

# Times of Shrewsbury



February 2012

## Scenic Trails in Northam

On state land less than a mile from Pierce's Store in North Shrewsbury there are trails ideal for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. The area covers parts of two watersheds and includes the sources of the Cold River flowing to the west, and the Great Roaring Brook flowing to the east. The area is essentially a tableland with gentle contours.



Miles of stone walls running through what is now forest attest to much of the land once being cleared and farmed. One of the trails follows an old town road that is clearly shown on the 1869 map of Shrewsbury. Parallel stone walls mark the road which passes at least one cellar hole and leads up to another cellar near an ancient apple orchard. Barn foundations can also be found along with old meadows slowly being taken over by undergrowth. Also of interest within the area are what appear to be three corrals or large enclosed areas that may have been used to pen sheep. These various reminders of human habitation 150 years ago or more fuel the imagination. The human imprint on the land seems to be a passing thing as the forest surrounds and engulfs what has fallen into ruin.



The Great Roaring Brook flows into the trail area from a large wetland to the north. This area over the years has proven to be prime moose habitat. At times some ski trails have been "potholed" by too much moose use. This writer has shared the trails multiple times with moose, one time watching a very large bull moose running past in snow so deep that it looked like a four legged snow plow, and so close that its heavy breathing could be heard. Beavers have dammed the waters of the Great Roaring Brook in multiple places forming ponds and creating wet conditions that have impacted some trails. One cannot complain because the moose, beavers, and other wildlife are the inhabitants; skiers are just visitors.

The formal trail system began in 2004 when Gary Salmon, a Vermont State Forester and Shrewsbury resident, approached members of the Outing Club about entering into an "adopt-a-trail" agreement to establish and maintain public ski trails on state land formerly the Besseney property. Adjacent to the property is the Plymbsbury Wildlife Management Area where some of the official trails continue and extend east almost to the Shrewsbury-Plymouth town line. Official trails on Forest and Parks land are marked by orange diamonds, and motorized recreational use is prohibited.

The Outing Club enthusiastically agreed to take on this project as a way of encouraging enjoyment of a natural resource and promoting healthy recreational activities on an area that extends north from the Old Plymouth Road to the CCC Road. Most of the trails have been reclaimed from old logging roads and are easy to follow. Some trails have been created by Outing Club members and are more narrow and less straight.



Access to the trails begins at the Old Plymouth Road parking area. Walk about a quarter mile up the road beyond the parking area to the top of the hill. On the left is a gate which marks the beginning of one of the trails. Immediately beyond the gate is a kiosk with a small trail map and information

from the Department of Forest and Parks stating that the area is maintained by the Shrewsbury Outing Club

For more information about the trail system or to enjoy a guided tour, call Lee Wilson at 492-3542.

*by Lee Wilson*

## Letters to and from the Editors

### Oops!

On our Silent Auction thank you donation letter, we omitted an "8" in our earnings figure! The line should have read "just over \$3800." Thank you again for supporting the library by donating items and attending the event!

*Submitted by Donna Swartz and Lisa Sharrow*

### Spaghetti Supper Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who came to eat in or take out at our Annual Shrewsbury Youth Group Alumni Spaghetti Supper. We used the proceeds to buy gift cards, fleece blankets, and fill Christmas stockings with basic necessities for the people served by the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter. We were also able to drop off much needed household supplies. The need was greater this year and your support is greatly appreciated!

Special thanks to Donna Smith, Fran Patten, Mike and Gloria Benson, Thomas Dairy, Hannafords and Price Chopper for supplies to assist us in delivering this wonderful spaghetti feast!

Special thanks to Julanne Sharrow, the Reuter family, Dino and David Rice, Ruth Kinne, Ann McGowen, Mark Potanas, Liesbeth van der Heijden, the Gibson family, Karen Lorentz, Rene

Pollock and Tess Williams for your donations and support.

I would also like to thank our loyal crew members for a job well done: Lynette Over, Crystal Kelley, Anissa Sharrow, Liz Pels and Pastor Pat Jackman.

*Submitted by Sue Ransom-Kelley*

### Thanks

We would like to thank Pierce's Store and the individuals who made contributions to help local farms that were affected by Irene. We also received calls from folks checking in and offering help; a heartfelt thanks to all.

A seed order is in progress and plans for the coming season are taking shape and a brochure describing this season's CSA program will be available later this winter. Best wishes for the New Year to all!

*The Sirjane family, Caravan Gardens*

### Times Financial Report 12/31/2011

Beginning Cash Balance	\$619
Receipts (donations & advertisements)	\$5,482
Expenses (printing & postage)	<u>(\$4,608)</u>
Year End Cash Balance:	\$1,493

Your donations make publishing the *Times* possible, and the response to our notice in the November issue is very much appreciated!

**THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

*The Editors*

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## The Times of Shrewsbury

The *Times of Shrewsbury* is published monthly February through December. It is compiled by volunteers from material submitted by residents with the goal being to keep townspeople informed of what is happening in Shrewsbury.

All submissions must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the submitting person. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 350 words. Any opinion piece will be deemed to be a Letter to the Editor subject to this policy. All items including letters are printed at the editors' discretion. A letter writer of any letter that names a Shrewsbury resident or organization in a critical manner must get copies to that resident or organization and to the *Times* at least a week before the 20th of the month prior to publication or it will not run. If the named individual or organization indicates in writing to the writer and to the *Times* that they choose not to respond, the letter will run. If the named entity responds, the response and initial letter will run in the same issue.

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

**Articles and Advertisements:** Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication; exceptions will be announced in the prior month's *Times*. If you send something electronically and don't get an acknowledgment within 2 to 3 days, please email, or call Sandra Korinchak at 773-8930 ext. 223 or Chryl Martin at 492-2244. Advertisements include runs for political office, political endorsements, and any money-making venture for an individual or business.

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

**Monthly Advertisement Fees:** Full page \$40; 1/2 page \$20; 1/4 page \$10; Business card \$5; Classified ad (15 words) \$2. If the *Times* creates an ad for you, add \$20 to the cost. Payment must be received by the 20th or your ad cannot be printed.

Co-editors: Sandra Korinchak & Chryl Martin    Printing & mailing help: Jan O'Hara  
The Shrewsbury Times, P. O. Box 373, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

**Email:** [shrewsburytimes@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburytimes@gmail.com)

Online: [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org) or [www.rutlandrpc.org/townnewsletters.ph](http://www.rutlandrpc.org/townnewsletters.ph)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 4	7pm	*Marcos Levy & Salt River Review Band benefit concert at Meeting House
Feb 6		*Early voting and absentee ballots available at Town Office
Feb 9	12noon	Prayer Shawl group at Roxanne Ramah's home. Bring a bag lunch and call Roxanne at 492-3675 if you can come. All are welcome!
Feb 12	3-5pm	*Leonard Korzun talks about first settlers in Shrewsbury and VT at Shrewsbury Library
Feb 14	12noon	Senior Valentine's Day Lunch at Roots Restaurant, Wales St., Rutland. Please call Fran Patten at 492-3706 by Feb 7 if you can come.
Feb 16	10:30am	Parent's Recess meeting at Meeting House
Feb 19	4pm	*Book Club at Shrewsbury Library
Feb 20-24		Winter Recess – No School
Feb 25	10:15am	*Family book/movie discussion at Shrewsbury Library
Feb 29		*Last day to register to vote
Mar 5	5:30pm	*School informational meeting with Town portion to follow at Meeting House
Mar 6	10am-7pm	*Voting for Town and Presidential primary at Meeting House
Mar 9	7:30pm	*Howard Coffin speaks on Vermont in the Civil War at the Shrewsbury Library

\* see elsewhere in newsletter for details



Deadline for submission to the next edition is March 20

## REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

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

### Shrewsbury Town Website: [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)

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

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

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

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

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

**Meeting House** 492-6050 (Reservations: 492-3649)  
**Dog Warden** Matt Danaher 492-3442  
**Shrewsbury Constables** Matt Danaher 492-3442  
and Pete Lajoie 492-3671

**Emergency Management Irene Gordon** 492-8282  
**Ambulance** 773-1700  
**CVPS power outage** 1-800-451-2877  
**Medical—Fire—Police Emergency** Dial 911  
**Rutland Hospital** 775-7111

## Letter to the Editor

### Fellow Shrewsburites,

As I sit by my cozy woodstove on this frigid January evening, I realize it is time to start thinking about Town Meeting Day.

I expect that our educational property taxes will be level with last year (not including effect of income sensitivity). Even though our elementary educational spending is up a little and our equalized pupil counts are down a little, our CLA (common level of appraisal) movement upward will balance these effects out. On the ballot is an article for approving an expenditure budget and an article asking for \$10,000 for the Building Sinking Fund; together these would give us a 2.2% increase in educational spending over current year and an \$800 decrease over last year (remember we had a decrease in spending this current year). Shrewsbury continues to spend 5% less than statewide average.

In this current year all 4 RSSU districts (Shrewsbury, Clarendon, Wallingford, and Mill River) started the process of consolidating transportation into one operation run by the supervisory union. This saved Shrewsbury 9.5% on its transport budget in this current year and will save us another 18% in next year's budget. Prior to this current year, we always had an article asking for funds for the Bus Sinking Fund. All future bus purchases or leases will be done by the Supervisory

Union as part of our consolidated transport operations. Each of the four districts is placing its buses into the consolidated operation, however all the buses are of different value and age and each district has a different ration of bus value per size of district (Mill River has a much higher ratio of bus value per pupil). After vigorous negotiations, we came up with the following equalizing values for each district to contribute: Shrewsbury \$14,348, Wallingford \$26,877, Clarendon \$43,775, Mill River \$0. These funds will go toward the purchase of a new bus next year. In subsequent years the acquisition of new buses will come directly from the operating budget.

We have an article on the ballot to pay RSSU the \$14,348 from our Bus Sinking Fund. Since we will not need a fund for bus purchases anymore, we are asking to move the remainder to the Building Sinking Fund. The Building fund can make good use of this infusion. Now that we have insulated and tightened up the building we are in the process of improving the efficient circulation of air in the building. This summer we plan to start improvements to the roof.

Time to put another log on the fire. I am looking forward to seeing you at the informational meeting on Monday night March 5. Stay warm and don't forget to vote on March 6.

*Ed Hemmer, School Board Member*

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## Legislative Report

Getting back to work in Montpelier is always more satisfying than anticipated. The last year of this biennium should be productive. The fear that the session would be dominated by Irene related legislation has been tempered by several factors. The first is the fast, efficient, tireless, and compassionate efforts by local officials and citizens. I am personally so proud of the response from the citizens of Wallingford, Shrewsbury, and Tinmouth. Secondly, the response from the State, from AOT to ANR, and too many other agencies to list, was immediate and effective and is still ongoing. Thirdly, our Federal delegation worked hard to insure that Vermont received the help from Washington it so badly needed and deserved. Because of these initiatives the cost of the storm—from a state budget perspective—is manageable.

Our first order of business was Irene related. We quickly passed H-461, a bill that reimburses towns the education tax portion of any properties that were

abated either as a result of Irene or the earlier Spring flooding. We passed H-505, a bill that allows towns to defer the December education fund payments until Feb. 28. We passed H-515, a bill that holds public agencies and individuals harmless for disclosing tax adjustment information. This was in response to a recent US Supreme Court decision that disallows such disclosure. In response to that decision and for other reasons we are working on a bill to have the State collect education property taxes.

Next month I'll be able to give updates on many initiatives from other committees including Judiciary, where I continue to serve. As always, please afford yourselves the opportunity to participate in our democracy by contacting me with any ideas or concerns at 492-3304 or 345-9187 or at [eldredfrench@vermontel.net](mailto:eldredfrench@vermontel.net). Thanks again for your interest and hard work.

*State Representative Eldred French*

## 2012 Shrewsbury Annual Town Meeting Election + Presidential Primary

### Informational Meeting Monday March 5

School Meeting Starting at 5:30pm with the Town portion following afterwards at Shrewsbury Community Meeting House.

### Voting: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, from 10:00am to 7:00pm

at the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House

### Early Voting and Absentee Ballots available after February 5:

When requesting an Absentee Ballot for the Presidential Primary, you will need to request either a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot. Absentee Ballot Request Forms are available by calling the Town Clerk and on the Shrewsbury website.

### Register to Vote

This year you have an extra day if you are not on the checklist. February 29 5:00pm is the deadline to register to vote for the 2012 Annual Town Meeting. The Clerk's office will be open till 5:00pm to collect and process applications.

*Submitted by Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk*

## 2011 Annual Town Report

The 2011 Annual Town Report will be distributed to all households in Shrewsbury on or before February 25<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of Town Meeting on March 6, 2012. The Report will also be available on the Town website [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org).

The Report will contain the Warnings for Town budget items as well as the Shrewsbury Mountain School budget, all of which will be voted on at Town Meeting. Reports from the Selectboard, the School Board, and various Town and out-of-town officers and organizations will also be presented in the Report.

We hope you will review the Report to become knowledgeable about the activities and costs of operation of our Town. You will have a chance before voting to ask any questions and discuss any issues of interest at the Information Meeting on March 5.

*Richard Biziak, Jonathan Gibson, Chryl Martin  
Shrewsbury Board of Auditors*

## Tax Bill Release Authorization

In accordance with a recent Vermont Supreme Court ruling, copies of Tax Bills that contain state rebate information are not Public Records and are available only to the taxpayer. If the Taxpayer wishes to have their state rebate information released to a second party (refinancing company, bank, tax preparer, etc.), the Taxpayer will need to have on file in the Town Office a signed Release Authorization. Copies are available by calling the Town Office 492-3511 or a downloadable copy is available on the Town Web Site, [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org).

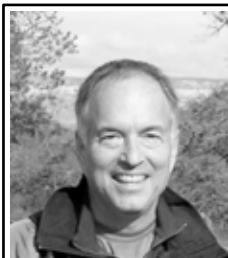
## Dog Licenses



2012 Dog Licenses will be available after January 1. In Vermont you must have your dog licensed by April 1 to avoid a late fee. Male / Female \$12.00 or Neutered / Spayed \$8.00.

Rabies vaccination must be current. Licenses are available at the Town Office or by mail: 9823 Cold River Rd. Shrewsbury, VT 05738

*Submitted by Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk*



**Gene Felder**  
home: 492-3633  
cell: 558-9068  
[GeneFelder@vcpsir.com](mailto:GeneFelder@vcpsir.com)

Do you have questions about  
Shrewsbury Real Estate?

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Should I List now or wait?  
Should I Buy now or wait?*

Please give me a call and let my local  
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## FROM THE SELECTBOARD

### Hello Neighbors,

Happy 2012 to all. We are knee deep in the budget preparation process. As always your input is welcome.

The temporary bridge on the Frank Lord road was open just in time for Christmas. The Brown Bridge is officially closed. Work has been done in the river bed and around the footing to the bridge itself. The access road on the west side of the bridge is another story. That section of river below the bridge has undercut the bank, causing the hillside to slump. There is a large crack in the middle of the road. Pending evaluation in the spring the ROAD is CLOSED. Please do not circumvent the road barriers.

The transfer station has asked me to pass on the following information. We are still experiencing

problems with people dumping stuff after the transfer station attendant has told them not to. No furniture, no mattresses, no construction debris. Please listen to Bob Perry, he is the authority at the dump. It's inconsiderate and it costs the Town (i.e., taxpayers—you) money to track the dumpers down to rectify the situation. Also, when you bring plastic to the dump to be recycled please remove the tops, and plastic necks, if any. And remove any strings or bags that you have transported the items with. Again, it costs us money if a load is rejected due to "contamination." Please be mindful. If you have questions as to how something should be recycled, ask Bob.

Town meeting is just around the corner. You will receive your Town report in mid-February. I encourage you to go through it and join us at the informational meeting the day before voting day.

*John Wood, Selectboard*

### MARCH 5, 2012: School Meeting and Town Informational Meeting

### MARCH 6, 2012: Voting Day

### Home Heating Assistance for Seniors

The State of Vermont's Home Heating Assistance Program might be the way to get some help with winter heating fuel costs. All types of fuel (wood, pellets, electric, oil, gas, kerosene or coal) are included.

To qualify, the gross monthly income limit for all households, regardless of age, is \$1,680 for one person and \$2,269 for two people. There is no limit on one's resources, or savings. However, interest and dividends on any resources or savings are considered part of the gross income.

**You are strongly encouraged to apply by January 31, but February 29 is the final date to apply.**

If you are a Senior (age 60+) in Rutland or Bennington county, the Senior HelpLine is ready to assist you with information and the form needed to apply for Vermont Home Heating Assistance. Call 802-786-5991 or 1-800-642-5119. All others should call Vermont Economic Services at 1-800-479-6151 or go to [www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/fuel\\_assistance](http://www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/fuel_assistance).

*Kelly Giancola, Senior Helpline Coordinator  
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging*



### News from The Transfer Station



Reminder: Please separate metal, glass, plastic, cardboard, and paper from your trash. We're a recycling center and our main expense comes from what goes down the trash chute.

Fluorescent and CFL light bulb disposal:  
Place in container in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bay next to the Reading Room.

Battery disposal:  
Place household batteries in container under the glass table next to the chute. Talk to me if you have car batteries to dispose of.

Nails: Be sure to bag nails and other items that can puncture tires. We've had a few flat tires!

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

I really like getting to know more of my neighbors here in Shrewsbury. See you at the station,  
*Bob Perry*



## SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since the last writing in the December Times the SVFD has responded to one structure fire, a carbon monoxide alarm, a lift assist request from Regional ambulance, and a mutual aid call from Clarendon Fire.

On Thanksgiving morning a structure fire was quickly doused and a residence was saved because of the mutual aid response from SVFD, Clarendon, and Mt. Holly! Many factors play into how these incidents turn out. First, the owners made a quick call to 911 before the fire had a chance to proceed too far. Secondly, we had recently drilled and discussed how a fire in that area would be attacked. Third, our mutual aid agreements with our neighbors request an immediate response from them when a structure fire is involved. We had plenty of manpower and equipment and we had it quickly!

The carbon monoxide alarm call came on a snowy Friday evening, and SVFD responded with equipment and personnel. This call presented a couple of obstacles. The driveway was at an odd angle to the snow covered downhill road so the SVFD opted to park the truck on the main road and bring the necessary gear in on foot. It was determined to be a faulty CO detector. The homeowner was left with a new detector and an explanation of the findings at the residence.

Occasionally, local fire departments will receive calls from Regional Ambulance to assist when conditions require more personnel. Often many of our members respond. We were able to assist Clarendon Fire when they had a boiler failure in a structure. The mutual aid agreements are key components for our fire departments and our neighboring towns.

In late December our new remote monitored alarm at Northam Station sent a signal of low temperature

to our monitoring company. They notified the contact person who quickly found the furnace not working. It was later determined the main controller failed. It was replaced, and the boiler was returned to service averting a possible freeze up.

Although these are different calls, they highlight one common thread. Early notification is important. From the structure fire that we caught in time, to our building not freezing up, fast notification is a key! Find a safe location first and do not hesitate to call 911 if you think you have an emergency.

Responding to emergency calls is a large part of what the SVFD does routinely. There is another component to the department—fundraising. In November we closed out the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SVFD Race Pool with a local winner collecting the \$4000 grand prize! This has and continues to be a great fundraiser for the SVFD—AND the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual SVFD Race Pool is now accepting this year's entrants. Pick up an entry form locally or register at [www.racingsvfd.com](http://www.racingsvfd.com).

Our mailer this year has been overwhelmingly successful! Shrewsbury always finds a way to surprise us! Your donations of over \$10K will purchase the latest technology to ensure we can extricate a person from the newer vehicles, quicker.

Lastly, the SVFD recently had a fuel raffle. SVFD members sold tickets for items donated: 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy, 1 ton of wood pellets from Vt Wood Pellet, and a cord of wood donated by the SVFD members. This effort replaced a coin drop we were unable to hold in September due to Hurricane Irene. It collected \$1900!

SO—The SVFD extends a huge THANK YOU to everyone for your continued support and remember

**STAY FIRE SAFE!!!**

*Submitted by Jack Perry*

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**[jcstewartandson@comcast.net](mailto:jcstewartandson@comcast.net)**



• HAPPY NEW YEAR! and thanks to everyone who helped make the HOLIDAY CELEBRATION COOKIE SWAP & SILENT AUCTION a success: with your donations, purchases, and hard work! SPECIAL THANKS to LISA, DONNA, GAIL, and KAREN

for decorating the Library so wonderfully; to RUSSELL REAY for the beautiful tree; LISA'S DAD for the beautiful wreaths; HEATHER SHAY and SCOTT GARREN for climbing the ladder to install those stars (hit of the evening); MORGAN and LYNETTE OVER, along with ALICIA BLECICH, for turning the Great Room into a cafe; and to MARCOS LEVY and friends (DIRK THOMAS, MARK HAMILTON, and CHRIS ALLARD) for the great music. THANKS to all for coming!

• DONNA joins our meetings via Skype for the next several months; thanks to LISA for setting up the connection!

**COMING EVENTS**

Sunday, February 19 at 4pm:

First of three discussions on MIDDLEMARCH by George Eliot. Books will be available at the Library.

Sunday, February 12, 3-5pm:

LEONARD KORZUN will share his research on VT & SHREWSBURY'S FIRST SETTLERS.

Friday, March 9 at 7:30pm: HOWARD COFFIN on VERMONT in the CIVIL WAR

April 21: PENELOPE WEISS will read from her story collection, STORIANA; JOAN ALESHIRE will read from her new book of poems, HAPPILY.

April 27: GARDENERS' ROUNDTABLE

May 19: YVONNE DALEY to read from A MIGHTY STORM, her book about Irene, and talk about her writing.

**NEW DVDs:**

- MONEYBALL with Brad Pitt;
- PORTLANDIA: SEASON 1
- POETRY, a drama from Korea
- CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS, a Werner Herzog documentary

**NEW BOOKS include:**

- STEPHEN KING'S new novel: 1/23/63
- IAN RANKIN'S new mystery, THE IMPOSSIBLE DEAD
- CATHERINE THE GREAT, a biography by Robert Massie
- THE DROP by MICHAEL CONNELLY
- JACK KENNEDY by CHRIS MATTHEWS

**Greetings from the Shrewsbury Library Music Department**



This month we have 3 local CDs to add to the collection. Two are from purely a cappella (a favorite of mine) vocal bands that have Shrewsbury members and the third hails from way over in the Ira/Tinmouth area.

Let's start with Percolatin' by Houseblend. This is a group of 22 some-odd singers that rehearse in Saxton's River. Two of the members are from our great community, Vicky Arthur and Jack Hoffman—see if you can pick out their voices as they are both featured prominently. Favorites are each of the gospel tinged tunes, Dubula, Everyday People (great arrangement), Java Jive and MLK.

Next in the collection is The Washed Up Beulah Band, a quartet of young Vermont men. They perform '30's and '40's Jubilee style music and are all veterans of Village Harmony. Again, another Shrewsbury product is featured prominently in the band, Luke Hoffman (he signed the copy for the Library©). Also are Wheaton Squire, Arthur Davis and Kenny Shimizu. Gospel music to be sure, but all ears will love hearing it. Favorite cuts include: Nobody Knows, Nobody Cares, Where Shall I Be, Trouble All about My Soul, and Lord, Don't Turn Your Child Away. Try to resist moving to these tunes and singing along—you won't be able to.

The final offering for this edition is Duane Carelton's latest, Rust. I call Duane a good friend and am always interested in what he is putting together. This is a rock offering to be sure. Check out In a Nowhere Town, You Can't Lose What you Never Had, Runaway Romeo and God Never Needed a Gun.

I think you will enjoy these additions to our collection. Next time look for a collection of Classical music for your listening edification.

*Submitted by Thomas Hartigan*

## Hello from the Kids Korner,

I hope everyone's holidays were safe and fun. As I mentioned back in November, I'm looking to start a new program that I heard about from a librarian in Maine. Each month a pre-selected book can be picked up at the library in the beginning of the month to be read during the month. Then we will watch the same movie at the end of the month and compare/contrast it with the book. February's selection is **How to Train Your Dragon** by Cressida Cowell. Please stop in early to pick up your copy of the book (which, by the way, you may keep). The movie will be shown on Saturday at 10:15am on February 25, 2012. Refreshments will be served! The turnout for this program will determine how often we will meet in the future.

It's that time of year again when I'm looking for anyone interested in helping with the summer reading programs. This year's theme is "Night." So if anyone is interested in presenting a program or has an idea for a program, please contact me by leaving a message at the front desk.

Thanks for reading and hope to see you at the library!

—Gail H

### MARDI GRAS 2012



**Dust off your dancin' shoes  
Drag out your mask  
You're goin' to the Mardi Gras  
If anyone should ask.**

**What will it cost?  
Eight dollars is the fee  
Kids under twelve  
Will be admitted free.**

**The Muddy Rhodes Blues Band  
Will entertain us ~ great!  
On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April  
Be sure to save the date.**

**Food will be provided  
But bring some if you can  
Or volunteer to help  
Call Fran or Roxanne**

**For the benefit of those who need  
An extra helping hand  
When Irene wiped so many out  
Of home and food and land.**

**Fran : 492-3706  
Roxanne: 492-3675**

Looking for table legs for a large barn door. Have you got something that will work? Let me know! budmaul@gmail.com

## The Lapres Celebrate Their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



We, Raoul and Lisa Lapre, would like to share this with all of you. We were married in 1961. Raoul was born in Mount Holly and Lisa was born in Quebec, Canada, where she graduated as a nurse in 1961. We were married that same year.

We have three wonderful children. Claude Lapre is our Marine we are proud of, married to Diane Eaton. Lynn Lapre married Eddie Dipietro; Lynn has a daughter, Wendy, 25. Lee Roy Lapre married Linda Falco and they have a daughter, Breanna, 11. We also have 7 step-grandchildren and 5 step great-grandchildren we love dearly.

Our children celebrated us for our 50<sup>th</sup> with friends from all over, and with family, including Lisa's 12 brothers and sisters from Canada!

# Shrewsbury Historical Society

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012

Still celebrating Shrewsbury's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I offer two poems that appeared in the 2008 and 2009 Memories Calendars paying homage to our wonderful Town.

### Shrewsbury, Vermont

by Trustee Fran Patten

There's a place on a hill  
That is peaceful and still,  
Wildlife roams  
Among the homes,  
Spring awakens the nascent earth  
Flowers arrive with color and mirth  
Summers are warm and nights so clear  
You can reach for the stars they seem so near  
Autumn's spent leaves of brown and gold  
Flutter and skitter avoiding the cold  
Winters are white and covered in lace  
While challenging winds nip at your face  
Waters are clear, pleasant and sweet  
To quench your thirst or bathe your feet,  
It's a place that has everything one could want  
Welcome home to Shrewsbury, Vermont



### At Home in Shrewsbury, Vermont

by Margaret B. Patten

(former founding member and now deceased)

Pastures green and waters flowing,  
Wooded hills and gardens growing,  
Near and far the cocks are crowing  
– The way it used to be.  
Dirt road winding through the valley,  
Village store where neighbors tarry,  
Hired help to fetch and carry,  
– Vermont was home to me.  
Cutting corn and baling hay,  
Milking cows at break of day  
(more cows than people, we used to say)  
– The way it used to be.  
Vermont is different now-a-days  
With shopping malls and broad highways  
And visitors from far away  
– But still it's home to me.  
Nothing can shrink the mountain's height  
Or dim the air, so clear, so bright,  
Or spoil my comfort and delight  
– Of home – my home – to me.

## IN MEMORIAM

Longtime friend of the Historical Society Danny Korngiebel, age 84, passed away on December 7, 2011. Danny was a Selectman for the Town of Shrewsbury in 1971, was a state representative and served with the Volunteer Fire Dept. of Shrewsbury. He is also remembered for the sheep and donkeys at his home site on Route 103. Danny knew all about farm tools and often came to the Society's help in naming them. I purchased two sheep skins from Danny back when my grandson was born in 1985. Our grandson still has his. I used the other in our dog Fritz's bed, and it is now a cuddly place for our cat Fred to dream on. The Society sends their condolences to Danny's family, Gloria and Mike Benson.

Submitted by Ruth Winkler, Shrewsbury Historical Society

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## The Shrewsbury Community Church

Worship: Sundays at 10:00 AM

### From the Pastor's Desk:

One day I was walking down the street in Portland, Maine while headed to the seminary for class when I saw him coming in my direction. I had seen this man before although I didn't know his name. I had seen him on the busy street and fortunately could sneak past him while others had to deal with his outstretched hand. Only today, no one was near and I couldn't avoid him.

I didn't have any spare change on me. I had taken all the change out of my purse the night before and reasoned with myself that I couldn't give to everyone. As he approached I noticed that his coat looked like something I certainly would have thrown away a long time ago. It was torn, quite ragged, in fact, and in much need of a cleaning. What I wanted to do was cross the street, but that would be too obvious. And I definitely didn't want to make eye contact with him. I had learned when I spent a year studying in New York City that you didn't look "these kinds of folks" in the eye.

"Good morning," he said. Unfortunately, I had no choice but to look up. When I did, I was quite surprised to see a warm, smiling face looking directly at me. "Isn't it a beautiful day?" he asked.

I quickly reached into my purse. "I just bought a couple of protein bars," I said. "Would you like one?" He accepted my offer, smiled, and said, "God bless you."

It was only a few seconds later as we each went our way that it dawned on me that God had indeed blessed me. God had used the man's warm smile and pleasant words to wake me up and help me realize that I can give to others not because I have to but because I want to. May we all choose to give often to help each other, especially those in need.

With this in mind, you may want to join the Shrewsbury Community Church on February 4 at 7:00pm. We will be co-sponsoring a concert with the *Salt River Review Band*. The concert is free although a "free will offering" will be taken. Members of the church will be selling refreshments during intermission. Proceeds from the refreshments and a percentage of the "free will offering" will go to the church's "Helping Hand Fund" for assistance to Shrewsbury residents in need. We hope you'll join us for the music and in the process help us to reach out to those in our community who are in need. See you on February 4<sup>th</sup>!

*Pastor Pat Jackman*



**"Comfort After the Storm"**  
Quilt won by  
Jeff and Pam Monder.  
Congratulations!

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# SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

## Important Dates to Remember:

Feb. 20 – 24 – Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL  
Mar. 15 – Parent/Teacher Conf. – ½ Day  
Mar. 16 – RSSU In-Service – NO SCHOOL  
Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> – Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL

The dates for the Okemo Ski Program are:

January 13, 20, 27  
February 3, 10  
March 2  
March 9th as the make-up date

## PE - Skiing:

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out last week at Okemo. The students had a great time even though the weather was wild. I saw some great skiing and riding from the students at SMS. We are gearing up for another day and hope that all of you can join us again.

## Shrewsbury Afterschool Program/Camp SMS

January has found all of our campers so busy and involved with some great workshops! We have been doing American Sign Language, Basic Spanish, Bocce, yoga, science, taste testing, clay works, mask making, community service, friendship bracelets...the list is just too long to mention! In February, we are excited to announce that February 14th, 15th, and 16th will be Winter Carnival at Camp SMS. We are planning some fun outdoor activities on those 3 days as well as a few indoor activities as well. If you would like to volunteer or participate on those 3 days, please call me at 492-3435...we would love some great ideas and extra sets of hands to make it a fantastic winter carnival!

## 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade:

With the new year, we've had several young authors published in the *Rutland Herald* and even the *Brattleboro Reformer*. Each Monday you may glimpse one, or even several, of our budding Shrewsbury writers in our local papers. On any given Wednesday, you might see a line of blue bins marching down the hill as students bring the school's recycled materials to the transfer station. Fourth, fifth, sixth graders know the importance of recycling to our school and town communities, but they also understand that more is needed to keep our environment healthy. The children are already thinking forward to the first Saturday in May and this year's Green-Up Day. They have each created a poster for the annual Green-Up Vermont contest, hoping to inspire others to join in this essential community event.

## Published young authors at SMS!

*Standing:* Sandra Guyette, Joey Gloss, Grace Gilman, Levi Tarbell  
*Kneeling:* Talia Hutt Vater, Olivia Bernstein, Gary Burnett



## NEWS FROM MILL RIVER

We had hoped to hold the Mill River budget to no increase, but that is not to be. The good news is assessed taxes will go down somewhat.

Continually rising expenses have overcome our best intentions. The faculty for the current year agreed to forgo any increases; next year they will receive a 1% increase. Health insurance is projected to rise by 4%. Next year across the state schools are showing budget increases from 1% to 6%. The Mill River budget will increase by 2.5%

We are able to decrease taxes because we carried a large and unanticipated surplus of \$435,000 into this current year, and the last of the federal stimulus funds of \$112,000 for teacher compensation will be added to next year's budget. Together, this allows us to absorb a portion of the increase and not pass it directly onto taxpayers. Assessed taxes to Shrewsbury will decrease by 0.4%.

The finance committee addressed some of the large anticipated expenses while we had the funds to do so. The wooden bleachers in the gym are 35 years old and need to be replaced. Complete replacement cost will be upwards of \$87,000, and we opted to replace half the seats next year. The driver's education car needs to be replaced for about \$20,000. Finally, in July 2012 the school will be connected to a new fiber optic line which will ensure both high speed internet service and increased traffic capability. We will be investing \$80,000 in these one-time upgrades.

The Annual Meeting of Mill River Union School District #40 has been set for Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00pm in the library.

The supervisory union, which has now taken over busing for all four schools, continues to look at consolidating school bus service. The first year of the busing consolidation has gone well. Routes were kept intact as the administration and busing committee wanted to learn about managing busing for four schools. With a consolidation of routes, next year we will be able to use two fewer buses.

Many exciting things are coming up at school in February—

**The Green Mountain Music District Festival:** February 3 at The College of St. Joseph. The Middle School Chorus, Middle School Jazz Ensemble, High School Band, and High School Strings will be rehearsing with conductors throughout the day and

will be performing a concert at **7:00pm** at the college. Mill River will have 11 vocal musicians and 11 instrumental musicians representing our school at this festival. Tickets for the concert will be available at the door.

**Mathcounts:** We are proud of our school's participation in **Mathcounts**, a national program designed to promote mathematical problem solving in the middle grades. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who attend MRUHS and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from schools that send students to Mill River meet weekly after school to practice problem solving strategies and learn about interesting topics in math. Over 20 students participate weekly under the direction of Mr. Richard Barker and Mrs. Anna Tally. **On February 4** schools from the southwest region of Vermont will compete at the **Chapter Competition** held at **Castleton State College**. Vermont Mathcounts is sponsored by the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, and the competition at Castleton is run by volunteers from General Electric. The Countdown Round is open to the public and will take place at about **12:20pm** in the **Jeffords Auditorium**.

**The Mill River Chamber Singers:** Singers will be performing Singing Valentines on Valentine's Day. You may order a valentine directly from a Chamber Singer or contact Kristin Cimonetti directly via email at [kcimonetti@rssu.org](mailto:kcimonetti@rssu.org) for information. Valentines are \$10 if delivered at MRUHS and \$15 if delivered in the RSSU district/Rutland County. The students may not deliver valentines beyond this distance. You must pay for the valentine when placing an order.

**The American Choral Directors Assoc. Eastern Division Conference:** Two Mill River vocalists were chosen to perform in the Honors Choruses, and only eight Vermont students were chosen for this high honor. Maia Plesent was chosen for the High School Honors Chorus and Lillian Pritchard was chosen for the Latino Honors Chorus. They are very excited to sing with peers from the 10 North-Eastern States.

**Poetry Out Loud:** All students in Grades 9-12 are eligible to compete at MRU on February 16 for the privilege of being our school's representative at the state competition, but juniors in Mr. Bruno's English classes participate in the process as part of the curriculum. Students must memorize and present a poem from an extensive list on the national website.

*Andy Richards-Peelle and Sally Anne Snarski*

## NEWS FROM PIERCE'S STORE



We've been busy at the store over the holidays. We completed our end of the year inventory and as a result have a great sale on products we are discontinuing or are past date. We've reduced the prices by 35% in most cases—so stop in and see some of the deals. Items include chips, salsa, pickles, canned soups, vegetables, and fruit. There are snack bars, cookies, candy and even beer and champagne. We also have a handful of health and beauty products. Come help us clear out some of last year and make room for new products in 2012.

We've added a couple of new products including Seventh Generation Laundry Soap. In ethnic foods, we now carry Organic Udon and Soba noodles, stuffed grape leaves, Nori paper for sushi, masa harina, and hominy. In our bulk section you can find organic sesame seeds, nutritional yeast, and veggie pasta spirals. We've also added a few new wines. For whites we added Fat Monk Chardonnay from the Central Coast of California, and from the south of France you can try The French House Chardonnay. If reds are more your style we are now carrying 7 Deadly Zins and Gnarly Head Pinot Noir. Rob is also offering something new—a Mushroom and Leek Frittata, a perfect savory breakfast option, that can also be eaten during lunch. Feel free to warm this treat up in our microwave.

Now that I've got the hang of things, I'm planning to run a few sales each month too, so stop in the store in February and see what kind of deals you can get! You might also notice that we're adjusting many of our prices. Although some things have gone up, you should notice the majority of grocery items are coming down. Although we can't compete with the big stores on all items, you might be surprised at how many of our items are comparable.

We have a variety of fresh produce in the store including: Romaine, Green Leaf and Mesclun Greens, Mushrooms, Leeks, Carrots, Eggplant, Tomatoes, Green and Red Peppers, Zucchini,

### Pierce's Store Friday Night Dinners for February

- Feb. 3** Lasagna, with a Vermont greens salad and garlic bread  
By guest chef Taffy Maynard
- Feb. 10** Beef moussaka, with a chocolate eclair for dessert  
By guest chef Becca Rice
- Feb. 17** Millet loaf with vegetables, with tamari-ginger sauce on the side. Also a side dish of sesame-garlic broccoli and sweet squash pie for dessert  
By guest chefs Kayla Biggs and Garnet Morgan
- Feb. 24** Seafood lasagna  
By guest chef Nancy Ellery

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

**492-3326**

Ginger, Hot Peppers, Organic Avocados, Green Cabbage, Organic Purple Cabbage, Local Red and Yellow Onions & Garlic, Organic Red Potatoes, Yams, Shallots, and Organic Butternut Squash. Fruit: Lemons, Limes, Oranges, Pink Lady Apples, Organic Bananas, and Organic Anjou Pears.

#### Specialty items for Valentine's Day.

Rob is baking Cherry Tarts, perfect for your special someone. Or if you really want to indulge, you can pick up Baked Chocolate Pudding! You can pre-order either—to insure you can get one. We'll also have a limited selection of *Vermont Butter and Cheese*

*Company Heart Shaped* cheeses. These are pure goat milk hearts with a wrinkly geotricum rind—creamy and sweet with just a hint of goat milk piquancy. With a crispy baguette and a bottle of bubbly or red wine, this might be the best Valentine's yet!



I hope to see you in the store.

*KP, Pierce's Store Manager*



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Friends and Neighbors:

Once again I am running for **Town Treasurer**. It has been a pleasure to serve all of you for the past fifteen years and to do the work that I enjoy doing. I would appreciate your support at the polls in March. If you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Linda McGuire**

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(802) 492-3487 Home

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Turiya Levy 492-3455

[www.TheNewLearningProject.com](http://www.TheNewLearningProject.com)

[turiya@vermontel.net](mailto:turiya@vermontel.net)

### Local Benefit Concert

On February 4, 2012, Marcos Levy and the Salt River Review Band will give a concert about 7pm at the Town Hall. There will be a free will offering for the band and their wonderful talent(s), and there will be refreshments served/sold during intermission (or before and after).



We are asking for our town's great bakers to contribute cupcakes for us to sell for the **benefit of the Helping Hand Fund**. The HHF collects funds to help local folks in need whether it be food, gas money, children's clothes—whatever. This fund has helped MANY local people in times of need.

Please call Fran @ 492-3706 or Sue @ 492-3738 if you can bring some cupcakes.

Also be sure to attend this great concert—they're always such fun.

OH! and keep in mind there will be another Mardi Gras on April 28, 2012 at the Town Hall. Last year's event had to be cancelled because of a huge snowstorm so let's hope for good weather. Please plan to come!!! Information is forthcoming.

*Submitted by Fran Patten*

To the Shrewsbury Community:



I am standing again for the office of Town Clerk and would appreciate your continued support for the honor of serving the Town.

**Mark Goodwin**  
Town Clerk

*Paid political advertisement*



Happy Leap Year!

## Fletcher Farm School Classes

Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts offers a warm welcome for you to join us in one of the classes being offered in February and March:

- Feb 4 & 5:** Landscape weaving
- Feb 11 & 12:** Ribbon Work Pins  
Felting Lamb to Lamb
- Feb 18 & 19:** Shaker Tape Chairs
- Feb 25 & 26:** Pen & Ink Mixed Media
- Mar 3 & 4:** Solar Printing  
WaterColor Landscapes
- Mar 10 & 11:** Nested Service Baskets
- Mar 17 & 18:** Punch Needle Rug Hooking
- Mar 24 & 25:** Photography  
Quilting Open Studio
- Mar 31 & Apr 1:** Silversmithing  
Cob Web & Silk Painting

Young adults are welcome in many of the classes. For more information or to register call 802-228-8770. Also visit us at [www.fletcherfarm.org](http://www.fletcherfarm.org) Gift Certificates are available and make for super birthday gifts.

*Submitted by Elaine Corino*

## New Year's Sale! \*

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<http://www.youravon.com/bferguson2366>



These pictures drawn by observant SMS students show that our Road Crew had some impressive vehicles to help do their job after Hurricane Irene!

### **Vermont Communities in a Digital Age**

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is working across Vermont to help communities solve local issues with 21st century tools. On February 16 e-Vermont will host *Vermont Communities in a Digital Age* to highlight some of the projects taking place and bring leaders and learners together to share what they have discovered so far. Topics include mobilizing community resources during emergencies, a hands-on lab about digital tools for business, a showcase of how technology is expanding the classroom for 4-6th graders, and a preview of how town meetings can reach a wider audience. The all-day workshop on February 16 takes place at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. Registration is \$20 and includes course offerings, refreshments and lunch. For a complete schedule and to pre-register online visit the e-Vermont website at [www.e4vt.org](http://www.e4vt.org), call 802-859-3090, or e-mail [joanna@snellingcenter.org](mailto:joanna@snellingcenter.org).

“The whole day will offer participants new ideas about how digital tools can be used to create jobs, reinvent schools, attract visitors, improve civic involvement, and enliven Vermont communities,” stated conference coordinator Joanna Cummings. Anne Galloway is the keynote speaker. Anne is an award-winning journalist and founder/editor of [VTDigger.org](http://VTDigger.org), a statewide news website dedicated to coverage of Vermont politics, consumer affairs, business and public policy. The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is led by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and is supported in part by a \$2.5 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Dept of Commerce.

*Helen Labun Jordan, e-Vermont Project Director*

### **New Video is “Thank You” Card**

**After Irene: Vermont Thanks You is available online at [www.vtfloodresponse.org/thankyou](http://www.vtfloodresponse.org/thankyou)**

A new video, released by the Vermont Community Foundation, says thank you to everyone who contributed to Irene relief and recovery on behalf of all Vermonters. The short message is drawn from storm footage and recent interviews with flood victims, local heroes, and state leaders. The Foundation is distributing the video to share this message of gratitude with people across the state and beyond who have helped heal Vermont.

Since the storm struck, the Community Foundation has collected more than \$3.8 million in charitable contributions and has been an active partner in post-Irene relief and recovery efforts, working closely with donors and other organizations to create and manage a number of Irene-related charitable funds.

Visit [www.vtfloodresponse.org](http://www.vtfloodresponse.org) to learn more about grants available and grants awarded. It also has a useful resources section with a comprehensive list of flood resources and information about Irene recovery work being done by other organizations.

The Vermont Community Foundation has been helping donors give to the causes and organizations they care about since 1986. It is Vermont’s largest homegrown grantmaker. Together, its family of over 600 funds provides more than \$10 million in grants per year. Visit [www.vermontcf.org](http://www.vermontcf.org) or call 802-388-3355 for more information.

*Felipe Rivera,  
The Vermont Community Foundation*



Claire Felder Pickering & Ken Pickering of Reading, MA welcome daughter **Ada Grace Pickering** on November 6, 2011  
Happy grandparents Gene & Kathy Felder



## Shrewsbury Nature and Gardening Tidbits

*Dec. 3* – A Red Bellied Woodpecker has been making a daily visit to the array of bird feeders outside my kitchen windows. I know that this bird is a female because the splash of scarlet is slightly smaller than that on the male. The red on its belly (hence the name) is hardly a trace of reddish feathers and not often seen. She seems to relish the mixture of lard and peanut butter that I stuffed into holes in a slender hanging log. These birds are also known to love whole peanuts in the shell. Thirty years ago the Red Bellied Woodpecker would have been a great rarity here in Shrewsbury, but with the gradually changing weather over the years and our winters getting warmer, this species is advancing further north. It is not uncommon now to see them even at our higher elevations.

*Dec. 6* – With the outside temperature at 47 degrees, the lawn is distinctly greener this morning following overnight rain. I find yellow pansies, half hidden in dead leaves, little drops of sunshine, on this gloomy morning.

*Dec. 7* – I pulled off the plastic sheeting from the beds of greens to have a look and found them in fine shape. How satisfying it is to have fresh lettuce, spinach, kale, collards and mustards so late in the season.

*Dec. 17* – The track story in the thin layer of snow has left me puzzled. Two sets of ruffed grouse

imprints met the tracks of what appeared to be an ermine. What followed were feather imprints and a broad drag mark where one of the birds may have been hauled off into the dense cover of balsams.

*Dec. 31* – A damp, murky start to the annual Rutland Co. Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. Throughout the day we counted the more common winter residents at feeders and along the roadside, along with less frequently seen species such as Brown Creepers and Golden Crowned Kinglets. The biggest surprise was the record number of American Robins seen at nearly every stop. However, the fewer total number of birds and species of birds might be attributed to the excellent crop of natural fruits, berries and seeds this winter.

*Jan. 10* – With stray snowflakes flying in the breeze, a walk in the meadow today is tricky. The hard frozen ground is lumpy and is like walking on beach cobbles. The farm pond is solid and snowless. Fringed gentian stalks, tan, dry and erect, vibrate in the wind. Such efficient seed dispersal structures, their open pods are now empty of their fine seed.

*Jan. 15* – While out skiing in Plymbsbury this afternoon, with the mountains all white with snow and frost, I heard and saw American Robins in a clearing.

Connie Youngstrom

Email: [conniey@vermontel.net](mailto:conniey@vermontel.net)

### The Roving Reporter asked:

#### What's something you like about winter?



- o "...ha, ha, ha, ha, ha" –JG
- o "Getting to slow down and recharge my battery" –NS
- o "The holidays" –TF
- o "Feeding the birds and seeing animal tracks in the snow" –AV
- o "Solitude in the woods" –SW
- o "The snow that looks like glitter falling from the sky" –M.E.
- o "I'd say the snow, but we don't have any" –LS [that was before Friday Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>!]
- o "I like that I don't have to shave my legs and that people drive slower" –KW
- o "Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and enjoying the wood stove" –DT
- o "Remembering my grandson getting his tongue stuck on a frozen pipe" –JP
- o "It's gotta be ice fishing" –KL
- o "I like lots of snow. When it's snowing and is really still....that's magic!" –PM

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To: Postal Patron

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We are returning to the long tradition of recognizing donors for the remainder of the calendar year in which the donation is received. Donors who gave in 2011 with the understanding that their name would be listed for 11 months will be listed until that period of time has expired in 2012. However, donations received in November and December 2011 will be recognized for the full year 2012.

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