



Times of Shrewsbury

December 2025



NEW WHEELS FOR THE SVFD

On the evening of October 29 many members of the SVFD gathered at the Cuttingsville station in anticipation of the newest truck in the department's fleet being delivered. Representatives from Bulldog Fire Equipment arrived with the newly dubbed "Shrewsbury Rescue 1". It is referred to in the fire service as a "mini pumper." This new apparatus is the result of years of planning, accruing funds through the annual sinking fund voted annually by the town, and determination of need by the department. The total cost of the new apparatus was \$419,309. This sizable sum is about half the cost of a full-sized engine. Thanks to the foresight of the community, and hard work by the SVFD truck committee, the apparatus is paid in full with no additional tax revenue required.

Rescue 1 is a different type of equipment designed to address the rural nature of Shrewsbury.

However, it is different from the other trucks in the department as it is smaller. It is built on a Ford F550 Chassis which is essentially a large pickup truck. The truck has 4-wheel

drive capability which, as most Shrewsburies know, is necessary in our town due to many narrow, unpaved, and in many cases steep hills and driveways. Rescue 1 has specialized equipment including three, eight-foot sections of hard suction hose for drafting water from portable tanks, streams, ponds or dry hydrants. It is fitted with a 1500 gallon per minute capable pump which is a larger capacity pump than our current large pumpers. Because it is a smaller truck, its water carrying capacity is only 300 gallons. That will be sufficient for many of the small calls to which the department responds.

The truck also has a Class A foam capability which will expand the effectiveness of a water application. In addition, Rescue 1 is designed with many compartments to hold equipment for a variety of emergencies. The equipment

aboard includes hoses, nozzles, hand tools, jaws of life, ladders, hand lights, traffic signs, new radios and much more. The compartments are designed to handle the necessary items and store them properly. One of the nicest things is that this small truck fits easily into the station bay.

During the past few weeks, department members have been meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays with some individuals going to the station even more often. This is necessary to become as familiar with the new truck as possible through learning the pumping sequences, and other mechanics.

One of the most striking features for members to learn is the main pump operators panel which we sometimes refer to as

"mission control."

On Rescue 1, the pump panel is controlled by electronics and computers which indicate flow rates, pump pressures, water and foam levels and much more. Members of the SVFD are tackling the "learning curve" through pumper drills to fully understand how this equipment functions. As in any new equipment, there



are "bugs to be ironed out" in order to operate the truck properly. Training and more training will accomplish this.

Rescue 1 also carries a plethora of lights including scene lights, step lights, warning lights and more. These lights are designed for safety reasons and are mounted by national fire standards in white, yellow, red, and blue to keep the first responders and the public safe.

During the past month, SVFD has responded to six calls. These calls were prior to obtaining Rescue 1 but would have been ideal for its purpose. The calls included a response to the steel trestle in East Wallingford for a tractor trailer and pickup truck which were involved in a head on collision. Regional ambulance transported an injured driver to RRM.

(Continued on next page)



"Mission Control"

(continued from front page)

The extent of injuries to both drivers was unknown. The other calls were minor and involved a small brush fire on Moonshine Lane, an I-phone crash detection on Russellville Road, a Jeep in a ditch on Russellville Road, and a tone-out for a smoke detector which was cancelled. The sixth call was for an active fire detector at a home on Town Hill Road which proved to be a non-issue.

This month, SVFD welcomed two new members, Steve Walsh and Shawn Danaher. These men come to us with different levels of previous emergency response experiences. Steve is returning to the SVFD where he was active many years ago and is a past Chief. Matt comes to us with extensive mechanical knowledge. We welcome them to the SVFD team.

And finally, the SVFD will be holding an OPEN HOUSE at the Cuttingsville Station for the public. This will be a chance for you to see some of the equipment, including a showing of the new Mini Pumper, "Rescue 1". The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, from 1pm to 3pm. Community members are encouraged to attend, meet department personnel, and explore the latest addition to the fleet. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be demonstrations showcasing Rescue 1's capabilities.

Always remember... STAY FIRE SAFE.

~Articled and photo of truck by Bob Snarski
SVFD Safety Officer



L to R: Kevin Brown, Jack Perry, Tim Peer, Chief Phil Severy, Russ Carrara, Bob Snarski, Paul Stewart, Mark Stewart, Ethan Severy, Isaac Day, Shawn Danaher, Barry Griffith, Jamie Carrara, Al Ridlon

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

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

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

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

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

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

Ads in the Times are for area businesses, local non-profit events, and local ballot elections. Event ads must include the sponsor's name and contact information. Political ads must focus on Shrewsbury ballot initiatives or candidates wishing to represent Shrewsbury.

Monthly advertising fees and relative sizes:

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

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

12/1/2025

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

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Nov 25	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meet upstairs at the Meeting House
Nov 26	12noon-6pm	*Transfer Station will be open (day before Thanksgiving)
Dec 3	10am	*Story Time at the Shrewsbury Library
Dec 6	1-3pm	*SVFD Open House at the Cuttingsville Fire Station at 23 Shunpike Rd
Dec 6	7pm	*Annual Silent Auction and Cookie Swap at the Shrewsbury Library
Dec 7	4pm	*Writers' Group meets at the Library
Dec 9	7-8pm	*Planning Commission focus group on Recreational Resources at Town Office
Dec 13	7pm	* School House Jam at the Russellville School House
Dec 20	6:30-8:30pm	*Winter Solstice Square Dance at the Meeting House 88 Lottery Road
Dec 21	3-5pm	*Carols and Cookies on the Winter Solstice at the Meeting House 88 Lottery Road
Dec 24		*Transfer Station closed (Christmas Eve)
Dec 24	7pm	*Candlelight Service at the Community Church
Dec 31	12noon-6pm	*Transfer Station will be open (New Year's Eve)
Jan 1		*Deadline to submit photos to the Board of Auditors for annual report consideration
Jan 10	7pm	* School House Jam at the Russellville School House
Jan 26	5pm	*Petitions for ballot initiatives due at Town Office
Jan 27	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meets upstairs in the Meeting House
Feb 20	7pm	The Invisible Mammal film showing at the Library sponsored by Conservation Commission *see elsewhere in newsletter for details

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

Online at

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

www.shsrewsburyvt.org



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

REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Selectboard Meeting	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays – 6:30pm at Town Office
Development Review Board	4 th Wed -7pm at Town Office; check town website for agenda
Library Trustees Meeting	2 nd Tuesday – 7pm at Shrewsbury Library
Mill River Unified Union School Board Mtg	1 st Wed 7pm @ MRHS & 3 rd Wed. 7pm at MRHS unless otherwise warned
Planning Commission	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays 7pm at Town Office; No meeting July & August
Prayer Shawl Group	4 th Tuesday at 12noon upstairs at the Meeting House
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Sundays – 10am via Zoom; contact wildernessfriends@gmail.com
Shrewsbury Community Church	Sundays – 10:30am - Worship service
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission	No meetings in December 20215 or January 2026 (next mtg Feb 4, 2026)
Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum	Closed for the season; For appointment call 802-712-7373
Shrewsbury Sno-Birds	2 nd Tuesday – 7pm at Southside Steakhouse in Rutland
Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department	Thursdays – 7pm at the Cuttingsville Station

Shrewsbury Town Website: www.shrewsburyvt.org

Clerk's Office	492-3511	Mondays & Thursdays 8:30am-1pm; Wednesdays 1pm-6pm (Fax 802-492-3383)
Town Garage	492-3656	(Follow prompts to report roadway blockage on non-work days)
Listers	492-2009	Available by appointment
Treasurer's Office	492-3558	Monday 9am-12noon
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	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

1st 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 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Town Office.

November 5, 2025: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). Road Commissioner: Dan Cavoto. Planning Commission: Laura Black. Auditors: Michelle Greene.

Members of the public: David Mosher.

The meeting was convened at 6:31 PM.

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: Interim town auditor appointment and Green Mountain Power's request for a signoff of completion. F. Wyatt seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Interim Town Auditor Appointment: A. Korzun made a motion to appoint David Mosher as the interim town auditor. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Discontinuance of the Right-of-Way for TH #46 (Dodge Road): The site was visited by Selectboard Members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt, Marc Cimonetti. A. Korzun made a motion to discontinue the right-of-way for the Class 4 section of Town Highway #46 also known as Dodge Road. M. Cimonetti seconded. Approved.

Green Mountain Power Request for Signoff: A. Korzun made a motion to signoff that the work Green Mountain Power did on Crown Point is complete. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Road Commissioner's Report: The road crew is currently working on ditching and grading and is preparing for the forecasted snow. They are also looking into upgrade the radio system. The new 10-wheel truck will be arriving soon and the new F600 will be available on the first of the year.

The Selectboard is aware of the concern about of the amount and context of the new road signs in the town. The road commissioner is working with the state regulators to adjust them for the needs of the town.

Appointments - Regional Emergency Management Committee: M. Cimonetti made a motion to reappointing Aaron Korzun at the Emergency Management Director and Jack Perry as the Fire Representative to the Regional Emergency Management Committee. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

New Business/ Open to the Public: The town has officially applied to the MPG Grant on Monday and is waiting for the results.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 10/15/2025 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Review Orders: M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve the Selectboard Orders #11 for a total of \$18,404.89 of which \$11,781.97 is for property tax refunds, and Road Orders #11 for a total of \$32,502.80. Seconded by A. Korzun. Approved. Adjourned at 7:29 PM

Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti

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

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### **November 19, 2025: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting**

**Present at meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). Auditors: Michelle Greene. Sandford Bragg. David Mosher (Remotely). Conservation Commission: Louise Duda. Christina Clarke. Michelle Green.

**Members of the public:** No members of the public.

The meeting was convened at 6:31 PM.

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

**Discontinuance of the Right-of-Way for the Class 4 Portion of TH #41:** The site was visited by Selectboard Members: Aaron Korzun, Francis Wyatt, Marc Cimonetti. A. Korzun made a motion to discontinue the right-of-way for the Class 4 Portion of Town Highway #41. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**Auditors Report:** The auditors shared their budget request along with their schedule to finalize the annual report.

**Conservation Commission - Recycling Film Plastic:** The conservation commission is requesting the transfer station collect "unrecyclable" plastic film separately. When enough is collected a bench made from the material. The Selectboard is requesting a list of volunteers that will supervise this process before approval.

**Letter of Support- Southern Northam Road Culvert Grant:** A. Korzun made a motion that the Selectboard supports the Watershed United Vermont Grant. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**New Business/ Open to the Public:** On Tuesday 11/18 the bids were due for the TH #2 Northam culvert. A. Korzun made a motion to select Niel S. Daniels Inc. as the contractor for the TH #2 culvert for a total of \$463,000.00. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**Review Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 11/5/2025 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

**Review Orders:** M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve the Selectboard Orders #11A for a total of \$6,578.95. Correcting Selectboard Orders #11 to \$18,404.92, and Road Orders #11A for a total of \$36,066.35. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

**Adjourned** at 7:39 PM

*Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti*

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



## TOWN CLERK NEWS

**Holiday hours:** The winter holidays are around the corner. The Town Office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27, 2025, Thursday, Christmas Day and Thursday, New Year's Day. Even though the Town Office is usually closed on Fridays, there is a good chance I will be in the office the day after those holidays, so if you need anything, feel free to call me, or check to see if my car is outside the office.

I have a new stack of Posting Forms which state that the Posting of property is based on the calendar year in which the land is posted. This means that if you want your land to be posted year-round, it would be best to post it in January.



Speaking of January, renewal of dog licenses will begin on January 1. In order to avoid a late fee, they must be obtained, or renewed prior to April 1. It must have a rabies certificate which is still valid on the date the license is applied for, so even if the certificate expires prior to April 1, if it has not expired when the license is issued, I will not need a new certificate until the following year. If you would like, you can provide me an updated Rabies Certificate at any time and I will add it to the records so you will not need to bring it with you when you obtain the license.

If you would like to get your name on the ballot for a town position, petitions will be due in my office by 5:00pm. on January 26, 2026. If you need a petition, feel free to contact me.

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.

Some COVID tests are still available at the Town Office.

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

*~Submitted by Rebecca A. Rice, Town Clerk*

### HELP WANTED SUBSTITUTE TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT

We're looking for someone that can fill in for the current transfer station attendants when they are unable to work due to vacation, sickness, or other circumstances. This position will perform the same duties as the current attendants: punching dump cards, operating equipment at the transfer station, keeping the transfer station clean and well organized, and answering questions.

Work Hours would be: Wednesdays, Noon – 6pm and Sundays, 8am - 4pm on an as needed basis.

Pay will be \$23/hour.

**If interested, please contact Bert Potter, Transfer Station Administrator at 802-236-9153**



## No January 2026 Issue

### It's Vacation Time!

The editors take a "vacation" so there is no January issue, but we'll be back with a February 2026 issue. Happy Holidays! ~Cheryl Martin & Rich Biziak

## Shrewsbury Planning Commission

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION on

### 'RECREATIONAL RESOURCES'

**December 9, 7:00-8:00pm, at Town Office**

Shrewsbury Planning Commission invites interested townspeople and experts to provide input on Shrewsbury's Recreational Resources to inform our Town Plan.

We will discuss the current conditions, recent changes, and current as well as future needs for recreational resources in our town.

This event will be held in-person at the Shrewsbury Town Office. Remote/virtual attendance is available upon request. Contact the Planning Commission at [shrewsburyvtpc@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburyvtpc@gmail.com)

Watch our agendas for future group discussions and/or join us in 2026 as we draft the 2027 Town Plan!

Public Hearings on the Draft will be scheduled for late 2026 - -

*~Submitted by Laura Black, Chair of Shrewsbury Planning Commission*

## Free Medical Equipment

Medical assist equipment items have been donated by Shrewsbury residents who no longer need them. These are available at no cost on a loaner basis: wooden and 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 Swart at 773-7403.



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### In Memory of Orville P. Woods

Orville P. Woods, 72, was called by his Maker to his eternal home November 13, 2025 at his residence in Shrewsbury, VT. Orville was born April 25, 1953 to Lavonie and Hilda (Baker) Woods. He is survived by his spouse Marcia (Kavanaugh) Woods; sisters Anne Grubmam, Nancy Messer and brother Terry Woods. Orville was raised on his parent's dairy farm and after graduating from Rutland High School worked at GE for 27 years. In 1999 he started his own business, Shrewsbury Farm & Property Management, Inc. He thought life should include lots of fun and laughter which he helped supply. He was fondly referred to as the unofficial Mayor of Shrewsbury. A Celebration of life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Compassion International at [www.compassion.net/give](http://www.compassion.net/give); or Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department, c/o Barry Griffith, 68 Griffith Road, Shrewsbury, VT 05738.



### The Mayor

We have always thought of him as the mayor  
Of our town on the mountain  
He was often a great purveyor  
Of thoughts and oughts from a fountain  
A fountain of knowledge & one of great humor  
There was barely a man for you  
Who would or could do more  
His name was literally the first  
Real word said by our son  
He took that toddler out  
When plowing had begun  
Only to return him when he fell fast asleep  
In the cab no more attention could he keep  
We looked with anticipation to sugaring season  
Helping collect from buckets was the reason  
Then long hours in the sugar house for  
Marcia's great meals  
And tasting the "Syup" was always part of the deal  
He and Marcia came to our  
Young kid's birthdays  
They wanted them there  
'Cuz of their loving ways  
He'd always tell it to you straight  
But his feedback never ever had hate  
Given this, you knew where you stood  
And still he'd help whenever he could  
Questioning at times some of your choices  
But never impeding imposing on you sharing your voices  
That man, whom most knew, Orville Woods  
The mayor who bettered our neighborhoods

~By Thomas & Gail Hartigan

### Remembering Orville

The first winter I was sole proprietor and resident on our farm,, I had three injured horses confined to stalls in the barn. I went out every morning around 5am to feed them, sometimes in -16 degree weather. Miraculously, Orville appeared at the same time. I don't remember asking him but, as always, he had that sixth sense that he was needed! We didn't say a word but like a choreographed plan I cleaned stalls and fed the grain, he dropped down the bales of hay and filled the water buckets. And when done, he was gone. I learned gratitude for him that has only grown every year since then. He made it possible for me to stay on the farm and more significantly, he made it possible for all of us to maintain our homes and properties and lives because he was always there when we needed him. I say that without any fear of exaggerating his importance to us.

For those of us trying to keep land open and productive he was a one-person co-op. He used the neighbors' fence post digger to repair my fences and my hay elevator to load hay into others' barns. He had a tractor of every size to fit every job, a young man or woman to help, and a contractor in every trade to make repairs.

I remember one Sunday morning I had guests and I was leaving in the afternoon for work in Kansas City. Curious about a sound of running water I opened the cellar door to a fine spray spewing everywhere and two feet of water already collected on the dirt cellar floor. I called Orville. Left a message. He didn't call back but after church that day Orville and Carl, his father-in-law, came stomping up the walk way in waders ready for the task. He called me that afternoon in Kansas City to report that all was repaired and DRY in the cellar – ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

I remember routinely getting calls from Orville at work. "You know that horse with three white feet - he hasn't been down to water since 10 this morning". And later that day because he'd been back to check on him, "He's fine!" He did this kind of thing for everyone. And some of his stories were funny. He once had to mail someone's false teeth to them; he had to baste a turkey on Thanksgiving Day for a family that would arrive late; and my favorite... David Bray had gone into Rutland to pick up his new snowmobile but when he was all the way back home the snowmobile was not where he had put it – in the back of his pickup. He and Orville retraced his steps back to Rutland and found it in the middle of Route 7 in front of the fairgrounds with a gaggle of police and others surrounding it, no doubt wondering who could have lost a snowmobile and what to do with it!

I also remember calling Orville the day after the September 11 horror to see if everyone was alright. He had checked on the whereabouts of every person who wasn't in Shrewsbury and reported on every resident and their grandchildren that they were safe. His phone number was on the fridge door of just about every resident in Shrewsbury because he would work miracles and he cared about all of us.

Oh my goodness, we will miss him but oh how lucky we were to have him in our lives, contributing so much to the quality of life in Shrewsbury and Vermont and yes, the Universe by his example and his hard work and his humor and his Vermont style caring. ~Remembrance by Ludy Biddle



## What's New In This Photo? What's Missing?

The answer to the first question is Green Mountain Power's new BURIED 7200-volt main power line, extending 4-1/2 miles, from Russellville, along the entire length of Crown



Point Road, and Northam Road, from Shrewsbury Center to Northam. What is MISSING are 45-foot power poles, aerial power and communication wires and the associated tree clearing along these truly scenic tree-lined roads.

For decades, CVPS, and now GMP, have recognized that Shrewsbury's current link to the critical Mount Holly substation, which supplies

power to a large portion of the town, was limited in capacity and vulnerable to storm damage, resulting in frequent power outages and costly repairs. In 2018, GMP began design of a project which would have placed over 100 power poles and associated power/communication lines along Crown Point Road and Northam Road, requiring substantial tree cutting and branch clearing. The town expressed concern that these scenic roads, currently without any utility lines, would be dramatically impacted and asked that GMP consider options.

In 2021, GMP came back to the town requesting the town's concurrence that the same project be done except that the power lines be generally buried (except to cross the road or interconnect with existing power lines). Although it could be more expensive to construct in boney mountain soil, the long-term savings in maintenance can make such a project cost effective. The Selectboard agreed in concept, pending review of final plans.

Fast forward to this year when GMP produced final plans for a direct-bury main power line from Russellville to Northam, a design they had successfully used recently in other towns. The Selectboard gave GMP the go-ahead to use the town highway right-of-way, with certain conditions to protect the town roads and culverts. GMP began construction shortly thereafter, wanting to get most of the project in place before winter. From an observer's perspective, the project has gone remarkably well. The construction has been well executed, incredibly neat and the disturbed areas nicely restored, with minimal impact on traffic or landowners.

Speaking with Kristin Carlson, VP of External Affairs, GMP is very pleased with the Shrewsbury project and says the town and landowners have been great to work with. The project cost \$1.3 million and serves 203 Shrewsbury customers. The old poles in the woods were installed 70 years ago, past their expected useful life. Kristin indicated GMP has been choosing to bury power lines in many communities in an ongoing effort to "storm harden" its distribution system, especially in central and southern Vermont. The financial and power loss impact of wind and winter on long cross-country power lines is making buried power along roadways the best choice for many upgrade projects. In fact, Kristin indicates

that in some locations the cost of buried power can be on par with conventional aerial construction.

In Shrewsbury, final tie-in work to transformers and distribution lines, and abandonment of the old lines, will be completed in the spring-summer of next year.

This has been a win-win project for both GMP and for our town. ~Article by Mark Youngstrom

## Shrewsbury Conservation Commission meetings

The SCC will take December and January off. Their next meeting is scheduled at 5:15pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 1049 Upper Cold River Road. Meetings generally will be held on the first Tuesday of each month unless changed due to a conflict. ~Submitted by Louise Duda

## Donation Time

The Times is mailed to all residents of Shrewsbury and also to out of town donors. It's also available online on the Shrewsbury Town, and Shrewsbury Historical Society websites. 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. You determine the amount--any and all donations are appreciated! ~The Editors

## BURN PERMITS

If you are plan to burn brush you MUST call for a burning permit. **Contact Forest Fire Warden Kevin Brown 802-345-8668 or Deputy Forest Fire Warden Al Ridlon, Jr 802-282-3642.** The landowner is responsible to control a brush fire, ensure you have proper tools, water supply, and people to assist in containing the fire.

## 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.

Mount Holly, VT



**Joshua Bickford**

802.855.3216

joshfbickford@gmail.com

**DB**  
TREE WORKS

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## Spring Lake Ranch therapeutic community

### Two Beloved Families Honored

After a year of construction, Spring Lake Ranch's upgrades and expansion of the large, red Main House are complete. The oldest part of the building, which existed before the Ranch was founded, remained intact, but benefited from refreshed interiors and an additional restroom. The biggest changes were seen in the expanded dining hall and the construction of two new kitchens, one for staff and one for residents called the People's Kitchen.



SLR seized this exciting moment to honor two families who are at the heart of the Ranch's history – the Sarcka and Wells families. Two lovely signs were made by Shrewsbury's Signs of Distinction, one to hang over the Main House entrance, and another to hang over the new entrance leading to the dining hall. The

former identifies the Main House as "Elizabeth House" after co-founder Elizabeth Sarcka, and the latter names the newly refurbished gathering spaces "Wells Commons" after long-time Ranch director and Shrewsbury resident, Michael Wells.

A small ceremony was held on November 8 to unveil the signs and reminisce with close friends and family. Anne Sarcka, daughter of the founding family, spoke fondly of her mother, who was a determined and inspiring woman. By all accounts, Elizabeth Sarcka knit the Ranch community together and ensured the stitching remained strong for decades.

When it was time for the Sarckas to retire, daughter Anne, with staff members Ray Sirjane and Michael Wells, carried the Ranch into the 1960s and beyond. Michael Wells eventually took sole directorship and managed the Ranch for over three decades before he retired in the 1990s. To this day, he and his wife Phyllis continue to participate in Ranch activities, attending events, hosting staff to their home, and generally keeping a pulse on the place. They're also active and very appreciated members of the town of Shrewsbury.

The Main House, now called Elizabeth House, has been the beating heart of Ranch activity since the 1930s. Outside of sharing meals, it's also where staff and residents celebrate

holidays, play board games, complete puzzles, and practice the piano. It's where we host guests, have meetings, and plan our days. It's where we build relationships and take care of each other, and so it's the perfect space to dedicate to those who spent their lives building community here. Elizabeth Sarcka, Michael Wells, and their families will forever be a part of who we are. ~Article by Rose McCracken

To see an interview with Michael Wells:

[wcax.com/news/education/super-seniors](http://wcax.com/news/education/super-seniors)

### 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*

### Herbal Support for Everyday Health

For nearly twenty years, I've worked as an organic farmer, cultivating a deep respect for the intelligence of natural systems. Those years taught me that true health — whether of soil, plants, or people — depends on balance, attentive care, and love.

I now offer individualized herbal consultations for those seeking more energy, better sleep, calmer nerves, smoother digestion, and support through life's stresses and seasonal shifts. When used wisely herbs can provide profoundly effective support for everyday aches, tensions, and the wear-and-tear that comes with hard work and active living.

Each person's health story is unique. I take the time to listen closely and craft individualized plans using herbs and simple lifestyle approaches to support the body's natural healing process. My intention as a practitioner is to help people rediscover trust in their body's innate intelligence and in the quiet, generous medicine of the plants. When we weave the wisdom of nature back into our daily lives, we move toward a more vibrant, resilient, and connected way of living.

If you'd like to explore how herbal medicine might help you feel your best, I'd love to connect. You can reach me at [alchemygardens@gmail.com](mailto:alchemygardens@gmail.com) or (802) 492-2087. Learn more at [alchemygardensVT.com](http://alchemygardensVT.com).

**Scott Courcelle, Herbalist**





## LAUREL GLEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF 1894

As winter arrives, I recall a *Warrensburg News* article about a snowy adventure at Laurel Hall. Minnie Martin, beneficiary of Bowman's will, came to VT in the winter 1925 with her daughter. The story includes descriptions of joyous rides in a jingling horse-drawn sleigh in the field next to the mansion.

A family enjoying winter seems hardly newsworthy, but papers in the Edwardian period often reported such events. *Rutland Daily Herald* reported in winter 1881 that Mr. Bowman was ill and had to spend two weeks at a Rutland hotel. Other *Herald* articles tell us, even in winter, "There are frequent visitors at the mausoleum on pleasant days." (Jan 1883) "Hon. J. P. Bowman of Stony Creek, N.Y., - spending a few days at his beautiful residence, "Laurel Hall", accompanied by G. B. Croff and wife of N. Y." (Feb 1883)

A sad report from *Glens Falls Republican* in Feb of 1880 informs readers of the passing of Mrs. Bowman a week before. She followed daughter Ella to the grave just six months' after *her* death. Mr. Bowman was born on Jan 26; his beloved Jennie died on Jan 28.

THANKS: Barry Griffith, Tom Giffin, Alannah Severy, Ed Sawyer, Grace Brigham, and Jeff Monder for the flashlight tour on Oct 24. We had 25 visitors! Pins with scenes of Laurel Glen made by Cathy Louttit make their public debut and were well-received. The rain held off – it was a great event! There are few things as pretty as the mausoleum lit by candles!

New volunteers Colleen Kennedy and Diane Baker helped at the Big Clean day on Oct 25. Dash Monder, Ed, Alannah, and Jeff vacuumed, dusted, polished, washed windows, moved furniture, and removed trash and broken furniture. The mansion looks great as we "put it to bed" for the winter.



Thanks to Dan and Ginny Buckley for a beautiful stereoscope in excellent condition, and because we can really explore the stereoscopic photos we have, new discoveries have been made about the mansion's original contents. The stool is now at the Estey organ where it belongs. Two of four chairs that were in the Mausoleum in the 1880s have

been identified. The pattern on the chairs matches the carving in the mausoleum exactly. Architect G.B. Groff was renowned for the motifs in his work, and these chairs are excellent examples of this. It is exciting to share these finds with you.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The last big winter event at Laurel Hall was thrown by our neighbors, the Shrewsbury Historical Society, in Dec 1994. Marjorie Pierce dressed in a Victorian gown and greeted guests as they visited the mansion which was decorated for the holidays. Laurel Glen hopes to do

more of the same soon! This winter, you can support the Laurel Glen Cemetery Association of 1894 and Friends of Bowman Mansion by sending your tax-deductible donations to Friends of Bowman Mansion, P. O. Box 416 Cuttingsville, VT 05738. Or, use our GoFundMe link.

gofundme



Like us on Facebook:

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

Check out our website [www.bomanmansion.org](http://www.bomanmansion.org)

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

~Submitted by Freddie Monder

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## Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department

### OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 6  
Cuttingsville Fire Station  
1pm - 3pm

See our new Fire Truck  
Meet our Volunteers

Light Refreshments

# SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS & COUNTING

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

Wonder if the Library has a 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.

THANKS IN ADVANCE to everyone who is helping make our COOKIE SHARE & SILENT AUCTION another stellar event: Library decorators, Christmas Tree & greens donors, auction item donors, cookie bakers, auction bidders, music makers, bartenders, and attendees! Please see our ad elsewhere in this issue of *The Times*.

### SAVE THE DATE!

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 COOKIE SHARE & SILENT AUCTION

### CONTINUING PROGRAMS:

Sunday, December 7 @ 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).

No December meeting: NO FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB! The next discussion will be Sunday, January 18 and our next book is *Howards End* by E.M. Forster. Books will be available at the library by the time you read this. Please contact Joan if you need another copy: [joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net).

No December Meeting! January Date TBA. SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: Part 2 of *Annals of the Former World* by John McPhee. Print and e-books are available. Contact Margery Salmon to get a copy: [salmonm@vermontel.net](mailto:salmonm@vermontel.net).

### New Books include:

- *Injustice: How Politics and Fear Vanquished America's Justice Department*, by Barbara Leonnig and Aaron G. Davis.
- *The Proving Ground* (a Lincoln Lawyer mystery) by Michael Connelly.
- *Exit Strategy* by Lee Child (a Jack Reacher novel).
- *The King's Ransom* by Janet Evanovich.
- *Book of Lives: A Memoir* by Margaret Atwood.
- *The Eleventh Hour. Stories* by Salman Rushdie.
- *1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History — and How It Shattered a Nation.*



### Hi. My name is Faith . . .

"I am a Therapy Dog. I help through so many situations. I go to hospitals & help patients; staff & visitors feel happy & better. I also go to a school & a library where the kids read to me or just sit with me & talk to me & pet me. You may know me & my human—her name is Ann Marie. We walk a lot in town or see us here & there. She's nice. She gives me treats now & then.

We will be at our library, (Shrewsbury Library) Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10am. So, come on in & read a book with me, or Ann Marie can read one with us. Hope we will see you there!"

~Submitted by Jenny Wellenius



### Join one of the Shrewsbury Library Book Discussion Groups!



Here's what they read and discussed the past year:

### 2025 Famous Books Club Selections:

|           |                                                |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| Feb       | <i>Anna Karenina</i> by Leo Tolstoy            |
| Mar & May | <i>The Golden Notebook</i> by Doris Lessing    |
| Jun       | <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald |
| Jul       | <i>The Bluest Eye</i> by Toni Morrison         |
| Aug-Sep   | <i>Mansfield Park</i> by Jane Austen           |
| Oct       | <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> by Virginia Woolf         |
| Nov       | <i>The Age of Innocence</i> by Edith Wharton   |

### 2025 Science Book Club Selections:

|         |                                                                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb-Mar | <i>Annals of the Former World</i> by John McPhee                                       |
| Apr-Aug | <i>The Best Science and Nature Writing 2024</i>                                        |
| Sep-Nov | <i>What if We Get It Right? Visions of a Climate Future</i> by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson |





## WINTER SOLSTICE SQUARE DANCE Shrewsbury Meeting House

**Saturday Dec. 20, 2025  
6:30 - 8:30 PM**

*Live music from Silas Hamilton and friends  
Dance lesson and calling by Sarah Gibson*

*All ages welcome, sliding scale donation \$10-20*

*For more info email sarahchadwickgibson@gmail.com*

### Bird Feeders!

While Vermont Fish and Wildlife generally recommends people only put bird feeders out from December 1 through March 31, variable winter weather can sometimes dictate that birdfeeders should be removed even during this period. A good rule of thumb is that if it's generally "wintery" out for an extended period of time, with consistent snow on the ground and temperatures at or below freezing, you can keep your birdfeeder out.

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### Upcoming Events & Announcements

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

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PARTY!** 🎉 Enjoy **Black Friday deals** & raffles all weekend, plus Saturday we'll host **food & drinks**. Let's kick off the holiday season together!

December 14<sup>th</sup> 10a-11am: Snowglobe Magic 🌟

Join us for a festive, hands-on snowglobe workshop filled with creativity, sparkle, and holiday cheer! 🎄❄️ A fun and cozy activity for kids, adults, and anyone who loves a little winter magic. **RSVP via email or Facebook**

Extended Holiday Hours: Open Daily 12/10-12/24

Besides being open every day, we will extend our hours to **10am-7pm 12/15-12/23**. We will be closed briefly 12/24 After 3pm, 12/25 & 12/26 🎅🌲

## MRUUSD FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings from Mill River Unified Union School District. We are in the final phase of fiscal year 2027 budget drafting. During our October 27 finance committee meeting we received two positive pieces of information regarding our district's financial outlook. The first is that we are only looking at a 7.3% health insurance increase as opposed to the 13.7% increase that was signaled originally. The second is that our district is expecting a \$316,000 revenue increase from tuition students entering the district. This news combined gives us a little more flexibility than we anticipated as we plan for fiscal year '27.

The business office created a rollover budget for the finance committee that included a number of strategic cuts and some important additions, including ending a grant funded high school counselor position whose grant term has ended, eliminating our "in-house" driver's education expenses as we move forward with our contracted service once again, and sunsetting a 30-year high school bond payment.

Among other items, this budget adds; PreK first aid and CPR training, Special Ed PT services, and the purchase of a new bus for the fleet.

This "rollover lite" draft budget would result in a 2.27% increase in expenditure. The finance committee aims to keep our district expenditure increases between 3-5%. We felt that there was enough flexibility to address many additional community concerns, and stay within that 3-5%.

The finance committee has asked to see a "final draft" of the FY27 budget that will include additional resources for some important issues in the district that have been shared through community involvement and staff input.

We are continuing our commitment to our students by continuing our elementary math intervention program, and adding a new English Language Learner (ELL) position. The math intervention program has already made big impacts in its first half-year by creating a district-wide baseline of specific math skills.

Transportation is a challenging issue to address, and very important to our community. We are adding an additional bus driver position in the FY27 budget.

The state of the athletic fields is another important issue for our Mill River community. We are creating a grounds maintenance position in the FY27 budget and we will be looking at surplus management during our December meeting to address funding for physical athletics grounds upgrades from current district surpluses.

Finally, we are addressing the waitlist for PreK daycare in Wallingford by adding a new para position that will expand our current capacity by 10 littles.

These important additions, as well as new staff 2026 benefit elections, should bring our budget expenditure to ~4.4%. This draft budget will be further refined at our December 8 finance committee meeting, before being voted on to the full board for approval.

An important milestone clarifying the district budgeting process comes with the "December 1st letter" from Vermont's commissioner of taxes. The letter will give us our weighted pupil count and a tax rate projection that will clarify what our district tax rate will be, prior to town rate CLA fluctuations.

For context: The tax rate projection is based on a projection of the coming fiscal year's education fund (which includes an assessment of statewide property values, VT general fund disbursement, VT sales tax revenues, and VT state lottery revenues) and individual district budgeting and our corresponding projected spending per pupil.

How this affects us as a district depends on how our budgeted local district per pupil spending comes in vs. the yield, which is the per pupil spending allowed by an equalized (\$1/ \$100 property value) tax rate.

By our next finance meeting on December 8 at 5:00pm we will have the state's tax rate projection and our draft for MRUUSD's FY 27 budget. In this meeting we will review and refine our draft budget. We will also discuss strategy around our district's surplus and ways we may address funding for big-ticket buildings and grounds infrastructure expenses. These meetings have a virtual meeting option and the public are encouraged to attend. This is the last scheduled district finance meeting before a finalized budget goes to the full board for approval. 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*

### Greetings Shrewsberries!

**We are a family of three (soon to be four!) looking for a permanent home here! Stephen works with local non-profits (including SAGE) and represents Shrewsbury on the Mill River District School Board. Oana is a health care provider in Rutland. Our little one is excited to attend SMS in a few short years...**

**We would love to create our home in Shrewsbury either by purchasing a house or a piece of land. We envision a 3 bedroom home on 4+ acres, eventually with fruit and nut trees! If you know about places that may be coming on the market or land that could be subdivided out, we'd love to talk with you. Please reach out to 802-492-3106 or [stephen.abatiell@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.abatiell@gmail.com).**

**~Stephen, Oana, and S**







**SHREWSBURY LIBRARY'S**

# *Holiday Celebration*

SILENT AUCTION AND COOKIE SHARE

DECEMBER

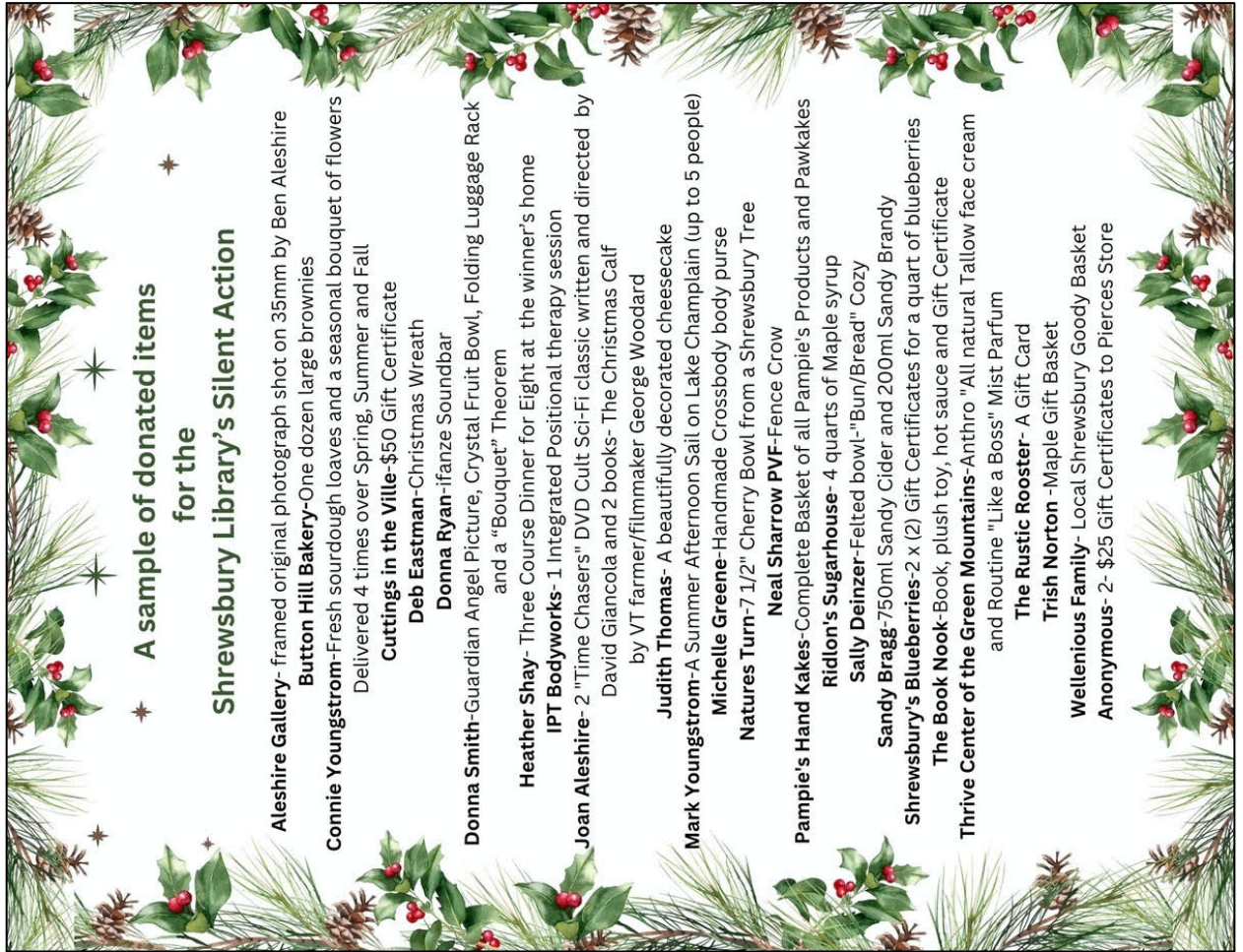
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SATURDAY AT 7 PM

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



★ **A sample of donated items** ★  
★ **for the** ★  
★ **Shrewsbury Library's Silent Action** ★

**Aleshire Gallery**- framed original photograph shot on 35mm by Ben Aleshire  
**Button Hill Bakery**-One dozen large brownies  
**Connie Youngstrom**-Fresh sourdough loaves and a seasonal bouquet of flowers  
 Delivered 4 times over Spring, Summer and Fall  
**Cuttings in the Ville**-\$50 Gift Certificate  
**Deb Eastman**-Christmas Wreath  
**Donna Ryan**-ifanze Soundbar  
**Donna Smith**-Guardian Angel Picture, Crystal Fruit Bowl, Folding Luggage Rack  
 and a "Bouquet" Theorem  
**Heather Shay**- Three Course Dinner for Eight at the winner's home  
**IPT Bodyworks**- 1 Integrated Positional therapy session  
**Joan Aleshire**- 2 "Time Chasers" DVD Cult Sci-Fi classic written and directed by  
 David Giancola and 2 books- The Christmas Calf  
 by VT farmer/filmmaker George Woodard  
**Judith Thomas**- A beautifully decorated cheesecake  
**Mark Youngstrom**-A Summer Afternoon Sail on Lake Champlain (up to 5 people)  
**Michelle Greene**-Handmade Crossbody body purse  
**Natures Turn**-7 1/2" Cherry Bowl from a Shrewsbury Tree  
**Neal Sharrow PVF**- Fence Crow  
**Pamplie's Hand Kakes**-Complete Basket of all Pamplie's Products and Pawkakes  
**Ridlon's Sugarhouse**- 4 quarts of Maple syrup  
**Sally Deinzer**-Felted bowl-"Bun/Bread" Cozy  
**Sandy Bragg**-750ml Sandy Cider and 200ml Sandy Brandy  
**Shrewsbury's Blueberries**-2 x (2) Gift Certificates for a quart of blueberries  
**The Book Nook**-Book, plush toy, hot sauce and Gift Certificate  
**Thrive Center of the Green Mountains**-Anthro "All natural Tallow face cream  
 and Routine "Like a Boss" Mist Parfum  
**The Rustic Rooster**- A Gift Card  
**Trish Norton**-Maple Gift Basket  
**Wellenious Family**- Local Shrewsbury Goody Basket  
**Anonymous**- 2- \$25 Gift Certificates to Pierces Store



# Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com



What: A Victorian Christmas Tour  
Where: John P. Bowman's Mansion,  
Cuttingsville, Vermont  
When: *December 10 & 11, 1994*  
Who: Co-sponsored by SHS &  
Laurel Glen Cemetery Assoc.  
Wish: A very Merry Christmas to All



Photos from the Shrewsbury Historical Society archives submitted by Ruth Winkler



Our monthly luncheons continue to be favorites. This month was at Roots in Rutland. Eleven of us enjoyed their delicious food and much chatting. Sitting at a long table isn't conducive to much more than talking with a few people, but I sat between two folks that I'd not spent much time with recently but was able to catch up with both. And I know that new some new acquaintances were made further down the table.

The Wine & Cheese Social held in Mount Holly was a great hit. We will be pulling back on our social events for the winter, with the exception of lunches. However, we will continue to provide services such as transportation to appointments and shopping, assistance with simple tasks around the house, and check-in calls. If you need something, please let us know.

Lois Castonguay from Wallingford is a new Board member. She has been working with us on events and writes our quarterly newsletter for members and volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help with specific projects. If you would like to become involved, please give us a shout.

Have questions about Green Mountain Neighbors? Call us at [802-417-2292](tel:802-417-2292) and leave a message. We'll get back to you within a day. ~Submitted by Sally Deinzer



## NEWS FROM THE SNO-BIRDS



Well, the weather is really looking like winter in Shrewsbury already this year. The snow has been falling and temps are dropping. We are getting all last-minute things done as we get closer to December 16 the opening day and if it keeps snowing, we should be good to start around that date. With State mandated water bars some areas need more snow than others to offer good riding. We will be checking the trails again just before or by the opening day for trees down in the trails with the winds we have been getting.

We urge all members to get their Early Bird TMA as there is a good savings to be had! For VT Residents it is a \$40.00 savings and for Non-Residents it is a \$50.00 savings, so don't wait. From what we have heard the state wide memberships are up from last year. That is probably because we are seeing good snow in some areas in the state.

John Hogan helped me with the normal maintenance on the Tucker. Most all fluids and filters get replaced every year no matter the mileage. Every fitting gets greased on the Tucker



*Our big bridge replacement above the Governor Clement Shelter on Corridors 4&7 in Shrewsbury. Thank you to all that made this possible!*

and drag and the drag starts out with a new shear bolt. That bolt gets checked throughout the winter as it is much easier to replace then, than waiting until it breaks out in the woods and you are all by yourself in the middle of the night. I know because it broke with me headed to Route 103 two years ago. We do have ways to do it and in about 45 minutes I was hooked up and running again.

Since the Tucker was in Rutland for the CVM Fall Ski-Doo Open House Event we took it to JR's Auto Body for some rust touch up. J.R. Bove did a great job and it looks a lot better and it will make it last longer. We get it back to Shrewsbury tomorrow and will get the drag hooked back on and park it back in the Groomer Shed waiting for the season to start.

The fundraiser at CVM went very well for the club. Everyone was very generous with their donations for their food. I might add everyone was happy with the grilled options! We had a good time talking with all the people about the club and equipment and helped people with the TMA process. If anyone is wondering what TMA stands for this is what it stands for: Trail Maintenance Assessment, the pass that enables you to ride the trail system.

The Sno-Birds want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year! Think snow and nice groomed trails through the Shrewsbury wilderness!

*~Article by Roy Arthur*



### Students prepare for this season of rest.

Ms. Levins' 3rd and 4th graders put the orchard to bed up at the Mountain School. They spent an afternoon with SAGE weeding, mulching the trees, and repairing rodent guards. They will patrol the orchard through winter recesses for excessive snow cover and potential damage.

Mrs. McDonough's 5th and 6th graders have been onboard for a new year of stewarding the school's compost and are ready to collect data and monitor through the remainder of the year.

A dozen folks attended our first music jam of the winter season, and brought a little light and community into the cold night. Mark your calendar for December 13, when School House Jams come back to the Russellville School House at 7pm. Jams continue on the second Saturday of the month through April or May.

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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OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

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with Excellence and Compassion  
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## SNOWSHOES

(Adult & Children)

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at the  
**Shrewsbury Library**

**Borrow for 3 days**

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TO SIDE OF TRACKS

## The Shrewsbury Community Church



*Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley*



### **Annual Wreath Making & Decorating Event!** **December 7 at 10:30am**

The kids will meet at the Center Church to cut balsam, make, and decorate their own to take home! All are welcome to join us! If you would like to participate, please call Sue 802-779-4360 or Cortney 802-683-7852 so we make sure to have enough supplies.

**Open Invitation to the Community:** The Community is cordially invited to attend our Candlelight Community Christmas Eve Service Wednesday Dec 24 at 7pm at the center church and meeting house! The sanctuary will be decorated with fresh balsam wreaths, poinsettias, our beautiful nativity scene and a glorious Christmas Tree! We will hear the Christmas Story, sing carols and the youth will have a special performance. This will be a magical evening you don't want to miss! All are welcome!

## Shrewsbury Community Church Calendar

Sun, Dec 7 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for Kids. Wreath Making Workshop. Worship Service and Holy Communion led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Sun, Dec 14 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Sun, Dec 21 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Tues, Dec 24 @ 7pm Candlelight Community Christmas Eve Service of Carols. All are Invited!

Sun, Dec 28: NO WORSHIP SERVICE. Happy New Year!

Sun, Jan 4 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service and Holy Communion with Pastor Karen Braeutigam

Sun, Jan 11 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Sun, Jan 18 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Sun, Jan 25 @ 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam at Center Church

Tues, Jan 27 @ 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

## Holiday Giving

**We will be providing gift and grocery cards for folks in Shrewsbury during the holiday season. If you or a neighbor would like to be included, please call Sue at 802-492-3738 or 802-779-4360.**

## **Remembering our Loved Ones**

If you would like to have a wreath or poinsettia placed in honor or in memory of a loved one in the sanctuary for the holiday season, please make checks for \$20 for a wreath or \$10 for a poinsettia payable to Shrewsbury Community Church and mail to: **Sue Kelley, PO Box 366 Cuttingsville, VT 05738**



\_\_\_ Wreath, or \_\_\_ Poinsettia

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

in honor or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



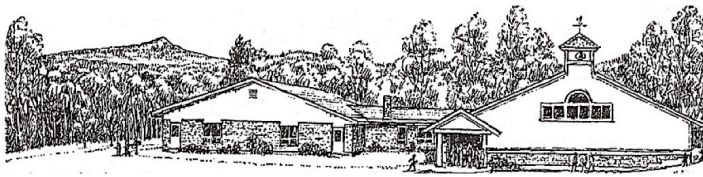




**SUNDAY, DEC. 21 2025**  
**Shrewsbury Meeting House**  
**3~5 PM**







## SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

### Important Dates:

12/5-12/15: Grade 2 coordinates with the Mill River National Honor Society sponsoring a Food Drive to help families in our community in need.  
 12/15: Half Day Release  
 12/16: Winter Concert at 6:30pm

**Rutland Herald:** On November 12, SMS was featured in the Rutland Herald outlining our school goal and celebrating our staff and students!

### **School Goal 2025-2026:**

Students will be able to demonstrate collective ownership of our school campus by performing sustainability practices as well as individually contributing to the learning community as a positive student citizen.

Our mission is to build a foundation for lifelong learning and citizenship in every student. Our elementary school implements rigorous standards-based instruction through the lens of sustainability. We define sustainability as the means to act in a way that shows awareness of how all things are connected and to empower people to make well-considered choices for the current and future environmental, economic, and social needs of our communities. Our educators are

committed to engaging students with the district curriculum and designing learning that links knowledge, inquiry, and action to help empower students to be leaders and help build a healthy future.

This year our school goal is to strengthen our students' sense of ownership of our sustainability mission as each grade level takes on specific leadership roles in all different aspects of sustainability and care of the orchard, compost system, garden and other special places on our campus. Our small school learning community nurtures relationships between students of all grade levels, fosters community partnerships with local organizations and individual volunteers, and provides opportunities for the whole school to learn together and celebrate our successes.

**Trunk or Treat:** Our whole community came out to decorate trunks, dress in costume and hand out treats for our students on Friday, October 31. The rain did not keep our spooky spirits from soaring and the students declared this one of the best Trunk or Treat celebrations yet! Huge thanks to our staff, the SMS PTO and everyone who contributed!

**Food Drive:** The 2nd graders and Ms. Rice are collaborating with the Mill River Union High School National Honor Society to give food baskets to families in our community in need this holiday season. The SMS 2nd graders are sponsoring a food drive from December 5-15, 2025. If you would like to donate non-perishable food items for this great cause, please drop items off during school hours of 8am-3pm at the Main Entrance at SMS. The 2nd graders will travel to MRU to help assemble these baskets for delivery to families.

*Kristin Cimonetti, Principal*  
 802-786-3995 [kcimonetti@millriverschools.org](mailto:kcimonetti@millriverschools.org)



PreK class of 3 and 4 year olds with the Principal



## Not one, but TWO APPAREL WEB STORES ARE OPEN NOW!

Our favorite SHREWSBURY design is back and we have some fun new colors & styles too!

**HURRY!**

**Order Deadline is  
Dec. 4 to receive  
apparel before the  
holidays.**

**Store closes on  
Jan. 2**



To shop **Shrewsbury Apparel**, use this QR code or visit:  
[all-starink.com/collections/town-of-shrewsbury](http://all-starink.com/collections/town-of-shrewsbury)



**Online ordering only... with options for shipping or free in-store pickup at  
All-Star Ink, 447 West St. Rutland, VT**

New this year, Shrewsbury Mountain School apparel!  
Shop a variety of forest green clothing options with  
our beloved mascot, Marley the Moose!

**Single Order Deadline is Dec. 9**

**Apparel will be ready in time for  
the holidays.**



To shop **SMS Apparel**:  
use this QR code or visit:  
[all-starink.com/collections/shrewsbury-mountain-school](http://all-starink.com/collections/shrewsbury-mountain-school)



**As always, the SMS PTO thanks you for your ongoing support!  
Need help? Email: [shrewsburymountainschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburymountainschoolpto@gmail.com)**



## Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

### Trail Camera Picture of the month

#### Let's Go Tracking!

Last month The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission invited residents and friends to join us on a yet to be determined date to look for wildlife tracks. This is a reminder



to sign up if you are interested! 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 email 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 sign up now to get an email about when this fun and interesting walk will occur.

#### Wildlife Tracking Basics:

We will look at shape, size, symmetry, number of toes and gait to see if we can identify who has been visiting our backyards!

If you have a picture of wildlife or a track, please send to Linda Shelvey, [lpurdyshe@gmail.com](mailto:lpurdyshe@gmail.com).

~~~~~

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

DRIVEWAYS

C.N. WEBSTER

EXCAVATING
47 RAILROAD DRIVE
N. CLARENDON, VT 05759
(802) 558-3275

COMPLETE SITE WORK

SEPTIC SYSTEMS



2450 Lincoln Hill
Shrewsbury, VT
802-492-2151

Freezer Stock-Up Time!

VT Maple Syrup & Maple Treats

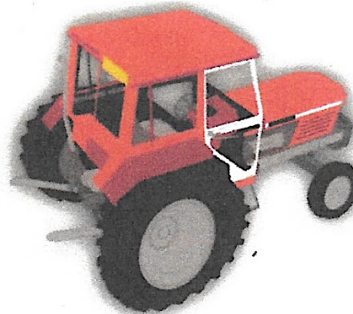
Grassfed Beef & More

- Sirloin Steaks
- Beef Roasts
- Short Ribs
- Ground Beef
- Ribeyes
- Briskets
- Pork Sausages
- Pork Chops
- Ground Pork
- Ham Steaks
- Chicken Breasts
- Whole Chickens
- Sausages

Fall in love with shopping local at our small Farm Store!!

TRACTOR WORK

For all your loading, lifting,
digging, grading, grapple,
winching & brushhogging needs.



Rob Littmann
802-774-8835
Shrewsbury, VT

Front Loader: Bucket, Grapple,
Pallet Forks, Bale Spear

Backhoe: 16" Bucket & Thumb

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

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ELECTRICAL
LLC

bbates@vermontel.net

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

Bone Builders

Tuesdays and Thursdays
November-April: 10-11am
May-October: 9-10am

at the Meeting House on Lottery Road

Free weights and instruction!

Join this friendly group to improve your
Bones, Balance, and Strength
More Info: Ginny Buckley (802) 492-3504





81 Tarbellville Road, Mount Holly, VT

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Renovated Victorian in the Belmont Village

\$585,000



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THANKS TO THE CONTRIBUTING JOURNALISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS & ARTISTS!!

The *Times* is grateful to the contributors of 2025 who provided articles, poetry, stories, drawings, general information, photos, and letters to the editors. Their submissions help to make the *Times* more interesting and informative....and useful for us all! Thanks~ ~The Editors

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TIMES OF SHREWSBURY

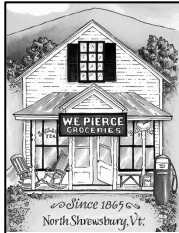
ONLINE in COLOR all Year Long!

<http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com>

AND

www.shrewsburyvt.org





PIERCE'S STORE

802-492-3326

www.piercesstore.com

Hours: 8am to 6pm

Closed Mondays

Happy Holidays!!!

This is such a festive time of year and we hope that you will come to Pierce's for your holiday fare. By the time you read this the Thanksgiving turkeys and other goodies may have been distributed and possibly eaten by now. But don't worry another order for special items will be coming from the store soon.



For your **HOLIDAY SHOPPING** we offer:

- ◆ Pierce's hats, shirts, and mugs
- ◆ Mountain School gear
- ◆ Specialty foods and wines for gifting baskets
- ◆ Wide variety local crafts and peoples' wares
- ◆ Something for most and if in doubt, give a...
- ◆ Pierce's Gift Certificates!

Pierce's thanks you so very much for turning to us for your holiday purchases. Holiday season sales are a very important part of our total annual revenue.

We've started talking about the Annual Meeting in March (final date TBD) and wanted you all to start thinking about it, too. We will have three open seats – Ed Sawyer, Jeff Monder, and Paul Titterton's terms are all ending in 2026. Luckily Paul is planning to run again, but Ed and Jeff have "given notice" that they will not be running. They will REALLY be missed. So, if you have been thinking of giving your time and skills to the store, then consider putting your hat in the ring. Watch for the February Times for the Annual Meeting date and an early look at our 2026 event schedule.

I will end my letter on a sad note. A great friend of Pierce's, Orville Woods has passed away. On behalf of the entire Pierce's community, we would like extend our heartfelt gratitude for all of the work that Orville did for Pierce's. He never asked for payment or thanks, but we always have and always will, feel gratitude to him and his family for his countless efforts.

Sincerely Adrienne Raymond
Pierce's Store Board of Directors

~~~~~

### Transfer Station Holiday Hours

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Eve - Open

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve - Closed

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve - Open

Thinking about your holiday table? Holiday gifting?  
Stop, sample & pickup a bit of our  
VT Maple Syrup for you, or for gifts.  
We can also ship your gift of VT Maple for you!  
Look for our bundles & gift packages on our website.

|                         |                 |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Maple Candies           | Locally Sourced | Ground Beef           |
| Maple Cookies           | Pork (cuts)     | Grilling Steaks       |
| Maple Spices, Marinades | Chicken (cuts)  | Ribs, Roasts Briskets |
| Sugar and Snacks        | & Eggs          | Sausages & More       |

Gift bags of Vermont Goodies and Meat Freezer Boxes Available



**OPEN WEDNESDAY-MONDAY 10AM-5PM**

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 our syrup and products all over the USA**

From: Rutland: Left off VT RT 103 just 2.5 miles - on the right



From: Cuttingsville: Just 2.1 miles up Town Hill Rd,  
right on Lincoln Hill Red Barn on right

### 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 Shrewsbury Library, we will deliver groceries to you. If you need items 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.

The Times of Shrewsbury  
PO Box 373  
Cuttingsville, VT 05738

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To: Postal Patron

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Stephen & Patricia Martyn  
Taffy Maynard  
Lynn McDermott & Becky Bates  
Jeff & Pam Monder  
Moody Family  
David & Georgia Mosher  
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