

# Times of Shrewsbury

November 2025



## BEATING THE BUSHES

The phrase “beating the bushes” usually implies a search for something - so what might that be in this instance? Your conservation commission is seeking to ensure a local landscape that lives in harmony with itself, that has room and sustenance for all our creatures, and that can be enjoyed by all. Shrewsbury’s natural environment is one of abundant life - beauty and wonder in scenery, wildlife and plant life. Before we simply pat ourselves on the back and kick back to enjoy it all, I would like to remind people that nothing is that simple or easy.

Lurking in the shadows, among the trees, and brazenly out in the open along our roads, are plants that sow discord into the New England woods. These are plants originating from other parts of the world and introduced here at different times and for various innocent and understandable purposes, or simply by accident. They are now in unfair competition with our native plants. Their advantages include leafing out early, remaining green later, and a lack of predators, insect pests or diseases. Herbivores prefer native plants, leaving the introduced plants to thrive and become invasive. Many insects depend on native plants to survive. Caterpillars that birds eat and feed to their young are unable to digest the leaves of foreign species, so they die unless they can find the right plants to sustain them. No caterpillars = no butterflies and fewer birds!

“Beating the Bushes” can also be an intention. Some of the invasive plants established here in Shrewsbury are in the form of bushes. Let’s focus on three of these: **Barberry, Burning Bush, and non-native bush Honeysuckle.** All enjoy those advantages of a longer “green” time and nobody wanting to eat them,

and have been planted in the past as ornamentals. It is now illegal to transport, buy, sell, propagate or plant these bushes in all of New England and many states beyond!! Recognizing them as “severely invasive” and harmful to their ecosystems, states are scrambling to deal with this legacy.

When spread from our yards into less tended spaces, bush honeysuckles can and do form vast thickets where almost nothing else can grow. The berries they produce are non-nutritious junk food for our birds, plus they have replaced the richer native berries that birds actually prefer.

The dense, prickly scrub formed by barberry bushes are an unfortunate haven for ticks and for the white-footed mice that are key carriers of the Lyme-disease bacteria that ticks deliver to us! Barberry fruits are more junk food for birds, who desperately need nutritious foods to fuel migration or winter survival. Since fewer delectable insects are to be found around plants that the bugs can’t feed on, birds are also deprived of these.

When invasive plants displace natives, birds are forced to make do with what’s available, and suffer nutritional deficits. Increased mortality and decreased reproductive success are the sad results. Burning bush spreads by seed dispersal but also by root extensions that generate new stems. Birds will drop undigested seeds far from that bush in your yard. This is evident all around Shrewsbury right now as the bright foliage reveals both new and more established bushes among trees and along field edges. Using seeds and roots, they will readily form connected groves. After a heavy

*(continued on next page)*



**Burning Bush**



**Honeysuckle**



**Barberry**

(continued from previous page)

seed year, there can be an unbelievable carpet of seedlings ready to create an ever-denser stand of the "Red Menace".

It's to the benefit of all to beat these bushes, not allow them to take over in their bullying ways. Foresters consider all of these bushes (among other plants) as terrible scourges in our woodlands and fields, and will help property owners to work towards eliminating them. Anyone can pull small bushes out, roots and all and hang or pile them up off the ground to dry. All sizes can be cut close to the ground and stumps carefully dabbed with herbicide. Now is the best time of year for this option, as plants are beginning to shut down, withdrawing fluids down into the roots. Repeated cutting can also be effective and will prevent spread by seed.

Our native landscape is beautiful and bountiful, a gift we should treasure and protect as well as utilize for its resources. This is a gentle plea to remove these particular bushes from your yard, as some of your neighbors have done. They are protecting your property and the larger landscape. Why not (!) return the favor?

If you need help, guidance, or have questions, please contact Pam Darrow at 492-3102 or by email at [pfd53@icloud.com](mailto:pfd53@icloud.com).

~Article by Pamela Darrow,  
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission



### Let's Go Tracking!

The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission invites residents and friends to join us on a yet-to-be-determined date to traipse in the snow! Discover evidence of the lives of wildlife in our woods! Many people who have been on past SCC Walks and Talks expressed an interest in returning during winter to both view wildlife cam videos as well as try to read tracks to see who is out and about on snowy days and what they are up to!

Obviously, this depends on good tracking snow and Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate with pre-selected dates so, here is how this will work:

1. Send an email to Linda Shelvey at [lpurdyshe@gmail.com](mailto:lpurdyshe@gmail.com) asking to be notified when this walk will occur.
2. When snow conditions are good, Linda will contact those who contacted her to give the time and location of the walk.

It might be in January! Or February! Or even March! But be sure to receive the call by signing up right now so you are sure to be notified when this fun and interesting walk occurs! ~Submitted by Weezie Duda

## TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

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

All submissions must be accompanied by the name of the submitting person and are printed at the editors' discretion subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters to the Editor exceeding 350 words will be subject to editing for length. Any information piece or informational political letters (without specific party or vote appeal) will be subject to the guidelines previously described.

A writer of a letter that directly names a Shrewsbury resident or organization in a critical manner must get copies to the resident or organization, and to the Times by the 10th of the month prior to publication or it will not run. If the named person or organization indicates in writing to the writer and to the Times that they choose not to respond, the letter will run. If the named entity responds, the response and initial letter will run in the same issue.

There is no charge for: jokes, poems, nature reports, family event announcements, feature articles, or letters that are not commercial. Also, there is no charge for appropriate notices of free items.

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

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

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

Monthly advertising fees and relative sizes:

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

Payment due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

1/18/25

Chryl Martin ~ Rich Biziak  
Times of Shrewsbury, P. O. Box 373, Cuttingsville, VT 05738  
Email: [shrewsburytimes@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburytimes@gmail.com) Online: [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)  
and <http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com>

## SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct 24	5pm	*Cemetery tours at Laurel Glen Cemetery
Oct 26	2pm	* "Singing on a Sunday Afternoon" at the Russellville School House by the Shrewsbury Singers
Oct 26	4pm	*Science Book Clun meets at the Library
Oct 28	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meet upstairs at the Meeting House
Oct 30	5:30-7pm	*Halloween Party at the Library
Nov 2	10am-1pm	*Shrewsbury Outing Club Bessenyay Trails Fall Maintenance Day
Nov 2	4pm	*Writers' Group meets at the Library
Nov 4	10am	*Bone Builders changes to winter hours at the Meeting House Tuesdays & Thursdays
Nov 8	7pm	*Schoolhouse Jam at Russellville Schoolhouse sponsored by SAGE
Nov 9	2&4pm	*Heartwood Trio Vocal Workshop and "Well Tree" performance
Nov 16	4pm	*Famous Books Book Club meets at the Library
Nov 16	7pm	*Science Book Club meets at the Library
Nov 22	4-6pm	*Holiday Wine Tasting at Pierce's Store
Nov 25	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meet upstairs at the Meeting House
Dec 6	7pm	*Annual Silent Auction and Cookie Swap at the Shrewsbury Library

\*see elsewhere in newsletter for details

### ***TIMES OF SHREWSBURY***

Online at  
[www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com)  
[www.shsrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shsrewsburyvt.org)



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

### **REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS**

Selectboard Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – 6:30pm at Town Office
Development Review Board	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed -7pm at Town Office; check town website for agenda
Library Trustees Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – 7pm at Shrewsbury Library
Mill River Unified Union School Board Mtg	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 7pm @ MRHS & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. 7pm at MRHS unless otherwise warned
Planning Commission	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 7pm at Town Office; No meeting July & August
Prayer Shawl Group	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 12noon upstairs at the Meeting House
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Sundays – 10am via Zoom; contact wildernessfriends@gmail.com
Shrewsbury Community Church	Sundays – 10:30am - Worship service
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday @ 5:15pm at 450 Frank Lord Rd
Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum	Closed for the season; For appointment call 802-712-7373
Shrewsbury Sno-Birds	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – 7pm at Southside Steakhouse in Rutland
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department	Thursdays – 7pm at the Cuttingsville Station

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

Clerk's Office	492-3511	Mondays & Thursdays 8:30am-1pm; Wednesdays 1pm-6pm (Fax 802-492-3383)
Town Garage	492-3656	(Follow prompts to report roadway blockage on non-work days)
Listers	492-2009	Available by appointment
Treasurer's Office	492-3558	Monday 9am-12noon
Transfer Station	492-3867	Sunday 8am-4pm ~ Wednesdays 12noon-6pm
Library	492-3410	Hours: Mon 10am-12noon; Tues 7-9pm; Wed 10am-5pm & 7-9pm; Thurs 7-9pm; Fri 10 12noon; Sat 10am-12noon
Meeting House	492-6050	Reservations: 492-3361 or <a href="mailto:julanne@vermontel.net">julanne@vermontel.net</a>
News Flash Email:	<a href="mailto:vtbenbeano@gmail.com">vtbenbeano@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:benbeano@vermontel.net">benbeano@vermontel.net</a>	an email list for Urgent and reminder news information

Cuttingsville Post Office 1-802-230-1996 Window Hours: Mon–Fri 7:30am–10:30am and 11:30am–2:30pm; Sat 8am–11am. Lobby Hours Mon– Fri 7:30am–5:00pm and Sat 7:30am–11am

Burn Permit: Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown 802-345-8668 or, Deputy Fire Warden Al Ridlon, Jr. 802-282-3642

Animal Control Officer: Adrienne Raymond 802-492-3578

1<sup>st</sup> Constable: Aaron Haupt 558-9980

Game Warden: Tim Carey 793-2776

Emergency Management Aaron Korzun 492-3362

Green Mountain Power outage 1-800-451-2877

Medical-Police-Fire Emergency Dial 911

Ambulance 773-1700

Rutland Hospital 775-7111

[Updated 9/20/2025]

## SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

*The Selectboard meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Town Office.*

### October 1, 2025: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

**Present at meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). Road Commissioner: Dan Cavoto. Airport Committee: Bob Knuden. Planning Commission: Laura Black (Remotely).

**The meeting was convened** at 6:32 PM.

**Agenda:** Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: Liquor licenses: One special catering Cold Spring Spirits and a new contract with Catalis. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Airport Committee Report:** There has been a lot of energy among the committee to proceed with development with airport infrastructure improvements. The committee is pursuing a request for funding for a feasibility study. The main goal is to make Rutland airport a stronger contributor to the economic growth in the Rutland area.

**Road Commissioner's Report:** Crown Point Project has all the wires in the ground. Green Mountain Power has crews getting ready to start putting customers online. The road will still be closed during the day while the project is completed but it is on schedule. The next steps will be starting the cable installation on Northam Road. There was a meeting engineers for additional Russellville culverts. Next steps for this project and will be pursuing preliminary design. The Road Crew is continuing road maintenance and preparations for winters and continuing to look for new employees. The bus stop signs will be coming on 10/2/25 and installed shortly after. There was a meeting with Brain Sanderson of V-Trans concerning the Shunpike Road project. Interested parties for the Shunpike Road should come to the next meeting (10/15/25) for an open discussion.

**Town Road Reclassifications:** The owner of TH #41 which is beyond the end of Robinson Road (TH #36) have been contacted and they are willing to move forward. The Selectboard will be proceeding with TH #41 and the information will be finalized during the next selectboard meeting (10/15/25). The public hearing for TH #46, the Dodge Road, will be on November 5th

**Liquor License:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve a special events permits for Cold Spring Spirits for the Tap to Table event on 10/5/25. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

**New Contract with Catalis:** The contract is for one year of Lister software subscription plus data conversions was reviewed by the Selectboard members. A. Korzun made a motion to accept the contract for \$7,500. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

**New Business/ Open to the Public:** None

**Review Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 9/17/2025 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

**Review Orders:** M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #10 for a total of \$4,462.60, and Road Orders #10 for a total of \$47,108.25, the bulk of which is for winter sand. Selectboard Orders #9A is corrected from \$24,722.66 to \$24,722.46. Seconded by A.Korzun. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:19 PM

*Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti*  
*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*  
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### October 15, 2025: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

**Present at meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt (Remotely). Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). Planning Commission: Laura Black (Remotely).

**Members of the public:** Paul Stewart. Steve Walsh. Steven Nicholson. Kara Fitzbeauchamp. Liesbeth and Michael van der Heijden. Al Ridlon. Grace Brigham. Brian Winkler.  
The meeting was convened at 6:32 PM.

**Agenda:** Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: approving the letter of support for the Upper Northam Road Culvert Project, and the GMP Easement. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Shunpike Road:** Concerns about the dangers of the road. Median speed is 30-33 mph. A group along with engineers went up after the traffic study and looked at the blind hill to figure out risk mitigation. The suggestions are to add signage that warns of the narrow road and start the process of lowering the speed limit to 25 mph due to road redesign being very invasive to the current landscape and very expensive. The Selectboard will start with these additions along with more general maintenance along the road such as trees, ditches, and the possibility of culverts.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Constable Position:** A. Korzun made a motion to appoint Steve Walsh as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable for the town. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

**Town Road Reclassifications:** A. Korzun made a motion to propose the discontinuance of the 0.04-mile Class 4 section of TH #41, owned on both sides by Inga and Jeffery Litz. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved. The warning will be posted. The Site Visit will be at 5:30pm on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Steven Nicholson would like the Selectboard to look into reclassifying the top section of Shunpike from a Class 4 road into a trail.

**A reminder that the site visit for the reclassification of TH #46 (Dodge Road) is at 5:30pm on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the Public Hearing will be at 6:30pm on November 5<sup>th</sup>.**



## SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

(continued)

**LHMP Updates:** All the appropriate documents were signed. Alaina Cimonetti will be pursuing the grant now that all the paperwork is squared away. A. Korzun made a motion to vote for the resolution to apply for the fiscal year 2026 Municipal Planning Grant. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

**Tax Collection Policy - Elimination of Small Amounts Due:** A. Korzun made a motion to adopt the tax collection policy for small amounts due. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**Letter of Support for the Upper Northam Road Culvert Project:** The letter was finalized and will be submitted soon.

**GMP Easement:** M. Cimonetti made a motion to authorize A. Korzun to sign the GMP easement on behalf of the Shrewsbury Selectboard. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**New Business/ Open to the Public:** Michael van der Heijden expressed concerns about a new culvert dumping debris into a pond on Crown Point Rd. The Selectboard will reach out to the road crew about addressing the concern.

**Review Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 10/1/2025 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

**Review Orders:** M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve Selectboard Orders #10A for a total of \$8,898.10, Road Orders #10A for a total of \$160,396.43, of which \$149,049.43 is for paving roads. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

**Adjourned at 8:43 PM**

*Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti*  
*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the*  
*Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

### Calling All Photographers!

The Shrewsbury Board of Auditors is soliciting recent photographs of Shrewsbury life for the town's 2025 Annual Report.



We particularly value photos of Town officers and Town Events (such as Shrewsbury Day, concerts, school activities, etc.), but also welcome scenic pictures from in and around Shrewsbury.

Submit your picture as a jpeg file and email it to [auditshrewsbury@gmail.com](mailto:auditshrewsbury@gmail.com) no later than January 1, 2026. Don't forget to provide captions identifying people, places, and events. Also, be sure to identify the photographer so we can give proper credit! The Board of Auditors will review the photos and select them based on applicability and space availability. Thank you for your help with our Town Report!

*Shrewsbury Board of Auditors*

## NOTICE OF EXAMINATION OF PREMISES AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR THE CLASS 4 PORTION OF TOWN HIGHWAY #41

Pursuant to its petition and motion approved October 15, 2025, and the requirements of Title 19, Chapter 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, the Town of Shrewsbury Selectboard will conduct an examination of the premises and public hearing on November 19, 2025, to consider the discontinuance of the +/-0.04-mile Class 4 portion of the right-of-way for Town Highway #41.

All interested parties shall meet for the following:

1. **An inspection of the premises at 5:30pm on November 19, 2025**, for the discontinuance of the +/-0.04-mile Class 4 portion of the right-of-way for Town Highway #41, at address 514 Robinson Rd., Shrewsbury, Vermont.

*The Class 4 portion of the right-of-way for Town Highway #41 extends +/-0.04 miles southerly from the end of the Class 3 Town Highway #34 (Robinson Rd.). The parcel where this right-of-way is located, is owned on both sides by J. and I. Litz.*

2. **A public hearing at 6:30PM on November 19, 2025**, at the Shrewsbury Town Office, 9823 Cold River Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738, to receive testimony from all persons abutting, owning or interested in the matter of discontinuing the +/-0.04-mile right-of-way of the Class 4 Town Highway #41. Persons wishing to comment, provide testimony or give evidence regarding the proposal may do so in person during the hearing, or by filing their comments, in writing, prior to the hearing.

After examining the premises and hearing from any and all interested persons, if the Selectboard judges that the public good, necessity and convenience of the inhabitants of the Town of Shrewsbury warrants discontinuing the aforesaid Class 4 town highway right-of-way of Town Highway #41, it will be so ordered.

~submitted by the Town of Shrewsbury Selectboard

### Donation Time

The Times is mailed to all residents of Shrewsbury and is also available online on the Shrewsbury Town, and Shrewsbury Historical Society websites:

**[www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)**

**and**

**[www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com)**

The cost of printing and mailing is made possible through advertising and your donations. Donors are recognized for the remainder of the calendar year in which their donation is received. However, if you contribute between now and the end of this calendar year, you will be recognized for the remainder of this year **and** all of next year! You determine the amount--any and all donations are appreciated! *—The Editors*

## WANTED

### Town Auditor

The Shrewsbury Board of Auditors is responsible for reviewing the financial statements for the Town of Shrewsbury, and preparing the Annual Report.

- Interested in serving the community?
- Comfortable working with Microsoft Excel?

If so, this might be an opportunity to help the Town!

If you can balance a checkbook, you can handle the Town's auditing tasks. Accounting experience would be a plus but not necessary. We provide instruction and work sheets to help guide you.

Compensation is available.

For more information, please contact either:

Michelle Greene, [auditshrewsbury@gmail.com](mailto:auditshrewsbury@gmail.com), or

Sandy Bragg, [sandy.bragg@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.bragg@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Land Posting: update on Land Posting. Your registration with the state is good for the year it is issued, not for one year from the date it is issued. If you want your land posted for the full year, you should register in January. This appears to be a new interpretation by the Fish & Wildlife Department

E911 Signes: If you need an E911 sign for your home, please contact me and I will order one for you. The price is \$15.00. They are really handy for emergency responders to locate your property in the event you ever need them.

Dog Licenses: Although dog licenses were due by April 1, 2025, you can still obtain them. There is a town fine if you have a dog who is not registered. Also, if your dog goes missing and does not have an identification tag, the first place folks check is with the town they are located in. If they are registered we can provide the person who found them with your contact information. Also, if they go missing and end up at the humane, if they are registered the humane society will know they are current on their rabies shots.

Some COVID tests are still available at the Town Office.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

*Rebecca A. Rice, Town Clerk*

802-492-3511 or [shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net).

9823 Cold River Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738



**Second Sunday in March:** Spring Forward,  
The U.S. begins daylight savings at 2am

**First Sunday in November:** Fall Back--  
The U.S. ends daylight savings at 2am



### Vermont State Senators:

Brian Collamore: [bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us)

Terry Williams: [twilliams@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:twilliams@leg.state.vt.us)

David Weeks: [dweeks@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dweeks@leg.state.vt.us)

### Vermont State House of Representative:

Kcwinter5783@gmail.com or 802-245-4190

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

### United States Senators:

#### **Senator Peter Welch**

[www.welch.senate.gov](http://www.welch.senate.gov)

Vermont Office: (800) 642-3193

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

#### **Senator Bernie Sanders**

[www.sanders.senate.gov/contact](http://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact)

Vermont Office: (800) 339-9834

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

### United States House of Representative:

Representative Becca Balint

Vermont Office: 347-461-4982

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

*Revised 2/1/25*

### **Free Medical Equipment**

Remember, various pieces of medical assist equipment have been donated by Shrewsbury residents who no longer need them. These are available at no cost on a loaner basis. On hand right now are many wooden crutches, adjustable aluminum crutches, walkers, rollators, commodes, shower seats, bedpans, toilet safety bars, a large wheelchair, and more. If you need any equipment or have any items to donate, call Donna Swartz at 773-7403 or AnnMarie Moody at 492-2091.



### **PVF Services LLC**

Excavation, Trucking, driveway repair, site prep, building removal, brush grinding and much more!

**Neal and Chad**

1368 Lincoln Hill

Cell 802 236 8105

Shrewsbury Vt, 05738

Office 802 492 3364

[sharrowmaple@gmail.com](mailto:sharrowmaple@gmail.com)

# THANKSGIVING GREETINGS TO ALL SHREWSBERRIES!!!



## LAUREL GLEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF 1894

A fabulous private tour took place on Oct 4. Four history lovers came from St. Albans to enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at the attic and basement; they spent two hours exploring Laurel Glen. What fun!

Tap-to-Table Day was highly successful! So many people came to the estate that we lost count in the 1st hour! 10 volunteers helped at the event: Thanks to Tim Faulkner, Ed Sawyer, Barry Griffith, Cathy Louttit, Dash Monder, Alannah Severy, Tom Giffin, Jeff Monder, and Ann Vanneman who joined me to greet folks from as far away as CA! Jeff even made the Rutland Herald!

NOT scary cemetery tours will take place October 24. Tours leave the lower cemetery entrance (across from Olde Barn) starting at 5pm with a group leaving every 15 min. Dress for weather, bring a flashlight, and wear sturdy shoes! (Event is rain or shine.) Suggested donation \$10 – 20 per person.

**BIG THANKS:** Balch/Lord family who donated a period-correct ironing board and wash basin stand. They look great along with several sad irons from Mr. Bowman's day.

Events held at Laurel Glen are fundraisers. We rely on donations and gifts. Our immediate goal is to repair the indoor plumbing, so we can hold events to raise money for

the cemetery wall and wallpaper. The wall is in critical condition, and it will cost more than \$100,000 to repair it. The Friends of Bowman Mansion need your financial help to make this happen.

And, we need you! If you like to help with cleaning, decorating, research, marketing, docenting, painting, gardening, fundraising, event planning, and more, reach out! The mansion is "staffed" solely by volunteers, and we need many hands to make this work!

Our website: [www.bomanmansion.org](http://www.bomanmansion.org)

Email: [laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com](mailto:laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/426580458623737>

All donations to Friends of Bowman Mansion (P.O. Box 416, Cuttingsville, VT 05738) are tax deductible. Or use our GoFundMe link.



**Did you know?** The irons on the new board are sad irons. An old tale suggests this is because the irons were dangerous and many women were injured or killed using them. This is not so. They called sad irons because the Old English word for "solid" was "saad". These are more commonly called flat irons today.

*~Submitted by Freddie Monder*

## TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

ONLINE in Color

<http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com>  
and  
[www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)









## SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fall is in the air and the leaves are on the ground.

There is a statewide burn ban in effect. There is  
**NO OPEN BURNING ALLOWED**

that includes no brush burning, no fire pits, or bonfires. The wind spreads hot embers a good distance and start a fire that quickly turns into a larger fire. Always call 911 when you are in need of assistance. Any questions regarding the burn ban, contact

Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown (802-345-8668) or  
Assistant Forest Fire Warden Al Ridlon Jr (802-282-3642)

This past month has been busy for the SVFD. We responded to seven calls for assistance.

- 9/21 - we responded to a motor vehicle accident at Pierce's Store.
- 9/28 - we responded to Bailey Road area when a cell phone sent a crash detection alert to state dispatch. We found a cell phone had fallen off a vehicle, there was no accident.
- 10/2 - we were dispatched to Spring Lake Road for a fire alarm activation. A faulty detector was determined to be the cause of the call.
- 10/4 - we were dispatched to Rte 103 for a fire in the back seat of a car. The cause of the fire was undetermined.
- 10/13 - we responded to a mutual aid call to Rte 103 near the trestle for a tractor trailer versus a pickup truck accident.

- 10/16 - we responded to Moonshine Lane for a reported brush fire. The fire was contained to a small area and quickly extinguished.

- 10/18 - we were dispatched to Russellville Road for a cellphone detected crash. It was determined to be a lost cellphone in the road that had been run over. Although the crash detection calls were uneventful, last year it alerted the state police and was an actual accident!

In the past month we also performed routine maintenance, cleaned up the Cuttingsville Station, and Mark Stewart ran a drill, we performed a site visit to the J.C Stewart building and a walk thru the Mansion.

The SVFD welcomed new members Isaac Day and Tim Peer.

The SVFD 73rd Annual Meeting was held on Thursday 10/10. We review the events of the year, the finances, and hold an Election of Officers. Chief Phillip Severy has again volunteered to be Chief and was unanimously elected. All of the Officers of the department were also re-elected, Jack Perry as President, Bob Snarski as Vice President, Barry Griffith as Treasurer, Mark Goodwin as Secretary, Mark Stewart as Trustee and Hal Niblack as Trustee and County Representative. Chief Severy awarded The Peter Cosgrove award to Safety Officer Bob Snarski and the Chief Snarski Award to Russ Carrara. Congratulations and THANK YOU to all the members who volunteer their time to respond to calls for assistance in our town and beyond!!

Now is the time to check your fuel burning and heating equipment before cold weather arrives. Clean your chimneys, change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and REMEMBER  
**STAY FIRE SAFE!!**

*~Submitted by Jack Perry*



### Mishap to Pierce's Porch

On September 21 there was a motorcycle parked in front of Pierce's, and two people were sitting at the tables on the porch. They heard the car coming and were able to jump out of the way. When the car hit, it pushed the motorcycle up and onto the porch. The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department and the police responded quickly. Temporary repairs were made and Pierce's remains open but with part of the porch closed. ~Photos and caption by Ed Sawyer

# SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

*Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire*

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS & COUNTING

**Monday 10am to 12pm**  
**Tuesday 7pm to 9pm**  
**Wednesday 10am to 5pm & 7pm to 9pm**  
**Thursday 7pm to 9pm**  
**Friday 10am to 12pm**  
**Saturday 10am to 12pm**

Wonder if the Library has a particular book or DVD? Want to put a hold on an item or renew one you've borrowed? Please visit [www.shrewsburylibrary.org](http://www.shrewsburylibrary.org).

To suggest a book to add to our collection, please contact DONNA SWARTZ for Children's and Young Adult titles ([donnaswartz44@aol.com](mailto:donnaswartz44@aol.com)) and JOAN ALESHIRE for Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction ([joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net)). We can request books on Inter-Library Loan, if the cut in federal funding allows. We will buy books depending on our budget and our collection's needs.

The BOOK SALE was ON after all! THANKS to EVERYONE who made it happen: EVERYONE who set up tables under the tent, donated books, and put the donations on display; everyone who bought books on the honor system; and everyone who boxed them for Bay State to haul away to new homes: LISA, DONNA, GAIL, SEAMUS H, ED S, ED R, ANN MARIE, ZACH; JENNY, NEAL with his forklift, MARGO & JEREMIAH at the Transfer Station, and BAY STATE BOOKS with their truck! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone; it was a real community effort!

MANY THANKS to MARK YOUNGSTROM for his wonderful presentation of Olof Johnson's Shrewsbury photographs from the 1930's. It was a classic Friday evening Library program, with the audience so engaged that they could hardly stop talking! Extra thanks to Mark for setting up beforehand and to our faithful audience for putting away the chairs!



### SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ 7pm**  
**COOKIE SHARE & SILENT AUCTION**

### CONTINUING PROGRAMS:

Sunday, November 2 @ 4pm: WRITERS' GROUP: If you have poems or short prose pieces (stories, personal history) to share with our supportive, friendly group, please join us. For information, contact: Penelope Weiss: [pw9@earthlink.com](mailto:pw9@earthlink.com) or Joan Aleshire: [joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net).

Sunday, November 16 @ 4pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB: *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Books will be available at the Library.

Sunday, November 16 @ 7pm: SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: *What if We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures* by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. Print and e-books are available. Contact Margery Salmon to get a copy: [salmonm@vermontel.net](mailto:salmonm@vermontel.net).

### New Books include:

- \* *Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America* by Beth Macy, author of *Factory Man*, *Dopesick*, and *Raising Lazarus*.
- \* *We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution* by historian Jill Lepore.
- \* *Heart the Lover: A new novel* by Lily King, author of *Writers and Lovers*.
- \* *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan: An acclaimed multi-generational novel set in postwar World War II Ohio.
- \* *No Fault: A Memoir of Romance and Divorce* by Haley Mlotek.
- \* *The Children's Bach: A novel* by Australian writer Helen Garner, set in 1970's Sydney.

### New DVDs include some oldies new to our shelves:

- \* *Nashville*, the Robert Altman classic from the 1970's.
- \* *The Wind Will Carry Us* by Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami.
- \* *The Taste of Things*, starring Juliette Binoche, directed by Tran Anh Huang: Great food, ambition, and romance in a high-end restaurant.
- \* *Where Do We Go From Here?* A moving feature about humor and hope in a war-torn Lebanese village.

### TRACTOR WORK

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Rob Littmann  
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 Shrewsbury, VT

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 Pallet Forks, Bale Spear

Backhoe: 16" Bucket & Thumb

Brush Hog, Forestry Winch,  
 Grading Blade, York Rake,  
 Pallet Forks, Bale Spear



# Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

## The way we were

As noted in the October 's column, and with much glee, I will now go way back in the 1980's and '90's when the SHS members were younger, and we made plans for outings. One day we carpooled and drove off to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. It was very interesting. After we indulged in our homemade picnic lunch, we headed to a nearby "dig" for remnants of a community perched high above the lake. We formed a small group from my grandson who was 5 to Marjorie Pierce who was the oldest. We were interrupted by a terrible storm with rain, wind, thunder and lightning, so we all ran to our cars for safety and guess who reached her car first. Yes, it was Marjorie.

Members carpooled to visit the Bennington Museum and a tour of old Inns and Taverns in Manchester. Another trip took us to Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene also in Manchester. We toured the mansion and headed home to a homemade lasagna dinner prepared by Grace and Sam Husselman in their own Buckmaster Inn in Shrewsbury Center. The Husselman's were co-presidents of SHS at that time.

Another trip the members enjoyed was a trip to Grafton to observe their cheese making, walked through the old village and museum, and then lunch at the old Grafton Inn, arranged by the president, Richard Wiedmann.

Don Butler hosted at least 3 or 4 annual croquet contests with the SHS members, on the Shrewsbury Inn's lawns. One fall, we challenged the Mt. Holly Historical Society to a match. That was a day to remember, as unknown to everyone the games were surprised when two gypsy women appeared, walking off Route 103 onto the courts, fully made up and wearing garish outfits. It was a trick as they were Heidi Mitchell and Fran Patten, who were members. Don was not amused as he took his role as a tournament referee very seriously and the two gypsies were ruining the games by removing wickets. All was forgiven after a new game was started.

At one of the many programs that we entertained the town with, were two Colonel costumed men who were carrying their own rifles. It was held in the Community Center on the first floor. They asked the audience if there were any questions and Nancy Spencer inquired what does "flash in the pan" mean? One of the men demonstrated by showing how the flint lock worked by firing the rifle which made a loud puff and smoke seeped out and crept to the nearby register entering the second floor. The next thing we knew was the entrance of the uniformed Volunteer Fire Dept. crew asking "Where's the fire?"

The year of Vermont's birthday, all the bells in our town were rung starting in Northam with the church and Mountain School, the Community Center, and at our museum in Cuttingsville. Con Winkler filmed it all and asked Al Ridlon, Sr. to help pull the rope in the museum.

Another program that took years of research to complete was to request a copy of the TV show called "It's a Wide, Wide World" hosted by Dave Garroway in the 1950's. It featured Robert Frost's visit to Shrewsbury Center in Vermont. Con Winkler was successful, and he made arrangements with the Volunteer Fire Dept. to transport a huge TV to the second floor of the Community Center. Bud and Edie Clark helped by storing the TV in their garage till the next day. It was a great night. Many of our townfolks were in the film and there they sat, enjoying again that time in their lives. The Center was filled to capacity as the same night, Jan Snelling was hosting her students in quilting on the first floor. The Center was all aglow with the steps and porch lighted by paper bag luminaries.

Next month's column will feature the really enjoyable, unforgettable, two-day event called "A Victorian Christmas Tour of Laurel Hall", John P. Bowman's mansion in Cuttingsville, in 1991. ~Submitted by Ruth Winkler



## Attention Shrewsberries!

Back by popular demand, the Shrewsbury Apparel sale is returning! In addition, new this year, we will offer Shrewsbury Mountain School apparel with our SMS mascot, Marley the Moose.

A webstore is currently in the making by All-Star Ink of Rutland, VT where an array of colored garments will be displayed for purchase.

Stay tuned to the December issue of the Times for a specific web address to access the online store. Web based orders only this year.

Items will be ready ahead of the holidays.

Please spread the word to Shrewsbury lovers far and wide!

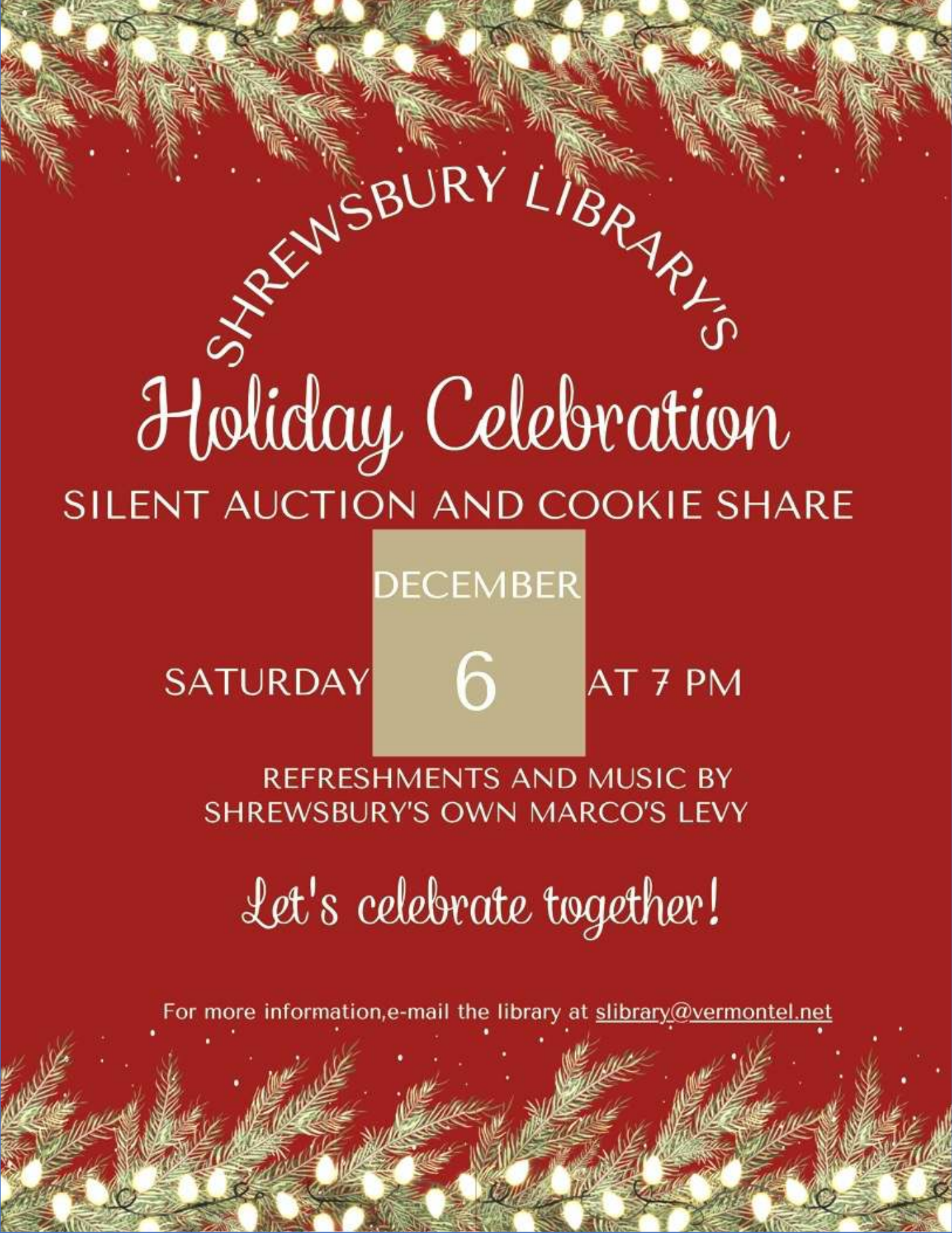
Proceeds benefit the Shrewsbury Mountain School PTO and ultimately, our children!

Thank you for your endless support!

~Submitted by Ali Wilson







SHREWSBURY LIBRARY'S

# Holiday Celebration

SILENT AUCTION AND COOKIE SHARE

DECEMBER

SATURDAY **6** AT 7 PM

REFRESHMENTS AND MUSIC BY  
SHREWSBURY'S OWN MARCO'S LEVY

*Let's celebrate together!*

For more information, e-mail the library at [slibrary@vermontel.net](mailto:slibrary@vermontel.net)

## The Shrewsbury Community Church



*Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley*

### Rituals help us mark events

I recently was at a clergy retreat in the Northeast Kingdom. There was color, warm weather, time to connect, reflect, worship, learn and just relax. The speaker talked about making rituals to address everyday issues and concerns.

We have rituals to start our day. A friend of mine takes her dog out each morning. She stops at the top of the steps and sings a song to start her day. One day she didn't sing and the dog wouldn't go down the steps until she did. Rituals are for the community as well as the individual. They help give structure to our day, they help us to mark important transitions and events.

We recently had some baptisms in our church. Our church has this ritual for people of all ages as they acknowledge their faith. The congregation makes a commitment to nurture them in their continued spiritual faith and growth. I was just at a graveside service for a friend. Funerals are our society's way of ritualizing our grief within our community. As hard as they are we need this outward process of remembrance and letting go of our loved one to their life after death. We need to use this event to help to make meaning of our loss and to assist us to be able to grieve and express our grief.

The fall rituals help us to adjust to the change of seasons and with loss and death in general. We turn our vegetable gardens over. We cut back our summer flowers, put out mums in their pots and plant bulbs to come up next year. We rake the leaves. We pick the apples, eat them and bake them up into pies and applesauce. The cycle of life keeps going over and over. A time to wander, to wonder, to ponder, to just enjoy life. To remember that our life is given to us by God. For this we give our thanks to God.

*~Pastor Karen Braeutigam*

**The Sunday Fun Day Program for kids** meets from 10:30-11:30am at the Shrewsbury Center Church in the children's room upstairs at the Meeting House. All are welcome to join us. We welcome parent participation. We gather at the church. We participate in crafts, stories, and sharing. We have an average of six children weekly with others joining us now and then. We participate in supporting community and world service projects. Please join us! Call Cortney 802-683-7852 or Anissa 802-779-2248 if you have questions.



**Thank you** to everyone who ordered lasagna to make our "to go dinner" a success! With the donations we received we were able to raise money for our **Community Sharing Project**. We use this to buy gift cards for necessities and groceries for families in Shrewsbury during the holiday

season. This allows parents to buy a coat, pair of boots, pants, or gloves, etc. which a child may need as the weather is getting colder and to have a nice holiday dinner. **If you or a neighbor would like to be included this year call Sue at 802-492-3738 or 802-779-4360.**

### Shrewsbury Community Church Calendar:

Tues, Oct 28 @ 12noon Prayer Shawl Group. (see below)

Sun, Nov 2 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service and Holy Communion led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at the Center Church.

Sun, Nov 9 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at the Center Church.

Sun, Nov 16 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at the Center Church.

Sun, Nov 23 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at the Center Church.

Tues, Nov 25 @ 12noon Prayer Shawl Group. Upstairs at the Meeting House. All are welcome! Dessert, coffee, and tea will be served. Bring a bag lunch if you would like to. Don't know how to knit or crochet? Come and we will teach you! Call Roxanne for information 802-492-3675.

Sun, Nov 30 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at the Center Church.

### 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.

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

### Community Needs

- Wedding, Funeral or Memorial Service Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; or Sue Kelley 802-492-3738, 802-779-4360
- Community Helping Hand Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367; Sue Kelley 802-779-4360, 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.



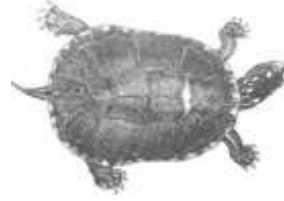
### Why are Ear Infections Common in Pets?

Well for starters, their anatomy makes it difficult for ear wax to migrate normally: A cat's ear canal is 2-3x longer than a human ear canal, and a large dog's ear canal can be 5x longer than a human's! Also, there's a sharp bend halfway down the canal, separating the horizontal ear canal portion from the vertical ear canal. This 70 to 90 degree bend in the canal commonly traps large ear wax plugs. Secondly, dogs especially are predisposed to environmental or seasonal allergies, which disrupts the delicate microbiome of the ear canal in addition to messing with the skin barrier. All that inflammation and self-trauma from itching impairs healing and suppresses the local immune system. Lastly, some dogs and older cats make excess ear wax, just like older people. This accumulation of dead skin and oil is the perfect food for yeast and bacteria, so their population booms. Routine weekly ear cleaning with a soothing ear cleaner or an enzymatic ear cleaner works well to remove excess wax and microbes. Remember to let the ear cleaner do the work: Instill a good amount into the canal, massage the ear base gently so the liquid goes all the way down to the ear drum; and repeat this 3-5x before blotting dry.

~Submitted by Roberta Lea Hemmer, DVM



Do you recognize this building?



## Shrewsbury Outing Club

### Bessenay Trails Fall Maintenance Day

**Sunday, November 2, 2025**

**10am-1:00pm**

**Meet at Plymouth Road parking lot**

We'll work on ditches, tree clipping, lopping & sawing.

#### Tools to bring:

Saws (large and small), loppers, rakes, clippers.  
Please also bring water, gloves and extra layers.

Per SOC bylaws, our purpose is to promote and encourage conservation of all natural resources.

Contact Lana at [lanafez@gmail.com](mailto:lanafez@gmail.com) with questions.

Mount Holly, VT



**Joshua Bickford**

802.855.3216

[joshfbickford@gmail.com](mailto:joshfbickford@gmail.com)

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- Ground Beef
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- Briskets
- Pork Sausages
- Pork Chops
- Ground Pork
- Ham Steaks
- Chicken Breasts
- Whole Chickens
- Sausages

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**HEARTWOOD brings a Singing Workshop and  
'The Well Tree' to the Shrewsbury Meeting  
House on Sunday, November 9!**

HEARTWOOD TRIO PRESENTS:



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**  
At the Shrewsbury Meeting House



- **2-3pm Vocal Workshop**  
Suggested donation: \$10-25

- **4-6pm The Well Tree**  
Suggested donation: \$15-30  
Kids: \$5 for either event

More info:  
[Heartwoodtrio.com](http://Heartwoodtrio.com)  
88 Lottery Rd.  
Shrewsbury, VT

**Singing Workshop: 2-3pm** (Suggested donation - \$10-25)  
**The Well Tree: 4-6pm** (Suggested donation - \$15-30)  
(Kids- Suggested donation is \$5 for either event)

Join Heartwood for an all-ages, participatory musical journey—illustrated with a 'crankie' — an illuminated hand-cranked scroll made by papercut artist Jennifer Jones. The three members of Heartwood — Heidi Wilson, Willy Clemetson, and Sarina Partridge — are the actors, musicians and crew that runs the crankie.

Bring your parents, bring your children, and let your bodies be filled with the magic of lush vocal harmony and live storytelling

The Well Tree is an original 'singing story' about wild journeying and remembering kinship — the tale of a young woman moving beyond the fog of isolation and shame to meet songbirds, snails and ancient trees as she travels through these unraveling times, finding her way home. Heartwood sweeps audiences into a timeless experience, one that is rich with puppetry, banjo, guitar, fiddle, exquisite papercut imagery, and sweet harmony singing.

**For more information about Heartwood's Shrewsbury Singing Workshop or "The Well Tree" performance on November 9, please contact Licia Gambino [hamgam@vermontel.net](mailto:hamgam@vermontel.net) or (802) 492-3792.**



**"Free to a good home"**  
for these mailing coolers?

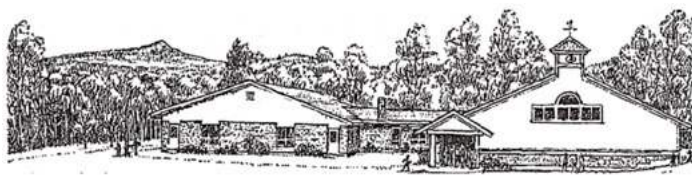
Someone must be able to use them.  
I hate to throw them away.  
Call: Freddie at 802-492-6119

### Mystery Boxes

Two Amazon boxes were found on the Keiffer Road. No identifying labels to indicate who they belonged to, and there were items in the boxes. if someone is looking for them,  
Call: Monika at 802-747-6348



Got your shovel  
ready?



## SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Our educators have been hard at work engaging our students in deep and meaningful learning. We have continued to enjoy beautiful sunny days and the students have spent quality time outdoors learning and exploring in our orchard, the garden, the outdoor classrooms and on our new playground. We are continuing to care for our campus and work on making improvements each year.

We are so excited to be collaborating with the Mill River Union High School Building for Community Woodshop class who are installing a "Story Walk" around our red slate walking path. This will be completed sometime this school year and will be another opportunity for our students to practice their reading skills in an outdoor learning environment. We are so grateful for the hard work of the MRU students and their teacher, Mr. Ed Robbins. I will be sure to let the community know when it is complete and you can come check it out and read the story too.

Our campus is open to the community from 5:30pm to dusk Monday through Friday and dawn to dusk on weekends.

### Important Dates:

10/23: Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department all school assembly  
10/31: Trunk or Treat

**Harvest Festival:** On October 2, the students and educators celebrated the harvest season with class cooking projects, taste testing and fall activities. Students had a passport where they received a sticker when trying a new food that classes cooked together. After they tasted the food, they had to place their vote from the following categories: I like it, I loved it, I need to try it again! The students placed a sticker on the chart where they placed their vote and at the end of the "taste tour" the students gathered by class to view the data and make observations about the voting. They then reported out to the whole school what they noticed.

The second part of the celebration was learning activities and art projects. Students had their choice in rotating through stations that interested them. Some of the many options included: making acorn necklaces, tasting cider, playing corn hole, raking piles of leaves to jump in, making a paper and pipe cleaner pumpkin, making leaf prints with paint, creating portraits of vegetables with Grace Brigham, making a clay pumpkin with Gretchen Gould, Dave Stone and art teacher Maria French and many, many more!

It was a beautiful celebration and the students had such a meaningful learning experience. We are so grateful for our educators and volunteers who go above and beyond to extend our students' opportunities to learn and grow!

**Trunk or Treat:** SMS celebrates with the school families and community on Halloween! The students always look forward to dressing up in their costume, eating a snack in the gym with the whole school, and then walking around the traffic circle "trick or treating" and viewing the creative trunk decorations and adult costume themes. Our whole community comes out for this great event and the students absolutely love this celebration. We can't wait for the fun this year!

**Support our School!** We need volunteers to help with our Four Winds Program, our Winter Sports Program and our PTO! If you are able to volunteer, please send me an email or call the school. We would love to have you and the students would greatly appreciate your support!!

~Submitted by Kristin Cimonetti

802-786-3995 [kcimonetti@millriverschools.org](mailto:kcimonetti@millriverschools.org)



**SMS Girls 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Soccer Team**

(L to R) Kayla, Netti, Eliza, Annabelle, Isabelle in front



**SMS Boys 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Soccer Team**

(L to R) Christian, Crosby, Gavin, Callahan, Leium.

Photos submitted by Catherine Carrara



## MRUUSD NEWS

We are moving along with district budgeting. During our October 6 finance committee meeting we received a YTD budget summary from the business office. The district currently is running around a \$300,000 surplus and is expecting another budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year. The surplus can be mainly attributed to staffing changes from the previous year and associated savings in salaries and health benefits with the new replacement staff.

The district has around \$3.8 million in surplus being rolled over from last fiscal year. The board will again ask the voters to transfer a portion of this existing surplus to the building fund, with the rest being directly applied to the FY 27 budget.

Moving forward, the finance committee has asked the superintendent and business office to come up with proposals that would have a 0%, 3%, and 5% increase to our expenditure budget. A 0% increase to the budget would only be possible through some deep cuts given external cost drivers.

The big external cost driver we are considering is the rising cost of health insurance. The state has asked districts to plan for a 13.7% increase in health insurance costs from the previous year. The projected increase is closer to 16.3% when HRA/HSA's are included.

Our current estimate is that this level of increase would add an additional \$400,000 to our district budget. Again, these rates are negotiated at the state level and are out of our district's hands.

For the sake of efficiency, it is district practice to examine operations and finances for potential strategic cuts. These cuts are often from under or unutilized areas of the budget. In making strategic cuts, we can create more space for strategic additions to the budget. We will have more information on underutilized budget items at our next finance committee meeting on October 27.

As far as strategic additions to the FY 27 budget are concerned, many of these are being generated by community feedback we are receiving at board meetings, finance committee meetings, and our community budget conversations.

The two big community concerns that are floating to the top are transportation and the state of the Mill River athletic fields. We are looking creatively at these issues and asking district staff for a few options to consider in the FY 27 budget.

Our next finance committee meeting will be on October 27 at 5:00pm. In this meeting we will discuss and compare the three budget scenarios the committee has asked to see. These meetings have a virtual meeting option and the public are encouraged to attend. Our November meeting will focus on fine tuning a budget in line with our recommended path forward and likely finalizing a district budget for the full board to vote on. Again, community participation is appreciated and encouraged. You can find more information about Mill River Unified Union School District, our board, and meeting agendas and minutes at <https://www.mruusd.org>.

~Submitted by Stephen Abatiell

## Out for a foliage drive ?

Stop, sample & pickup a bit of our  
VT Maple Syrup for you, or for gifts.

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| Maple Cookies                                                 | Pork (cuts)     | Grilling Steaks       |
| Maple Spices, Marinades                                       | Chicken (cuts)  | Ribs, Roasts Briskets |
| Sugar and Snacks                                              | & Eggs          | Sausages & More       |
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## Bone Builders

Tuesdays and Thursdays

November-April: 10-11am

May-October: 9-10am

at the Meeting House on Lottery Road

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Bones, Balance, and Strength

More Info: Ginny Buckley (802) 492-3504



## Dictionary Donated to Students

The Dictionary Project provides Third Graders with personal dictionaries to promote literacy and lifelong learning. Wallingford Rotary Club includes Shrewsbury in this service project. Books are distributed each fall at the Mountain School. Students are pictured here with their dictionaries, which their teacher Colleen Levins will incorporate into their lesson plans this year. Member Barry Griffith made the presentation on behalf of the Wallingford Rotary Club. ~Submitted by Barry Griffith





## Spring Lake Ranch therapeutic community

### SLR's Biggest Harvest Dinner Yet!

More than 150 people enjoyed a delicious meal, music, and contra dancing at this year's Harvest Dinner at Spring Lake Ranch.



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## Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

### Trail Camera Picture of the month

AI definition: "Patch cuts are designed to create a mosaic of different habitat types within a forest, supporting a wider variety of species than a uniform forest might."

Patch Cut  
Before  
and  
After



A patch cut can benefit wildlife by creating early-successional habitat that provides food and cover, promotes the growth of young trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that offer food like berries and nuts, and dense cover for nesting and protection. This technique is particularly beneficial for species that thrive in young forests, such as grouse, rabbits, and certain songbirds, while also being advantageous for deer and other larger mammals."

Two years ago, we asked Chad Sharrow to open up a 1-acre patch cut on our 20-acre property. This opening is a unique habitat within our pine and hardwood forest. Chad did a great job, and we were very happy with the results. See before and after pictures.

Raspberries, blueberries, milkweed and goldenrod have all done well and wildlife and bird species have benefited.



Eastern cottontails are now appearing on my trail cameras, and where there are bunnies there are bobcats!

Also noticeable are new bird species, including nesting Canada Warblers and Eastern Towhees. It will be interesting to watch what other changes take place over the coming years!

If you have a wildlife picture to share, please send it to Linda at [lpurdyshel@gmail.com](mailto:lpurdyshel@gmail.com) ~ Submitted by Linda Shelvey



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### Upcoming Events & Announcements

November 2nd 10a-11am: DIY Collage 🌲

DIY collage wrapping paper and cards - perfect for all the upcoming holidays!

November 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am: Paper Snowflakes ❄️

Learn to make GIANT 3D paper Snowflakes to use for your holiday decor. Hang finished Snowflakes from the ceiling for the perfect rustic winter touch.

November 29<sup>th</sup> 11am-7pm: Sip & Save 🍷

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PARTY! 🎉 We'll have Black Friday Deals all weekend, Raffles to win a Gift Basket, & food and drink on SATURDAY ONLY. Can't wait to celebrate this holiday season with you all.



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## SNO-BIRD NEWS

Well, we are looking pretty good at this time with the trails. Just last weekend we had three crews out clearing trails, some with excavator and brush head and tractor with brush hog. The other two crews had chainsaws, pole saw and hand brush cutters.

Within the last week alone we covered all 36 miles of trails. We are still going to be doing de-brushing in the real thick areas, but the trees are all cleared out so they are passable at this time.

I want to thank all members that helped on the work day and also the ones that do it when they have the free time by themselves.

We got the pole bridge done on Corridor 407. That came out really nice. Dave said that when he removed the old bridge on of the poles broke so it was getting weak for heavy equipment. That bridge was put in around 30 to 35 years ago. We have had to rescue it and put it back in place at least once. It is a little higher now than before with newer poles. Most of our bridges are older ones, we have to check them often now.



*The photo is Ray Messer, a long-time volunteer member and a new volunteer member, PJ Mallon. They were with my crew, thank you again to all!*

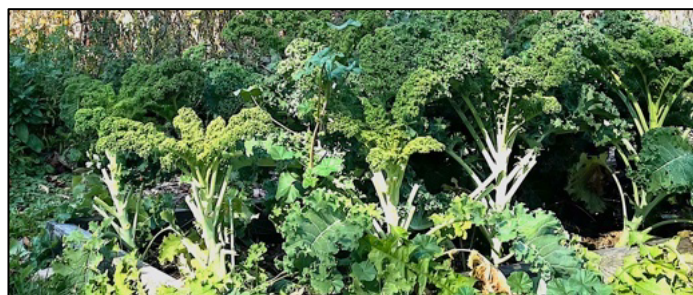
The Sno-Birds are going to be selling food again Saturday November 1 at Central Vermont Motorcycles for their Fall Ski-Doo Open House event. We will be selling hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, etc. We will also be signing up people to VAST and the club because some have a hard time with that and if the sell a sled to a new person we can get setup quick. We hope to see a lot of people there.

*~Article by Roy Arthur*



**November 11, 2025**

As frosts settle in and leaves blow from the trees, the time in the Mountain School garden draws to a close for this growing season. All of the SMS classes got a chance to harvest out some of the garden's abundance and put up food for culinary classes this year. Ms. Rice's 2nd graders saved seeds for next year's tomato and flower gardens and Mrs. McDonough's 5/6 class harvested the corn.



Ryan Fitz Beauchamp of Evening Song Farm helped the class make tortillas from the harvested corn by nixtamalizing it using wood ash. Nixtamalization is a traditional process of cooking corn in an alkaline solution made from ash to improve digestibility, and soften it for grinding into masa. The students had a great treat for harvest fest and learned about indigenous culture through the process.

Ms. Levin's 3/4 class has been weeding and watering and improving the mulch in the orchard and had a session with SAGE to fertilize and begin preparing the trees for winter.

While you're preparing for winter, consider having a listen to a Root Words interview. We're focusing on the market vendors of Rutland, Vermont's Farmers' Market. We hope you enjoy this series from Root Words. Find it where you get your podcasts.

Mark your calendar for November 8 @ 7pm, when School House Jams come back to the Russellville School House. They'll continue on the second Saturday of the month through the cold season ahead.

SAGE, Shrewsbury Agricultural Education & Arts Foundation, has a mission to support and promote sustainable farming and other arts that nourish community life. For more information about SAGE: contact Stephen Abatiell at [educate.sage@gmail.com](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 ShrewsburySAGE and find our sustainability and arts videos at [www.youtube.com/@sagefoundation](http://www.youtube.com/@sagefoundation).

*~Submitted by Stephen Abatiell*





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### Cooking Class Benefits Pierce's



Eight students attended another successful Cooking Class to benefit Pierce's Store with "Chef" Heather Shay. They completed a marathon of six complicated appetizers and desserts for a delicious meal: two canapes of smoked salmon and prosciutto, herbed mushroom puff pastry tarts, phyllo triangles with Middle Eastern meat filling, two fruit tarts, and a decadent chocolate layer cake! Five guests joined them for dinner. Pictured above are Chryl Martin, Pam Darrow, Liesbeth van der Heijden, Heather, Reesa Watson, Jean Marie Walker, Kim Royer, Sarah Titterton, and Ella Haysett. We sent checks to Pierce's totaling \$460! ~Heather Shay



### Holiday Wine Tasting November 22 @ 4pm to 6pm

Pierce's Store will host a complimentary pre-holiday wine tasting Saturday, November 22 with chamber music, appetizers and wines by the glass in Pierce's Garage. The featured wines will include this year's Beaujolais Nouveau (officially released two days prior) plus four additional wines obtained during a major end-of-year sale by one of the store's distributors. Meanwhile, in the Garage, the illustrious trio of Al Wakefield (flute), Roxanne Ramah (violin) and Kristi Bragg (cello) will be performing, accompanied by hors d'oeuvres and wines by the glass. Prepare for the big holidays in style at Pierces! ~Submitted by Sandy Bragg



### Pierce's will be offering Thanksgiving turkeys!

Turkeys available from Stonewood Farms.

Also available: **Quail, Pheasant, Duck and Ham** with an EARLY order deadline.

Also available: **Apple pies** and **Duck Liver Mousse**.

**Turkey order deadline is Sunday November 9 at 5pm**

All other birds: Orders are due by **Friday, October 24 at 11am**

Pickup will be Tuesday 11/25 in the afternoon.

Visit [piercesstore.com](http://piercesstore.com) to find the order form. Please note all deadlines, act quickly for special bird orders and place your order online. ~Harry DiPrinzio, Pierce's Store Co-General Manager





## PIERCE'S STORE

**802-492-3326**

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

**Hours: 8am to 6pm**

*Closed Mondays*

Wow! November is here with so much that has and will occur at the store. Before we know it, we will be ordering our Thanksgiving turkeys and pies or delectables you order to enjoy in celebrating this gathering. It might be seafood!



Speaking of seafood, do you know you can order a supply of delicious fresh seafood each week from Pierces? This is how it works. Pierces uses Earth and Sea Fish Market as their vendor out of Manchester Vermont. This company goes to Boston several times a week to procure the freshest fish right off the boat. For Pierces the fresh seafood is picked up on Thursday in Boston and you will receive it on Friday. That's pretty fresh seafood for living in Vermont! Each week, I as the fishmonger, put together a selection of items from which folks can choose. I prepare a weekly newsletter which I email on Monday. Orders are due by Wednesday at 4:00pm. The selection varies from salt and freshwater fillets like Faroe Island Salmon, Swordfish, Tuna, Local Trout or Halibut to Shellfish or even Lobsters! While five to seven options are offered, one can always order a desired fish if they want at least three pounds. Sometimes even a recipe is included to help you experiment with different kinds of fresh fish.

I do the work of collating the orders and submitting the orders to Earth and Sea. The company delivers the fresh fish on Friday and Lavinia Seide and I work to prepare and package the orders for pickup by pm. Each week between 40-60 pounds of fresh seafood is delivered to Pierces. We even strive to offer environmentally sustainable fish to support the efforts of not depleting our seafood resources using a seafood watch guide put out by the Monterey Bay Aquarium to guide the weekly selection. Bringing in fresh seafood is a great source of revenue for the store and one enjoyed by many in our town and surrounding towns.

Want to participate in being able to receive Fresh Seafood? Let us know by calling the store 802/492-3326 or email [orders@piercesstore.com](mailto:orders@piercesstore.com) and we will put you on the email list and you can start enjoying weekly fresh seafood. If you're not sure and want to give the fresh fish options a try, you can always check out the extra fresh tray as we always order extras of a variety of fish options. Pierces also offers a few frozen options in their frozen foods section in the

store. Lots of options for beginning your journey of eating health, environmentally, and sustainable seafood.

What else is new? Pierces has recently started to work with a new exciting company called KeHe, which offers a wide variety of organic options and in particular a brand called Caide. The prices are very competitive with Hannafords and Pierces has started to offer a wide variety of groceries at affordable prices. Here is a little bit about the company;

*"Our culture of service was initiated by our founders, Art and Jerry Kehe, and lives in their legacy as we approach seven decades of history. Our employees have a passion for serving their retailer partners, suppliers, and communities at large. KeHE works to ensure that each employee and partner is treated with Dignity and Respect."*

*How it works: The KeHE Cares® Foundation ("KeHE Cares") puts our employee-owners to work through volunteer opportunities in the U.S. and abroad. We serve in local soup kitchens, create healthy meal kits for the hungry, build and repair homes, collect relief supplies and much more.*

*A percentage of our profits is contributed annually to the foundation, run by our KeHE Cares® Employee Outreach Committee made up of people from a variety of departments within the company. KeHE Cares supports organizations where our employee-owners are directly involved and committed to serving others in donating their time and talents for the betterment of those in need."*

Next time you are in the store, check out the variety of competitive items and save yourself a trip to Hannafords and support the store. My motto is, Shop at Pierces First!

*~Article submitted by Helen Richards-Peele*



**Pierces Annual Chili Cookoff** occurred on April 18. What a fun evening! We had eight chili chefs, Adrienne Raymond, Lavinia Seide, Jenny Wellnius, Connie Youngstrom, Rebecca Rice, Jeff Monder, Freddie Monder and Dashiell Monder. We had 47 attendees and grossed a little over \$500 for the store. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help - Adrienne and Ed, Jenny and the whole Wellnius crew, Mark and Connie, Freddie and Dashiell, and Lavinia who baked a bunch of cornbread at the last minute!

### **2025 Chil Cookoff Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Monder

2<sup>nd</sup> – Lavinia Seide

3<sup>rd</sup> – Adrienne Raymond

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