



Times of Shrewsbury



February 2023

SHREWSBURY SKI TOW ENGINE FOUND

"There it is!" A 6-cylinder Hudson Super Six engine is sitting in the leaves on top of a small hill. The engine that powered the once very busy Shrewsbury Peak ski area rope tow.

But, let's go back. It's February 2, 1936. There is over 4 feet of snow on the ground in North Shrewsbury. You are in Rutland and you get in your car for the long ride to go skiing at the new Shrewsbury Peak ski area. You have chains on your back tires and your 1933 Ford doesn't have much heat. Just last week, the Cold River Road was completely closed due to snow drifts but at least one way traffic is possible today with shoveled pull-offs, along the way. It's quite an adventure. Passing Pierce's Store, you travel onto the newly constructed CCC road. Reaching the new Shrewsbury ski area, you park, grab your skis, and walk past a stone house with a big fireplace under construction, then continue to a new, wood stove heated, warming hut and canteen. There are

over 250 other folks here today. After a quick coffee and a sandwich, you strap on your long 7-foot wooden skis and glide over to the brand-new rope tow, one of the first dozen or so such contraptions built in the Vermont. You make it up the 1,200ft tow (reported also to be 2,000ft), at 10 mph, and then off you go down the Novice Trail back to the bottom of the tow. One of your buddies has waxed his skis (for grip, not slip) and is climbing and herringboning up the mile long Chain Lightning Run trail, all the way to the peak, in order to ski down the 15-30ft wide steep trail he just climbed, with slopes as steep as 32%. Not you. There is not much control with these 7 ft long wooden skis without steel edges. Just last week you read, in the January 13 Herald, "More than 200 persons, including many visitors from New York state flocked to the Shrewsbury winter sports center and tried the newly developed ski trails and runs."

The article continued, with some exaggeration, that from the peak one can see "range after range unfold...from Katahdin in Maine to Monadnock in New Hampshire".

Just last fall, on November 6, 1935, a Rutland Herald headline read "State To Build Huge Winter Playground - 10 Miles of Ski Trails, Ski Tow and Shelter to Make Shrewsbury Peak Project One of the Best In Vermont." 75-100 men worked all winter to clear the ski trails,

build buildings and complete the road. The State provided the money and the CCC provided the labor. On November 16, 1935, the Rutland Ski Club executive committee was

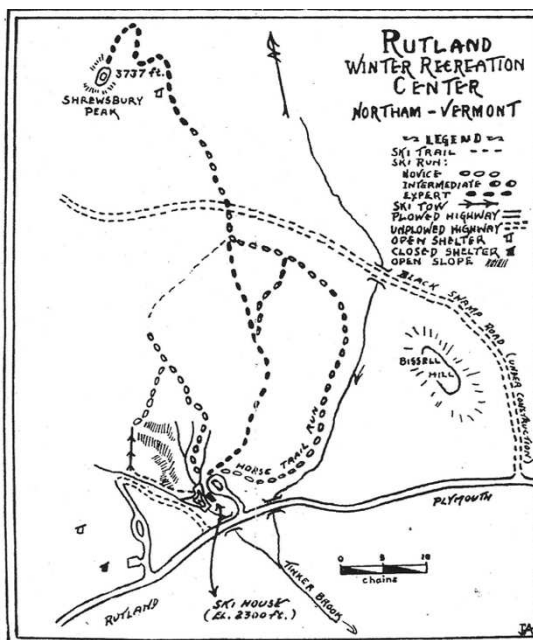
authorized to "erect a ski tow". The first tow in Vermont was on Gilbert's Hill in Woodstock in 1934. Tows on Mt. Prospect in Woodford and The Gully in Woodstock appeared during the winter of 1935-36, as did the Shrewsbury tow (first operated February 2, 1936) and others in Woodstock, East Dorset, Putney, Randolph, Stowe, Northfield, Windsor, Chester, Bradford and likely other towns. A skiing instructor from Dartmouth College, visiting Shrewsbury on November 8, 1935 said "It is better than anything in New Hampshire and as good as anything I have seen anywhere".

Bob Franzoni, the founder of Wilson Sports in Rutland, was quoted in the Rutland Herald, "We went over to Cooley's Garage on West Street and got an old Hudson engine and some

rope and put up a tow in Shrewsbury". In 1953, Joe Jones wrote, "Then a group of people with the Brad Meads erected a ski tow on Shrewsbury Mountain. In March, 1937, dad took a bunch of us to Shrewsbury for some real skiing. We had never seen a rope tow before. The first time down I straddled a tree. Only harm done, I scared my father."

The Rutland Railroad connected special overnight sleeper ski cars to the train, filled with skiers from NYC (the Wall Street Ski Club among others), stopping in Manchester, Rutland and Burlington. On good weekends 200-300 people came to Shrewsbury to ski or watch the action. A 40-person bunk room was constructed over the six-car garage at the area. Skiers from Germany, Sweden and Scotland arrived in Shrewsbury.

The Rutland Ski Club owned and operated the ski tow and operated the 18'x36' warming hut/canteen, while the State owned the rest of the recreation area which included campsites, hiking trails, the ski trails, a skating pond, the picnic pavilion, and other buildings, including the Stone House, later also used as a warming house for skiers as well as the summer residence of the caretaker. The State was also responsible for keeping the new CCC Road plowed.



Hudson Super Six 76 HP rope tow engine

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Large snow accumulations in the late 30's continued to be a blessing and a problem. Lots and lots of snow for skiing - if you could get there. In March of 1937, the Shrewsbury ski area was inaccessible, as "not even a snowplow could force its way up the road". In a February 4, 1939 "Ski Conditions" column in the Herald, ski conditions in Shrewsbury were declared "Excellent" with "30" of powder on 20" of old base at top of horse trail". However, just a week later the paper reported, "The ski area in the state park in Shrewsbury has been closed due to lack of patronage and the excessive cost of keeping the highway plowed....In the last storm the state plows had to buck nine-foot drifts..." On January 15, 1940, 17 skiers from Springfield in four cars got stranded on the CCC Road due to a heavy snowfall and walked to Angelo Carrara's house for shelter. Keeping the CCC Road open for winter recreation was a problem. The Rutland Herald occasionally reported on the limited travel conditions of the Cold River Road. Newspaper ski condition reports for Shrewsbury continued through the 1940 season but are absent in 1941, likely indicating the area was permanently closed. The pending war likely contributed to the closing.

Now, back to the present. For decades I have wanted to poke around the area where the old ski area existed, to see if there was any evidence on the ground of those short few years when crews built the "Winter Playground" and folks traveled to remote Northam to ski and visit. The trees have grown up, logging operations have occurred, but maybe there was something to see. If not, just to stand where the old ski trails were and envision the activity there almost 90 years ago would be fine.

So, with that in mind, Connie, Sandy Bragg and I (and 3 dogs) set out one afternoon this past November, with the old ski area map in hand, to explore the area northwest of the Stone House. The Shrewsbury rope tow is rumored (and reported in print) to have been taken to Pico, so perhaps there was nothing to be found. Connie and the dogs went in one direction, and Sandy and I went along a small branch of Tinker Brook, where the bottom of the ski tow is shown on the map. Perhaps something might be found where the bottom of the tow was indicated on

the old map. Nothing. We zig-zagged upslope, back and forth, where the tow line might have been. Again, seeing nothing but a bare, early winter, wooded hillside. However, climbing to the top of a small knoll, partially covered in leaves, there it was! A complete engine, transmission, and flywheel.

Taking many photos of the engine and comparing it to photos on the internet of automobile engines from that era, the "Shrewsbury Rope Tow Engine" is indeed a very distinctive Hudson automobile engine as reported by Bob Franzoni (not a Packard as reported by some). It is a mid to late 1920's Hudson Super Six, 76 horsepower, one of the more powerful car engines built at that time. From Cooley's Garage to a now remote knoll on the flank of Shrewsbury Peak. It's been sitting there, unused, and unnoticed for over 80 years.

The location of the engine indicates the Shrewsbury ski tow was powered from the top of the hill, pulling the skiers up the slope. Looking at the map of the "Rutland Winter Recreation Center" and standing next to the engine, one can see where a ski trail could have headed north and returned to the bottom of the tow. The expert "Chain Lightning Run" to/from the peak appears to be the current Black Swamp hiking trail (and old bridle trail) to the summit. I can't imagine skiing down that with long hickory boards clamped to my boots. Perhaps the Horse Trail, Rattlesnake Run and Novice Run are now the snowmobile trails and old skid roads that seem to follow these routes.

Reporting the engine discovery to our late, and very dear, local State forester, Gary Salmon, he was excited. He did not know of it (I thought Gary had trekked over every square foot of that forest). The same is true after reporting it to the State Forest & Parks and Fish & Wildlife folks. Had no one seen this very interesting remnant of Shrewsbury's past until now? Perhaps a deer hunter has run across it, but no one I've chatted with. Now, the State has the GPS coordinates and will add it to the many items of interest along the CCC Road. The entire Calvin Coolidge State Forest area is loaded with so much history, much of which is still evident on the ground.

~Article by Mark Younstrom

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 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, or feature articles or letters that are not commercial.

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	\$100	(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	\$12	(7.5"w x 2.5" h; or, 3.5"wx 4.5"h)
Business card	\$6	(3.5"w x 2"h)
Classified ad	\$3	(15 words or less)

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

2/1/2023

Chryl Martin ~ Rich Biziak ~ Victoria Arthur
Times of Shrewsbury, P. O. Box 373, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Email: shrewsburytimes@gmail.com

Online: <http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com>

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 27	5pm	* Deadline for Town Office candidates to submit petitions to Town Clerk
Feb 3	7pm	*Miguel and Marcos Levy in Concert at the Meeting House
Feb 5	10-12noon	* Guided Walking or Snowshoeing tour of the Stewart Maple operation sponsored by SCC
Feb 10	4-6pm	*Wine Tasting at Pierce's Store
Feb 11	7pm	*Open Music Jam at the Russellville Schoolhouse
Feb 12	3:30pm	*Writer's Group meets at the Shrewsbury Library
Feb 18		*Membership Appreciation Day at Pierce's Store
Feb 19	4pm	*Famous Books Book Club meets at the Shrewsbury Library
Feb 26	4pm	*Science Book Club meets at the Shrewsbury Library
Mar 7	10am-7pm	*Polls open for Town Meeting Day Election
Mar 11	TBD	*Build a bluebird box and learn about songbirds with SCC program at Mountain School
Mar 25	8am-12noon	*Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Shrewsbury Community Church

*see elsewhere in newsletter for details



TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

online at
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

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

REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Board of Selectman Meeting
Bone Builders
Development Review Board
Library Trustees Meeting
Mill River Unified Union School Board Mtg
Planning Commission
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Shrewsbury Community Church
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
Shrewsbury Historical Society
Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum
Shrewsbury Singers
Shrewsbury Sno-Birds
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

1st & 3rd Wednesdays – 6:30pm at Town Office
Tuesdays & Thursdays – 10am at Meeting House
4th Wed -7pm at Town Office; check town website for agenda
2nd Tuesday – 7pm at Shrewsbury Library
1st Wed 7pm @ MRHS & 3rd Wed. 7pm location TBA
2n & 4th Tuesdays 7pm at Town Office
Sundays – 10am via Zoom; contact wildernessfriends@gmail.com
Sundays – 10:30am - Worship service and Kids Funday Program
No meeting December 2022 or January 2023
Next meeting, May, 2023 in the Museum
Opens first Sunday in July, 2023 from 1 to 3pm
Currently taking a break
2nd Tuesday – 7pm at Southside Steakhouse in Rutland
Thursdays – 7pm at the Cuttingsville Station

Shrewsbury Town Website: www.shrewsburyvt.org

Clerk's Office 492-3511 Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm; Closed Friday
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 ~ Wednesday 12noon-6pm
Library 492-3410 Hours: Mon 10am-12noon; Tues 7-9pm; Wed 10am-5pm & 7-9pm; Thurs 7-9pm; Fri 10-12noon; Sat 10am-12noon
Meeting House 492-6050 Reservations: 492-3361 or julanne@vermontel.net
News Flash Email: vtbenbeano@gmail.com or benbeano@vermontel.net [Urgent and reminder news info]

Cuttingsville Post Office 492-3585 Window Hours Mon–Fri 7:30am–10:30am & 11:30am–2:30pm; Sat 8am–11am.

Lobby Hours Mon– Fri 7:00am–7:00pm and Sat 7:00am–4pm

Burn Permit: Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown 802-345-8668 or, Deputy Fire Warden Al Ridlon, Jr. 802-282-3642
Animal Control Officer: Vacant (Contact a Selectboard member) 1st Constable: TBA 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 10/17/22]

Kenneth F. Pitts

Kenneth F. Pitts, 78, died December 13, 2022, at Rutland Regional Medical Center surrounded by his family. He was born in Rutland, June 26th, 1944. Ken was a 1962 graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy. He served in the National Guard here in Rutland after high school. He married his high school sweetheart, Judy, in 1964, welcoming children, Amy in 1967, and Larry in 1971. He worked as a plumber for many years, and then worked for Timberwolf for several years until retiring at 65. He was also a charter member of the Shrewsbury Bone Builders.



Surviving are his wife, Judy A. (Geary) Pitts, of Shrewsbury; daughter Amy M. (Pitts) Macfarlane and husband William "Rob" of Chittenden; son Larry W. Pitts and wife Julie as well as her son, Brian Ellis; four grandchildren and one great grandchild; and beloved pup, Hap. He was predeceased by his sister Bonnie (Pitts) Smith (2011).

A memorial service was held December 29, 2022, at the Shrewsbury Community Church. Ken had a great love for rescue dogs, it would make him tremendously happy if Memorial Contributions were made to Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford VT 05763 in lieu of flowers. ~The Pitts Family

In Memory of Joan Stewart

Joan Stewart, former member and Vice President of the Shrewsbury Historical Society in 1998, died on December 9, 2022. Joan and husband BJ owned and operated the Olde Barn complex for years. They were also trustees of the Laurel Glen Cemetery Association and were caretakers of the John P. Bowman estate. Joan was predeceased by BJ in July 2021.

~Ruth Winkler, Shrewsbury Historical Society

Gary Salmon and John O'Dowd In Appreciation of Submissions

Shrewsbury's Tree Warden, Gary Salmon, had an unparalleled interest and enthusiasm for sharing his love of trees, and his monthly column submissions will be missed. He also gave talks at the Shrewsbury Library and on the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission's Walk & Talk programs (*the photo is from one of those talks in 2017*). We are thankful for and will miss the many ways he shared his knowledge with the community.

Readers of the *Times of Shrewsbury* have also expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the Haiku poetry presented each month by John O'Dowd. His insightful depictions of our town thru a blend of images and words of local sites will be missed as well as his presence in the community. ~The Editors

John H. O'Dowd

John H. O'Dowd died suddenly on December 10, 2022. He went for a walk with his beloved wife on a beautiful sunny day, and didn't come back. We are heartbroken at his sudden absence, and comforted that he did not suffer or linger. Renamed by his grandson as Bop, he became Bop to all. A northern transplant with deep southern roots; Bop grew up on the beaches of South Carolina, loved BBQ, and his Mama, and was forever on the quest for a proper glass of unsweetened iced tea. Proud of his Military Education, (The Citadel), and service in the army, (Ranger school, 82nd Airborne Division, and the JAG core), John was an open and progressive thinker who supported public services and justice. Following his military service, John was a private practice defense attorney, became an author, a black belt in karate, and an advocate for women's self-defense as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act.



A lawyer through and through, John loved to argue, debate, rile and question. While he wasn't aiming to hurt feelings, our Bop wasn't particularly concerned with causing offense. Outgoing, outrageous, and loud, with a quirky sense of humor, Bop wasn't for the faint of heart, but always found his champions. Beneath all the bluster lived a remarkably kind and sensitive soul. This was most apparent with his grandson and granddaughter whom he shamelessly adored. He gloried in their growth, intelligence, and development. In return, they were among Bop's fiercest advocates and vocal cheerleaders. As an accomplished writer, it was particularly important to him that his grandchildren read avidly, think deeply, and write with style and intelligence. Still in the game, Bop was part of a community writing group, and had embarked upon a new novel.

Bop was a survivor. He endured a brain tumor, two brain surgeries and their aftermath, hearing loss, thyroid cancer, and A-fib. Through it all, he was supported and cared for by his wife of 52 years. They loved, fought, raised great kids, traveled the country and the world, created a beautiful home, and took care of each other to the end. He loved his wife, his children, their respective spouses, his grandchildren, and particularly loved when they were all together. The oldest of 5 children, John loved all his siblings fiercely, even when it was ugly. Predeceased by his Mother, whom he missed every day, and his youngest sister, John is survived and remembered fully, and ultimately fondly, by his wife, son and daughter, their respective spouses, his grandson and granddaughter, his grand-dog, two sisters, one brother, and an extended network of family and friends.

In conclusion; vote, think, speak your mind, TANSTAAFL, shut the door!, love ya mean it, Never underestimate an old man from the Citadel, duct tape, cut off sweat pants, We sure do miss the crazy old turtle.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation "In memory of John O'Dowd" to: Shrewsbury Community Church with a memo for the Helping Hand Fund, c/o Karen Lorentz, Treasurer, 1300 CCC Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738; or Ronald McDonald House Charities, South Burlington, 16 South Winooski Ave. Burlington, VT 05401. ~Galen Miller

Larry Francis Carrara

Larry Francis Carrara, 85, passed away after a lengthy illness on January 4, 2023. He was born in Rutland, Vermont on July 9 1937, the son of Bennie Carrara and Frances Elizabeth (Bunnell) Carrara.



Larry retired from GE in Rutland and is best remembered for a visit from a lovesick moose (Josh) that was attracted to one of his heifer cows (Jessica) and spent 76 days on the farm. The relationship captured the attention of people from all around the world and brought tens of thousands of people to Larry's farm to see the animal romance in action. Larry memorialized the love story between Josh and the heifer by writing the book, "A Moose For Jessica."

One of his favorite pastimes was when Larry and Lila would enjoy riding the back roads, evenings counting deer and wildlife. He also managed the Owl's Club in Ludlow and was known as Mr. Country back in the day. Larry was Justice of the Peace and Cemetery Commissioner for the town of Shrewsbury.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Lila (Woodard) Carrara; his children, Lila Boucher and her husband Pete of Hampden, Maine; Tom Carrara and his wife Kathy of Shrewsbury; Rick Carrara and his wife Deb of Rutland; Bennie Carrara and his wife Laurie of Shrewsbury and a special daughter-in-law Dianne Carrara of Rutland as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. A celebration of life will be held at a later date . ~The Carrara Family

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## Gary Frank Salmon

Gary Frank Salmon, (also known as "The Tree Guy", "Forest Recreation Guru", "The Answer Man") 75, of Shrewsbury, VT died January 1, 2023, at his home. He was born June 8, 1947, in Utica, NY. Gary graduated from Watertown High School in New York. He earned a BS degree in Resources Management from State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University. A US Marine Corps veteran, he served during the Vietnam era. On December 19, 1970, he married Margery (Starr) Salmon.

A 44-year member of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, he sang in the Sanctuary Choir and was a longtime member of the Music Committee. As a student at Syracuse University, he sang at Hendricks Chapel. His love of singing included membership in the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Rutland Area Chorus.



Gary worked as a forester for Vermont Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation for 36 years. He fought forest fires in MT, MN, ID, CA, OR and VT. One of his many joys was working with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps building and maintaining trails and bridges on state land and providing environmental education to the crews.

During his long career Gary wore many hats including Arbor Day Coordinator and Educator where he supplied tree seedlings to school kids. He administered Accepted Management Practices protecting Vermont's water quality and served as a Private Lands Forester, Trails Coordinator, State Lands Forester and Envirothon Coordinator. Gary was champion of "Vermont Big Tree" project, a district Urban and Community Forester, Municipal Forest Manager, UCF Council member, and a D & H Rail Trail advocate.

Throughout his career in forestry, just as the Lorax said, Gary spoke for the trees. Gary authored educational and entertaining monthly tree articles for the *Times of Shrewsbury* and the *Mountain Times* for many years adding pictures from his trove of photographs. A longtime member of the Society of American Foresters, he edited their quarterly newsletter for many years. Other interests included acting as Shrewsbury's Tree Warden, science fair judging at local high schools, participating in local adult baseball and soccer games, setting up displays and sharing his knowledge with fairgoers at the Vermont State Fair Forestry Building and always carrying his camera for that unique photo opportunity.

Salmon liked sports at an early age but his love was any Syracuse University sport which included basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer and field hockey. "Go Orange."

Survivors include his wife, Margery of Shrewsbury, a sister, Judy, her husband Michael Geng, and cousins and their families. A memorial service was held January 14, 2023, at Grace Congregational United Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the music program of Grace Congregational Church in Rutland, VT ([www.gracechurchvt.org](http://www.gracechurchvt.org)) ~The Salmon Family

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SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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

December 7, 2022: Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt, Steven Nicholson. Planning Commission: Laura Black. Listers: Sharon Winnicki, Adrienne Raymond, Susan Kennedy by phone.

Members of the Public: Andy Richards-Peele. Chris Clarke. The meeting was convened at 6:30pm

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the additions of Andy Richards-Peele and Listers vacancy. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Andy Richards-Peele: Andy is offering to fill Adrienne Raymond's position to the Mill River Unified School Board. S. Nicholson made a motion that the Selectboard recommend Andy Richards-Peele to the Mill River Unified School Board to fill Adrienne Raymond's position that she will be resigning from until Town Meeting Day. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Website Update: Laura Black provided the details of a website design proposal and a draft contract. Discussed individual items in the proposal. A. Korzun liked the Plymouth website that JEG Design created. Aaron Korzun made a motion to accept the contract from JEG Design Inc. for website design and maintenance. Which includes: \$3,450 to start and Annual fee of \$815 per year in subsequent years. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved. Laura Black will be the contact person for JEG Design. Laura Black will arrange for the Go Daddy domain name for Shrewsbury.

Speed Limit in Cuttingsville: F. Wyatt provided a draft letter to VTrans. A. Korzun made a motion to accept and send the letter to VTrans to not increase the speed limit on Route 103. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved. A Traffic Committee hearing to review VT-103 speed limits is scheduled for 1pm December 15, 2022.

Lister's Report: Sharon Winnicki provided a letter asking for the Selectboard to appeal the BCA decision of the Courcelle property. Adrienne Raymond made arguments for the appeal of the BCA decision on the Courcelle property because of the local and statewide precedent. S. Nicholson made a motion to approve an appeal of the BCA decision of the Courcelle property to the State Hearing Officer. A. Korzun seconded. S. Nicholson and A. Korzun approved. F. Wyatt abstained. Sharon Winnicki will be the contact person for the appeal.

ARPA Funds: Nothing new to report.

New Business: Sharon Winnicki discussed the issue of Lister vacancies beginning on Town Meeting Day. Sharon provided description of work for an assessor. The duties that an appraiser would do as an assessor is different from what a lister clerk would do. She recommends that we hire a separate person for lister clerk duties, which would not need as high an hourly rate as an assessor.

The Transfer Station will be open Monday, December 26 and Sunday, January 1.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 11/16/2022 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by S. Nicholson. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #12 for \$12,843.46 and Road Orders #12 for \$27,118.11. Selectboard Orders 11a is corrected to \$17,001.67. Seconded by A. Korzun. Approved.

Selectboard Member Resignation: Steven Nicholson is resigning his position on the Selectboard in order to allow for someone to run on Town Meeting Day to fill his position for the remainder of his term. Aaron Korzun made a motion to appoint Steven Nicholson to fill the open Selectboard position through Town Meeting Day, March 7, 2023. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

Adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

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

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### December 21, 2022: Selectboard Meeting Minutes

**Present at meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt, Steven Nicholson. Auditor: Richard Biziak.

**Members of the Public:** Laura Black  
The meeting was convened at 6:32pm

**Agenda:** Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Website Update:** Laura Black reported on the progress of setting up the new town website. Website developer expects the website to be set up prior to Town Meeting Day. Discussed storage of documents.

**Hearing Report - Speed Limit in Cuttingsville:** F. Wyatt reported that the Traffic Committee decided to give Shrewsbury another year with the lowered speed limits to reduce the speeds on the section of VT-103 from the southern Shrewsbury town line to Spring Lake Rd. The VTrans Traffic Engineer's primary consideration for determining the proper speed limit appears to be the speed of the 85th percentiles. Had Shrewsbury not contracted with the Sheriff Dept. and purchased a speed cart, it would have been much less likely that Shrewsbury would have been granted the one-year extension.

**Auditor's Report:** Rich Biziak provided the schedule with due dates for the Annual Report. Rich also presented the budget for the Auditors. Discussed various other matters.

**Budget 2022:** Discussed budget numbers that we now have and can start entering into the budget template.

**New Business:** None

## SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

*The Selectboard meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7pm at the Town Office.*

**Review Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 12/7/2022 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by S. Nicholson. Approved.

**Review Orders:** F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #12a for \$10,857.23 and Road Orders #12a for \$41,733.13. Seconded by A. Korzun. Approved. S. Nicholson made a motion to correct Road Orders #12 to \$27,003.16. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.  
Adjourned at 8:46pm

*Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt*

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

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January 4, 2023: Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt, Steven Nicholson. Road Commissioner: Jamie Carrara

Members of the Public: Laura Black
The meeting was convened at 6:35pm

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the addition of Certificate of Highway Mileage for February 10th 2023. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Certificate of Highway Mileage for year ending February 10th 2023: Approved and signed.

Website Update: Laura Black explained the new town website structure. Discussed options.

Budget 2023: Reviewed and discussed preliminary road budget items.

New Business: Discussed road issues.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 12/21/2022 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by S. Nicholson. Approved.

Review Orders: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #1 for \$4,524.97 and Road Orders #1 for \$8,028.35. Seconded by A. Korzun. Approved. S. Nicholson made a motion to correct Selectboard Orders #12a to \$5,381.12 and Roads Orders #12a to \$47,609.24. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

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

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### January 18, 2023: Selectboard Meeting

**Present at meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt- by phone, Steven Nicholson. Listers: Sharon Winnicki, Adrienne Raymond, Susan Kennedy

**Members of the Public:** Lisa Wright, Wright Appraisal, Scott Courcelle

The meeting was convened at 6:30pm

**Agenda:** Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. S. Nicholson seconded. Motion approved.

**Lister's Report:** Sharon Winnicki and Lisa Wright went over different scenarios of if the Town will have listers or what we can do if we do not. S Winnicki suggested that a professional appraiser be hired to help any new listers.

**Property Valuation Appeal-Courcelle:** Mr. Courcelle discussed his reasons for the selectboard to withdraw the appeal to PVR of the BCA decision of the Courcelle property. The listers gave their reasons for continuing with the appeal. There was some discussion of seeking legal advice before making a decision. F. Wyatt made a motion to withdraw the appeal to PVR of the BCA decision. A. Korzun seconded. A. Korzun and F. Wyatt voted to withdraw the appeal. S. Nicholson voted no.

**Excess Weight Permit-Newport Sand and Gravel:** Fee was paid and insurance is in order. A. Korzun made motion to issue excess weight permit to Newport Sand and Gravel. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

**Budget 2023:** Reviewed and discussed preliminary town budget items and discussed budget items still needed for the transfer station and the Roads budget.

**New Business:** PTO to set up for refreshments before the informational meeting. Offer G. Brigham 200.00 for the new website logo. Returnable bottles and cans are used to purchase cat food at the transfer station. Discussed putting an ad in the Times of Shrewsbury for need for listers and a selectboard assistant.

The selectboard notes the passing of our long serving Justice of the Peace and Cemetery Commissioner Larry Carrara and of our very active and enthusiastic Tree Warden Gary Salmon. Our condolences to the families.

**Review Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 01/04/2023 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by S. Nicholson. Approved.

**Review Orders:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #1A for \$1,879.92 and Road Orders #1A for \$27,349.88 and to correct Road Orders 12A total to 45,269.24 Seconded by S. Nicholson. Approved.

Recessed meeting at 9:40pm. Motion made by A. Korzun to reconvene meeting on 01/30/2023 at 6:00pm to approve budget and sign warning. Approved.

*Respectfully submitted, Steven Nicholson*

*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Editor's Note: The minutes have been edited for brevity but not content. For complete minutes, go to the Town website [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)*



Mil River Union Unified School District (RUUUSD) is seeking substitute teachers, particularly for our PreK classrooms.

## Shrewsbury Mountain School is seeking to fill these two positions:

### Teaching Assistant

The Shrewsbury Mountain School After-School Program is seeking a teaching assistant to provide care and support to the PreK students within the After-School Program setting, under the joint direction of the After-School Program Site Coordinator and PreK program Director/Teacher.

This assistant will be needed  
Monday-Friday, from 3:00pm up until 5:30pm.

### Paraeducator Position

The Shrewsbury Mountain School is seeking a paraeducator to provide developmental, academic, and behavioral support services to preschool students under the joint direction of the PreK program Director/Teacher and the Principal.

Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5:30pm.  
This is a full-time position with benefits.

**For more information please contact  
Principal Kristin Cimonetti at 802-786-3995**



## February Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Interested in knowing your  
blood pressure? Pulse? Oxygen level?

Stop by the Shrewsbury Library throughout the entire month of February and support a local EMT student to get the hours she needs practicing taking vitals.

Tuesdays 7-9pm

Wednesdays 3-5pm

*All are welcome!*

*For more information email Logan Faulkingham  
logan@faulkingham.org*

## TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

ONLINE and in **Color** at

**www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com**

## Town Administrative Assistant

The Shrewsbury Selectboard is looking for a  
Town Administrative Assistant who will:

- Attend all Selectboard meetings, take minutes, and follow up on Selectboard business.
- Maintain Selectboard files in coordination with the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and other Town Staff.
- Maintain and enhance the Town's website.
- Assist the Road Commissioner with grant applications.

Part-time \$19.00/hour  
A more detailed description is available.

**If Interested please contact:  
Aaron Korzun 492-3362  
dockorzun@vermontel.net**

## NEEDED!!!

## LISTERS

**Shrewsbury listers have always been  
residents of the Town.**

**If no one runs or alerts the Selectboard  
of their desire to serve,  
it will be necessary to hire an outside  
professional appraiser.**

**Please consider this position.**

Part-time \$19.00/hour  
Flexible Hours  
A more detailed description is available.

**Training will be provided by the Town.**

**For more information or if interested  
please contact ASAP:  
Aaron Korzun 492-3362  
dockorzun@vermontel.net**

**A petition (available from Town Clerk 492.3511) must  
be completed and presented to the Town Clerk by  
5pm on January 27, 2023**



## Annual Town Meeting / Presidential Preference Tuesday - March 7, 2023

There are a number of Town Officer positions that will become vacant in 2023, both elected and appointed positions. Most Boards and Commission vacancies are filled by an appointment of the Selectboard (Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Conservation Commission). If you have interest in serving on one of the Boards or Commissions speak to the Chairperson of that Board about your interest.

Reminder for those interested in standing for an elected local office.

- Petitions signed by 1% of Shrewsbury registered voters (Ten (10) Names) are due to the Town Clerk with consent forms by **5:00pm January 27, 2023** for a name to appear on the ballot. Petitions and consent forms may be obtained online from the Secretary of State's website or from the Town Clerk.

The following local offices will be elected on the March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Ballot:

- Town Moderator (1 - Year Term)
- Selectboard (1 - Three Year Term)
- Selectboard (1 - Two Years of Three Year Term)
- Auditor (1 - Two years of a Three Year Term)
- Auditor (1 - Three Year Term)
- Lister (1 - Three Year Term)
- Lister (1 - Two Years of Three Year Term)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Constable (1 One Year Term)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable (1 One Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (1 - Three Year Term)
- Delinquent Tax Collector (1—Three Year Term)

## Annual Town Meeting Tuesday - March 7, 2023

Polls Open 10:00am – Close 7:00pm

Stay tuned for more information on the Town Meeting Election and Shrewsbury Informational Meeting to appear in the February issue of the Times

## Town Clerk Office Calendar

Dates when the Town Clerk's Office will be closed in 2023:

- Feb 20: President's Day
- May 29: Memorial Day
- June 19: Juneteenth
- July 3 & 4: Independence Day
- Aug 16: Bennington Battle Day
- Sept 4: Labor Day
- Oct 9: Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day
- Nov 23: Thanksgiving
- Dec 25 & 26: Christmas Holiday

While unexpected emergencies and other life events can cause the office to close, the Assistant Clerk and I do our best to try to keep it to recognized federal and state holidays. If you're ever unsure whether the office is open, you can always call the office at 492-3511.

*Submitted by Megan LaChance, Town Clerk*

## 2023 Dog Licenses Are Now Available

The deadline to register your four-legged canine companion is **April 1, 2023**. Help keep your pet safe and legal by obtaining a license at the Town Office. Current fees are

\$9.00 for spayed or neutered dogs, and  
\$13.00 for intact.



You can obtain a license in person at the office during the regular office hours, or by making a request through mail, phone, or e-mail. A

current rabies certificate must be on file in order for a license to be issued.

If you get a new dog after April 1 or register your current one late, different fees apply. Contact the Town Clerk for more information and with any questions regarding licensing.

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New Town Website Coming!

A new Town of Shrewsbury website is in development and is anticipated to go public by Town Meeting Day! While Laura Black has been working on this project with the Selectboard, all our town officials and many volunteers have also contributed so that the website pages will have the information that we Shrewsberries need at our fingertips.

In addition, we hope to be able to keep a town calendar of meetings and events that is useful for residents. If you or your town organization have events such as workshops, concerts, etc. send the title, time, date, location and contact info. to:

Laura Black at lblack@vermontel.net

and/or Vicky Arthur at singtolive57@gmail.com

~Submitted by Laura Black

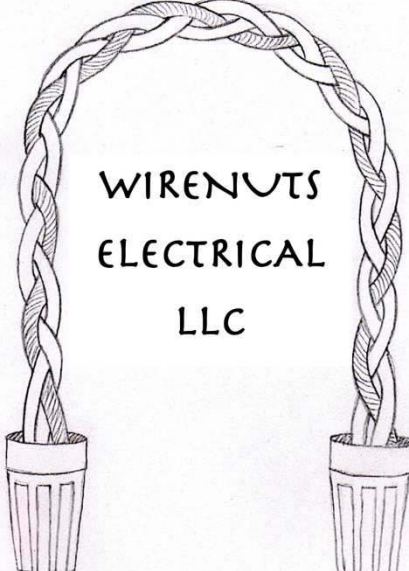
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## Times Financial Report 12/31/2022

|                                         |                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance                  | \$6,934        |
| Receipts (donations & advertisements)   | \$9,093        |
| Expenses (printing, postage & supplies) | (\$7,407)      |
| Year End Cash Balance:                  | <u>\$8,619</u> |

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

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**WIRENUTS
ELECTRICAL
LLC**

**REBECCA BATES
LICENSED
ELECTRICIAN
802-492-3406
802-353-4376**

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

Kudos for Photos, Poems, and Storytelling

We are new to Shrewsbury but have quickly become great fans of "The Times" and always look forward to the next edition. The Times is one of the many treasures we've come to know in these mountains. Thank you for all the important town information, wonderful wildlife photos, poems, and storytelling.

~Jess & Ariane Torres

Appreciation for Adrienne Raymond

As I write this, I am sure Adrienne Raymond is enjoying not having the duties and responsibilities of serving as a school board representative for Shrewsbury. After some 20 years, she deserves to have her feet up and relax. Adrienne began her school board service as a Mountain School board member. At the consolidation of the Mill River school district, she became a founding board member where she has represented Shrewsbury since 2017. Serving with Adrienne for 8 years, I saw the hard work and time she gave to her position. When I chaired the board's finance committee she often attended our meetings during budget writing. Though she was not a member of the committee she gave her time in order to be fully versed in the details of the budget. This was indicative of the time she gave to have an in-depth knowledge of not just the budget but so many aspects of our schools and the district. Of all the school board representatives with whom I served, she was by far one the most knowledgeable and hardworking members. Adrienne, thank you for the time and hard work you gave to our town.

~Submitted by Andy Richards-Peelle

Dear Readers,

I want to thank all past voters of Shrewsbury for their support for my past 20+ years on our local school boards. I had written in the December MRUUSD News that I planned to resign from the MRUUSD school board in January to make sure that someone would be able to formally run for the vacancy on Town Meeting Day. I did indeed resign at the end of the January 4, 2023 board meeting.

Thank You So Very Much for the opportunity to represent you all these years. I will miss all of the truly committed, wonderful folks who work and volunteer with and for our town's children.

~Submitted by Adrienne Raymond

Thank You

In the moments and weeks since we lost Bop, (aka John O'Dowd), we have been surrounded by our amazing Shrewsbury community. This has been a difficult time, but it would have been crushing without the rallying love and warmth of this beautiful place and all you beautiful people. With gratitude to Ryan Fitzbeauchamp for being there and ready to help at a crucial moment, to the nurse who stopped and attempted CPR, to the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department for assistance, kindness and comfort, to Rutland Regional Ambulance for professional and humane service, and to all others who have written, called, or stopped by with condolences, kind words, prayer shawls, memories of my Dad and more. We feel the love and hope all those in need may find such solace. Let's keep the light shining. ~Galen Miller

Five Years of Pulling

It's been a while since we last pulled together (literally!) in support of native plants and the creatures that depend on them. A great big Thank You! to those who gave time and energy this past season to invasive plant removal around our town.

This was the fifth year of a concerted effort to get a handle on certain of the harmful plants we've become aware of, to limit their spread and give our native flora space to flourish. So, how have we done? Seeds from these plants last varying amounts of time, so progress in control requires revisiting the same areas for a number of years. This we have been doing, despite the discouraging reappearance of the plants, with the happy result of diminishing that reappearance year by year. I am so grateful for the willing and patient "We" who continue to accomplish this unglamorous work! We are creating light at the end of the tunnel of weeds.

Now the world outside is brown or white, depending on our luck, and simply to be enjoyed. Until those green leaves come a-peeking out! ~Pam Darrow (the optimistic Invasives Czarina)

Dear Shrewsberries,

As you may, or may not, know our current board of listers are not returning after March 7, 2023. This leaves three (3) openings to be filled. We encourage people to step up and either get a petition or ask to be appointed.

As a lister for 13 years and having been through an entire town wide reappraisal, I have ideas on how the lister/reappraisal arm of the Town should be set up.

Our CLA (common level of appraisal) and our COD (coefficient of dispersion) just squeaked by for not being ordered by the State to reappraise this year (2023). This is unlike the 165 other municipalities that did receive an order. Studying our 3 year equalization study and looking at sales for this year so far, we will most likely face a reappraisal for 2024.

Given the situation regarding the lack of trained listers and appraisers, a plan has been developed.. Knowing listing, I know that it is unrealistic to expect someone to step entirely into the role right from the beginning.. As lister training says, there is a 3 year window to fully grasp the role.

My suggestion is this: we have spoken with a professional appraiser to come in one or two days a week to do the heavy lifting and to work/train any lister(s) elected or appointed if we can get them. The appraiser would also lay the groundwork needed for a full fledged reappraisal. This is designed to equalize our property values because after 10 years people have made changes and there has been a significant change in property values. Some of these, of course, are related to the Covid refugee situation..

Now to the crux of the matter—funding. We have included a request in our budget proposal. Yes it is more than usual. BUT—it is important to think to the immediate future. So we can be a penny wise or a pound foolish or do what we are going to need to do now. Please call me if you have questions.

Sharon Winnicki, Chair, Board of Listers, 802.492.2009 or 3536



SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SVFD finished 2022 by responding to several calls during the month of December. These included the following: On the 10th, a response was made to a location on Town Hill Road where an individual was reported as "down" on the road. The SVFD responded to assist Regional Ambulance and to provide traffic control. The person had apparently suffered a heart attack and was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center. On the 12th, there was a mutual aid call to a head on collision in Belmont, which resulted in the serious injury of one of the drivers. The SVFD assisted in extrication and traffic control. On the 18th, a response was made to Cuttingsville regarding the smell of propane. In that situation, it was discovered that a knob on a gas stove had accidentally been left on. Fortunately, there was no ignition, and the situation was quickly resolved. On the 23d, the department responded to a power line down where a pole had broken in a storm, pulling the service off a house near Northam. The scene was secured until Green Mountain Power took over and repaired the situation.

2023 has fortunately started off quietly with only one call as of this writing. That call was for mutual aid to East Wallingford at a traffic accident on Route 103 near the trestle. The call was cancelled by the state police before the SVFD responded.



Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 35 MPH on all Shrewsbury roads

It should be noted that since new speed limits were established in Cuttingsville, there were no responses made for traffic accidents on Route 103 for the remainder of the 2022 year. The department of transportation conducted a survey of the speed limits and road conditions and held a meeting to determine if there should be further adjustments of the limits. After

review and input from many townspeople, both at the zoom meeting and through correspondence with the select board, the state decided to continue the speed limits as they are now posted at 35 MPH for another year. During that time, further study will take place and appropriate signage will be posted to advise motorists of the blind approach to the Spring Lake Road coming from the north side of the bridge.

Also, the state highway department will look into trimming any vegetation that might impair driving conditions along the road both from the north and south along Route 103. The SVFD certainly hopes that the speed limit changes on Route 103 as well as the limits on all roads within the town will have a continued impact in preventing accidents.

The SVFD asks that drivers always use caution when driving on town roads. Obeying speed limits, being cognizant of changing weather and road conditions, watching for pedestrians, animals, and other things on our rural roads is imperative to keep our citizens and properties safe. As first responders, the department believes in the old adage stating that "the best accident is no accident".

2023 will most certainly provide many challenges for the SVFD, and we encourage anyone who thinks that they could assist the

department in any way to join us. This could be through actual physical response (becoming an active responder), or sharing the use of your particular area of expertise, such as writing, record keeping, mechanical knowledge, cleaning and organization of materials, building or building repair, professional advice or any other skill you might be able to share. We are always looking for new members, and if you would like to learn more, talk to any firefighter or stop by either station on a Thursday evening to check it out. If you have questions, you may call Chief Phil Severy at 802-492-2253, President Jack Perry at 802-773-3278, Safety Officer Bob Snarski at 802-492-3505, or Treasurer Barry Griffith at 802-492-3573.

So, be careful out there as our Shrewsbury winter moves to February, and remember...Always stay fire safe!

~~submitted by Bob Snarski, Safety Officer

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## MESSAGE FROM MONTPELIER

We kicked off the legislative session on January 4. I am once again on the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee, this year as the "Ranking Member". We are also fully back in the state house, which we were by the end of last session as well, but we missed out on the formal swearing in ceremonies and Governor's addresses by not being here to start last session, so it's nice to get back to all those normal routines and ceremonies.

Even though we are fully back in person we continue to livestream all our meetings on youtube. I continue to be excited about this change in our accessibility. We are also more prepared to have witnesses testify remotely in committees when they can't be here in-person. Already in my committee this session we have had witnesses testify remotely because they were COVID-positive (but not too symptomatic to testify comfortably), had last-minute issues with childcare or for weather/travel related reasons. In past sessions similar issues might have meant committees not hearing from those people at all or only getting testimony from them over a speakerphone. But now we get to see them on a screen at the front of our committee almost as we would if they were in person.

Anyone can go watch any of those meetings anytime on our committee youtube page. In the past, meetings were recorded by audio, and you could request copies of those recordings to listen to, but it was not easy and the quality was not great.

We had a lot of Representatives not seek re-election for this session and so the building has a lot of new faces. While it was a loss of some amount of experience, I am excited for the possibilities and to see so many younger legislators. It is often said that the legislative schedule was designed for farmers, but it can be hard to come to the state house every week and spend enough time with family, and harder still if you also have a job. And the pay is not substantial enough to survive without another source of income, so this position is much more accessible if you are retired which is why there tend to be fewer younger legislators, and which makes this session incredibly unique and feel like one rich with possibility.

As always I hope you'll call/text me anytime. You can also email, but I get flooded with emails and prefer calls or texts.

*Logan Nicoll, State Representative  
(Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury) 802-345-8430  
[RepLoganNicoll@gmail.com](mailto:RepLoganNicoll@gmail.com)*





## Spring Lake Ranch therapeutic community

### The Warmth of Community on Cold Days

Here at Spring Lake Ranch, shorter days and colder temperatures can make working outside a challenge, but we know that being active promotes both physical and mental wellness. Work and community are central to our healing mission, so it's important for us to keep the Ranch chugging, even on the coldest of days.

One of the best parts of life at the Ranch—especially during winter—is our shared meals, cooked each day by staff and residents. Allison Fargo, Spring Lake Ranch's new nutritionist, has been working with the kitchen and Ranchers to make meal choices that sustain us and keep us warm. To those wondering how to combat winter blues, she recommends upping your intake of Vitamin D and Omega-3s. "Most importantly," she adds, "enjoy your meals and snacks thoroughly! We are all deserving of enjoyable, satisfying meals which help us to feel our best!"

Good nutrition helps fuel our Ranchers when it's time for work crew. "Working outside gets your blood flowing as you go out and brave the elements," says a resident who had never worked outside before coming to the Ranch. Cutting wood, shoveling snow, feeding animals; this is the way the Ranch stays connected to the outdoors, to each other, and to the work of this amazing place.

After we bed down the garden for winter, the Gardens Crew focuses on indoor projects like weaving items we will later sell at the Farmer's Market. Woods Crew chops wood and gets lines ready for syrup season. Farm Crew keeps our animals safe and happy during frosty weather, and Shop Crew endeavors to build furniture and maintain their equipment, among other projects.

When the winter blues come calling, it can't be all work and no play (though we think the work is pretty fun!) Recreational activities help our residents feel more like themselves and build hope for the future. One of our most popular winter activities is an informal cross-country ski club. We start in the flat area in front of the main house as new skiers learn to move around with wooden boards attached to their feet. As skills develop, we head into the woods. "Skiing is a great way to work out and build confidence," says one Rancher. Snowshoeing is another way we access the beautiful trails around the Ranch, which feel entirely different depending on the season and are therefore worth exploring year-round.

We also take our residents to nearby Pico Mountain for downhill skiing and snowboarding trips or go camping at Merck Forest and Farmland. We hike to a cabin and spend a few days exploring the property on skis and snowshoes. In the evening we gather around the woodstove, cooking dinner and playing games. These trips combine the coziness of long winter nights with the challenge and joy of being out in the snow.

It can be tempting to hibernate through winter, but for those living with mental illness and substance use disorder, isolation can be triggering. A sense of purpose and a connection to both the land and each other (along with yummy meals!) are what motivate us to get up and get engaged on each new winter day.

~Submitted by Lisa Gardner and Anna Sutton



# CONCERT!

MARCOS LEVY  
MIGUEL LEVY

SHREWSBURY  
MEETING  
HOUSE

FRIDAY  
FEB 3RD  
7PM

FREE WILL  
DONATION

### \*\*\*Adrienne Raymond for Selectboard\*\*\*

On March 7<sup>th</sup> we will vote to fill many openings in our Town Government. I will be on the ballot for the 2-year seat on the Selectboard that Steven Nicholson has recently vacated.

*Thank you for all of your many years of service Mr. Nicholson!!!*

I've lived on Lottery Road for over 40years. My husband and I raised our 3 sons here. Through these years, I have filled multiple roles in our town government - School board member, Auditor, Lister, and Development Review Board member. I've been Shrewsbury's Zoning Administrator and am a Justice of the Peace. I currently serve on the Vermont School Board's Association Board and, as an Employer member, on the Vermont Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits.

**I think my life experiences prepare me well to serve on the Shrewsbury Selectboard and I hope that you consider voting for me.**

Give me a call, if you have any questions or concerns that you would like me to know about.

*Submitted by Adrienne Raymond, 802-353-0973*

**Paid Political Advertisement**

## Village-to-Village Network Update

Do you remember an article in the last issue of the Times about a plan many communities around the country – and some beyond – that aims to help people remain in their homes and neighborhoods as they age?

Well, Vicky Arthur and Sally Deinzer have been learning more about this model, as have others in Shrewsbury. And we're about to dig in a little deeper. I'm not saying that we're sure it will happen, but there's definite interest.

The objective of Village-to-Village Networks (VtoVN) -is to enable a "cost-effective, sustainable model for healthy vibrant aging." It relies heavily on volunteers who can provide transportation, basic home maintenance, shopping assistance, and much more. VtoVNs do not provide housing, nor any medical services – though they can help finding services. Maybe you, like me, feel you don't need that kind of help now. But that's why we're working on it now – so it will be up and running when we do need it!

A group of about 30 interested neighbors from Shrewsbury, Mount Holly, Wallingford, and Ira recently took part in a Zoom presentation and discussion with the director and a board member of the Mount Mansfield Villages, made up of residents from Cambridge, Jericho, and Underhill. There was quite a lot of interest and excitement among the Zoomers.

By the time you read this, we will have had our second meeting with others from some of our neighboring towns and looked at what our next steps are. We intend to keep Shrewsbury residents abreast of what is happening through the Times, town email "Newsflash", etc. We will pool a few dollars and purchase the VtoVN "ToolBox" that offers detailed steps to go about forming a Village of our own. Then we'll be ready to "go" if that's the group decision.

If this sounds like something you want to learn more about, please contact either Vicky at [singtolive57@gmail.com](mailto:singtolive57@gmail.com) or Sally at [sjdad3@gmail.com](mailto:sjdad3@gmail.com). I hope that you'll contact us! No obligations. You can also learn more by checking out the Mt Mansfield Villages site at <https://www.mountmansfieldvillages.org/> as well as the overall <https://www.vtnetwork.org/>. There's a tremendous amount of information on these two sites, including testimonials. Check 'em out!

~ Submitted by Sally Deinzer

## A Rumination on Situation

I hear and read about young people being angry, afraid and discouraged because of climate upheaval and environmental destruction - understandably ! They look to adults for help and observe inaction, shrugs, helplessness. Grown people seem pretty much focused on doing the same things we've always done, hoping to run out the clock on our lives before disaster reaches us. Younger people clearly see the disasters approaching to touch their lives and can't understand why we are so unmovable. We certainly have created a complicated industrial world that has given many of us unprecedented comfort and convenience. We so far are unwilling to believe that we have to give any of it up, even in the face of catastrophe,

even though past generations sacrificed through other times of tribulation for our sake.


Yet the glass is half-full and being filled ! I hear and read about young people who are not discouraged - they are too busy learning and inventing things, considering problems with novel ways of thinking that allow them to see beyond the boundaries of conventional ideas. They even have new thoughts about history, about justice and fairness and who's who!

Many fierce controversies in the world stem from clinging to "tradition", custom, and the current understanding of various aspects of the nature of reality. Traditions can be valuable and comforting or blinding and binding. Humans and human understanding have never been static except in dark periods, and even then brilliant lights struggled to shine through the murk, often persecuted. I encourage young people to be rebels ! Be a rebel in a positive direction, not by harming yourself with drugs or alcohol. Grab the reins, find your own way along with your peers or go it alone if you must. Believe in your future ! Work for it. Imagine, create, don't just follow along.

You have role models - Greta Thunberg, but also Isabel Wijsen, Kelvin Doe, Vanessa Nakata- look them up and you will find many others. A quote from one, Xiuhtezcatl Roske-Martinez (pronounced Shoe-tez -caht): "When I was 5 yrs old I wanted to go to all the factories and shut them down... But once I turned six I realized that it was us that were buying from the factories." What a perfect rendering of the clear-eyed simplicity of the very young coming face to face with the obdurate reality of our world.

Can it be otherwise ? That is the necessary question, and we must listen to the answers offered by the still clear-eyed, the eyes that see past us, who see differently, and those who are not comfortable. ~Submitted by Pamela Darrow

The Best For Your Family



**SMITH  
MAPLE CREST  
FARM**

**VT MAPLE SYRUP & GRASSFED BEEF**

**WHY PAY MARKET PRICES WHEN YOU CAN COME TO THE FARM!**

Quality food=better health!  
100% Grassfed grass finished beef  
and our Vermont Maple Syrup

**FARM STORE HOURS**  
Wednesday thru Monday • 10am-5pm  
CLOSED Tuesday - Call for appointments

**Directions From:**  
Rutland: Left off VT RT 103 just 2.5 miles - on the right  
Cuttingsville: Just 2.1 miles up Town Hill Rd, right on Lincoln Hill

2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury VT. 05738  
[SmithMapleCrestFarm.com](http://SmithMapleCrestFarm.com) • 802-492-2151 • [maplecrest.info@gmail.com](mailto:maplecrest.info@gmail.com)  
We Ship Syrup All Over The USA



# SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire

## LIBRARY & FOOD SHELF HOURS

Monday 10am to 12pm

Tuesday 7pm to 9pm

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

Thursday 7pm to 9pm

Friday 10am to 12pm

Saturday 10am to 12pm

- Please don't visit if you're not well, and wear a mask if you want to.
- See Logan Faulkingham's ad in this issue for her offer of health checks!

To search the Library catalog, put a hold on an item, check your account, or get the latest information, please go to [www.shrewsburylibrary.org](http://www.shrewsburylibrary.org).

\* WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY! If the weather is bad, please call the Library during library hours to see if anyone is there before setting out: 802 492-3410. Our Town has the best Road Crew in the State (in my estimation!) and the Library has very dedicated trustees and volunteer staffers, but sometimes the weather gets the better of all of us!

\* REMEMBERING JOHN O'DOWD and GARY SALMON: In the last two months, our Town and our Library lost two remarkable friends.

\* JOHN was a member of both the Famous Books Book Club and the Writer's Group. His humor, insight and good will made him someone who made a wonderful difference in our lives. I particularly appreciated the keen observations of the haiku he published in The Times, and his down-to-earth, on-target comments in Writers' Group.

\* GARY was a beloved forester, expert on everything to do with trees, dynamic speaker and teacher. We will greatly miss his annual talks on his recent discoveries and meditations: spirited and packed with valuable information. I would love to see a book of his Times articles and the photographs he posted in the Library entryway.

\* REMEMBERING LARRY CARRARA: We remember LARRY for his book, A Moose for Jessica, which encouraged all of us, especially children, to pay attention to nature and its creatures. He was a friend to all, someone whose wave in passing made the day brighter.

- NEW QUILT RAFFLE: We'll announce details soon. Thanks again to TRISH NORTON for her art and initiative!

## Coming Events:

We're taking a pause in February and March, and starting up in April. SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 21 (EARTH DAY) for a presentation by LILY FRENCH on plastics: their impact and how to avoid using them. Details to come!

## Continuing Programs:

Sunday, February 12 @ 3:30pm: LIBRARY WRITERS' GROUP: Poets and writers of short fiction. If you're interested, please contact Penelope Weiss ([pw9@earthlink.net](mailto:pw9@earthlink.net)) or Joan Aleshire ([joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net))

Sunday, February 19 @ 4pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB. Turgenev's wonderful novel, Fathers and Children (postponed from January). Please contact Joan if you need a copy: [joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net).

Sunday, February 26 @ 4pm: SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: Best Science & Nature Writing 2022. (Discussion 1 of 2). Contact Margery Salmon if you need a copy [salmonm@vermontel.net](mailto:salmonm@vermontel.net).

## New Books include:

- Michael Connelly's *Desert Star*: A Renee Ballard & Harry Bosch Mystery.
- Cormac McCarthy's *Stella Maris*: The companion novel to The Passenger.
- Nina Totenberg's *Dinner with Ruth*: A Memoir on the Power of Friendship.
- Marie Benedict's *The Personal Librarian*: A novel based on the true story of the young Black woman who passed as white, and curated J.P. Morgan's personal library.

## New DVDs include:

- *White Lotus*, Season 1: The talked-about new TV series.
- *Three Thousand Years of Longing*, starring Idries Elba and Tilda Swinton.

**Saturday: February 11, 2023**

(second Saturday of the month)

**7pm**

**at Russellville School House**

18 Crown Point Rd (where CP Rd meets Russellville Rd)

## Community Music Jam

sponsored by **SAGE** in Shrewsbury, VT!!



Bring a song, an instrument, and plan to lend your voice or an appreciative ear

We'll provide: a Fire in the woodstove if it's cold, chairs, and we'll crack open the windows for some fresh air flow  
A Restroom is available. Masks are optional

All ages are welcome. Please carpool if you can.  
Donations to SAGE are appreciated.

For more info: call  
Vicky at 802-492-3649 or Lisa at 802-492-2081



## A Winter Walk

Going for a woods walk accompanied by two dogs, I find more trail sign, my circumscribed senses augmented by their eager noses. Koko, tail circling happily as she bounds toward the wood road, runs hind feet to forefeet in the light snow, almost coyote-like. Daughter Kita, still puppyish, goofing around her, footprints all askew.

As we reach the wood road the dogs are nose down, vacuuming up scent. Coyote tracks! Both dogs greedily sniffing the prints, forming opinions. I see that three coyotes were strolling along the center of our wood road bold as brass. Sometimes single file, other times three abreast like gunslingers in a spaghetti western. The dogs now mark their territory, first Koko, then Kita.

I wonder what would happen if Koko and Kita encountered the Coyote Gang. Probably a standoff. The three coyotes are smaller, lighter judging by their tracks, maybe 40 pounds. The dogs are bigger, but they are two to the coyotes three. Most likely détente then, or perhaps more. When our two girls mark their territory, is it a warning or an invitation, or a bit of both? Coyote mating season is beginning now, so maybe the coyotes' visit was more than cousins paying respects.

We continue, all fascinated by the coyotes' journey. Both dogs stop to examine a bare spot like detectives at a murder scene. I surmise that it marked a coyote pounce, perhaps for a vole. The dogs probably know the story, but they keep it to themselves. I am a poor tracker, not well versed in reading sign. The dogs are my crutch, checking scat that I would otherwise pass by. They tilt heads to sounds beyond me.

We reach a section where duff is frozen white above and wet below, a cold snap having followed rain. The coyotes have glided over the crust, their tracks mostly unbroken, careful not



*Koko on the left and Kita on the right.  
Artwork by local artist Molly Hornbeck*

to step where others had gone. Koko and Kita break through more often, heavier and less fleet. And I crunch along creating devastation like Godzilla.

The coyote's passage reminds me that winter can be an easier time for passing through the forest. The coyotes are on a trek. Traveling may be more effortless but there is farther to go to find a meal. I imagine them loping along, meditations occasionally interrupted by a warm scent in the crisp air. A waft of vole or rabbit, causing stomachs to tighten slightly in anticipation. Then onward, always searching.

Kita has found a spot off to the side of the wood road. I can't see anything unusual there, but she is delicately sniffing every blade, every spindly stalk. Last week she caught a mole and now thinks herself an accomplished hunter, spending hours stalking the fields around our house. But today she is a student avidly soaking up lessons.

Now a fox track joins the procession. It is smaller, more smudged. The fox had traveled along before the coyotes came through. She (or he – I have no clue) nipped off the trail soon after, heading into the woods, on a different circuit than the coyotes.

We get to the end of our property. The coyotes have traveled the full length of our trail. We could continue following their tracks -- how many miles might have they have gone? Where had they started? Probably they had come down to our woods from Copperas, but they might have begun their trip miles from there, following power lines or sugaring roads. The dogs are more than happy to explore further, but I turn aside, heading homeward. ~by Sandy Bragg

*Postscript: Less than two days later, Kita, who as yet is still not spayed, went into heat.*

*you can't buy love,  
but you can buy local!*

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for handcrafted, local & pure gifts  
for your loved ones**

**Stewart Maple Marketplace  
Thursday - Saturday 11-5  
Sunday 11-4**

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www.stewartmaple.com**



# Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

## The Museum all decorated for Christmas 2022

The homes and businesses of Cuttingsville, including our museum, were all lit up in the evenings with candles in windows and lights on trees. Lovely. Did you notice?

## Looking forward to a new year

The Society is hoping we can move forward with the plan to offer a program based on the subject of the CCC camp in North Shrewsbury and the making of a ski tow, with the remnants being found recently. Getting back on its feet since the pandemic, more artifacts were received and new exhibits should follow. The space in the storage room is now overwhelmed. We are running out of room and the plan is to reorganize, if at all possible. Our files are overloaded, and more shelf space is being considered. Hopefully this will all be accomplished in the new year, with the help of all members.

## Again, my favorite turkey tale

I know I have written about this before, but the Rutland Herald had a story and photo in a recent edition about the turkey drives in the 1800s and early 1900s. When I was chatting with the son of the first owners of Crown Point Inn, he described to me how as a young lad he accompanied his father on a turkey drive and I could not help but laugh as I imagined it to be like a cattle run out west, as shown in the movies.

I thought it was a tongue in cheek story. But there it was, in a large photo, in a story by the Herald showing it. Can you just imagine walking with sticks and guiding turkeys to move along the dusty roads, even having to awaken them when they went into the shade of a covered bridge which helped to put them to sleep for a while. And it was a very long trip on foot from Shrewsbury to Boston, about a 3 week walk, guiding with food along the way. Losing some on the way to marauders. Talk about True Grit!

## Our first meeting

will be in May and there will be advance notices in the Times. Please join us. Dues are due for this year and remain unchanged. Individual \$10. Family \$15; Contributing \$30; and for Life (individual or couple) \$125. Please make check out to the Shrewsbury Historical Society with notation for dues, and send to treasurer Catherine Carrara, 2544 Northam Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738. ~Ruth Winkler



A cold, silent lake  
The sun is setting orange  
Everything burns

*Haiku and Photo by S. O'Dowd*



## Love Letter to Pierce's Store

Oh Pierce's Store, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways:

- ♥ I love that I always see a friendly face when I enter the store
- ♥ I love that you are there to interrupt my cabin fever, with human connection and conversation
- ♥ I love that you have something for everyone, from candy to organic greens
- ♥ I love that you keep alive an important part of Shrewsbury's history and connect us to the past
- ♥ I love that you support local artisans and vendors by marketing their products
- ♥ I love that you kept us safe and filled our grocery needs throughout Covid
- ♥ I love that you supply the ice cream for our Shrewsbury summer concert series
- ♥ I love that you sponsor community events to bring us all together (blueberry festival, wine tasting, chili cook-off, etc)
- ♥ I love that you sell high quality fish, world class wines, local beer, maple syrup, and Vermont dairy products)
- ♥ I love that you "feed" Shrewsbury - our hearts, minds, spirits and stomachs!

*~Submitted with love, Lily French*

## WANTED

### New members to serve on the Pierce's Store Board!

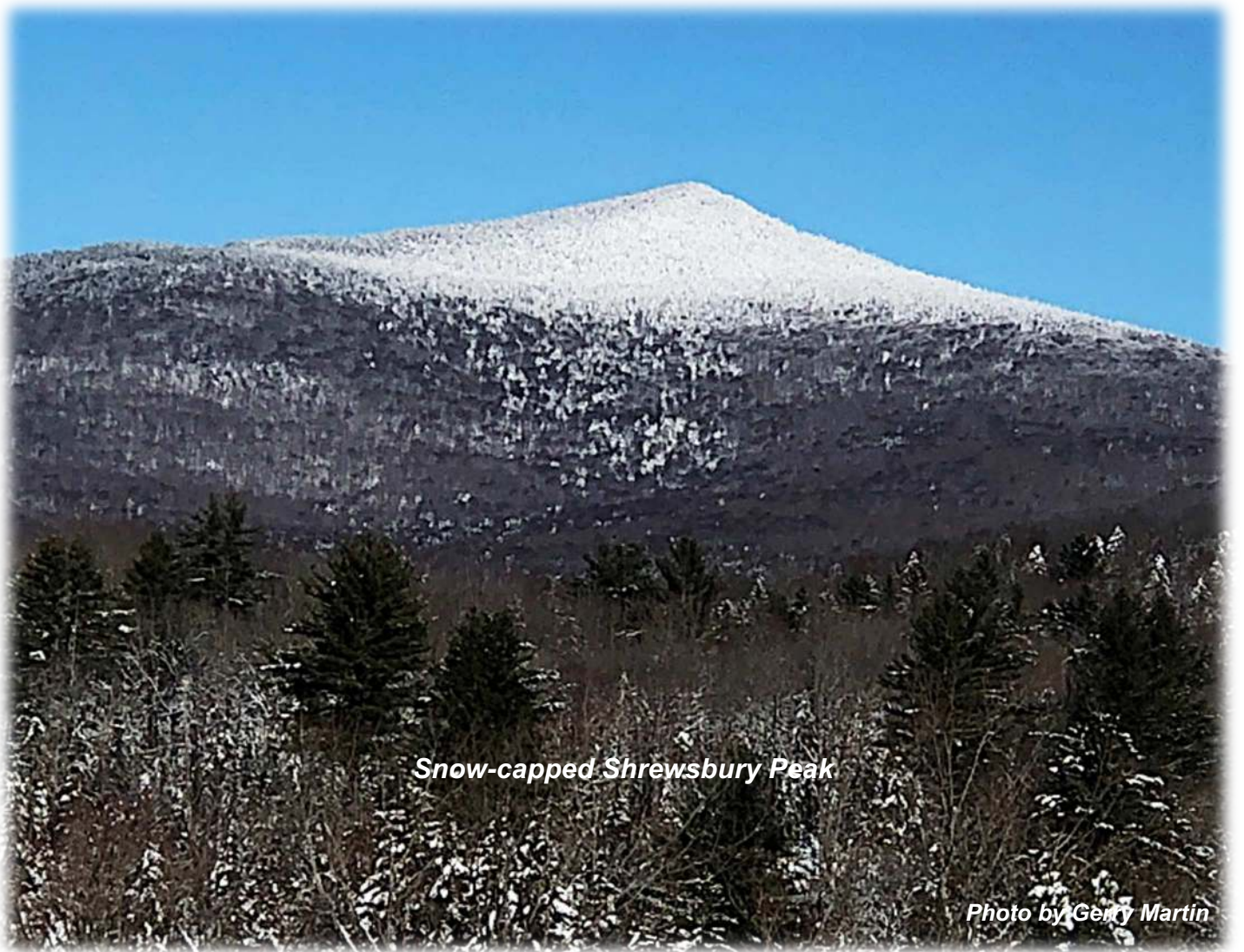
We are looking at 2-4 openings in the upcoming months. If you are interested in helping to ensure the success of this historic store, please contact:

Lily French at 492-3304.

## THE SVFD NEEDS YOU!

We need new and younger members. The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) can provide equipment, training, and support. Whether you've had prior experience as a first responder or have no experience at all! We need volunteers. Men or women who would like further information may call Bob Snarski at 492-3505, Barry Griffith at 492-3573, or Jack Perry at 773-3278. No commitment necessary.





*Snow-capped Shrewsbury Peak*

*Photo by Gerry Martin*



#### BOOK REVIEWS

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

★★★★★

#### **The Cruellest Miles**

*By Gay Salisbury & Laney Salisbury*

I am reading this true story about icebound Nome, Alaska in 1925, when a diphtheria epidemic was ravaging the local populace—in particular, children and native peoples (Eskimos). Sled dog teams saved the day as they raced across the savage wilderness with life-saving serum. Their feat inspired the Iditarod, and the heroic lead dog, Balto, has a bronze statue, erected in his honor, still standing in Central Park, NYC. I am savoring every glorious word about this horrifying tale. Also interesting is that the authors are first cousins. I'm not sure if our library has a copy of *The Cruellest Miles*, but it should be on the shelves! ~reviewed by Marilyn Dalick



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 of Experience



#### **Bone Builders**

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Every Tuesday and Thursday  
 at the Meeting House on Lottery Road  
 Free weights and Instruction

Join us to improve your  
 Bones, Balance, and Strength



## The Shrewsbury Community Church



*Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley*

We've had a busy time during the holiday season at the Shrewsbury Community Church! We had a joyous Christmas Eve Candlelight Service! All are welcome to join us any Sunday at 1030am at the center church which is on the second floor of the meeting house. Come and enjoy the beautiful music, hear an uplifting message from our Pastor, and visit with your neighbors. There is also a Fun Day Program for kids!

We were able to provide gift cards for basic necessities and grocery cards for families in Shrewsbury during the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who donated to our Lasagna Dinner for this Community Sharing Project! We couldn't do it without you!

Special thanks to delivery drivers Hal Niblack and Cortney Allard who delivered lasagna to folks unable to pick up dinners in the community.



*Thanks to our amazing Supper Crew! Julianne, Roxanne, Sue, Cortney & Lynette!*

Thanks to folks who donated through the library by providing turkeys and stuffing for families in town for Thanksgiving! Thanks to Donna Swartz for organizing this drive!

### Thanks:

- Our amazing Christmas Tree was given by Russell and Donna Reay of Paxton Greens.
- 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 were given
- In Memory of Fred Ramah, Ray & Rhea Roberts by Roxanne Ramah
- In Memory of Kevin Regimbald by his Mom
- In Memory of George E. Richards, Sally Jones, George C. & Mary Over by the Over Family
- In Memory of John Lorentz & Bob Duch by Karen Lorentz
- In Memory of Alex & Virginia Donaski by Elaine Ransom
- In Memory of Thomas J. Kelley by the Kelley Family
- In Memory of Grace Korzun, Pearl Underwood, Richard Littler, Pat Richardson, Rich Bettelli, Hull Maynard, Ken Pitts, & Judy Webster by the Congregation

### Shrewsbury Community Church Calendar

- Sunday, Feb 5 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service with Holy Communion led by Wendy Savary.
- Sunday, Feb 12 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Wendy Savary.
- Sunday, Feb 19 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Wendy Savary.
- Sunday Feb 26 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Wendy Savary.
- Saturday March 25 @ 8am-12noon Pancake Breakfast at the Meeting House Center Shrewsbury.

### 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 802-779-4825 or 802-492-3738.

### Community Needs

- Wedding, Funeral or Memorial Service Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; or Sue Kelley 802-492-3738, 802-779-4825
- Community Helping Hand Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; Sue Kelley 802-779-4825, 802-492-3738; 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.

### Mark your calendar!

We will be hosting a  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**March 25, 2023**  
**8am-12noon**

Featuring Maple Syrup  
from Smith Maple Crest  
Farm! More news to  
come!





## SNO-BIRD NEWS

We are 1/2 way thru January already and there is very little snow on the ground. This is starting out to be a bad season for us. We are in week #5 out of 16 for the VAST snowmobile season. In a normal season we would have groomed 5 to 8 times by now but this season we have been out 2 times and that was to open the trails and remove trees because of the storms. For snowmobiles we have had roughly 2 weeks of not so good riding so far. If mother nature starts helping us, there is still time to have a good, not great, season.

Our club average for grooming is 11.8 weeks so there is still time to meet our average, and I always feel the riding is better later in the year because you have your base all packed in and the water spots are froze or we have the snow bridges built to keep you out of the water. It looks like we might get snow January 19-21 and my Dad said on his Shrewsbury Snow Report it looks like around 13" by the end of the storm. We will just have to wait and see. One piece of info, 13" sounds like a lot of snow and that is correct but when the Tucker and drag go over it compacts to not much, so you need several storms to build your base. The smoother the ground is before the snow comes the better the trails are with little snow. Most of our trails are not smooth roads so at the first of the year really ride cautiously because there can be rocks sticking up or a water bar that needs to be filled. All of these things will be hidden with enough snow and good grooming.



*Someone made use of the snow shoveled up by the snow plow at the Town Clerk's office and created this friendly snow head with antennae!*



Aaron Webster (CVM), Mike Stewart (Sno-Birds President), Michele Taub (Sno-Birds Secretary), Joe Hussey (Winner of the sled), Scott Ryan (Sno-Birds Board of Director), Roy Arthur (Sno-Birds VP) and Trailmaster Dave Fucci (Sno-Birds Board of Director)

We had a snowmobile raffle on December 30, 2022. The winner Joe Hussey picked up his new 2023 SkiDoo MXZ Sport EFI at Central Vermont Motorcycles with several Sno-Birds members there to congratulate him on his winning. I think I heard that Joe's last sled was a 1985 sled. He will be riding in real comfort and better handling over the older sled, with that many years difference the improvements are massive. CVM's representative Aaron Webster did a very nice job going over some general maintenance procedures like changing the drive belt and where to check the fluids, and how the sled operates. We all thought, what a way to end 2022 by picking up your new sled! Congratulations to Joe on his new sled!

Lets hope we start getting some good snow. When snow comes we will be ready to start working it into the smooth trails that you have come to expect from the Shrewsbury Sno-Birds for years! Hope to see you on the trails! ~Roy Arthur

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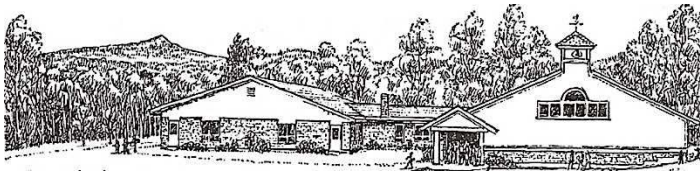
## SUNDAY FUN DAY

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY  
CHURCH ROOMS

**10:30am -11:30am**  
**NATURE OUR WAY**  
**AGES 4YRS AND UP**

PROJECTS, STORIES, SNACKS  
AND OUTDOOR FUN





## SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL NEWS

### Important Dates:

- 1/ 12-2/16: Winter Sports Program Thursday mornings at OKEMO  
 1/20: High Mowing Seeds Fundraiser Starts!  
 1/24: School Wide Assembly sponsored by the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission  
 2/14: Happy Valentine's Day  
 2/20-24: Winter Break

### Winter Sports Program:

Our K-2nd grade students are ice skating and our 3-6th grade students have the choice of ice skating, skiing or snowboarding. We are super grateful for all our parent volunteers and our anonymous donor who make this program possible. Here are some photos of the fun while learning new skills and techniques.

### Donations:

We are in need of SLEDS for outdoor recess! The plastic long sled toboggans are most effective on our sledding hill.

### Book Buddies:

Our 5th and 6th grade students are paired with our preK (3 and 4 year olds) to read together. These relationships started building when these same grade levels worked together in multiage small teams to plant trees on our campus this past Fall. Our student leaders are so kind and patient with our little learners and it is beautiful to see both age groups of students so excited to spend time together and learn.



It is so exciting to see our students embrace the winter months and enjoy learning and playing in the snow! We continue to see our students grow and deepen their understanding each day!



~Submitted by Kristin Cimonetti , Principal

## Shrewsbury Yeti Mugs Available Locally



Happy New Year Shrewsbury Community, The Shrewsbury Mountain School would like to thank all of you who purchased Shrewsbury Yeti mugs this holiday season. Your support has been sensational. Did you miss the opportunity to get a mug for yourself or for someone special? Well, you're in luck as both Pierce's Store and Stewart Maple will continue to have mugs available. What wonderful community spirit from these two, highly-valued local businesses! Be sure to stop in and get one while supplies last.

~Submitted by Ali Wilson



## Fundraiser Shrewsbury Mountain School PTO

Order form next page →

The Shrewsbury Mountain School's PTO is selling a healthy variety of seeds from High Mowing Organic Seeds, a Vermont based, USDA organic, and NON GMO seed company. If you plan on purchasing seeds for a garden this spring please consider ordering through this fundraiser. The proceeds will help support our many PTO events and purchases throughout the year. Our school will receive 60% of all proceeds!

**ALL ORDERS ARE DUE TO THE SCHOOL  
BY Friday, February 10th**

Order Forms may also be picked up at Pierce's Store – completed order forms should be dropped off or mailed to the school.

Orders will arrive to the school at the beginning of March for distribution.

By purchasing these Vermont 100% certified organic seeds you are helping the Mountain School raise money for enhancing the education of our children while growing delicious produce for your family and friends. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. As always, we thank you for your continued support!

Sarah Bolster [sbsc@vermontel.net](mailto:sbsc@vermontel.net)  
SMS PTO member



# High Mowing Organic Seed Fundraiser Order Form

## Shrewsbury Mountain School

By purchasing these Vermont 100% certified organic non-GMO seeds you are helping the Shrewsbury Mountain School PTO raise money for our school while growing delicious organic produce for your family and friends.

The Mountain School will receive 60% of the proceeds.

**Thank You for Your Support!**

**Return form and payment by February 10, 2023. Make checks payable to Shrewsbury Mountain School PTO.**

Order forms can be dropped off or mailed to Shrewsbury Mountain School; or emailed to Sarah Bolster @ [sbsc@vermontel.net](mailto:sbsc@vermontel.net). We will contact you when orders arrive in the beginning of March.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

| Individual Seed Packets |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Quantity                | \$3.55 each                |
| Total \$                |                            |
|                         | Astro Arugula              |
|                         | Freckles Lettuce           |
|                         | Butterfly Spinach          |
|                         | Vates Kale                 |
|                         | Italian Flat Leaf Parsley  |
|                         | Genovese Basil             |
|                         | Detroit Dark Red Beet      |
|                         | Yaya Carrot                |
|                         | Cherry Belle Radish        |
|                         | Green Finger Cucumber      |
|                         | Sugar Ann Snap Pea         |
|                         | Dark Green Zucchini        |
|                         | De Cico Broccoli           |
|                         | Provider Bush Bean         |
|                         | Howden Pumpkin             |
|                         | Picnic Orange Pepper       |
|                         | Who Gets Kissed Sweet Corn |
|                         | Parade Bunching Onion      |
|                         | Honeynut Butternut Squash  |
|                         | Sugar Baby Watermelon      |
|                         | Brandywine Tomato          |
|                         | Sweetie Cherry Tomato      |
|                         | Giant Coral Zinnia         |
|                         | Sensation Blend Cosmos     |
|                         | Evening Color Sunflowers   |

| Seed Packet Collection       |                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quantity                     | Summer of Sunflowers<br>(3 packets: different varieties of height, color, bloom time)<br><b>\$10.00</b>       |
| Total \$                     |                                                                                                               |
|                              | Easy Salad Greens<br>(3 packets: Lettuce blend, Arugula, Spinach)<br><b>\$10.00</b>                           |
|                              | Container Garden Gift Box<br>(Basil, Kale, Cherry Tomato, Cilantro, Pea, Pepper, Salad mix)<br><b>\$23.25</b> |
|                              | Kitchen Herbs<br>(Dill, Parsley, Basil, Cilantro, Thyme)<br><b>\$16.50</b>                                    |
|                              | Kid' s Garden<br>(Sunflower, Pumpkin, Carrot, Pole Bean, Nasturtium)<br><b>\$16.50</b>                        |
|                              | A Bee' s Garden<br>(Dill, Sage, Fennel, Cosmos, Calendula)<br><b>\$16.50</b>                                  |
|                              | Garden Starter<br>(Beet, Bean, Salad Mix, Cucumber, Radish, Carrot, Basil)<br><b>\$23.25</b>                  |
|                              | Heirloom Vegetable<br>(Cucumber, Chard, Beet, Tomato, Summer Squash, Kale, Pea)<br><b>\$23.25</b>             |
| Individual Seed Packet Total | \$                                                                                                            |
| Seed Packet Collection Total | \$                                                                                                            |
| GRAND TOTAL                  |                                                                                                               |
| \$                           |                                                                                                               |

\*Seed descriptions and photos can be found on [www.highmowingseeds.com](http://www.highmowingseeds.com)

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**riverwoodlawncare@gmail.com**

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*Combination Plastics and Cardboard Compactor*

### **Dump Updates**

The Transfer Station (aka "The Dump") now has a combination cardboard & plastic crusher. No longer do you have to flatten cardboard or crush plastic; just toss it into combo crusher that sits just to the right as you enter the Transfer Station gated area. Paul says the one they have now is temporary, and that a newer looking version should be arriving soon.

**802-492-3867:** That's the number to call if you have a question for Paul or Jeremiah on days when the dump is scheduled to be open. If you need to know whether the crusher is working or if they're open, just give them a call! For future reference, the phone number is listed on page 3 of the Times along with other important contact numbers. ~Cheryl Martin



## **Shrewsbury Conservation Commission**

### **Walk and Talk**

## **Exploring the Stewart Maple Operation**

**Sunday February 5**

**10:00am – 12noon**

**(bad weather date Sunday Feb 12)**

**Location TBA – registration required**

Did you know that one of Vermont's largest maple sugar producers operates right here in Cuttingsville? Have you ever been tromping in the woods opposite John C Stewart and Sons and seen multiple, huge tubing running down the mountain? Ever wonder how the Stewart family manages to produce almost 40,000 gallons of delicious maple syrup in a year? Then come to the tour conducted by Alyssa Stewart and learn how they planned and developed this dream and explain their operation while walking – or snowshoeing? on some of the trails.

Tour is limited to 15 people so pre-registration is required. Send us some of your questions ahead of time so Alyssa can be sure to address them on the tour!

For more information and to sign up, contact Weezie at [vtzippity@gmail.com](mailto:vtzippity@gmail.com) or call 802-558-5519.





This month we'd like to celebrate a friend of SAGE, Sarah Audsley, for her debut book publication, *Landlock X*. Sarah, a Korean American adoptee raised in rural Vermont. A graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and a member of The Starlings Collective, she lives and works in Johnson, VT.

From Texas Review Press--Sarah Audsley's debut poetry collection joins a growing body of adoptee poetics. By examining the consequences of the interracial adoptee experience—her own—Audsley's collection finds more questions than solid answers. Employing a variety of poetic forms, co-opting the pastoral tradition to argue for belonging to the rural landscape—despite the inheritance of displacement and removal from a country of origin—*Landlock X* tries to solve for all the (adoptee's) variables and knows it is an impossible task that the "I," "you," and "we" of the poems only approximate.

This collection will be published this month. SAGE and the Shrewsbury Library are coordinating to host Sarah this spring or early summer, so stay tuned for more information.

Thank you to all the musicians and enthusiasts that have been coming to our Schoolhouse Jams over the past few months. We are excited to have people together in song again at the Russellville Schoolhouse! Our next jam will be on February 11th at 7pm. See you then!

SAGE, Shrewsbury Agricultural Education & Arts Foundation, began in 2012 as a non-profit organization to promote traditional and innovative agriculture. We added support for the arts to our mission in 2020. We sponsor workshops, concerts, spoken word readings, and more in the Russellville Schoolhouse. For more information about SAGE: contact Stephen Abatiell at [educate.sage@gmail.com](mailto:educate.sage@gmail.com), Joan Aleshire at 492-3550 or visit [www.sagevt.wordpress.com](http://www.sagevt.wordpress.com). Follow us on Facebook for up to date event details at Shrewsbury SAGE and find our sustainability and arts videos on YouTube.

~Submitted by Stephen Abatiell



QR code for SAGE's Youtube Channel

## REINBOW RIDING CENTER NEWS

On a stormy winter day recently, a few friends of Cutie's got together to celebrate her 23rd birthday. A grand old age for a horse. She was born on the plains of Manitoba in Canada, also a cold and wintery location, on February 18, 2000. Unlike other horses, and, as a result of the weather, Cutie sports a pair of "teddy-bear" ears having lost the tips to frostbite when a young foal. This gives her a very distinctive look. Somehow, she found her way to Vermont and has spent a good deal of her 23 years helping to teach young people the joys of horsefriendship and how to ride. Cutie is one of the key elements of our programs at Rainbow Riding Center and we celebrate the exceptional, even if often opinionated, nature of this very special horse.

## VOLUNTEER AND GET TO KNOW CUTIE!!



We're starting our Volunteer Search early this year and hoping for a good turnout. If this is something you think you might be interested in, but don't know what it's all about, or just want to find out what our programs are all about, come to the Q&A we're holding on Saturday, February 11th, 1 p.m. at the Belmont Library

in Mt. Holly. Anyone age 14 to whatever can volunteer. And there are many ways you can volunteer that doesn't have to be horse related. No experience needed!!

Rainbow Riding Center provides therapeutic horsemanship programs for children and adults. Please visit our website: [rainbowridingcenter.org](http://rainbowridingcenter.org) to find out more about us, and follow RRC on Facebook and Instagram @rainbow\_riding\_center. Contact us at [programs@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:programs@rainbowridingcenter.org) or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer, questions, or need directions, contact [janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org).

~Submitted by Janet Upton

## SNOWSHOES (Adult & Children)

Available for checkout  
at the  
**Shrewsbury Library**  
Borrow for 3 days







## Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

### Trail Camera Picture of the month

#### A Trail Camera Tip

Just like humans, wildlife communicates through messages. Look for scat on a prominent stump, log or rock along a game trail. This is a good spot to set up your camera. You'll be surprised how many animals stop to check who has been by and to leave pee mail!

Do you have a wildlife picture to share? A track for us to identify? Send your trail cam, phone or camera picture to Linda Shelvey, Lpurdyshe@gmail.com. Please include your location in your email, so we can include your data on our Shrewsbury Wildlife Sightings Map.



#### What's This?

It's called a "space filler" but it's also called a tree  
Do you know what kind it is? Do you know where it is?

*Photo by the Roving Reporter*

The **Times of Shrewsbury** is our community "newspaper"  
if you have a photo, an article,  
or an idea....send it along!





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*Moose captured on Tim Stout's trail camera.*



## SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, March 11

at the **Shrewsbury Mountain School  
Multipurpose Room!**

Help out our songbird friends! Come build a bluebird box and learn all about these birds and how to get them to nest in your box!

### Tribute to Gary Salmon from Pierce's Board

There is so much this community will miss not having Gary Salmon among us. His big laugh, boundless enthusiasm, and generous spirit are things that will always be remembered. A walk in the woods with Gary was a delight. One of the many things Gary did was volunteer at Pierce's Store, in particular serving as the State registered water operator, taking water samples as required and delivering them to the laboratory. Pierce's is so thankful for Gary's help with the store. He will be sorely missed. His service to the store was just one of the dozens of ways he reached out and helped our small community be the special place it is. A very special guy!

~Mark Youngstrom for Pierce's Board of Directors

### Shrewsberries Like Their Red Wine From California... And a Few Other Places

As they came out of Covid hibernation, Shrewsbury wine drinkers embraced some alternatives to their tried-and-true wines, judging by Pierce's wine sales during 2022. The archetypical Shrewsbury wine drinker prefers hearty Cabernet Sauvignons from California, but there were some notable exceptions during the year.

The top-selling wine was from Argentina, a blend of Bonarda and Malbec from a cooperative of family farms that only sells its wines through co-ops like the Shrewsbury Co-op at Pierce's Store. The wine's affordable price reflects the lack of middlemen.

| Rank | Wine                               | Type  | Origin     | Price*  |
|------|------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------|
| 1    | La Riojana Bonarda/Malbec          | Red   | Argentina  | \$8.99  |
| 2    | Vendange Tetra Pinot Grigio        | White | California | \$5.25  |
| 3    | Joel Gott Cabernet Sauvignon       | Red   | California | \$16.99 |
| 4    | Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet      | Red   | California | \$22.99 |
| 5    | Bota Box Chardonnay                | White | California | \$22.99 |
| 6    | J Lohr 7 Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon   | Red   | California | \$18.99 |
| 7    | Crusher Unoaked Chardonnay         | White | California | \$12.99 |
| 8    | Llenca Plana Montsant              | Red   | Spain      | \$14.99 |
| 9    | Coppola Claret                     | Red   | California | \$15.99 |
| 10   | Manoir du Carra Beaujolais Nouveau | Red   | France     | \$17.99 |
| 11   | Pavao Vinho Verde Branco           | White | Portugal   | \$7.99  |
| 12   | La Riojana Malbec                  | Red   | Argentina  | \$8.99  |
| 13   | Vendange Tetra Chardonnay          | White | California | \$5.25  |
| 14   | Mark West Black Pinot              | Red   | California | \$14.99 |
| 15   | Ken Wright Pinot Noir              | Red   | California | \$19.99 |

*\*Prices can change. Special orders 10% less.*

New during 2022 were a popular medium bodied red from the Montsant region near Barcelona in Spain and a fresh French Beaujolais Nouveau released right before Thanksgiving (and promptly sold out from both Pierce's and the distributor of the wine). Although California remains the most popular region for Pierce's wines, wines from Portugal as well as Argentina, Spain and France also made the hit parade.

Red wines accounted for 57% of Pierce's wine sales during 2022, up from 53% the previous year. Whites fell to 36% of sales from 42% during 2021. Sparkling, rosé, and orange wines made up the remainder, as interest in rosé and orange wines has increased.

| Rank | Type        | Percent |
|------|-------------|---------|
| 1    | Red         | 57%     |
| 2    | White       | 36%     |
| 3    | Sparkling   | 5%      |
| 4    | Rose/Orange | 3%      |

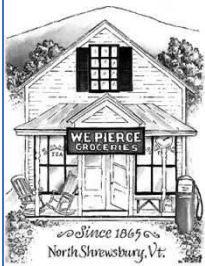
Inflation impacted wine prices during the year, but we mostly saw the increases in US wines because a strong dollar kept foreign wines from needing to raise their prices. Wine purchasers paid up to \$23 for the most popular California Cabs but also found good value wines such as La Riojana's organic fair trade wines, the Pavao Vinho Verde and Vendange's 500 ml wines.

For 2023, we'll begin exploring in our upcoming wine tastings some interesting alternatives to the predominant preferences for Cabernets and Chardonnays. As always, we are looking for wines that are kind to the palate and to the pocketbook, which often means searching for wines off the beaten path. Our first tasting on February 10 at 4pm will feature some worthy rivals to Cabernet Sauvignon.

Note that Pierce's welcomes special orders, which typically cost 10% below the regular selling price listed here. If you have a favorite wine, Pierce's can often get it at a competitive price. Let Sandy Bragg know your wines of interest or send an email to [pierceswine@gmail.com](mailto:pierceswine@gmail.com).

~Article by Sandy Bragg





## NEWS FROM PIERCE'S STORE 802-492-3326

Bob Knudsen, Manager

Happy New Year and Valentine's Day to all of our friends and neighbors! We are looking forward to an even better 2023!

### STORE UPDATES

We have a number of small changes in the store to note, including some updates to our delivery schedules! Button Hill will now be bringing their ever popular goodies on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with a rotating selection of everybody's favorite muffins, pastries, and other treats. We are also expecting some minor changes to delivery schedules from a couple of our vendors as they adjust to their new routes, including lowered frequency of routes and higher minimum order thresholds, but we are hopeful that these changes will not be all that noticeable from the customer side of things. We plan to post an updated delivery schedule for some of our higher volume vendors as soon as we have some more information, but the regular groceries, beer and wine, and baked goods will largely be unaffected. Also of note is that the local greens will be on hiatus for a couple of months, but we are still going to get some options from our friends at Upper Valley Produce on a weekly basis every Friday.

### SOUPS ARE COMING IN HOT

We are planning to bring back the crockpot and start serving hot soup again, beginning in February! The soups will be coming from a variety of sources, including from the Wallingford Village Market! In order to make this work, we are going to need some help from the community with pickups on Friday afternoon to help make this work! If you are interested, please let us know. We are also always looking for more runners for other items as well, so if you find yourself with some free time and the desire to go for a drive, drop us a line first!

### COMMUNITY BASED ITEMS

In an effort to continue the tradition of locally sourced items and a community focused approach, we are looking at trying to carry more local goods and groceries as much as possible. To that effect, you are going to see an additional focus not only on our consignment shelves, but also on local and regionally sourced foods and dairy where available. Don't worry if you still want to grab some of the regular brand name or national items, the regular stuff isn't going anywhere anytime soon. We are hopeful that by doing this, we will not only help keep the business in the community, but also help to be more environmentally friendly and reduce costs overall. If you have any suggestions or options available, please let us know!

### STORE PRICING AND SUPPLY CHAINS

As we continue to overcome the last couple of years of weird supply chains, price increases, inflation, and outright shortages, we have continued to strive to keep prices low on staple items. We plan to continue to do so as much as possible. At the same time, there are a few areas where price increases are going to continue to be unavoidable, but we are going to do our best to continue to hold those prices down while remaining solvent and sustainable.

### Rivals to Cabernet Wine Tasting February 10

Cabernet Sauvignon is by far the most popular red wine, not only in Shrewsbury but globally. Over 840,000 acres of vineyard are devoted to the grape globally, in all major wine growing regions. There are good reasons for Cab's enormous popularity as a full-bodied wine with dark fruit characteristics. But there are other great red wines of note and on Friday February 10 from 4pm to 6pm we will start to explore some of them. For our first 'Cab Killers' session, we'll focus on two worthy rivals to Cabernet: the robust wines of Côtes du Rhone and the old vine Monastrells of Spain. Both offer quality wine at reasonable price points. Join us at Pierce's Store as we begin our journey beyond the ubiquitous Cabernet. ~Sandy Bragg



### Pierce's Board News

Pierce's Board has been extremely busy these past several months. The Executive Committee spent the fall developing a process for performance reviews of managers at the store. T

he Buildings and Grounds Committee has worked to replace storm windows on the building while ensuring that replacement windows fit the historical character of the building (many thanks to Richard Davis for his assistance on this project). The Fundraising and Events Committee continues to support regular wine tastings at the store, while also looking forward to summer and fall events.

Additionally, the entire Board met for a "board retreat" in mid-January to solidify and coordinate our own goals for the future of the store. At that meeting, we made some New Year's resolutions.

- We resolved to develop a system for recording and responding to input from staff and customers.
- As in past years, we resolved to continue the process of having the Preservation Trust look at our books, and to move to a scheduled annual review of our accounts by the Trust.
- We also agreed to develop a communication protocol for the advertising of events at the store.

We hope that all of these measures will strengthen the operations of the store and increase sales. Obviously, the most important action that any of us can take to ensure that Pierce's Store will always be there for our community, is to shop regularly at the store!

If you are a member of Pierce's Cooperative, now is the time to renew your membership. We will be hosting a **Membership Appreciation Day on Saturday, February 18** to encourage membership renewals and show our appreciation for the support of our members. Please stop by the store for free coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies on that day. Annual memberships cost \$20 and help us to maintain a healthy bottom line. Think of the many benefits that Pierce's brings to our town, and renew your membership ASAP. Pierce's Store needs you!

~Submitted by Lily French, Chair of the SCPS Board

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