typically returned to healthy forest after 20 to 30 years, absent invasives. Our goal is to achieve similar success through invasive control in our most recent patch cuts.

Another success in 2024 was the rapid growth of the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP) developed by the American Forest Foundation in which we enrolled in 2022 as an early adopter. This program rewards landowners for managing their forests for carbon sequestration and storage among other objectives, thereby removing atmospheric carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas. By the end of 2024, the program participation had increased to 860 in 19 states across 120,000 acres. The FFCP is now the only program of its kind focused on smaller landowners. Managing for carbon has now become a key element of land use plans that many of us landowners use in the management of their land.

For those of you who have walked our trails over the last year, you've seen that most of our fields are now "no-mow" zones where we're allowing the grasses, wildflowers and tree saplings to recover providing more robust habitat for wildlife among other benefits. For 47 years up until 2022, we mowed all the fields out of tradition until, based on recommendations from Audubon Vermont, Vermont Land Trust and others, we decided to shift to mowing every three or more years. The last three years of no mowing has brought back a huge variety of vegetation, including a wide range of wildflowers and the pollinators that

come with them. We're anticipating that this transition will also attract a wider variety of birds, adding to our inventory of 76 species as monitored by Linda Shelvey and others and adding to the biodiversity of the region.

In late December, our new bridge from Coldham Rd across to our house was completed. The original bridge was constructed of hemlock in 2012 just after Tropical Storm Irene. The new bridge is constructed out of locust, an extremely strong and rot resistant wood. The locust was locally sourced, a trend we've been embracing in other wood-related projects on our property to support the local forest industry.

As always, Jockey Hill Farm is open to the public. If you have an interest in visiting, please contact me at 617-899-1011 or stoutim@gmail.com. I'd be happy to take you on a tour of the trails to explore our fields and forests and the various climate change adaptation projects we're undertaking.

~Article by Tim Stout

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Annual Love Letter to Pierce's Store

Pierce's, oh Pierce's, how do we love thee?
Let us count the ways!

We love you for your quality food products that nourish and sustain our community,
For fish on Fridays, local organic produce, Vermont dairy products, hot soup, yummy cookies and scones, and fresh baked sourdough bread;

We love you for knowing all of our names and greeting us with a smile and a chat when we enter the store;

We love you for creating a space to bump into our neighbors and enjoy casual social interactions that brighten our day;

We love you for showcasing the beautiful products hand-crafted by our local artists;

We love you for providing jobs and revenue for local residents;


We love you for the treats that keep us happy, from ice cream to penny candy, and from wine to beer, and everything in between!

We love your staff and volunteers who keep your doors open by repairing broken windows, enhancing the garage space, manning the cash register, removing the trash and recycling, weighing and cutting our fish, sweeping the floors, and washing the dishes;

We love you for your managers who are bringing a new vision to our remote country store, ushering us forward into a successful future;

We love you for creating fun events that encourage us to congregate together for a good time;
For the Chili Cookoff, the wine and beer tastings, the excellent music events, the Blueberry Festival, storytelling, pizza night, and the list goes on....

We love you for your past, connecting us to the Pierce family and their legacy; and we love you for your future as you continue to play a huge role in sustaining community in Shrewsbury!

We love you Pierce's!! 

~ Lily French, President of the SCPS Board

PIERCE'S STORE NEEDS YOU!!

IF YOU VALUE PIERCE'S STORE FOR ALL OF THE REASONS LISTED ABOVE AND WANT TO BE A PART OF ITS ONGOING SUCCESS, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE SCPS BOARD. WE WILL HAVE TWO OPENINGS FOR THE BOARD OPENING UP THIS SPRING. WE ARE A FUN, MOTIVATED, ACTIVE BOARD THAT WORKS WELL TOGETHER TO FURTHER THE COOPERATIVE'S MISSION. CALL ANY BOARD MEMBER OR TALK TO THE MANAGERS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

SCPS DIRECTORS:

Lily French, Ed Sawyer, Paul Titterton, Jeff Monder, Lana Vanucchi, Adrienne Raymond, Shannon Dake, Mark Youngstrom

From Pierce's about the Next Generation Campaign

"Pierce's Store has meant a lot to us over many generations, and we trust it will continue to serve and thrive in the community. This donation is to go to the Next Generation Campaign fundraising, which we are all very excited about."

So wrote a contributor to Pierce's recent "Next Generation Campaign." Not everyone has local roots that go way back, but many Shrewsburies rely on Pierce's for milk, eggs, beer or even basic first aid supplies to avoid having to make a trip to Rutland. Others shop regularly at the store and enjoy the fresh made meals, breads and other baked goods, local meats, sandwiches, beverages and an array of fresh fruits and vegetables now available.

And then there is the weekly seafood. Fishmongers Helen and Lavinia entice us with four or five types of seafood each week. It is guaranteed to be about as fresh as you can get without catching it yourself. If you are unsure of how to prepare fish, just ask – you'll find all sorts of ideas.

So, what is the Next Generation Campaign? Since before Thanksgiving, the Board has been quietly working towards the goal of raising \$65,000 to support the store's transition to new leadership and a revitalized business model, designed to achieve long-term sustainability.

This campaign involves three approximately equal segments of fundraising. The Phase One grant support has successfully been completed with a pledge of \$20,000 from the Vermont Community Foundation. Phase Two reached out to past supporters with the goal of meeting a \$10,000 matching grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont. With that met, we are now reaching out to raise the last \$10,000 from the larger Pierce's community.

Pierce's is not a private, for-profit convenience store. Such a model could never work financially in Shrewsbury. Instead, it is a Community Supported Enterprise, and with the Preservation Trust of Vermont alliance, Pierce's can and will be a vital and contributing part of our special community.

Your thoughtful consideration of a gift to reach this goal is most appreciated. Help Pierce's long-term commitment and service to our town.

We were given a unique and irreplaceable gift by Marjorie Pierce, with the hope that the family store would continue to be a place of service and community. First opening in 1865 as Nathaniel Aldrich's store, this same special place has served Shrewsbury for 160 years! This is a legacy worth preserving for the next generations.

If you want more information about the Campaign contact either Mark Youngstrom marky@vermontel.net or Sally Deinzer sjdad3@gmail.com.

Donations may be made out to either Pierce's Store or, if tax deductibility is desired, Preservation Trust of Vermont and sent to Mark Youngstrom, 1608 Lottery Road Shrewsbury, VT 05738.

If you want to learn more about Community Supported Enterprises, check out Vermont Public's Vermont Edition from January 14, 2025.

<https://www.vermontpublic.org/show/vermont-edition/2025-01-14/the-business-model-thats-saving-vermonts-general-stores> ~Submitted by Sally Deinzer



PIERCE'S STORE

802-492-3326

www.piercesstore.com

Hours: 8am to 6pm

Pierce's 2025 Membership Drive is Open!

Do you believe in the power of community-owned businesses?

Want to keep Vermont's historical buildings in operation for years to come?

Hoping to circulate your paycheck locally...

(supporting the farmers, grocers, artists and neighbors that contribute to Pierce's Store)?

We urge you to become a supporting member of your community grocery store!

Pierce's Store membership is \$20, annually, and gives you access to many perks including:

- **Bulk ordering:** COMING SOON Pierce's will have bulk ordering options available to all members. Order products such as oats, sugar, canned beans, rice, a case of wine, etc.
- **Prebuy accounts:** Don't have cash on hand? Forgot your card in the car? Want to empower your 8-year old to do the shopping? You can help keep our profits going toward store operations and out of the hands of credit card companies by using a pre-buy account.
- **Member appreciation sales:** Pierce's gives back. Members receive special discounts on various rotating items.

If you are already a member, thank you for your support! Please consider renewing your membership the next time you shop.

Update from Pierce's Managers:

As 2025 comes into full swing, we want to take a moment to reflect on all the changes and accomplishments happening here at the store over the past six months. Your continued and consistent support of Pierce's helps to make all of the house made muffins, scones, chocolate chip cookies, soups, salads and bread possible. We are so grateful to all of Pierce's staff and volunteers who work late into dark winter evenings closing the store and are up before the sun scrambling eggs for breakfast sandwiches. Please give them an extra thank you, the next time you shop.

Pierce's would also not be what it is without the incredible network of small farms and food hubs supporting local agriculture in and around Rutland County. We are so lucky to have Vermont-grown carrots, spinach, leeks, apples, microgreens, cabbage, etc readily available all year round. Shopping at Pierce's supports these efforts.

February brings Valentine's Day chocolates, candies, caramels and cookies to the store. Coming SOON we'll also be able to stock fortified wine - think vermouth, sherry and ports. We have specialty cheeses, favorite beers, crackers, chips, soft drinks and salami! Not seeing a family favorite here at the store? We're happy to take requests. ~Cheers, Harry and Elena

Pierce's Store is Hiring!

The Shrewsbury Coop at Pierce's Store is hiring a **part time cook & store assistant**. At Pierce's we make a variety of baked goods, sourdough bread and scratch made meals. We are looking for a capable and creative team member to take lead on kitchen production. Many of our ingredients are sourced from local producers and we are excited to add new menu offerings on a weekly basis. This is an exciting opportunity to learn from two experienced kitchen professionals. Like all staff members, you will be a community-facing member of our team who wears a variety of hats. Other responsibilities include: opening and closing the store, staffing the register, accepting and checking in deliveries.

Kitchen experience is preferred, but we are willing to train any individual who has a can-do attitude, strong work ethic and is excited to learn.

Please share and circulate.

Interested parties can reach out to Elena, at piercesmanager@gmail.com

SHREWSBURY COOPERATIVE AT PIERCE'S STORE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING March 13, 2025

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3.4 of the Bylaws of the Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's store (SCPS), notice is hereby given that the 16th Annual Meeting of the Owners will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:30 in the evening at the Shrewsbury Meeting House/Town Hall on Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, Vermont. (A potluck supper for all members will be served before the meeting at 5:30.)

The purpose of the meeting is to report to our members on the operations and finances of SCPS in 2024 and to elect two new Board members to terms of three years.

Only persons who are member owners prior to the commencement of the meeting are entitled to vote. Each shareowner* has one and only one vote on each matter submitted, despite the actual number of shares owned. If an owner is unable to attend, but wants to vote, he or she must complete the ballot included with this Notice and return it as prescribed on the ballot.

Lily French
President, Board of Directors
Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store

A "shareowner" is defined as a household, regardless of the number of shares owned: thus, only one vote per household is permitted.

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Steve Banik & Virginia Gundersen
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Nancy Bell
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Laura Black
Kristi & Sandy Bragg
Christina Clarke
Peter & Theresa Clarke
Charleen Cole & Ed Garrow
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Sally Deinzer
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Lizzie & Wayne Emmons
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Allan Patrick
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Jack & Sharon Perry
Melissa Reichert
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Helen & Andy Richards-Peelle
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Ann Vanneman
Arlene Walleit
Reesa Watson
Howard & Deborah Weaver
Jay Webster
Nancy West
Lee Wilson
William & Peggy Wilson

