



# Times of Shrewsbury



February 2022

## ANOTHER CHANGE AT THE POST OFFICE

Shrewsbury first had a postmaster in 1809 — that was Stephen Gleason, who held the position until 1846. Before then, people traveled to Rutland to collect their mail. Over the years, five different post offices existed in town — “at the Center, Finneyville, Cuttingsville, North Shrewsbury, and Cold River.” At first, postriders would carry mail between Rutland and Shrewsbury. Eventually, mail carriers began delivering newspapers and mail to people adjoining their routes.

Arguably, postal rates are far lower today, even after recent increases, than they were nearly two centuries ago, when a letter from Shrewsbury to Rutland cost six cents — in 2022 money, those six cents would be worth nearly two dollars.

Most early Postmasters had offices in their homes, but in later years, they were located at various stores in town.

The Shrewsbury Center post office closed in 1909, leaving only the Cuttingsville location.



*Charles E. Pitts mail carrier in Northam, Vermont c.1900 on the Cold River Road headed to Rutland. The Northam cheese factory is in in the background.*

*Photo from Marjorie Pierce Archives*



Friday, January 14, 2022, marked the final day of Ann Hansen’s service managing the Cuttingsville post office, as a series of people came to say goodbye. Ann spent seven years working for the Postal Service, beginning in Mount Holly, and also serving in Wallingford, East Wallingford, and Belmont, as well as

Cuttingsville. And now she is retiring. Asked which was her favorite post office to work in, Ann replied with a laugh, “Cuttingsville was the best, but don’t tell the others!”

Ann grew up in Connecticut and began skiing there with her brother. For many years, she commuted to work at Aetna, in Hartford, Connecticut, but her love for skiing brought her frequently to Okemo, and to Mount Holly, to which she moved permanently several years ago. After settling into Mount Holly, Ann attended an Okemo job fair, looking for an office job, but instead she was hired as a ski instructor! Ann found her niche there teaching adult women how to ski. That job ended during a vacation ski trip to Switzerland, though, nine years ago when

she broke her leg. Upon her return, while collecting her mail, Ann learned that the Post Office was hiring. Our good luck!

For eight years, Ann has enjoyed working in our area post offices. Asked what’s best about it, she replied, “There’s something different every day, and always something to do”. But Ann’s been longing to resume her skiing trips, and she plans to begin retirement by spending at least the next three months skiing more...and a lot!

Activity at the Cuttingsville Post Office has been busy during the pandemic, as people have been pent up indoors, digging through their closets and mailing more and more packages, family photographs and memorabilia to each other. During these difficult past two years, many Shrewsbury residents have found the Post Office to be one of the few available places in town to visit and find someone friendly to talk with, even though we all have been wearing masks and talking with Ann through a plastic barrier.

Removing her mask momentarily, at the conclusion of her tenure and two years of COVID restraints, Ann paused to provide a goodbye photograph and laughed again: “Nobody’s seen my smile!”

*Article by Chuck Finberg  
(Historical information from “Shrewsbury, Vermont: Our Town As It Was” by Dawn Hance*



# Annual Town Meeting Election

## Tuesday March 1, 2022

Polls Open 10:00am – Close 7:00pm  
Shrewsbury Community Meeting House

### Shrewsbury Informational Meeting will be held at a date and time to be determined.

Please be on the lookout for this information in the Annual Town Report and on the Town Website ([www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)) in the coming weeks.

**Volunteers needed!** If you are interested in assisting at the Polls during the day or assisting in counting ballots in the evening on March 1, please call or email the Town Clerk (492-3511 [shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:shrewsburyclerk@vermontel.net)).  
Poll Workers: 3-hour shifts and first shift starts 9:30am.

**Voter Registration:** Contact the Town Clerk or register on-line: <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us/>

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballot request: Contact the Town Clerk or on-line: <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>  
Ballots are expected to be available sometime during the first week of February.

Absentee ballots can be returned through (1) the mail, (2) delivery to the Drop Box at the Town Office by 3:00pm on Monday, February 28, or (3) by bringing it to the polls before 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

### Vermont State Senators:

Brian Collamore: [bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us)  
Cheryl Hooker: [chooker@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:chooker@leg.state.vt.us)  
Josh Terenzini [jterenzini@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jterenzini@leg.state.vt.us)

### Vermont State House of Representative:

Logan Nicoll: [lnicoll@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:lnicoll@leg.state.vt.us)

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

### United States Senators:

#### Senator Patrick Leahy

[www.leahy.senate.gov/contact](http://www.leahy.senate.gov/contact)  
Vermont Office: (802) 229-0569  
Washington office: (202) 224-4242

#### Senator Bernie Sanders

[www.sanders.senate.gov/contact](http://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact)  
Vermont Office: (800) 339-9834  
Washington D. C. Office:  
(202) 224-5141; Fax (202) 228-0776

### United States House of Representative:

#### Representative Peter Welch

<https://welch.house.gov/contact>  
Vermont Office: (802) 652-2450 or (888) 605-7270  
Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 225-4115

Revised 8/1/2021

### The Times of Shrewsbury

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

All submissions must be accompanied by the name of the submitting person and are printed at the editors' discretion subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters to the Editor exceeding 350 words will be subject to editing for length. Any information piece or informational political letters (without specific party or vote appeal) will be subject to the guidelines previously described. A writer of a letter that names a Shrewsbury resident or organization in a critical manner must get copies to the resident or organization, and to the *Times* by the 10th of the month prior to publication or it will not run. If the named person or organization indicates in writing to the writer and to the *Times* that they choose not to respond, the letter will run. If the named entity responds, the response and initial letter will run in the same issue.

There is no charge for: jokes, poems, nature reports, family event announcements, or feature articles or letters that are not commercial.

Articles and Advertisements: Deadline for submission is 5pm on the 20th of the month prior to publication; exceptions will be announced in the prior month's *Times*. Ads in the *Times* are for area businesses, local non-profit events, and local ballot election advertisements.

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

Monthly advertising fees and relative sizes:

|               |      |                                    |
|---------------|------|------------------------------------|
| Full page     | \$90 | (7.5"w x 9.5"h)                    |
| Half page     | \$50 | (7.5"w x 4.5"h or 3.5"w x 9.5"h)   |
| Quarter page  | \$10 | (7.5"w x 2.5" h; or, 3.5"wx 4.5"h) |
| Business card | \$5  | (3.5"w x 2"h)                      |
| Classified ad | \$3  | (15 words or less)                 |

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

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

Email: [shrewsburytimes@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburytimes@gmail.com) Online: [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org) & [www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.Com](http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.Com)

## SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

|               |          |   |
|---------------|----------|---|
| <b>Jan 26</b> |          | <b>Transfer Station closed Wednesday, January 26, but will be open Sunday, January 30</b> |
| Jan 26        | 5pm      | Last day for a candidate to withdraw. Must notify the Town Clerk in writing               |
| Feb 10        | 6pm      | *Pierce's Board meeting via Zoom  |
| Feb 20        | 4pm      | *Famous Books Book Club discussion via Zoom   |
| Feb 24        | 7pm      | *Mill River Union Unified School District Annual meeting at MRUHS library                 |
| Feb 26        | 10-12    | *Wildlife Tracking at the Meeting House   |
| Feb 27        | 4pm      | *Science Book Club discussion via Zoom  |
| TBA           | TBA      | *Informational Meeting; see Annual Report or town website for more info                   |
| Mar 1         | 10am-7pm | *Annual Town Election at the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road          |
| Mar 10        | TBA      | *Pierce's Annual Meeting at the Meeting House   |

\*see elsewhere in newsletter for details

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY  
online at  
[www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)  
and  
[www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com)



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

### REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Board of Selectman Meeting                | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – 7pm at Town Office      |
| Bone Builders                             | Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9am at Meeting House                            |
| Development Review Board                  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed -7pm at Town Office; check town website for agenda |
| Library Trustees Meeting                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – 7pm at Shrewsbury Library                    |
| Mill River Unified Union School Board Mtg | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 7pm @ MRHS & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. 7pm location TBA |
| Planning Commission                       | 2n & 4th Tuesdays 7pm at Town Office                                   |
| Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)    | Sundays – 10am via Zoom; contact wildernessfriends@gmail.com           |
| Shrewsbury Community Church               | Sundays – 10:30am - Worship service – Shrewsbury Center Church         |
| Shrewsbury Community Church               | Sundays – 10:30am - Kids Funday Program - Shrewsbury Center Church     |
| Shrewsbury Conservation Commission        | Postponed till 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in February '22. Details TBA    |
| Shrewsbury Historical Society             | Postponed until further notice   |
| Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum      | Closed until further notice; Call 492-3324 for more information        |
| Shrewsbury Singers                        | Currently taking a break   |
| Shrewsbury Sno-Birds                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – 7pm at Southside Steakhouse in Rutland       |
| Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department      | Thursdays – 7pm at the Cuttingsville Station                           |

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

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Clerk's Office         | 492-3511 Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm; Closed Friday  |
| Town Garage            | 492-3656 (Follow prompts to report roadway blockage on non-work days)  |
| Listers                | 492-2009 available by appointment  |
| Treasurer's Office     | 492-3558 or 492-3487 Monday 9am-11am   |
| Transfer Station       | 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 <a href="mailto:julanne@vermontel.net">julanne@vermontel.net</a>  |
| News Flash Email List: | <a href="mailto:vtbenbeano@gmail.com">vtbenbeano@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:benbeano@vermontel.net">benbeano@vermontel.net</a> [Urgent and reminder news info] |

Cuttingsville Post Office 492-3585 Window Hours Mon–Fri 7:30am–10:30am & 11:30am–2:30pm; Sat 8am–11am.  
Lobby Hours Mon– Fri 7:00am–7:00pm and Sat 7:00am–4pm

|   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Animal Control Officer: Vacant (Contact a Selectboard member) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Constable: TBA             | Game Warden: Tim Carey 793-2776 |
| Emergency Management Aaron Korzun 492-3362                    | Green Mountain Power outage 1-800-451-2877 |                                 |
| Medical-Police-Fire Emergency Dial 911                        | Ambulance 773-1700                         | Rutland Hospital 775-7111       |

## SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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

### **December 1, 2021: Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

Present at the meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt.  
Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order by A. Korzun at 7:01 PM.  
Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds:** The Selectboard authorizes Linda McGuire to put the ARPA funds into the Marcus savings account in order to get a better interest rate. Discussed documentation requirements from Pierce's for qualifying for ARPA funds. Waiting from VLCT on the minimum requirements.  
Aaron will contact Megan about digitizing town records. Discussed possible ideas for using ARPA funds. Check VLTC website for possible use and exclusions for ARPA funds.

**Town Building Maintenance:** Discussed possible heating system changes at the town office in the future. Discussed town garage heating system. Need new sills in one corner of the old part of the town office.

**New Business:** The Selectboard is OK with the Town Clerk making use of a UVM intern to help with administrative duties as part of their course work.

**Review 11/17/21 Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to accept the minutes from the 11/17/21 meeting. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

**Review Orders:** Motion made by S. Nicholson to correct Selectboard Order #11 to \$8,122.74 and Road Order #11 to \$10,852.37 and Selectboard Order 11a to \$4,500.59 and to accept Selectboard Order #12 for \$2,427.44 and Roads Order #12 for \$18,842.50. F. Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm.  
*Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt*  
*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

### **December 15, 2021: Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Present at the meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt.  
Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order by A. Korzun at 7:02 PM.  
Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: appointment of a new Planning Commissioner, excess weight permit, and current use changes. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds:** Discussed possible uses of ARPA funds.

**Excess Weight Permit:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve an excess weight permit from the A. Johnson Company. S. Nicholson seconded. All approved.

**Planning Commission:** A. Korzun moved to accept Hunter Berryhill's resignation from the Planning Commission as of 12/31/21 and to appoint Ryan Fitzbeauchamp as a new Planning Commission member as of 12/15/21. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.  
The Selectboard would like to thank Hunter Berryhill for his service to the town and thank Ryan Fitzbeauchamp for stepping forward to join the Planning Commission.

**Current Use Changes:** The Selectboard acknowledges the current use changes for Gillian Gaines, Stewart Enterprises, and Warren Gardner.

Budget 2022: Discussed various budget items.

New Business: None

**Review 12/1/21 Minutes:** S. Nicholson made a motion to accept the minutes from the 12/1/21 meeting. A. Korzun seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

**Review Orders:** Motion made by S. Nicholson to accept Selectboard Order #12A for \$3,999.50 and Roads Order #12A for \$17,189.89. F. Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM.

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

### **January 5, 2022: Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**Present at the meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt. Delinquent Tax Collector: Ed Hemmer. Road Commissioner: Jamie Carrara.  
Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order by A. Korzun at 7:03pm.  
Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following addition: Excess weight permit. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Delinquent Tax Collector Report:** Ed Hemmer reported on the status of delinquent taxes. Delinquent taxes of \$34,811.02 still to be collected to date.

**Excess Weight Permit:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve an excess weight permit for Rick Colburn Logging. S. Nicholson seconded. Approved.

Report-VTrans Hearing on Speeding in Cuttingsville: VTrans agreed to make the speed limit on Rte 103 from Spring Lake Road to South of Cuttingsville 35 MPH. Need to check with VTrans when they think it will happen. Also, VTrans was interested in discussing signage indicating Spring Lake Road when approaching from the north.

**Budget 2022:** Discussed road expenses with Jamie Carrara. Discussed various budget items.

**ARPA Funds:** Discussed which new copier/printer to get. SymQuest first cost for a Konica is \$5,830.09, with service



## SHREWSBURY SELECTBOARD MINUTES

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agreement for \$30.12/month, which includes connectivity support. Magee first cost for a Savin is \$4,699.00, with service agreement for \$240/yr (connectivity support is additional \$495 for 8 hrs). A. Korzun made a motion to choose SymQuest because of their current relationship with the Town and known reliability of service. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved 2-1.

**New Business:** Annette Parrish has resigned as a Meeting House Trustee. The Selectboard would like to thank Annette for her service to the town.

**Review 12/15/21 Minutes:** S. Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/15/21 meeting. A. Korzun seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

**Review Orders:** Motion made by S. Nicholson to accept Selectboard Order #1 for \$5,980.98, Roads Order #1 for \$21,277.07, correction to Selectboard Order #12A to \$4,047.80 from \$3,999.50. F. Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:13pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt*

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

### January 19, 2022: Selectboard Meeting Minutes

**Present at the meeting:** Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt. Road Commissioner: Jamie Carrara. Fire Department: Barry Griffith. Treasurer: Linda McGuire. Members of the Public: None

Meeting called to order by A. Korzun at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following addition: Excess weight permit. F. Wyatt seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Shrewsbury Vol. Fire Dept. – Tax Exempt Status:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve the Petition to Include Article in Town Meeting Day Warning to Continue to Exempt Town Fire Stations from Property Taxation.

“Shall the voters vote to exempt from property taxes for a period of five years the properties (fire stations) owned by the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department, which are located at 23 Shunpike Road and 8900 Cold River Road, and which are used by said Fire Department exclusively for the purposes of said organization?” S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Approved.

**Petition for Ballot Item – Radiofrequency Radiation Change Notification:** The Selectboard received a petition for the town meeting ballot and signed by 53 voters from the Town of Shrewsbury. A. Korzun made a motion to add the following article to the warning. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Approved.

“Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be required, following notification from the Public Utility Commission, to inform its

residents when sources of radiofrequency radiation, such as that emitted from cell towers and antennas are being proposed for installation or modification within the town limits?”

**Excess Weight Permit:** The Selectboard received an excess weight permit from Newport Sand and Gravel. A. Korzun made a motion to approve. S. Nicholson seconded. Approved.

**Budget 2022:** S. Nicholson made a motion to put the 2020 Highway Supplement of \$35,504.97 and 2021 Highway Supplement of \$7,608.08 into a restricted use fund and put the ARPA funds of \$146,922.15 into its own restricted use fund. F. Wyatt seconded. All in favor. Approved.

S. Nicholson made a motion to transfer from the Town Equipment Sinking Fund to the General Fund for the 2021 loader lease payment of \$47,446.94. F. Wyatt seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Discussed the roads budget items with Jamie Carrara. Discussed various town budget items.

**ARPA Funds:** No discussion

**New Business:** Question about what type of informational meeting, in person or remote, was brought up and will be discussed at the first February meeting.

**Review 1/5/22 Minutes:** A. Korzun made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/5/22 meeting. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

**Review Orders:** Motion made by A. Korzun to accept Selectboard Order #1A for \$4,888.29, Roads Order #1A for \$8,487.57. F. Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting Recessed at 10:02 PM, until 1/26/22 at 6:00 PM at the Town Office.

*Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt*

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

*Editor’s Note: The minutes have been edited for brevity but not content. For complete minutes, go to the Town website [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org)*



**Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 35 MPH on all Shrewsbury roads effective January 16, 2022.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### “The Right to Know” Question

We write today in support of “The Right to Know” question on this year’s town ballot. We hope others will vote “yes” on this question, as well. The state requires that the Selectboard be informed anytime there is a new source of radiofrequency radiation within our town limits. Voting “yes” will simply mean that the citizens of Shrewsbury will be included as recipients of that information as well,

This information will help those with radiofrequency sensitivities to make important choices for their health and comfort. And, should the small possibility of an emergency ever arise, people will be better equipped to address their individual situations.

A number of towns have this initiative on their ballots. We feel very positive about the public’s involvement and encourage all to vote “yes”. ~Sincerely, Philippe and Linda Ducrot

### Greetings Fellow Shrewsberries,

On the ballot this year is a “Right to Know” article regarding information our town already receives in accordance with state law from the Public Utility Commission. It asks that any notices be forwarded to residents if pertaining to new sources or modifications to existing infrastructure that emit radiofrequency radiation within Shrewsbury town limits.

It is my hope that having this information available could prove beneficial should adverse situations occur. Whether decades down the road, as happened in Bennington with PFOA contaminated groundwater from Chemfab, or for those with current health issues when around electromagnetic radiation, it would offer a point in time for reference if needed.

Looking over the New Hampshire State Report on 5G I found the eight questions that the New Hampshire legislature charged the Commission with investigating to be alarming. Reading the report’s 15 recommendations left me thinking; can I do

something meaningful for our town? What can we in Shrewsbury do in preparation for the changes heading our way?

I urge you to look at the report, keeping in mind that the 13 Commission members included staff from the NH Dept. of Public Health and Attorney General’s offices, a PhD electrical engineer, an MD and a tech industry insider, along with legislators and others. It is an extremely transparent document, and includes links to much scientific research on the subject. <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1474/reports/5G%20final%20report.p df>

Having delved into this realm with other residents while pushing for safety changes to Vermont’s 10 Year Telecom Plan and working to correct our E 911 reporting failures a few years back, I find it no surprise that the NH Commission concluded the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is a “captured” agency and “is dominated by the industry it presumably regulates.” [https://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency\\_alster.pdf](https://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency_alster.pdf)

To me that is a big red flag and another reason we need to be well informed! Please vote YES on March 1, or before, if voting by absentee ballot. ~Sincerely, Martha Sirjane

### School Board

I am writing this letter in support of Adrienne Raymond who is running for re-election to the Mill River district school board. As a former school board member, I worked with Adrienne for eight years. I can tell you Adrienne is incredibly hard working and absolutely committed to our community. She has a wealth of knowledge that really is unparalleled.

The district superintendent recently stepped down to take a new job out of state. The school board now must add a superintendent search to its already full agenda of tasks and responsibilities. Having led several searches, I know how involved this is and how critical it is to have experienced board members involved in the search. Shrewsbury needs Adrienne to continue to provide guidance and expertise to the board. I strongly urge you to vote for her.

Submitted by Helen Richards-Peelle

### PTO Holiday Cheer Fundraiser

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our Shrewsbury Mountain School PTO Holiday Cheer fundraiser! What a remarkably generous and supportive community in which to live. Happy New Year to all!

Submitted by Amy Leah de Camp-Thomas

**MELLEN & SONS**  
802-492-3931

- Official state inspection center
- Call for appointment
- Snow plowing - sand & salt available
- Lawn care
- Small excavating
- Call for estimates

ALSO: RUTLAND & SURROUNDING TOWNS

220 Stewart Lane, Shrewsbury, VT 05738  
(Off Town Hill Rd., 1/4 Mile from Rt. 103)  
Shop: 802-492-3931 | Jon: 802-353-4536 | 802-558-1958 | 802-558-2123



### Bone Builders

9-10am

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

Join us to improve your  
Bones, Balance, and Strength





## MESSAGE FROM MONTEPELIER

Hello from Montpelier, once again. The legislative session has resumed and for the first time since March 2020, we are mostly in person, with many of us physically in Montpelier in the State House, including myself writing this right now. There are still options for members to be remote and vote remotely if COVID circumstances in their lives require it, and masks are required in the building at all times, but it is exciting for things to be getting closer to something like normal.

As always, everything is immediately moving very quickly here. This is sort of an abnormally big year for the legislature, although so far in my time in the legislature each year has felt unique in its own way.

This year the uniqueness comes from redistricting, with the state receiving the data from the decennial US census. Based on that data, we know that the ideal population for a single-member house district is now 4,287 (based on the state population 643,077 divided by 150 representatives). For reference, based on the new census data our district now has 4,653 residents, which is 8.5% more than the ideal size. So, our district may look a little different in the next election. Although I will caution it is still VERY early in the process, so a lot of things WILL still change. But there are a couple different district map proposals out there, with one carving out a section of Gates Road in Mount Holly from the rest of our existing district, and those residents would then vote with Wallingford, Clarendon and West Rutland for two House seats, while another proposal would put Mount Holly and Shrewsbury with Wallingford and put Ludlow with Plymouth, Andover and Weston.

All of these proposals are now in front of the House Government Operations Committee for consideration and they will be the ones to create the final map, and they will be holding public hearings for input as part of the process. While they may start with one of these maps as a base to begin their conversations, we may still end up with a completely different district than what has been proposed thus far, hopefully similar to what our district looks like now.

All of this work is going on in House Gov Ops in addition to major progress with the state employees' pension negotiations, which I plan to elaborate on more next month as that plan moves through the House.

As I said in my December article, I am still weighing resuming my coffee hours, and hope to be able to do so in the next couple months. In the meantime, I will still leave my phone number at the bottom of this article, please call or text me anytime. I rarely use Facebook but I do have an account and you can also message me on Facebook Messenger anytime. Please do not rely on emailing me exclusively, I get too much to respond to and at this point assume most of it is spam if I don't already have your email address.

*Logan Nicoll, State House of Representatives  
(Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury)  
802-345-8430*

SHREWSBURY★DAY!

Art by Grace Brigham



# SHREWSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SVFD responded to many emergency calls since December 1. There was a chimney fire on Upper Cold River Road, mutual aid to Mt Holly for a three car vehicle accident, tree and wires down on Cold River Road, tree and wires down on Route 103 with a tractor trailer stuck in downed wires, mutual aid call to Mt Holly for a structure fire, mutual aid to East Wallingford for a chimney fire, a smell of propane on Town Hill Road and another structure fire on Cold River Road.

There were a few challenges related to the Cold River Road structure fire. The SVFD responded along with our mutual aid partners from Mt Holly, Clarendon, East Wallingford, Wallingford and Rutland Town. The temperatures were in the single digits which always makes handling water a challenge! Fortunately, we did not experience any freeze-ups due to temperature but one of our tankers had a mechanical failure and was later towed to the repair shop. The driveway to the structure was uphill and extremely slippery. We parked at the bottom of the drive and hand-carried hoses, lighting, ladders, airpicks, and many tools up the driveway to the active fire. This required a lot of manpower, which was supported through our mutual aid partners.

The Shrewsbury auxiliary provided the numerous departments with hot coffee and water. Many thanks to ALL of the responding department personnel.

It is important driveways are open and sanded for emergency vehicles. The 911 address should be visible from both sides of the road approaching your property. It can be difficult to locate a residence if the 911 number is nailed to a tree, it should be displayed near the driveway or on the mailbox.

The Shrewsbury Road Crew works hard to keep roads in good shape for our daily travels. Thanks to them for their continued work. Thanks to everyone for slowing down on our town roads and driving responsibly.

Our department's median age is 55 1/2 years old! We encourage membership of younger towns people! There are multiple roles that can be filled within our department, running into a burning building is not the only duty a member of the fire department performs! Those that do play that role within our department are professionally trained. You can be involved and serve the Shrewsbury community in many different roles at the SVFD.

Administrative roles – grant writing, record keeping (trainings; financial; meeting notes etc.)

Support roles include – Assistance with vehicle maintenance and up keep, equipment maintenance, facility upkeep, committee meetings, event organization, turn-out gear organization; radio equipment management; air-pack equipment, etc.

As you can see there is no shortage of roles and assistance that need to be filled within the Department. Don't be shy! We meet most Thursday evenings at 7:00pm at the Cuttingsville

Station or call Jack Perry 802-779-4713; Bob Snarski 802-492-3505; Phillip Severy 802-558-5958; or Barry Griffith 802-492-3573.

A few items to help ensure fire safety through the winter months are to check that wood-burning stoves and chimneys are cleaned regularly and on schedule. This includes other fuel-burning devices which may vent into a chimney or through plastic piping. Check the exhaust areas are clear of snow on the outside to prevent backup of carbon monoxide. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors should be less than 10 years old, replace the batteries and test them; a date of manufacture should be on the back of the detector. If there is no date, replace it. Your home fire extinguisher should be inspected and charged and understand how to use it. Never hesitate to call 911 first!! **AND REMEMBER**

**STAY FIRE SAFE!**

*Article by Jack Perry*

## 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.



Our inventory of used but very usable home health aides is still at home in Pam Darrow's barn (thank you so much, Pam!) so if the need arises for mobility equipment such as crutches, walkers, canes, shower chairs or other equipment, check with us before spending your hard-earned money. There is no charge and we may even be able to deliver it to you if necessary. Call Jan O'Hara at 802-492-8687 or Judy Emerick at 802-492-2228.

### Next Shrewsbury Conservation Commission Meeting

The next Shrewsbury Conservation Commission meeting will be remote on February 8 at 5:15pm. ~Louise Duda

### Times of Shrewsbury Financial Report – 12/31/2021

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Beginning Cash Balance  | \$7,879   |
| Receipts (donations & advertisements)                                 | \$8,581   |
| Expenses (printing, postage & supplies)                               | (\$9,525) |
| Year End Cash Balance:  | \$6,934   |
| Your donations and advertisements make publishing the Times possible! |           |



# SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire  
**LIBRARY & FOOD SHELF HOURS**

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

CLOSED for Presidents' Day: Monday, February 21

**WINTER CLOSINGS:** If the weather is bad, please call ahead (802 492-3410) to make sure the Library is open. Also, because of possible COVID-related staffing cancellations, please call ahead before you make a special trip to the Library.

**PICK-UPS & DELIVERIES:** We're always happy to fill phone or e-mail orders for books and DVDs to be picked up from the Library porch during Library hours or delivered to you at home: 802 492-3410, or [slibrary@vermontel.net](mailto:slibrary@vermontel.net).

**THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for YOUR DONATIONS** in response to our holiday fund-raising letter!

**OVERDUES: THANKS,** too, to every patron who returns borrowed items on time or renews them (by phone or e-mail). You save us a lot of time tracking them down!

**Continuing Programs (via Zoom):**

Sunday, February 20 @ 4 pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB: 2022 VTReads Selection: *We Contain Multitudes* by Sarah Henstra. Please join us for a discussion of this thought-provoking novel-in-letters that examines the relationship of two high school boys. Books are available at the Library on the Book Club shelf; there's no need to check them out.

Sunday, February 27 @ 4pm: SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: *I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life* by Ed Yong. Print copies are available at the Library; please let Joan know if you want another: [joanaleshire@vermontel.net](mailto:joanaleshire@vermontel.net), or contact Margery Salmon if you would like an e-book instead: [salmonm@vermontel.net](mailto:salmonm@vermontel.net).

**New Books include:**

- *Orwell's Roses* by Rebecca Solnit: An engaging meditation on George Orwell's love of his garden, exploring 20th century history, political fiction, (*Animal Farm*, 1984), and the natural world.
- *Game On: Tempting Twenty-Eight: A Stephanie Plum mystery* by Janet Evanovich.
- *Washington at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and the Question of Slavery* by Bruce A. Ragsdale: A new look at this county's early history.
- *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult: The new novel by this popular New Hampshire writer.
- *Truffle Hound: On the Trail of the World's Most Seductive Scent, with Dreamers, Schemers, and Some Extraordinary Dogs* by Vermont naturalist Rowan Jacobsen.
- *Red Kite, Blue Sky: Poems* by former VT Governor Madeline Kunin: Meditations on aging and creativity.
- *Churchill's Shadow: The Life and Afterlife of Winston Churchill* by Geoffrey Wheatcroft: A searching look at this towering figure, by a British historian.

**New DVDs include:**

- *Spencer* with Kristen Stewart
- *The Crown*, Seasons 3 & 4


## SNOWSHOES

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**WINTER STORE HOURS:**

SAT, SUN, MON ..... 10 AM - 5 PM  
 TUESDAY BY APPOINTMENT  
 WED, THURS & FRI ..... 10 AM - 6 PM

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**Out and About  
Wildlife Crossing Project**

Shrewsbury Conversation Commission (SCC) members and friends have been busy scanning the Town roadsides for animal tracks in the snow. Led by tracking enthusiast Linda Shelvey, and as part of the Wildlife Road Crossing project, the SCC has been finding, measuring and GPS locating an assortment of tracks. So far, we have monitored both Cold River and Kieffer Roads near the LT/AT crossing as well as Lottery Rd. from the LT/AT crossing down to the new Town Farm Wildlife Management Area. Besides deer and turkeys, we have documented tracks of red and grey

fox, coyote, ermine, fisher, and bobcat. Using trail cameras has enabled some lovely photos of these furry neighbors as well.

Our hope is that the Wildlife Crossing Project will provide helpful data regarding needed habitat connectivity and be a resource for landowners and the Town alike as development is considered.

The Conservation Commission welcomes any interested person on these tracking excursions. Feel free to contact Linda Shelvey at lpurdyshel@gmail.com or call 802-236-4515. Please see the information regarding the rescheduled Wildlife Tracking Presentation elsewhere in the Times.

*Submitted by Cynthia Thornton,  
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission*



**The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission  
is trying once again to invite you to**



**WILDLIFE  
TRACKING**

Great for most ages to learn using Linda's photo slides to identify the animals passing through your area by their tracks!



New date!

**Saturday, February 26, 2022  
10am - 12noon  
at the Meeting House.**

Limited registration. Please contact Linda Shelvey if you are interested.

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

Masks are required.

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

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

**The Making of the  
Atomic Bomb**  
by Richard Rhodes  
\*\*\*\*\*

This book was read by the science book group a few months ago. It is a colossal tale--richly researched, beautifully written, all-encompassing; some of the best history writing ever. The book is huge; the science group needed two months to read it, but it was worth the effort. The scientific diagrams and mathematical equations will surely please those highly evolved readers and nuclear physicists out there---but what kept me intrigued was developing my flimsy knowledge about the gripping history surrounding this most complicated and intriguing race to develop atomic weapons. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* is a real-life thriller--with a cast of characters to include Adolph Hitler, the Nazis, brilliant scientists, politicians, and military leaders of the day. Most enjoyable were the detailed human-interest stories, disclosing the arresting personalities of the scientists and their lives--a lot of whom were persecuted Jewish Hungarians. Their imperiled flight to safety and duty was Europe's great loss and the United States' gain. This book (900 pages) looks daunting, but it is a treasure. Try it! ~Reviewed by Marilyn Dalick

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# Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

## Turning a new page

2022 has a ring to it. Hopefully to announce new hope for a world free from COVID.

The hamlet of Cuttingsville looked beautiful during the recent holidays with candlelight on windowsills and wreaths on doors. The museum did that too.

Last year, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Shrewsbury Historical Society (SHS), saw many changes. To name a few, the loss of members BJ Stewart and Joan moving to be near her family, the revitalization of the Olde Barn now the Stewart Maple Marketplace, the Rustic Rooster additions, the old building that housed the Stewart Ford Agency service dept. is now where the maple gathering equipment is located, the little red house on 103, formerly owned by George and Doris Erb, is looking new again. The roadside plaques, dedicating the home of John P. Bowman, also known as Laurel Hall, by the state of Vermont as a historical landmark is the beginning of the preservation projects to bring the Hall to its former beauty and open to the public in the future, with thanks to Barry Griffith, a Board Member of the Laurel Glen Cemetery Association. The dreadful loss of the Butler home to fire, also known as the Shrewsbury Inn, a historical home built in 1840, changed the landscape of the village, too. A new business in the little house next to the bridge in Cuttingsville by new residents, Bob and Hallie Knudsen, who now reside in what was the Huntoon House, just at the corner of Town Hill Road and 103. Bob Knudsen volunteered to be manager of Pierce's store. Of course, the sadness losing our members David Perkins, Maurice Ponton, Rich Bettelli and Grace Korzun. The SHS again presented to the 2021 Mountain School graduates, and there were seven, with their own copies of our town's history books in June.

A Christmas card arrived from Steve Martyn in which he wrote he enjoyed the articles about Laurel Hall in the Times. The Martyns lived in the little white house next to the museum. He and his wife Pat moved to Florida but do visit our area most every summer. Martyn wrote that when he was a lad, he went along with his grandfather, Dr Herbert S. Martyn (who served our town between early 1900s to 1940s) to visit the caretaker at Laurel Hall. He remembers seeing a cat curled up on the tiles in front of the fireplace. He also said that it was true that Laurel Hall used 30 tons of coal a year to keep the house heated. Martyn promised to stop by this coming summer and tell me stories that his father remembered about Laurel Hall.

## Copperas Mine

Taken from our History Book, in 1827 the Green Mountain Mfr. Co. was formed to mine pyrrhotite from Copperas Hill (up behind George and Fran Brigham's home on Shunpike). The following taken from the Report of the Pyrrhotite Deposit, Cuttingsville, VT by Charles Doll.

"The process of extracting the iron sulfate from the pyrrhotite ore (copperas) consisted of stacking the ore on wood pyres,

adjacent to the pits, and burning, which was known as heap roasting. At a crucial temperature the sulfur would burn and the resulting roasting ore was then leached by water to recover the remaining iron and sulfur as iron sulphate. The conspicuous large piles of this leached, roasted ore on the slope bear witness to these operations in the past."

The company owned a water-powered cooper shop on the brook (near the telephone building) where the shipping barrels were made. The copperas was packed into these barrels and sent to various places where it was used as a dye and in the tanning industry.

For more information, please read page 177 in *Shrewsbury, Vermont, Our Town As It Was* by Dawn Hance

Submitted by Ruth Winkler

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Dear Shrewsbury Voters,

I am running for re-election to the schoolboard and I am asking for your vote. I started serving as a schoolboard member in 2002 when I was appointed to fill a term that had been left vacant by a resignation back when Shrewsbury was its own school district. I have served our schools since then, currently as Chair of the Board and Negotiation Committee. I also fill two state-wide education roles. Serving on the Vermont School Boards Association Board and their Executive Committee and in 2018, I was appointed to be one of five statewide Employer Commissioners in the Act 11 Educators' Health Insurance Commission.

I have enjoyed public service to our Town in other ways as well. I have been a member of the Development Review Board, Fire Dept Auxiliary, Auditor, Lister, and Mill River Union HS Board. I have served as your Zoning Administrator for 20+ years. While serving in these positions I have met many of you in person or by phone. I hope that I have always left you feeling that I showed respect for your questions, listened to your concerns, and offered helpful advice as that has always been my intention.

Why am I running again?

First, all 3 of my boys went through our school system, K-12 and I was an active volunteer while they were in our schools. My continued board service is meant to show my appreciation for those who gave their time to our schools in past years, who through their service, helped make my sons' educational experience a positive one. This year, I am particularly concerned that our district needs continuity and hands-on knowledge of how Vermont schools operate. In the last year, five of our 11 members were entirely new to schoolboard service. This year we will have, at a minimum, two new members - possibly more as not all members up for re-election have announced their intentions nor do we know who will keep their position in the face of contested seats. Understanding the how's, why's and legalities of school operations does not come quickly.

I will admit that schoolboard service is tough right now. Many parents were very vocal in their disappointment when schools went remote and generally there has been more division in our district than I have seen before. Some of this division is the result of national political divisions that have filtered down to this very local level, but truly I feel most is the result of stress. People are no longer feeling secure with their health or their economic situation. Meetings that regularly had one, maybe three, attendees wanting to talk about bus routes or class configurations are now attended by 30+ (we've found it is easier to attend a virtual meeting) with all manner of concerns and objections. Many people have been energized to become involved in issues that are difficult to come to consensus about. How much oversight should parents have over classroom discussions? Who decides which words may be spoken? Which books may be read? Who makes decisions on library books and other materials? Who decides what our curriculum includes? Who decides on the health policies that govern daily attendance?

I'll be honest, I hope that every parent is able to be involved in their child's school experience. That said, being involved does not mean that everything that goes on in our schools requires individual parent approval of these questions. One of the major historical advantages the United States offers to its' residents is a public education. It is provided with the understanding that a good general education prepares our young people to be able to vote effectively and to contribute to the society that supported their education.

I promise that I have, and will continue to, always make decisions that I believe will benefit us all- students, teachers, staff, parents, and taxpayers.

*Sincerely yours*

*Adrienne Raymond*

***Paid Political Advertisement***



## **DEAR MOTHER EARTH**

*An Advice Column*

### **The First "R" in Plastic Waste Management - Refuse!**

***Dear Mother Earth,***

I understand now that recycling plastic has been a failed experiment around the world. The oil industry needs to continue to create markets for their product, and plastics is their future. We consumers were duped into thinking that our plastic products would be reused to make new products, but that has not happened. Now we need to resist these products and simply REFUSE to purchase plastic goods or packaging. For me, this has meant giving up products that I used to buy, such as potato chips (I fry my own potatoes when I get a craving), hummus (I make my own at a fraction of the cost), frozen foods in plastic bags (I look for an alternative in a box or fresh), and yogurt (I buy White Mt. Yogurt in a glass jar or make my own). My question now is about clothing. What is the content of plastic in our clothing and what are the concerns? What are the best fabrics to buy? Does clothing pollute the environment as well? ~***Seeking the Naked Truth***

***Dear Naked Truth,***

Yes, I'm sorry to report, but modern-day clothing is also polluting our gorgeous planet. A 2017 report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature indicated that 35% of the plastic pollution in the ocean comes from synthetic textile fibers. These fibers are very small microplastics that are not readily visible to the human eye, but they have been found everywhere on Planet Earth, including in the Arctic, on the top of Mt. Everest, in beach sand, and in the deepest parts of the ocean. These textile fibers enter the waterways primarily when we wash our clothes, but they also fall off clothes throughout the day while being worn by humans.

It is estimated that a single washing of a synthetic fleece jacket releases one million plastic fibers into the water system. Unfortunately, most water treatment facilities do not filter out microplastics, so they are released back into our drinking water, waterways and oceans. From there, we know what happens - the fibers end up ingested into the bodies of humans, land wildlife, and marine animals. (Just this past fall, hunters were warned not to eat the deer from a certain county in Maine due to high levels of PFOAs in the deer's bodies!)

So, what is the solution to the synthetic clothing problem? REFUSE to buy new synthetic garments (e.g.: polyester, acrylic, nylon), buy less clothing overall, wash your clothing less frequently, and look for used clothing. All clothing manufacturing takes a toll on the planet, even natural fibers, due to the water needed for production and the energy consumed. So, buy less and avoid synthetics at all costs.

The Earth is being poisoned by plastic and humans must take action against the plastics industry. Just REFUSE to purchase plastic!

***We can do this together, Mother Earth***

## The Shrewsbury Community Church



Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley



We enjoyed worship services during the Holiday Season. If you need to combat cabin fever everyone is always welcome to join us for Sunday Services at the Center Church, upstairs at the Shrewsbury Meeting House. The sanctuary is large enough to easily maintain safe social distancing. It is always uplifting! We can meditate in the quiet and beauty of the sanctuary, enjoy the beautiful organ and piano music, and hear an uplifting

message from our Pastor Wendy Savery. You may also request the virtual service at [roxramah@gmail.com](mailto:roxramah@gmail.com).

### Wreath

Thank You to the Smith Family for providing the beautiful lighted wreath on the front of the Meeting House in Memory of Bill Smith!

### In Memory of Judy Webster

The Shrewsbury Community Church bids adieu to Judy Webster who recently passed away in November. Judy was a regular attendee at the Shrewsbury Community Church. Judy could often be found at the sink downstairs doing dishes with enthusiasm at our community suppers! She is missed! Our condolences to her family.

### 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; Wed 7pm-9pm; and Saturday 10am-12noon.

Food Delivery and Assistance: If you are unable to get to the Food Shelf at the library in Shrewsbury we will deliver groceries to you. If you need items which are not available on the shelf, we can provide grocery gift cards. Call Karen at 802-558-5991 or Sue at 802-661-8399 or 802-492-3738.

Thank you for the generous anonymous donations received for the Pierce's Pantry Account which have allowed additional provisions of fresh items such as eggs, cheese, and butter!

"When I pontificate, it sounds so, you know, Oh, well, she's preaching. I'm not preaching, but I think maybe I learned it from my animal friends. Kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself. I think that keeps you feeling young. I really do."

-Betty White

### Community Needs

Wedding, Funeral or Memorial Service Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367 or Sue Kelley 802-492-3738, 802-661-8399.

Community Helping Hand Requests: Contact Donna Smith 802-492-3367 or Sue Kelley 802-661-8399, 802-492-3738 or Karen Lorentz 802-558-5991. Shrewsbury residents experiencing financial hardship. Assistance can be given for basic needs such as 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.

### Church Calendar

All Services are at the Center Church and Meeting House

-Sunday Jan 30, 10:30am Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery.

-Sunday Feb 6, 10:30am Worship & Holy Communion led by Pastor Wendy Savery

-Sunday Feb 13, 10:30am Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery

-Sunday Feb 20, 10:30am -Worship Service led by Reverend Holly Ross

-Sunday Feb 27, 10:30am Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery

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### Good Bag and a Clear Night

You know that there is a big difference between waiting for Spring and embracing winter. One involves a warm fire, a good book/Netflix, hot chocolate, and windows to the world both inside and out. A certain degree of passivity if you will. However, with miles of trails, and thousands of acres of forest, Shrewsbury is well placed to do a little embracing.



Any deer hunter will tell you that a little snow on the ground increases visibility in the woods tremendously. Both the trees themselves and entire forested hillsides suddenly become completely visible to those willing to get out. And although wildlife numbers may be less, their movements will certainly stand out; be it a flitting chickadee or a deer feeding on a sunny hillside. Even tree parts take on a “new life” in the winter. For example, add a little snow to remnant tulip tree flowers and you get winter snow cones.



This might be a good time also to examine your ash trees for the presence of Emerald Ash borer. This insect keeps expanding throughout Vermont killing trees as it goes and while Shrewsbury now looks like the hole in the donut on the EAB maps it will eventually get here and force the town and landowners in the town to either inoculate, let die, or cut down their ash trees. Early stages of infestation are very hard to detect but as the tree is invaded by more and more

borers two things occur that are visible in the wintertime. Ash crowns have died back and dense clumps of new branches have appeared on the lower crown. A flattening of the ridges on the bark, called “blonding” also occurs created by woodpeckers looking for borers beneath the bark.

Evidence of either of these activities is probably worth contacting [Vtinvasives.com](http://Vtinvasives.com). If there is a history buff in you this is the time of year when the “road crews” cut down dead roadside trees including, sadly, the remnant large sugar maples

still gracing our road sides. Road salt has been the major contributor to the loss of these historical trees many of them in the four-foot diameter range. It is what is left however that is still valuable – the stump. If the trunk was solid and your eyes are good counting the growth rings will take you back to an era of dirt roads, stone walls next to them, horse and wagon travel, and little sugar maples starting their growth journey toward becoming today’s legacy trees.

So, if you have “seen it all” you can always change your view point for added embracing. Get up in the air and look at the crowns close up. VINS has their famous Canopy Walk and it is open in the winter complete with “loaner” snow shoes” to get you there. Available phone apps will help you ID everything from tree species to last summer’s bird nests still in the canopy. Another viewpoint involves a good sleeping bag and a clear night. Forests and trees on a dark or moonlit night take on a whole other perspective. You can’t see the forest for the trees but you can hear them. The sound of the wind, perhaps the call of a barred owl, and stars through the canopy all make for a great evening adventure provided you stay warm. The fallback position once the sleeping bag you are in is no longer warm, is the hot chocolate by a warm fire. ~Gary Salmon, Tree Warden



### Mostly a Memory

Recently a very old maple tree was taken down on Russellville Road. With the trunk laying horizontally, it was over 5’ off the ground...but mostly hollow! The base measured 57” in diameter, but Tree Warden Gary Salmon says “it’s the stump that is valuable once the tree is gone plus the memories.” So, we’ll have to wait until the snow melts before we can count the rings on the stump to find out how many years of memories it represents. ~C.Martin



### Classified Advertisement

#### House sitter

Seeking house sitter: early March to mid-May, Email Helen for more information [richpeelle@gamil.com](mailto:richpeelle@gamil.com)



**Annual Meeting of the Mill River Unified Union  
School District  
Towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth  
and Wallingford  
February 24, 2022**

The legal voters of the Mill River Unified Union School District are hereby warned to meet at the Mill River Union High School Library on **February 24, 2022, at 7:00pm** for the annual school district meeting to transact the following business:

**ARTICLE 1** To elect the following officers: a. Moderator; b. Clerk; c. Treasurer.

**ARTICLE 2** To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money pending receipt of payment from district towns by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from date.

**ARTICLE 3** To have presented by the Board of School Directors their estimate of the expenses for the ensuing year. This is a public informational hearing regarding the budget article. (See Article 4).

**ARTICLE 4** Shall the voters of the Mill River Unified Union School District approve the Board to expend \$18,637,991, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? (By Australian Ballot) It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,376.58 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.47% higher than spending for the current year.

**ARTICLE 5** Shall the voters authorize the District to transfer the audited unanticipated surplus funds remaining at the end of FY22 to the building sinking fund, not to exceed \$200,000? (By Australian Ballot)

The meeting will then be recessed to March 1, 2022 (Town Meeting Day) for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot at the usual polling places in the District towns on the following business. Said ballots shall be brought to the Mill River Union High School Cafeteria following the closing of the polls in the District towns where they will be commingled and counted by the officers of the District towns.

**Approved by the MRUUSD Board of Directors in a public meeting and dated at Clarendon, Vermont this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.**

**Adrienne Raymond /s/  
Board Chair's Signature**

**Crystal Usher /s/  
Clerk's Signature**

**MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

**Hello Shrewsberries!**

What a time of transition! Not only does it truly feel like winter has reestablished its chilly grip on nature, it also feels as if Town Meeting Day, and dare I say the start of Spring, are right around the corner! A bit before town meeting day, on February 24 in the Mill River Library, the Mill River Unified Union School District will have its annual meeting preceding Town Meeting Day, March 1, when folks all over our great state and in each of our district towns will meet to exercise one of the greatest responsibilities we are afforded under a democracy: to vote. Please take the time not only to cast your vote but to peruse the articles being brought before us; both from the school district and across the entire ballot.

Additionally, you may have heard that we have just begun the search for a new superintendent for our district. As such, two of our upcoming community conversations, both on January 31 and March 21 will be meeting (virtually) for an extended 6pm-7:30pm input session where folks on the search committee can listen to your input on what's important to be considered as we start the process now, and as we hope to have final candidate info to discuss in March. Please note that we are committed to finding the right candidate, so the timeline for having final candidate information in March may be adjusted if needed, but we will certainly still gather to hear your input! As we expect larger attendance at these community conversations, they will be warned and treated as meetings, with minutes taken. Email [communityengagement@millriverschools.org](mailto:communityengagement@millriverschools.org) to receive the link to any community conversation!

As of writing this article, the plan is for the community conversation on Monday, February 21 (6:30-7:30pm) to be one of the more non-quorum, informal informational conversations, as these events have typically been in the past, with no set topic. Please email us if you'd like to join us then!

I can't wait until we can truly get back into the swing of not having to schedule virtual informal conversations and can linger next to the cooler in Pierce's or peruse the reading room at the dump together as we chat. Until then neighbors, stay warm, stay healthy, stay safe. And vote!

*All my best,  
Samantha Green (she/her/hers)  
School Board Member*

---

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## Fonda and Mary Jane Wish All a Happy Valentine's Day

January thaws, January freezes and a nor'easter, I wonder what February will bring us -- more winter or an early thaw to kick off sugar season.



The horses are still fat and fuzzy and took great pleasure rolling around in the fresh snow following the weekend storm. Soon they will shed their winter fuzz and it will be time to go back to work. While the horses may be taking a well-earned winter vacation, the rest of us are busy setting up programs for the upcoming summer season. School programs are filling up and we will soon have the 2022 paperwork available on our

website for anyone who would like to participate in Rainbow Riding Center programs as a rider or volunteer.

Please visit our website: [rainbowridingcenter.org](http://rainbowridingcenter.org), and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @RainbowRiding and Instagram @rainbow\_riding\_center. Contact us at [programs@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:programs@rainbowridingcenter.org) or 802-236-2483. ~Submitted by Janet Upton



## Sno-Bird News

The Sno-Birds have been hard at work still clearing the trails as the storms go through. Finally got a good snow storm and we have all of our trails groomed. The snow compacted down so riders still need to ride with caution. It looks like it stays cold enough to keep the snow, we would like more. Go and ride and enjoy it. The parking lot at the groomer shed is open for parking, park wisely so as many can park as possible. Snowmobiles need to follow the signs, please. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings also. Hope to see you on the trails. ~Roy Arthur



SAGE is looking forward to creating possibilities in this new year! We ended last year creating pumpkin pancakes at the Mountain School with Ms. Levins' 3rd and 4th graders. It was quite a treat!

Over the past two months we've produced four more Root Words podcast episodes covering processing and distribution of Abenaki Garden's produce, family home deer processing, VT RELEAF Collective- a network of BIPOC folks creating Racial Equity in Land, Environment, Agriculture, & Foodways, and Hunger Free Vermont's Universal School meals campaign.

All of these stories spotlight important parts of the food system and how different folks are interacting with it. If you have comments to share or want to pitch a show idea, please send us a message!



The show is hosted by Stephen Abatiell and special guests. "Root Words" episodes can be found in the podcast directories like Apple Podcasts, Google Podcast, Spotify, and Amazon. Consider subscribing wherever you get your podcasts and you can easily access the new episodes. See [https://www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/root\\_words](https://www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/root_words) for a Web-based player. This project gets support from people like you!

For more information about SAGE: contact Stephen Abatiell at [educate.sage@gmail.com](mailto:educate.sage@gmail.com), Joan Aleshire at 492-3550 or visit [www.sagevt.wordpress.com](http://www.sagevt.wordpress.com). Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date event details at Shrewsbury SAGE.

Submitted by Stephen Abatiell

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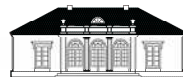
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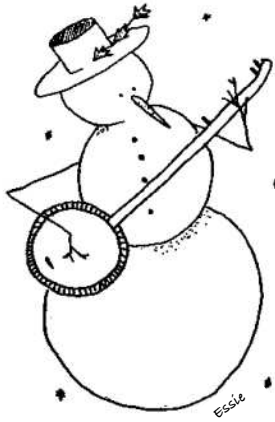
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**Solstice Sing-a-Long**

Thank you to Shrewsberries big and small who came to make a JOYFUL NOISE on the Winter Solstice! Special thanks to Wilder Brooks and his ukulele, and Dalpne Lea Hemmer for their efforts to guide our gleeful voices. It was wonderful to be together (properly distanced) on a mild moony winter night.

See you on the Summer Solstice!

*Janet Pelletier and Grace Brigham*

**“It Wasn’t All Beer and Skittles”**

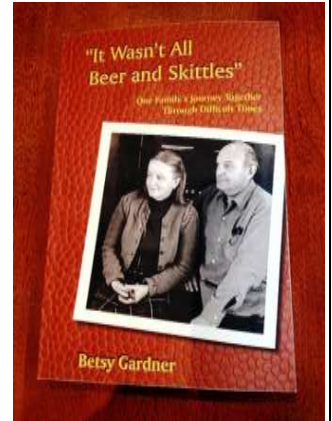
There aren't any Patten's still living in Shrewsbury, sadly. But my parents raised 5 kids there and I expect there are still some folks that remember us. So when my sister Betsy wrote a book about our parents' struggle to move to Vermont in the 1930's and their early years in Shrewsbury I thought her book might be interesting to some. If you agree, here's a short blurb about the book and a way to purchase it.

*~Will Patten*

When Art and Peg Patten moved to Shrewsbury in 1939, they fulfilled a dream of living where they could grow a garden and raise some chickens. But moving from New Jersey to Vermont – and staying in Vermont - was a long hard struggle. In scores of letters to family and to each other, they recorded that struggle in personal, often intimate, detail. Their daughter, Betsy Gardner, has pulled from those letters a compelling narrative of one family's early years and the times in which they lived.

It's a love story that is filled with tragedy and hardship. It is also an original source account of post-Depression America when people would work for 75 cents a week and houses sold for \$3000. *It Wasn't All Beer and Skittles* can be purchased through [www.bookshop.org](http://www.bookshop.org) or your local book store.

*~Betsy Patten Gardner*



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# NEWS FROM PIERCE'S STORE

## 802-492-3326

Bob Knudsen, Manager

Happy 2022! Hopefully your 2022 is going well and you are enjoying this recent cold snap and snowfall. Up here at Pierce's, we are really starting to get on a pretty good roll with our new offerings, as well as by bringing back some of the old.

### LOCAL FOODS AND GOODS

The biggest things to note are the new local offerings we have. Button Hill Bakery is providing cookies, muffins, and scones on a weekly basis, and Vermont Bliss is now providing a variety of lunch options fresh from our kitchen, including sandwiches, soups, burritos, and more! Both come in on Tuesdays, so for the freshest options, come by Tuesday afternoon. We have also had an influx of local handmade consignment goods, including knit hats, plates, and figurines, and we are carrying more local eggs from our neighbors.

### STORE OPERATIONS

The new store hours have been a hit! It seems that there have been a lot of people waiting for us to be here at 8am for your coffee and breakfast pastries, so we will continue to do so. We are also experimenting with some new scheduling methods to make things easier on us and on you, and we are rotating items in the store to make sure things stay fresh and seasonal. We welcome feedback on any of our processes and will take any serious suggestion into consideration when we can.

### COST AND PRICES

As everybody is well aware, things are still unsettled in the world, and some of that has hit our supply chains. While we have been able to find alternatives for most goods that are experiencing shortages, others have seen some price changes. We are absorbing as much of the price increases as we can, so you may not have noticed much of a change at the store. In order to help us keep our costs low and our prices down, you can help by signing up or renewing your store membership, using your pre-buy account, cash, or check instead of credit and debit cards, and by shopping local as much as possible.

### SPECIAL ORDERS AND REQUESTS

If you are looking for something that we either have not carried before or have not had for some time, please let us know! We are looking to expand our horizons with new items that you want, and we are happy to phase out unpopular items to make space for them. We have more than 70 vendors, chances are one or more of them has the things you want.

### COVID AND PORCH PICKUP

The Covid situation has caused a lot of concern lately, with cases on the rise in many areas. We are continuing to take precautions such as mandatory masking and regular cleaning. If you are concerned about entering the store either because you fear exposure or you may have been exposed yourself, porch pickup is available Monday through Friday until 3pm. Give us a call or email at pierces.store@gmail.com. Note: You do need to pay with a pre-buy or credit card for this service.

**HELP WANTED**

We are looking for a part time assistant manager to work 4 days a week. Email Bob if you are interested!

at

[pierces.store@gmail.com](mailto:pierces.store@gmail.com)

### News From Pierce's Board of Directors

Pierce's Board continues to meet monthly at this time, as we support Bob Knudsen in his new role as manager of the store. Additional work is focused on solidifying committee charters with a focus on the purpose and scope of each committee. Our next meeting is on February 10 at 6pm via Zoom. The link can be obtained by contacting Ed Hemmer.

We are pleased to report that the financial footing of the store has improved somewhat in recent months with a return to regular hours and the support of so many in the community. Thank you to all of you who responded to our annual appeal letter with your generous donations, and thank you to all members who have updated their membership status in recent months. Every little bit helps to keep this gem of a store open to serve the community!

Most importantly, we are looking for two new Board members to join our hard-working group. It is a commitment of only a few hours per month--a one hour meeting and then additional time to keep up with email correspondences and committee work (eg.: approving minutes from meetings, agenda items, etc.). If you are a regular shopper at Pierce's and would like to see this store remain viable into the future, please consider a term on the Board! It is a great way to get involved in the community and to do your part for Shrewsbury. Our annual meeting will be on Thursday, March 10 at the Meeting House. New Board members would be voted in at that meeting. Reach out to any one of us if you are interested in serving!

Thanks, and see you at the store,  
*Lily French, Mark Youngstrom, Liz Bullock, Ed Hemmer,  
Lana Vanucchi, Phyllis Wells, Jeff Monder*





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 *Happy Valentines Day* 