



Times of Shrewsbury



March 2026

SHREWSBURY WINTER MEMORIES

The winter sports we enjoy evolved from the need to get from place to place: kids to school, logs to sawmills, milk to cheese factories, blocks of pond ice to ice houses . . .

Last month Mark Youngstrom wrote about breaking out the snowy roads, shoveling through the drifts so horses could pull the snow roller that flattened a hard pavement for hauling freight. As you can imagine, this compacted surface took a long time to thaw in the spring. Think we have mud season now? Hah!

It's fun to learn how folks invented ways to get where they needed to go. Hundreds of years before Europeans arrived here, Native Americans were using snowshoes and toboggans. The Europeans brought long wooden skis and ice skates with iron blades. With these homemade adaptations attached to their feet, they could "float" on top of the snow, traveling across fields and through the woods. They didn't need roads. When conditions were right, they could skate on ponds and lakes, and travel for miles on frozen rivers.

Their equipment was locally made from materials at hand: wood, iron, leather, fabric. Our Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum has several of these inventions to show you.

Shrewsbury has splendid hills for sledding. One hundred years ago our steep roads offered great sledding, but nowadays our Road Crew does such a good job plowing and sanding that motor vehicles have taken over.

When I was a kid, the sport was called sliding, not sledding. The Ridlon's had a traverse, which was a stout plank attached to two pairs of wooden runners shod with metal. The front pair could be turned left and right to steer the contraption. There were toboggans and rickety metal runnered sleds with names like Lightening Guider, Racer, and Flexible Flier.

Kids' sleds these days have been made far from here. They come in many shapes and sizes of brightly colored molded plastic. However, I've observed imaginative young folks hurtling gleefully down steep slippery places standing or sitting on cafeteria trays, snow shovels, inner tubes and cardboard.

The abundance and variety of equipment for recreational and competitive "sliding" in 2026 would boggle the minds of folks living in Shrewsbury a hundred years ago!

All these thoughts about our winter activities, got me to thinking about forty years ago when you could find Taffy Maynard (long time Shrewsbury Mountain School P.E. teacher) cross-country skiing on the unplowed CCC Road with a bunch of kids of all sizes (and a few adults). The school bus would take us as far as the Lorentz driveway, and off we'd go skiing toward Plymouth. The most energetic skiers would disappear ahead of the more leisurely folks, and be miles away before it was time to turn back.

My favorite part of these expeditions, aside from just being out there on skis, was enjoying the conversational groups of kids and adults that ebbed and flowed along the way.

Taffy and her family always made us welcome on their home trails and the beautiful log cabin on the hill. When the snow was gone, there was their tennis court to share. So let us raise our imaginary mugs of Moose Juice¹ in a grateful toast to Taffy! We'll follow up with some very loud Shrewsbury Fireworks,² and enjoy all that winter has to offer!

*~Article and drawing by Grace Brigham,
Shrewsbury Historical Society*

¹*"A mysterious fruit punch mixture!"*

²*A person making a loud soaring whistle followed by everyone in the crowd yelling "BANG"*



Farming:

The Greatest Adventure No One Has Ever Heard Of:

A 4-Year Film Course in 45 Minutes!

Vermont Farmer/Filmmaker George Woodard will present what he calls "a four-year film course in 45 minutes," showing how dairy farming influenced his filmmaking.

He'll show clips of his first film, "The Summer of Walter Hacks," and tell how he was "always back for milking" after days of filming. The Program will give an insight into Woodard's filmmaking, and describe how one Vermonter has made art from his daily work.



At the **SHREWSBURY LIBRARY**

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 28 at 2 p.m.**

shrewsburylibrary.org

The 2026 Rutland Regional Plan Public Hearing

The RRPC is holding the first public hearing in the adoption process for the proposed 2026 Rutland Regional Plan. At the hearing, the RRPC will accept general and specific comments on whether the proposed Plan conforms to the state planning goals in 24 V.S.A. §4302. The hearing details and draft plan are available at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN 2026

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

March 17, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

16 Evelyn Street, Rutland
Large Conference Room

More info at:
www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

You can also contact me, the Shrewsbury representative on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, if you have questions.

~Laura Black 802-770-2084



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



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

Feb 24	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meets upstairs in the Meeting House
Feb 26	7pm	*Mill River Unified Union School District Annual Meeting at Mill River High School Library
Feb 27	7pm	*The Invisible Mammal film (rescheduled) at the Library sponsored by the Conservation Commission
Feb 28	11am	Informational Meeting; Food available by SMS students
Mar 1	4pm	*Writers' Group meets at the Library and invites all to join
Mar 3	10am-7pm	*Annual Town Meeting at the Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
Mar 5	6pm	*Pierce's Store Annual Meeting; Potluck dinner at 5pm
Mar 13	7pm	*Living with Bears" program at the Library; sponsored by the Conservation Commission
Mar 14	7pm	*School House Jam at the Russellville School House
Mar 15	4pm	*Famous Books Book Club meets at the Library
Mar 17	7pm	*Rutland Regional Plan 2026 Public Hearing, 17 Evelyn St, Rutland
Mar 21		Maple Open House Weekend
Mar 21	8-11am	*Pancake Breakfast at the Meeting House
Mar 21	4:30-6pm	*Irish Pop-up with music by Marcos Levy at Pierce's Store
Mar 22	4pm	*Science Book Club meets at the Library
Mar 24	12noon	*Prayer Shawl group meets upstairs in the Meeting House
Mar 28	2pm	*Film presentation by filmmaker George Woodard at the Library
April 4	10am	*3 rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Pierce's Store

*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	1 st Tuesday (Feb – May) - 5:15pm at 1049 Upper Cold River Road
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 ~ 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 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: Rutland County Sheriff Dept 1-802-775-8002
 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 2/1/2026]

SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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

January 21, 2026: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice. Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). Road Commissioner: Dan Cavoto. Assistant Treasurer: Chris Clark. Transfer Station Administrator: Bert Potter.

Members of the public: No members of the public. The meeting was convened at 6:35 PM.

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: A Certificate of Highway Mileage for year ended February 2026. M. Cimonetti seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Certificate of Highway Mileage: In 2025, TH #41, TH #46, and TH #47 were discontinued. The total mileage was .38 miles. A. Korzun made a motion to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Road Commissioner Report: Dan Cavoto is going to apply alongside Casella for a grant to aid in ditching and tree removal on Shunpike Road.

Budget 2026: The Selectboard discussed the budget for 2026 and will finalize the budget on 1/28/26

New Business/ Open to the Public: M. Cimonetti is advocating to join the Vermont Covered Bridge Society for a total of \$100. This society offers a grant that could aid in fixing the covered bridge roof. A. Cimonetti will be writing a letter to apply for this grant in the coming weeks.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 1/7/2026 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

Review Orders: M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve the Selectboard Orders #1A for a total of \$10,157.93, of which \$5,974.00 is for the Catalis lister software, and Road Orders #1A for a total of \$242,192.20 of which \$217,901.41 is for the Western Star 47X Town Truck. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

The Selectboard will recessed the meeting at 8:30PM and will continue the meeting on 1/28/2026 at 6:30pm to continue the Budget 2026 discussion.

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

January 28, 2026: Minutes of Selectboard Reconvened Meeting

Present at meeting: *Selectboard Members:* Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti, Francis Wyatt. *Town Clerk:* Rebecca Rice. *Administrative Assistant:* Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely). *Treasurer:* Linda McGuire. (Remotely). *Assistant Treasurer:* Chris Clarke.

Members of the public: None.

The meeting was convened at 6:33 PM

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

Budget 2026: Continued work on the 2026 budget. Finalized budget.

Warning 2026: F. Wyatt made a motion to approve the 2026 Warning and the general fund expenditure of \$2,425,623 of which \$1,184,680 is to be raised by taxes and \$1,240,943 by non-property tax revenues, surplus funds, and reserve funds. A. Korzun seconded. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:11 PM

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

February 4, 2026: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

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

Members of the public: No members of the public. The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM.

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: Municipal Planning Grant for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. All in favor, motion approved.

Road Commissioner Report: New truck at the town garage is working well.

Planning Commission: The commission confirmed some future dates and logistics. The commission is also talking about some other changes to the town plan, specifically in relation to policy updates, maps, and increased clarity.

Town Meeting 2026: The Selectboard will be posting a link to the informational session so the meeting can be attended online.

Municipal Planning Grant for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: The local hazard mitigation plan is expiring; therefore A. Cimonetti is working alongside Rutland Regional Planning Commission to complete a new one. A. Korzun made a motion to accept the grant agreement for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

New Business/ Open to the Public: No new business.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 1/21/2026 Selectboard meeting minutes and the reconvened 1/28/2026 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

(Continued)

Review Orders: M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve the Selectboard Orders #2 for a total of \$5,778.37 and Road Orders #2 for a total of \$25,082.89. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti

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

February 18, 2026: Minutes of Selectboard Meeting

Present at meeting: Selectboard Members: Aaron Korzun, Marc Cimonetti. Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Rebecca Rice, and Admin Assistant: Alaina Cimonetti (Remotely).

Members of the public: No members of the public. The meeting was convened at 6:33 PM.

Agenda: Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: Excess Weight Permits for James Carrara Excavating, LLC., Demag Riggers & Crane Service, Inc., and Champlain Construction Company, Inc. Seconded by F. Wyatt. All in favor, motion approved.

Town Road and Bridge Standards: The Town of Shrewsbury is adopting the town road and bridge standards. A. Korzun made a motion to adopt the standards. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Excess Weight Permits: A. Korzun made a motion to approve excess weight permits for the following: James Carrara Excavating, LLC., Demag Riggers & Crane Service, Inc., and Champlain Construction Company, Inc./Bear Dog Enterprises. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

Town Meeting 2026: The link to join the hybrid meeting is on the Town Website and is posted in the TIMES near the Town Warning.

New Business/ Open to the Public: No new business.

Review Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to accept the 2/4/2026 Selectboard meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Cimonetti. Approved.

Review Orders: M. Cimonetti made a motion to approve the Selectboard Orders #2A for a total of \$3,700.52 and Road Orders #2A for a total of \$16,223.73. Seconded by F. Wyatt. Approved.

Adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted, Alaina Cimonetti

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

Free Medical Equipment

Medical assist equipment donated by Shrewsbury residents who no longer need them are available at no cost on a loaner basis. Including many wooden crutches, adjustable aluminum crutches, walkers, rollators, commodes, shower seats, bedpans, toilet safety bars, wheelchair, and more. If you need equipment or have an items to donate, call Donna Swart at 773-7403.

TOWN OF
SHREWSBURY, VERMONT



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Town of Shrewsbury 2025 Annual Report is available online at www.shrewsburyvt.org, and town residents should have received hard copies of the report in their mailboxes.

Please plan to attend the Information Meeting held at 11am on Saturday, February 28 at the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House / 88 Lottery Rd for discussion of the items to be voted on

during the upcoming Town Meeting. The expenditures and town officers up for election are listed in the Warning for the 245 Annual Town Meeting posted on the town website, included in the town report and elsewhere in this issue of the Times of Shrewsbury.

The 245th Annual Town Meeting (voting on Town and School officers and budgets) will be held by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 3, 2026. Polls will be open 10:00am to 7:00pm at Shrewsbury Community Meeting House / 88 Lottery Rd.

Submitted by the Shrewsbury Board of Auditors

Vermont State Senators:

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

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

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

Vermont State House of Representative:

Kcwinter5783@gmail.com or 802-245-4190

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

United States Senators:

Senator Peter Welch

www.welch.senate.gov

Vermont Office: (800) 642-3193

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

Senator Bernie Sanders

www.sanders.senate.gov/contact

Vermont Office: (800) 339-9834

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

United States House of Representative:

Representative Becca Balint

Vermont Office: (802) 652-2450

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

Revised 3/1/2026

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**TOWN MEETING DAY
MARCH 3, 2025**

at The Shrewsbury Meeting House
88 Lottery Road, Shrewsbury, Vermont

POLLS OPEN FROM 10:00am TO 7:00pm

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**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2026 @ 11:00am**

**YOU CAN ATTEND EITHER IN PERSON OR REMOTELY**

The ballots are here and the first ballots have been sent out for Town meeting day and your chance to vote for local elected officials. The voting will be by Australian Ballot on March 3 from 10:00am to 7:00pm. The informational meeting will be held Saturday at 11:00am at the Meeting House. The meeting will be hybrid so that those wanting to attend remotely will be able to do so. Specific instructions for attending remotely are posted on the Town Website.

The Remote joining link is: <https://meet.google.com/yng-bqdy-epa>, or dial-in by Phone: (402)868-0023, PIN: 789 896 952#.

If you would like an absentee ballot, you can request an absentee ballot either by sending me an email, giving me a call, or requesting one online from <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. You can also pick one up at the office or just come into the office and vote there.

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

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

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*

**Food at Informational Meeting**

Student representatives of the SMS 5th & 6th grade class will be present at Town Informational Meeting on Saturday, February 28, to sell light fare and drink and to witness our townspeople participating in their civic duty. See you there!



**REMOTE MEETING ACCESS**

**2026 Town Meeting –  
How to Join the Online Session**

1. Open your internet browser (Chrome, Safari, Edge, etc.).
2. Copy and paste the Google Meet link into the address bar.
3. Click **Join** when you are ready to enter the meeting.
4. Wait for the meeting administrator to admit you.
5. Once you're in, please keep your microphone muted unless you are speaking.

*Helpful tip:* Try joining a few minutes early in case there is a wait to be admitted.

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/yng-bqdy-epa>  
or dial: (US) +1 402-868-0023 PIN: 789 896 952#

**SHREWSBURY DRAFT BALLOT 2026  
ANNUAL MEETING 2026**

1. To elect all town officers as required by law:  
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1.

**One Moderator**  
1-year term

Eldred French

Write In

**One Selectboard Member**  
3-year term  
Francis Wyatt

Write In

**One Auditor**  
3-year term

Michelle Green

Write In

**One Auditor**  
2-year term

Write In

**One 1st Constable**  
1-year term

Write In

**One Second Constable**  
1-year term

Steve Walsh

Write In

**One Cemetery Commissioner**  
3-year term

George Brigham

Write In

**Town of Shrewsbury**  
**WARNING for 245<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**MARCH 3, 2026**

The legal voters of the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Rutland are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to take action by Australian Ballot on the following matters:

1. To elect all town officers as required by law:
  - One Moderator 1 year term
  - One Selectboard Member 3 year term
  - One Auditor 3 year term
  - One Auditor 2 year term
  - One 1st Constable 1 year term
  - One 2nd Constable 1 year term
  - One Cemetery Commissioner 3 year term
2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of **\$2,425,623** of which up to **\$1,184,680** shall be raised by taxes and **\$1,240,943** by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds and reserve funds?
3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$5,000** for the Town Office Reserve Fund?
4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$5,000** for the Town Garage Reserve Fund?
5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund?
6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$85,000** for the Town Road Equipment Fund?
7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,000** for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund?
8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$75,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund?
9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$19,000** for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House?
10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$35,000** for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund?
11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$7,500** for the Shrewsbury Library?
12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$3,000** for the Shrewsbury Historical Society?
13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District?
14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$2,526** to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?
15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Green Up Vermont organization?
16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$130** to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)?

**Town of Shrewsbury**  
**WARNING for 245<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**MARCH 3, 2026**

17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$700** to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$1,192** to help support Rutland Mental Health Services?
19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support NewStory (formally the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter)?
20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$600** to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$250** to help support the Vermont Family Network?
23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$150** to help support the Rutland County Humane Society?
24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$170** to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living?
25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$400** to help support the Child First Advocacy Center?
26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT?
27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Adult Learning?
28. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend **\$500** to help support Vermont Farmers Food Center?
29. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M., **Friday, October 9, 2026.**

Dated: 1/28/2026

Shrewsbury Selectboard

  
 Aaron Korzun

  
 Francis Wyatt

Attest:

  
 Rebecca A. Rice  
 Town Clerk

The informational meeting for the annual Shrewsbury Town Meeting will be held at the **Shrewsbury Community Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road at 11:00 AM, Saturday, February 28, 2026**

Early/ Absentee Ballots are available by contacting the Town Clerk at the Shrewsbury Town Office - 492-3511 or [shrewsburyclerk@vermontlnet.net](mailto:shrewsburyclerk@vermontlnet.net) or [My.Voter.Page-Vermont](http://My.Voter.Page-Vermont)

## 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**

## 250 AMERICA'S ANNIVERSARY

### Words and Events that Shaped our Nation

2026 marks the 250th year, the Semi-quincentennial, of the birth of our nation with the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Commemorative events will be taking place in Vermont and around the country.

~~~~~  
In early 1776, Thomas Paine published his 47-page pamphlet "Common Sense" in Philadelphia in which he made the case for independence from Britain and King George III by declaring:

"But where, say some, is the King of America? I'll tell you, friend, he reigns above, and doth not make havoc of mankind like the Royal Brute of Great Britain. ...the world may know, that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America the law is king. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other..."

WHEREFORE, instead of gazing at each other with suspicious or doubtful curiosity, let each of us hold out to his neighbor the hearty hand of friendship, and unite in drawing a line.... Let the names of Whig and Tory be extinct; and let none other be heard among us, than those of a good citizen; an open and resolute friend; and a virtuous supporter of the RIGHTS of MANKIND, and of the FREE AND INDEPENDANT STATES OF AMERICA."...

~~~~~  
For more information on Vermont events, go to:  
<https://www.vermonthumanities.org/programs/attend/vermont-250th/> ~Submitted by Jonathan Gibson

## PIERCE'S STORE 50/50 RAFFLE WHEN WILL SPRING REALLY COME TO SHREWSBURY?



The calendar says Friday, March 20, but do you believe it? Here is a chance to predict the coming season and win big.

The snow pile in front of the porch at Pierce's Store has always been the last sign of the fading winter. If you can guess what day the last bit of snow disappears from this spot you could receive up to half of the donations received.

**\$3/guess    2 guesses for \$5**

Donations accepted until April 1 (no fair guessing when there is just a spot of snow left) so select your date soon. The store staff will log in your dates and contact info. If you have a pre-buy, you don't even have to open your wallet. Proceeds will be split evenly between people selecting the same date. If the snow disappears overnight, the following day will be the official first day of spring. Closest to the date wins!

Look for the flag on top of the pile when you visit the store and watch as spring comes to Northam.

~Submitted by Mark Youngstrom

## Shrewsbury Historical Society

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



### Teachers Remembered

This winter, Shrewsbury lost three treasured former educators: Bill Olney, Carol Goodwin, and Carl Buffum. Each of these teachers shared special gifts with our high school and elementary students. They are remembered with fondness and gratitude.

~Submitted by Grace Brigham

## MRUUSD FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings neighbors. I want to dig into our March 3rd ballot measure to authorize the district to transfer \$1,000,000 of current surplus funds to the building sinking fund. It's a large number and I want the community to be clear on what it is we are talking about and why.

This is existing surplus funds from prior fiscal years. We do not have to raise any taxes for this transfer. The district has been running (and building, despite our best efforts) a large general surplus since the 2020 pandemic disruptions. Every year we redirect sizable portions of the rolling surplus for 2 goals, paying down your taxes and funding the building sinking fund. We do not want to be carrying a large tax funded surplus, and we don't know exactly what would happen to any surplus that exists if we have district mergers on the horizon.

Where does this surplus come from? Largely unfilled positions. The district received ESSER Funds to hire counselors, interventionists and nurses to help with the student learning loss that resulted from COVID. The district was able to hire some of the positions in the ESSER grants but could not fill all of them. The state allowed us to go back and pay our counselors, interventionists and nurses that were in our general fund budget with these funds. Using ESSER Funds to pay existing staff this created a larger than normal surplus in the general fund.

The district has been short in Special Education (sped) staffing since COVID. We consistently have open sped teaching, sped paras, and speech language positions unfilled.

Where will a \$1,000,000 building fund allocation go? It will go towards large facilities projects such as Mill River athletic field work and paving the Mill River and Wallingford parking lots, etc. In the past we have moved ~\$300,000 to the building sinking fund, but this year we recommend freeing up more surplus to take on some big looming projects that otherwise may require a future bond. It will also give us enough cushion to address emergency facilities needs that may arise.

Though we have finished our budget planning for FY 2027 the projections for changes in your tax rates continue to crystallize and clarify. We have newly updated CLA numbers that have adjusted each town's tax rate projection.

This is how things stand for percentage increases to the tax rate as of mid-February with the new Common Level of Appraisal adjustment. Tinmouth 2.04%, Shrewsbury 8.12%, Clarendon 8.68%, and Wallingford 11.03%. The state projected average is an 11.58% increase.

This session, Governor Scott has pledged to dedicate \$105 million from the general fund to education for property tax relief. It is presumed that this will cut the projected increase by about half when all is said and done.

The main drivers that have contributed to the rising costs of education over the past few years have been demographic changes and healthcare costs. At the state level there

appears to be movement and changes coming on the healthcare side of the equation.

We welcome your budget questions and comments at our annual meeting on Thursday, February 26, at 7:00pm in the Mill River Library. School board members will also make every effort to be available to answer questions at town meeting day informational meetings, but are not required to attend.

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

~Submitted by Stephen Abatiell

~~~~~

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Hi To All in Ludlow, MT. Holly and Shrewsbury,

This is Kevin Winter your Republican representative to The Vermont House. I have been in Montpelier for several weeks now working diligently, supporting the efforts of our Governor Phil Scott and working to fulfill the promises I made to our community of "NO more taxes, NO to all unnecessary spending, NO more band-aids and YES to fixing the root cause issues". Thanks to Republican support we have successfully put an end to the "Clean Heat Standard", for now, which threatened huge increases on our heating bills in Vermont and more is on the way! Feel free to email me with any questions or comments on issues that you feel important this legislative session.

Respectfully, Kevin Winter kwinter@leg.state.vt.us



Are you a gardener?

Pre-order starter plants by April 15th for your own spring and summer garden: veggies, herbs, flowers, and some native shrubs.

Want fresh veggies every week?

Free choice vegetable CSA shares are available from March through December, to pick out right here in Shrewsbury.



www.eveningsongcsa.com
eveningsongcsa@gmail.com
(802) 342-4304



LAUREL GLEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF 1894

In the Victorian Era, young men from wealthy families often ended formal schooling with a Grand Tour that included sites of cultural heritage in Europe, often ending in Rome. The value of the Grand Tour was its exposure to culture, art, antiquities, and high society of the continent. A Grand Tour lasted from several months to several years and provided a rare opportunity to view famous art and architecture. As steam ships and trains made travel easier and faster, tours extended to Africa and Asia, and the rise of industrialization in the late 19th century saw American “new rich” adopting the Grand Tour for their children as an important rite of passage into sophisticated adulthood.

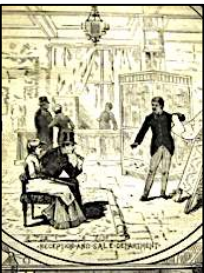
Not all rich people had this advantage. John Bowman had been born into a working-class family in Clarendon and had no real formal education, becoming a tanner’s apprentice at age 15. For him, there was no Grand Tour - just hard work in Central New York State and Vermont.

After losing his family, Bowman built Laurel Hall and remodeled its Cemetery where he hoped to display his wealth, a high level of sophistication, and good taste. He had never seen exotic Greek and Roman antiquities, Great Masters’ paintings and sculptures, or elegant Asian architecture, but he had the cash and connections to hire someone who had.



Architect G.B. Croff, who was born in Wallingford, had traveled extensively: the UK, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Germany, and Egypt. His appreciation of

the landscapes, art, and architecture he saw is evident at Laurel Glen. Croff showed Bowman what was fashionable: the English Broad Arrow is prominent on door frames; the “meander” design based on the Turkish River Menderes appears in the Mausoleum and on chairs in the meditation room. African patterns and Asian cherry blossoms adorn wallpaper in the upstairs hall and social parlor. Paper in the main hallway features toga-clad workers in what appears to be an Egyptian field. The influence of the Grand Tour is everywhere at Laurel Glen.



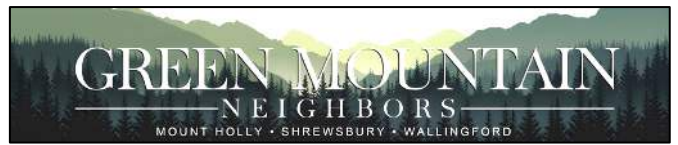
DID YOU KNOW? The wallpapers in Laurel Hall were designed and produced by F. R. Beck and Company of New York. They were world-famous for their elaborate designs, vivid colors, and embossed Lincrusta-Walton wall coverings.

Support Laurel Glen Cemetery Association of 1894 and Friends of Bowman Mansion. Send your tax-deductible donations to Friends of Bowman Mansion, P. O. Box 416 Cuttingsville, VT 05738; or, use our GoFundMe link.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/426580458623737>
Check out our website www.bomanmansion.org
Email at laurelglen.bowmanmansion@gmail.com

~Submitted by Freddie Monder



Green Mountain Neighbors has provided over 28 services to our members in Wallingford, Shrewsbury, and Mount Holly, including transporting them to appointments, attending educational events, hosting the monthly luncheon, performing small household tasks, and offering our gentle chair yoga class. Our chair yoga classes are held each Wednesday at 9:30 at the Mount Holly Community Center. We have increased in numbers each week—come and join in! The cost is \$5 for members and \$10.00 for non-members.



We also arranged a lovely snowshoeing event on one of the warmer days! We have already scheduled several informative talks for March and April, one on scams and another on financial management & creation of wills.

As our membership grows each year, so does our need for more volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a member, a supporting member, or exploring the idea of volunteering for GMN, please check out our website: greenmountainneighbors.org You can also call 802-417-2292 and listen to the prompts.

We are a 501-C3 organization run entirely by volunteers. We would love to have you participate in our efforts to help our seniors stay in the homes and towns they love as long as they are able.

“The volunteers from GMN are on time, polite, kind, and super helpful. What a wonderful service to have in our community. Lucky us!” –Cathy and Carl Mitchell

Submitted by Lois Castonguay

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SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2026 came upon us with a good old fashioned Vermont winter throughout most of January and February. With the deep cold and ample snow, it is common for the SVFD to respond to several emergency situations. This year, however, as of this writing, only two such calls were received by the department in February. The first call was for a carbon monoxide situation on Button Hill. The new Rescue One truck was able to respond easily up the narrow, steep road, and the emergency was quickly rectified. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that when accumulating in a structure can be fatal to the occupants. When responding to such a situation, the SVFD first determines that all occupants are out of the building. In this case, the family was already out, and upon arriving on scene, firefighters, donning protective breathing equipment could enter the building safely and monitor the air with special CO detectors. Detecting a high reading in the building, the department located the suspected source which appeared to be a wood stove vent. The building was ventilated back to normal, and the family was able to return after it was deemed safe by the SVFD.

The second response was on February 10 for an odor of propane in a residence on Cold River Road. Captain Russ Carrara was first to respond with Engine 2 from Northam. Once again, the situation was cleared quickly, and Russ cancelled all other SVFD equipment that was on the way.

The department feels blessed that given this cold and snowy winter, our calls have been few thus far. With care and vigilance by everyone, whether it be with heating equipment, electrical devices, driving on our roads, or being out with recreational vehicles, the best emergency is no emergency, and we are thankful for that.

That being said, the SVFD is constantly trying to stay prepared through training and maintenance. During the winter months, trainings have been held for the department indoors. A training session was held using GPS mapping on the large TV screen in Cuttingsville. Chief Phil Severy met with the department, and using GPS mapping on the screen, locations in the entire town, especially those locations that might prove to be very difficult, were viewed and discussed. A second training was again directed by the chief and was focused upon pumping, especially with the new Rescue One mini pumper. This is a necessary task as some of the procedures on the new pumper are different than those on older engines. It is important for members to understand the procedures for using all of our equipment. This was a live

training done at the dry hydrant near Spring Lake Ranch and allowed firefighters to experience and learn of the difficulties in a winter training situation.

As the month of March approaches, the SVFD will make preparations for the period of dry weather which is the spring wildfire season. This is the period of time when warmer temperatures, melted snow, and dry March winds dry out the fields and forest floors. It is also when we ask people to refrain from burning debris, or if burning is necessary, to call for a permit and advice from one of the fire wardens (Kevin Brown or Al Ridlon Jr.).

The month of March is also town meeting month and the SVFD appreciates the support of the community during this time. Fire and emergency equipment is very expensive and important, and the SVFD works diligently to keep up with equipment and vehicles. During the coming year, the department will be looking to expand station space. The tanker that was replaced by the mini pumper Rescue One, was not sold... its value is to help provide water to parts of town that are currently identified as dry areas and need to have water on wheels to respond. One of the current locations with little or no large water sources is Shrewsbury Center. Tanker Number 2 is currently in storage locally, and the department is considering its possible continued use as it is still in very good condition. Keeping it, however, will require an additional bay area being added to one of the stations, and that is currently under study by the department.



Chief Phil Severy clearing debris from a dry hydrant intake.

Members and equipment are the two most important focuses of the SVFD and are vitally important to our community. SVFD works very hard to maintain, keep taxes down, and give our town the best protection possible.

We appreciate everyone's support at town meeting time and, if possible, your physical support as well. We welcome visitors to check us out during our Thursday evening drills, maintenance, and business meetings. Members would be glad to meet you and show you what the SVFD is all about.

And for the month of March and throughout the year... Please **stay fire safe!**

~Article and photo by Bob Snarski, SVFD Safety Officer



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,

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

Want to know 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.

To suggest a book to add to our collection, please contact DONNA SWARTZ for Children's and Young Adult titles (donnaswartz44@aol.com) and JOAN ALESHIRE for Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction (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.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: Patrons: If the weather's bad, please call the library before coming out, to see if we're open: (802) 492-3410. Staffers: If you're worried about getting there, don't worry about opening the library. Others will probably be staying home too!

MANY THANKS to Former Lieutenant Governor DAVID ZUCKERMAN for his important presentation on February 6 about his Banned Books Tour, and to Library Trustees ELIJAH LaCHANCE and CABOT SPATZ for making this program possible. Libraries have been on the front lines of free speech issues in an increasing challenging cultural environment; we are proud to be part of this conversation.

Coming Events:

Saturday, March 28 @ 2p.m.: Vermont Farmer/Filmmaker GEORGE WOODARD presents "FARMING: THE GREATEST ADVENTURE NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT: An illustration of the ways his farming influenced the filming of his first feature film "The Summer of Walter Hacks." (See our ad elsewhere in this Times.)

Continuing Programs:

Sunday, March 1 @ 4 p.m.: Writers' Group meets. If you have poems or short prose pieces (stories, personal histories) to share with our supportive, friendly group, please join us. For information, contact Penelope Weiss: pw9@earthlink.com or Joan Aleshire: joanaleshire@vermontel.net.

Sunday, March 15 @ 4pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB! Our next book is the VT Reads Book for 2026, *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Books are available at the Library, thanks to the VT Humanities and to CARRIE

CLANCY, who wrote the grant application that awarded us the books. We will also spend a few minutes wrapping up our discussion of *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, by Peter Hoeg. Please contact Joan if you need copies: joanaleshire@vermontel.net.

Sunday, March 22 @ 4 p.m. SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: *Best American Science & Nature Writing 2025*. Print and e-books are available. Please contact Margery Salmon to get a copy: salmonm@vermontel.net.

New Books include:

- *Kings and Pawns: Jackie Robinson and Paul Robeson in America* by Howard Bryant: An insightful cultural history.
- *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans: A best-selling first novel about a long-lasting long-distance relationship.
- *Vigil*: A new novel by George Saunders.
- *Bernie of Burlington: The Rise of the People's Politician and One American Place* by Dan Chiasson.
- *Midnight and Blue*: The latest Inspector Rebus mystery, for Ian Rankin fans.
- *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi: A surprise best-selling debut novel about generosity and small-town connections.
- *This is Where the Serpent Lives* by Daniyal Mueeddin: A multi-generational novel about a Pakistani family.
- *Mona's Eyes* by Thomas Schlessler: An inspiring novel by a German writer about a grandfather and granddaughter working to save her eyesight.
- *The American Revolution* by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns: The companion book to the video series.

New DVDs (at Last):

- *The American Revolution*: The PBS series by Ken Burns.
- *Sinners*, directed by Ryan Coogler: The big Oscar winner.
- *Hamnet*, directed by Chloé Zhao.
- *One Battle After Another*, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.
- *Bugonia*, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, starring Emma Stone.
- *Smilla's Sense of Snow*: The 1997 movie version, with Julia Ormond.

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BOOK REVIEWS

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

Please share your book reviews. Send them to Marilyn Dalick maplesugar@comcast.net for her to compile and submit to the *Times*.

The Correspondent

By Virginia Evans

★★★★★

Thanks to this book, I learned a new word, "epistolary," a novel comprised of letters. The main character, Sybil Van Antwerp, has a life revolving around letter-writing. Sybil is a 73-year-old retired lawyer, living alone, whose letters maintain contact with her distant family, former colleagues, ex-husband, literary icons, a troubled young boy, a suitor, and a customer service representative (hilarious).

Sybil is portrayed as cantankerous, but we soon see a tender, loving side of her as well as a keen vulnerability. Reading her letters seems so intimate, almost voyeuristic. She is deadly witty, but we soon see a life not without its troubles and heartaches.

The author is 40 years old, and she has delivered an original, brilliant novel. See her in-depth interview with Katie Couric at katiecouric@substack.com (January 20, 2026).

Those of you who honor the written word will be greatly rewarded. Those of you who like a great story will also be rewarded! ~Reviewed by Marilyn Dalick

Rescheduled Due to Weather!



The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission is thrilled to invite you to the

Shrewsbury Library

Friday, February 27 at 7:00pm

to view the spectacular screening of

The Invisible Mammal

This film will make you fall in love with bats!

Yummy!

Pancake Breakfast!

With Real VT Maple Syrup

Saturday, March 21

8am-11am

at

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



\$10 Adults

\$5 ages 6-12 (children under 6 free)

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Shrewsbury Community Church

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SNO-BIRD NEWS

The Shrewsbury Sno-Birds grooming team has been very busy lately with snow coming on a regular basis. We also have had some breakdowns with the Tucker but for the most part everything at this time is running well. There are a couple of issues that will need addressing but for now we need to be running two to three times a week if possible.

There are several storms coming this week and we just got a good amount last Friday. With the warmer temps we have to do most of our grooming at night. We have been starting at 1 to 2am, but last time I was out I started at 4:45pm and got back at 4:15am! It is always at least 9 hours if you do the total contract which is roughly 72 miles. If the snow keeps coming as it has, we will be grooming and riding into April for sure.

This winter is looking like the winters I remember from years ago. A lot of riders and other users of our trails do not have a clue to how much work and time is involved. We have a good team that does what they can for the club. Last week Scott Ryan and I had to go out and retrieve a Jeep stuck on the Bailey Road. It was an easy job for the Tucker. The owner was there and as we were riding to the Jeep I asked if he saw the signs at the beginning and he said he was looking at his GPS, but when asked about the orange Road Closed Sign and snow banks, he said that he just blew through that. It was a costly mistake that he said would not happen again! We have not had to retrieve a vehicle in a few years. The tow trucks will not touch them when they are out a ways on a trail. The State Police give them my number and they call us.

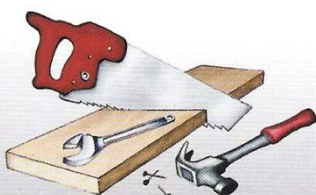
The trails are in really good shape at this time with good snow and smooth trails. People say that we have some of the best riding in the area. I know all the local clubs that border us do a very good job and work equally as hard as we do to make that happen and when we were down for couple days they both came to help us, we thank them for that! If you can, get out and enjoy the trails this snowy winter! ~by Roy Arthur



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March 17, 2025

When will it be this year?

Photo by the Roving Reporter

Mount Holly, VT

Joshua Bickford

802.855.3216

joshfbickford@gmail.com



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More Info: Ginny Buckley (802) 492-3504



The Shrewsbury Community Church



Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley

Which way do we look? Forwards or backwards?

As I write this, we are in the month of February which has Valentine's Day in it. Red roses and cards for our loved ones. A time to acknowledge and honor the romantic relationships in our lives. I'd say that no matter what the relationship is, be it personal or between institutions, countries, etc. that we all could use some love right now

For Christians we started the Lenten season as we just passed Ash Wednesday. Who indulged themselves on Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday by eating all sorts of fats? That's so we can enter Lent all ready to give something up for the next 40 plus days. This year instead of giving something up for Lent (which usually only affects us), how about we spread as much love to our neighbors as possible? Every little bit helps.

I would say that if we want to give something up that we give up making any put downs of people we disagree with, especially politically. We are each entitled to our own opinions. We have no right to judge how others lead their lives. If we are really concerned about them, how about we pray for them? We can always pass on goodwill through prayer. No one needs to know. We might just feel a little bit better. Peace and Blessings to all,

~Submitted by *Pastor Karen Braeutigam*

Pancake Breakfast Proceeds: What is the Community Sharing Project used for? We use this fund during the holiday season to help our neighbors in Shrewsbury. This year \$50 Walmart Gift Cards were purchased for 22 children to buy necessities such as: boots, coats, or warm clothing. \$50 Aldi Grocery Gift Cards were given to 16 families for holiday meals. Please come and eat pancakes, bacon, and sausage with real local maple syrup from Maple Crest Farm on March 21 to help us continue this project!



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- Ribeyes	- Chicken Breasts
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- Sausages	- Local Eggs

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Shrewsbury Community Church Calendar

Sun, March 1, 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service and Holy Communion led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam

Sun, March 8, 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam

Sun, March 15, 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam

Sat. March 21, 8:00am-11:00am Come One Come All! Community Pancake Breakfast Shrewsbury Meeting House. Proceeds to benefit the Community Sharing Project

Sun, March 22, 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam

Tues, March 24, 12:00 noon Prayer Shawl Group. Upstairs in Meeting House. All are welcome! Dessert, coffee, and tea served. Bring a bag lunch if you like. Come and we will teach you to knit or crochet! For info call Roxanne 802-492-3675.

Sun, March 29, 10:30am Fun Day Program for kids. Palm Sunday Worship Service led by Pastor Karen Braeutigam

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 Julanne Sharrow 802-492-3361, or Sue Kelley 802-492-3738, 802-779-4360
- Community Helping Hand Requests: Contact 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 Shrewsbury Conservation Commission invites you to



Living With Bears!!!
Friday, March 13, at 7:00pm
 at the Shrewsbury Library

We are excited to view a mother bear and her cubs scampering across the road but less enthused when meeting a huge one exiting our garage with a trail of upturned garbage cans and refuse behind it – or worse, finding your car windows bashed in from where a bear tried to access garbage bags inside that had been destined for the dump. All of the above occurred in this writer’s neighborhood recently!

Tom Gieder, Wildlife Specialist with the USDA Wildlife Services, will lead a presentation and discussion about Vermont’s black bears and what individuals and communities can do to better share Shrewsbury with these curious and powerful animals. He will discuss bear biology, ecology, the factors that bring bears too close to our homes, and what we can do to prevent future conflicts with bears. Tom will be presenting on identifying bear attractants, securing attractants, and keeping bears wild. He will also discuss USDA Wildlife Services’ new role in combating human wildlife conflicts and other services he provides to the public

Tom Gieder has been a Wildlife Specialist with USDA Wildlife Services since 2017. He holds a B.S degree from Penn State University in Wildlife and Fishery Science. Prior to working for Wildlife Services, he worked for 12 years managing and researching various wildlife across the United States, from deer, turkeys, shorebirds, fox, bear, and many others. He currently works with human wildlife conflict in Vermont, mostly concentrated on bear conflicts.

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

Winter Break ❄️

We’re taking a quick trip to visit friends & family (and prepare for a new baby!).

The shop will be closed 2/26-3/5.

Hoping to shop during that time or having a maple syrup emergency? Text/Call us at (802) 772-0507 to ask about our **VIP shopping program**.

March 21st 10 am to 12pm:

High Tea & Hand Stitching at Wally’s Corner 🌸

Join us for a cozy morning at Wally’s Corner – sip beautiful teas, enjoy sweet treats, and relax with an embroidery hoop in hand. Perfect for beginners and seasoned stitchers alike. 🍷 Seating is limited, so RSVP by emailing us hello@wallyscorner.com.



Irish Pop-up at Pierce’s Store
 Music by Marcos Levy
Saturday, March 21 @ 4:30 - 6pm

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SHREWSBURY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Important Dates:

- 2/23-2/27: February Break
- 2/26: Annual MRUUSD Budget Meeting 7pm MRU Library
- 2/28: Shrewsbury Town Information Meeting 11am
- 3/3: (Snow Date March 4) Mill River Unified Union School District Music in Our Schools Celebration
- 3/3: Town Meeting Day - please come out and vote!
- 3/6: Green Mountain Music District 5 Festival hosted at Mill River Union High School
- 3/12-13: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3/13: No school for students

Music in Our Schools Event: The annual "Music in Our Schools" celebration is a day where our district elementary and middle school band and chorus students come together to rehearse and perform two identical concerts at 10:30am and 12:30pm. The concerts also include performances from some of the MRU Honors ensembles. The two concerts will be 45 minutes in length. Our K-6 students from all four elementary schools attend one of the performances to introduce them to our school district's program and the educational opportunities they have to learn and perform music. Families of the performers and community members are also invited to attend.

Green Mountain Music District 5 Music Festivals: We are so proud of our two students, Alannah Severy and Quinnten Severy, who auditioned and were selected to perform in the GMMDV Middle School District Festivals. Quinnten sang in the Middle School Chorus on February 13 and Alannah will perform with the Middle School Band on March 6. Congratulations to Alannah and Quinnten!

Singing Valentines: The Mill River Chamber Singers delivered Singing Valentines to Shrewsbury Mountain School! Our students enjoyed hearing the song "Higher and Higher" and celebrating Valentine's Day!

Athletic News! Spring Sports sign-ups are in full swing for our upcoming sports season. We will be offering baseball and softball for our grade 3-6 students. Athletic Director Chance Fee and I are thrilled to share with you the following students who have participated in the Fall and Winter Sports through our combined MRUUSD Elementary Sports Program this year. We are so proud of their dedication to their teams!

- Grade 5 and 6 Basketball Girls: Kayla Carrara, Kahlan Catellier, Ruby Knudsen, Isabelle Park, Eliza Sharrow, Netti Wilson
- Grade 3 and 4 Basketball Boys: Cooper Aines, Wyatt Joslin, Brady Park
- Grade 5 and 6 Basketball Boys: Jacob Czarnecki, Joey Fitzgerald, Leium Forrest, Gavin Joslin, Quinnten Severy, Callahan Van Dien

- Grade 3 and 4 Soccer Boys: Cooper Aines, Wyatt Joslin, Brady Park, Everett Smith
- Grade 5 and 6 Soccer Boys: Christian Brooks, Leium Forrest, Gavyn Joslin, Callahan Van Dien
- Grade 5 and 6 Soccer Girls: Kayla Carrara, Annabel MacGregor, Isabelle Park, Eliza Sharrow, Netti Wilson

MRUUSD School Board now has a Facebook page. Please follow us to find announcements about future meetings and links to information from your school board at Mill River Board <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581888142135> I am always available to support our school families and connect with community members. Please contact me at 802-78 6-3995 or at kcimonetti@millriverschools.org if you have any questions or concerns.

~Kristin Cimonetti, Principal



Late winter is a pivotal moment in the apple orchard—a quiet season that sets the stage for spring's burst of growth. While trees are still dormant, it's the ideal time for structural pruning to improve light penetration and airflow, remove dead or diseased wood, and shape young trees for long-term strength. This is also the window to inspect for overwintering pests and repair fencing or trellising. SAGE will be joining Ms. Levin's 3rd and 4th graders again this year to celebrate the spring equinox with a pruning and care session in the Mountain School orchard! A little focused attention now supports healthier blossoms, better fruit set, and a more abundant harvest in the season ahead.

On the other side of campus, the 5th and 6th grade class have been care-taking the compost through the ups and downs of winter weather. So far, we have hit a high temperature of 82 degrees in February! This is a higher temp than we managed last winter, and we are hopeful that the warmer season ahead will supercharge the compost activity.

Back down the hill at the Russellville Schoolhouse, we continue to jam. Come join us on the second Saturday of the month through the winter and lend your voice, your ear or an instrument, commonplace or obscure, to the jam! Our next music share will be on March 14.

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



Reinbow Riding Center is excited to announce the addition of Julia Adams as its new full-time Instructor and Program Director. Julia is an 8th generation Vermonter with deep roots in Rutland County. She is a graduate of both Rutland High School and Castleton University and has worked in public education for the last 13 years, in addition to running her own small business.

As a youth Julia grew up very involved in the University of Vermont (UVM) 4-H horse program and then volunteered as a 4-H leader in Rutland County. As a leader at the state level, she coached Vermont teams in communications and horse bowl. Julia is an "A" carded New England 4-H Horse Show Judge and over the last decade has traveled New England to share her equine knowledge by judging Open shows, 4-H shows, and also the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA), the Youth Equestrian Development Association (YEDA), and the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA). Still an Open professional rider herself, Julia enjoys riding and competing with her own American Quarter Horse, Billy. She will combine her talents of teaching, coaching, and



horsemanship to bring fun, educational, and holistic experiences to all of Reinbow Riding Center's participants. Reinbow looks forward to a wonderful season with Julia taking the reins of the program!

The mission of Reinbow Riding Center is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and/or cognitive challenges through a customized therapeutic equine experience. Reinbow Riding Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2008. We strive to meet the needs of every individual that participates in our therapeutic

horsemanship programs, mounted or unmounted, regardless of their ability to pay.

Reinbow recently earned a 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level awarded, from CANDID, an independent organization that ranks non-profits. To learn more about the various ways to make a contribution, go to: reinbowridingcenter.org/support-us.

For info about volunteer opportunities with us, you can learn more and apply here: reinbowridingcenter.org/volunteer for more info visit our website at: reinbowridingcenter.org.

Follow us on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn social media channels! Mailing address: P.O. Box #395, Shrewsbury, VT 05738

Seasonal riding facility physical address by appointment only: 892 Tarbellville Road, Belmont, VT
www.ReinbowRidingCenter.org

~Submitted by Diane Stockton-Breese

Shrewsbury Musicians in Philharmonic Concerts



The Champlain Philharmonic will be presenting its Spring Concert Series at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Saturday, March 28 at 7:30pm and at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland on Sunday, March 29 at 4pm. This community orchestra

has several loyal Shrewsbury fans and includes three townspeople, Kristi Bragg, Megan LaChance, and Roxanne Ramah.

The Champlain Philharmonic will feature a diverse selection of works including Fanfare by Vermont composer Erik Nielsen and Gwyneth Walker's Let America Be America Again, a powerful musical setting of the Langston Hughes poem featuring narrator Al Wakefield who is known in Shrewsbury for his flute and sax music at Pierce's Garage. The orchestra will also perform select movements from Lee Johnson's Dead Symphony No. 6, a brilliant tribute to the music of the Grateful Dead, including nods to "St. Stephen", "Sugar Magnolia", and "China Doll". Concluding the performance will be Dvorak's beloved Symphony No. 9 (From the New World).

Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 seniors (60+), \$5 students and are available in advance or at the door. If at the door in Rutland, bring cash or check, no credit cards. For more info, visit www.champlainphilharmonic.org.

~Submitted by Roxanne Ramah

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Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

Trail Camera Picture of the month



No Privacy!

Following wildlife tracks can lead to some interesting finds that teach us about animal behavior. I followed bobcat tracks recently which led me to a bobcat scrape. I was lucky that the bobcat stopped in front of my camera to demonstrate the digging, covering and paw scraping routine while depositing a

scat. The scrape marks the bobcat's territory and leaves scent as mating season approaches.



Thanks to Bob Snarski for sending in a picture of a barred owl. The owl was near the Town Office Building and calmly posed while Bob took a photo!



If you have a picture of a track or wildlife to share, please send them to Linda Shelvey. lpurdyshel@gmail.com



Blue Jay Snow Angel

Right after a fresh snow, Bob Snarski took this prize photo!

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therapeutic community

Winter Recreation at SLR

Through snow and subzero chill, Ranchers have enjoyed a variety of different outdoor activities. They've taken multiple trips to Pico Mountain for skiing and snowboarding; learned to cross-country ski and snowshoe on the front lawn and taken those skills on our trails; and cleared off a couple feet of snow for ice skating on the lake. No time for winter blues when you're having this much fun!



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Saturday, March 21, 2026

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Come stock up on Maple Syrup and Grassfed Beef at local farm pricing!*

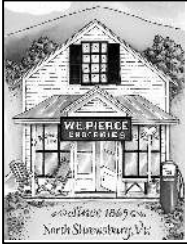


- Sample our Award Winning Syrup
- Syrup Boiling Demo (weather permitting)
- Sugar-on-snow
- Maple Cotton Candy
- Refreshments

- Pancake Breakfast by and in support of Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project
- Enjoy our VT Maple Syrup on a stack of their pancakes from 8:00AM - 11:00AM at the Shrewsbury Meeting House
(right across the street from our farm)

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PIERCE'S STORE

802-492-3326

www.piercesstore.com

Hours: 8am to 6pm

Closed Mondays

News from the Pierce's Store Board:

March is here and I'm having trouble acclimating to the weather change. I'd actually gotten used to making sure I was wearing long johns and a sweater under my down coat to head outside for the smallest thing, but Spring is almost here and I have lots of little things to share with you.

Pierce's will be celebrating the coming of Spring with a contest centered on the melting of the snow pile in front of the house porch - read the details on our website, at the store, and in the ad elsewhere in this issue of the Times.

March will also be seeing our earliest music event of the year. **Marcos Levy will play at our Irish Pop-Up on March 21 @ 4:30 - 6pm.** There will be Irish food, beer, and wine available for sale.

Memberships are renewable starting January 1. If you have been thinking of joining, please do. Volunteer at the store and become even more involved. If interested, please talk to either Harry or Elana, our managers, or leave your name and number, if they are not in the store at the moment. In fact, everyone should visit the store if you haven't been in a bit or maybe never. You will be surprised by the variety of items for sale. The managers are working hard to carry what the store needs to stock so that people don't have to drive to Rutland to get milk or that box of pasta, local hamburger and sausage for a wonderful sauce, salad makings, and a great bottle of wine. **Fun fact, our milk is cheaper than at Hannaford's and our wine prices are highly competitive.**

Our Annual Meeting will be on March 5 at 6pm. There will be a potluck supper at 5pm. Reminder that to vote at the meeting you must be a member. We will be selling memberships before the meeting for those who want to vote and need to join or renew their memberships. There are 3 positions to fill at the meeting. Jeff Monder is leaving the board after many years of serving as Secretary. He will be greatly missed--thank you Jeff. Both Paul Titterton and Ed Sawyer, are willing to serve another term and we are happy to announce that Stacy Harshman is willing to join the board. We are excited to share her experiences in marketing her store. So that's it for me this month. I hope I see you all at the store. *~Submitted by Adrienne Raymond, Board Member*

Pierce's Annual Meeting Potluck Supper

The Annual Meeting is at 6pm – come at 5pm with a dish to share with your fellow co-op members. The Board will have iced water, coffee, and limited paper products on hand. If you'd like to attend the potluck as a friend of the store, remember you must be a Co-op member to vote at the Annual Meeting.

We'll be happy to sign you up as a new or renewing member before the meeting starts.

Submitted by Adrienne Raymond



Pierce's 3rd Annual EASTER EGG HUNT

~~~ For children ages 1 month to 12 years~~~

**\*\*NEW\*\*** A special Egg Garden for 6 years & younger

### Saturday, April 4 @ 10am

### at Pierce's Store

Meet in Pierce's Store garage driveway

**125 Eggs stuffed with prizes**

**2 "Golden" Eggs**

Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and hot cider donated by Brown's Cider in Castleton

See you there!

### SHREWSBURY COOPERATIVE AT PIERCE'S STORE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING March 5, 2026

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3.4 of the Bylaws of the Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's store (SCPS), notice is hereby given that the 16th Annual Meeting of the Owners will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6pm in the evening at the Shrewsbury Meeting House/Town Hall on Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury, Vermont.

The purpose of the meeting is to report to our members on the operations and finances of SCPS in 2025 and to consider the following:

- \* Election/re-election of members to the Board for three-year terms that will expire in 2029.

Ed Sawyer - Term Expiring, Running for reelection

Paul Titterton - Term Expiring, Running for reelection

Open Position - Term Expiring

Only persons who are member owners prior to the commencement of the meeting are entitled to vote.

Each shareowner\* has one and only one vote on each matter submitted, despite the actual number of shares owned.

Dated: January 20, 2026

Ed Sawyer, President, Board of Directors  
Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store

- A "shareowner" is defined as a household, regardless of the number of shares owned: thus only one vote per household is permitted.
- For those who are interested and would like to participate, a potluck dinner will be held at 5pm (one hour prior to the meeting)

The Times of Shrewsbury  
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