



Times of Shrewsbury



March 2022



SAGE

SHREWSBURY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
+ ARTS FOUNDATION

As the warm days of February bring the sap trucks out onto Shrewsbury's roads, we remember our "Stories from the Sugarbush" Root Words conversation hosted by Grace Brigham at the Russellville Schoolhouse in April of 2019. We heard sweet spring stories from Stewarts, Smiths, and Spring Lake, and are especially happy to have recordings of the late great Grace Korzon, reminiscing on sugaring by sled in the snow of her youth.

Grace and others can be heard in Root Words: Sugaring in Vermont. Take a listen back as you look forward to the oncoming spring.

"Root Words" episodes can be found in the podcast directories like Apple Podcasts, Google Podcast, Spotify, and Amazon. Please consider subscribing wherever you get your podcasts and you can easily access the new episodes. You can also find a web-based player here:

https://www.vermontfarmersfoodcenter.org/root_words

(When you get to the website, click on the "Education" tab at the top, then click on "Root Words," and then scroll down under the icon and click on "Sugaring in Vermont.")

This project gets support from people like you! 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 Shrewsbury SAGE.

~Stephen Abatiell, SAGE Program Director



**Scan this QR code
with a phone's
camera to listen to
Root Words:
Sugaring in Vermont**



Editorial Statement:

Recently, a submission was sent to the Times of Shrewsbury by a Shrewsbury resident making allegations against another Shrewsbury resident. Pursuant to our guidelines, the submission was sent to the named resident by the 10th of the month in order to provide the named resident an opportunity to respond so both the submission and response could be printed in the March 2022 issue.

From the moment the submission was first received by the Times of Shrewsbury, and through its subsequent revisions, we have spent a lot of time discussing and examining our course of action and policies pertaining to the submission. Our discussions centered on, among other things: freedom of the press, free speech, censorship, fairness, and the climate in our country where there is an overwhelming rush to judgement in both main stream and social media without deference to due process. We have tried to find a balance on all these issues.

We feel that the seriousness of the allegations made, and their detail, place it outside the scope of a small town monthly newsletter. There are other forums, outside the media, that are available to both parties to put forward their arguments and receive due process.

Therefore, we have decided, given our clearly stated guideline that "All submissions.....are printed at the editors discretion.....", to decline to print the submission, either in the original or revised forms, as well as any other submissions referencing them.

Chryl Martin and Rich Biziak
February 12, 2022

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.

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

Email: shrewsburytimes@gmail.com Online: www.shrewsburyvt.org & www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

Vermont State Senators:

Brian Collamore: bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us
Cheryl Hooker: chooker@leg.state.vt.us
Josh Terenzini jterenzini@leg.state.vt.us

Vermont State House of Representative:

Logan Nicoll: 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. 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
Vermont Office: (802) 229-0569
Washington office: (202) 224-4242

Senator Bernie Sanders

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

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.

SHREWSBURY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 26	11am	*Informational Meeting; see page 5, the Annual Report back cover or town website for more info
Feb 27	4pm	*Science Book Club discussion via Zoom
Mar 1	10am-7pm	*Annual Town Election at the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
Mar 10	7pm	*Pierce's Annual Meeting at the Meeting House, 88 Lottery Road
Mar 12	10-12noon	*Wildlife Tracking at the Meeting House
Mar 13	2am	*Daylight savings time begins
Mar 19-20		Vermont Maple Open House Weekend
Mar 20	4pm	*Famous Books Book Club discussion via Zoom.
Mar 27	4pm	*Science Book Club discussion via Zoom
Mar 25	4-6pm	*Wine tasting at Pierce's Store
Mar 26-27		Vermont Maple Open House Weekend
April 1		*Deadline to obtain Dog Licenses

*see elsewhere in newsletter for details

TIMES OF SHREWSBURY
online at
www.shrewsburyvt.org
and
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com



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

REGULAR MEETINGS and EVENTS

Board of Selectman Meeting	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays – 7pm at Town Office
Bone Builders	Tuesdays & Thursdays – 9am at Meeting House
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 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 nd 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 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 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 julanne@vermontel.net
News Flash Email List:	vtbenbeano@gmail.com or benbeano@vermontel.net [Urgent and reminder news info]

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

Animal Control Officer: Vacant (Contact a Selectboard member)	1 st 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 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7pm at the Town Office.

January 26, 2022: Shrewsbury Selectboard Minutes

Present at the meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt. Town Clerk: Megan LaChance.

Members of the Public: None

Meeting reconvened by A. Korzun at 6:08pm. Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Budget and Warning 2022: Discussion of ballots, absentee voting and counting of ballots.

Aaron Korzun made a motion to approve the warning for the March 1, 2022 Town Meeting, which includes a general fund expenditure of \$1,145,086 of which \$656,280 shall be raised by taxes and \$488,806 by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds and reserve funds. F. Wyatt seconded. Approved.

The general fund budget is a 2.5% increase over the 2021 budget.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

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

February 2, 2022: 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 7:00pm. Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda. F. Wyatt seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Liquor License-Stewart Maple: A. Korzun made a motion to approve a 2nd class liquor license for Stewart Maple Marketplace. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Planning Town Meeting 2022: Plan is to use the tabulator. Plan to conduct hybrid informational meeting at the Town Hall. F. Wyatt will work with Marcos Levy to set up sound system so online people can hear in-person people and vice versa. Discussed appointments for Organizational Meeting.

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

New Business: Aaron fixed the furnace in the old town garage.

Review 1/19/22 and 1/26/22 Minutes: S. Nicholson corrected the 1/19/22 minutes to delete "the Petition" from the first sentence under the Shrewsbury Vol. Fire Dept. – Tax Exempt Status item. A. Korzun made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/19/22 and 1/26/22 meetings. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Review Orders: Motion made by A. Korzun to accept Selectboard Order #2 for \$1,724.63, Roads Order #2 for \$9,139.70 and corrected total for Selectboard Order #1A is \$4,798.29. F. Wyatt seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Francis Wyatt

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

February 16, 2022: Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting: Selectboard members: Aaron Korzun, Steven Nicholson, Francis Wyatt.

Members of the Public: Laura Black

Meeting called to order by A. Korzun at 7:04 PM. Motion made by A. Korzun to follow the agenda with the following additions: Excess weight permits from Barret Trucking and J.P. Carrara and Sons. Approval of certificate of highway mileage ending February 10, 2022. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Certificate of Highway Mileage: A. Korzun made a motion to approve the certificate of highway mileage ending February 10, 2022. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Excess Weight Permits: A. Korzun made a motion to approve excess weight permits for New England Quality Service, Inc., Barret Trucking Co., and J.P. Carrara and Sons Inc. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Communications-Kinsman Hill Repeater: Lease is up this year (9/11/22) and the property is up for sale. Need to prepare for a new lease either way. There have been issues with the system not working in the winter – battery does not stay charged. Need to consider getting a more resilient system.

ARPA Funds: Discussed possible uses for ARPA funds. Library might be asking for some additional money to compensate for inability to fund raise with usual methods. Have only one quote so far for digitizing of records. Laura Black has some experience with this and will discuss with Megan about what she knows. It appeared earlier that culvert would not be eligible, but subsequent guidance from the federal government appears that it may be eligible. Laura Black suggests a few possibilities: Town pavilion, fixing failed wastewater systems, broadband for parts of town that are not served by VTel.

New Business: The Town garage oil-fire boiler quit working. Lohsen replaced the transformer and it's working again.

Review 2/2/22 Minutes: A. Korzun made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/2/22 meeting. S. Nicholson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Review Orders: Motion made by A. Korzun to accept Selectboard Order #2a for \$2,088.13, Roads Order #2a for \$16,643.34. S. Nicholson seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

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



Shrewsbury Informational Meeting

February 26, 2022 at 11:00am
Shrewsbury Community Meeting House
AND

Virtually by GoToMeeting

Log in Code for computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/728440589>

Log in starts at 10:45am
or to join by phone: 1-571-317-3122
Access Code: 728-440-589

Annual Town Meeting Election

Tuesday March 1, 2022

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

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).

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.

Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission's virtual March meeting will be held on March 15 at 5:15 pm.

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**Remember To File Your Homestead  
Declaration AND Property Tax  
Adjustment Claim for 2021  
Form HS-122**  
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A Reminder to Get Your 2022 Dog Licenses by April 1st!



2022 Dog Licenses are now available and can be issued at the Town Office or through mail. Fee is \$9.00 for neutered / spayed, otherwise \$13.00. Current rabies vaccination documentation is required.

20 V.S.A. § 3581. DOMESTIC PET OR WOLF-HYBRID CONTROL

§ 3581. General Requirements

(a) A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed on a form approved by the secretary for one year from that day in the office of the clerk of the municipality wherein the dog or wolf-hybrid is kept.

NEWS FROM MONTPELIER

I am in the House Commerce Committee this session, and we have spent most of the last two months and a lot of last year talking about workforce development. The culmination of that work will be passing H.703, which looks to make structural changes to Vermont's technical education system, and hopefully help in our effort to destigmatize technical education. We are experiencing critical shortages in our technical careers workforce and with this hope to improve access for all Vermonters, at any age or experience level, to education that can improve their income and address these critical workforce shortages.

I will just note that we are almost entirely physically in Montpelier again, and it is great to be back in the building, which makes it so much easier to get this work done, especially when there are disagreements that need to be hashed out on bills. I have been commuting each day as opposed to staying because I just can't stand to leave my baby, (now 14 months old!) or my wife, who is about 5 months pregnant with our second (another girl!) much longer than 12 hours. Even though we are physically in Montpelier again we are hanging on to the accessibility we learned during the pandemic and all committee meetings and floor sessions continue to be live-streamed on YouTube.

As always there are other issues I hope to expound on more next month, including my decriminalization bill which made some waves on Facebook. But I think it makes more sense to address that bill and some of the other big ones after we see how they come out of committee. But if you have questions about any of this or anything else, I would love to talk to you about it. Call me! Anytime! Please! I love talking politics and I love explaining my logic and reasoning on these issues. I also appreciate the insight and perspective from you that is often vastly different from my own.!

*Logan Nicoll, State Representative
Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury (802-345-8430)*

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SHREWSBURY, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2022**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
 B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
 C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

<p>FOR MODERATOR One Year Term Vote for not more than One ELDRÉD FRENCH <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR LISTER Three Year Term Vote for not more than One <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR 2ND CONSTABLE One Year Term Vote for not more than One <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>
<p>FOR SELECTBOARD MEMBER Three Year Term Vote for not more than One <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR LISTER One Year Term Vote for not more than One SUSAN KENNEDY <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR CEMETERY COMMISSIONER One Year Term Vote for not more than One <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>
<p>FOR AUDITOR Three Year Term Vote for not more than One <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR TOWN CLERK Three Year Term Vote for not more than One MEGAN LaCHANCE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>	<p>FOR DIRECTOR MILL RIVER UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT Three Year Term Vote for not more than One ADRIENNE RAYMOND <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> KRISTINE BILLINGS <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(Write-in) _____</p>

ARTICLES

<p>2. Shall the Town approve a total general fund expenditure of \$1,145,086 of which \$656,280 shall be raised by taxes and \$488,806 by non-property tax revenues and surplus funds, reserve funds and surplus funds? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,500 for the Town Office Reserve Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,500 for the Town Garage Reserve Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,000 for the Town Office Equipment Reserve Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$65,000 for the Town Road Equipment Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,000 for the Town Records Restoration Reserve Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$35,000 for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$16,000 for the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

ARTICLES CONTINUED

<p>10. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$35,000 for the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>11. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$7,500 for the Shrewsbury Library? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>12. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$2,500 for the Shrewsbury Historical Society? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>13. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$250 to help support the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>14. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$2,526 to help support VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>15. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$150 to help support the Green Up Vermont organization? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>16. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$130 to help support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>17. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$700 to help support the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>18. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$1,192 to help support Rutland Mental Health Services? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>19. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$150 to help support New Story (formally the Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter)? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>20. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$600 to help support BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>21. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$400 to help support the Rutland County Parent Child Center? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>22. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$250 to help support the Vermont Family Network? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>23. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$150 to help support the Rutland County Humane Society? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>24. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$170 to help support the Vermont Center for Independent Living? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>25. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$400 to help support the Child First Advocacy Center? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>26. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$500 to help support the American Red Cross of NH/VT? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>27. Shall the Town raise, appropriate and expend \$500 to help support Vermont Adult Learning? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>28. Shall the taxes be postmarked on or before, or in the hands of the Treasurer no later than 7:00 P.M., Friday, October 7, 2022? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>29. 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 with the town limits? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>30. 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 9800 Cold River Road, and which are used by said Fire Department exclusively for the purposes of said organization? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

In Memory of Richard "Rick" Lees

Richard "Rick" Lees passed away Feb. 15, 2022, at the age of 79. He was born in Schenectady, New York. He graduated from the Brunswick School and Rollins College while active in multiple sports. He had a passion for the outdoors pursuing farming, sugaring, logging, camping, boating, snowmobiling, car shows and bluegrass festivals over the years.

He was active in the community, from manager at the Honda dealership, valuable contributor to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, to president of the Shrewsbury Snowmobile Club. Rick was a good friend and devoted family man. He loved spending time with his wife going to bluegrass events, telling his children stories of family history, watching his grandchildren's games, and taking everyone on a Vermont experience. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Adrienne "Annie" Lees; three children, Jonathan Lees, of Cuttingsville, Vermont, Debbie Zsebik, of Fairfield, Connecticut, Rick Lees, of Somers, Connecticut; his sister, six stepchildren, 14 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A remembrance for Rick will be held by his family at a later date. ~Printed with permission of Annie Lees

In Memory of Patrick J. McKee

Patrick J. McKee, 69, of Charlotte, VT, died on January 25 of complications related to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Patrick had recently retired as President/CEO of Wake Robin in Shelburne, VT, following positions as President of Challenge Workforce Solutions in Ithaca, NY, and as director of Spring Lake Ranch in Shrewsbury, VT, where he continued to serve as a member of its Board of Directors.

He received his BA in International Relations from Eisenhower College and held a Master's Degree in Public Health from Columbia University. His chosen career path largely included working for human service agencies serving individuals with mental illness, disabilities, or socioeconomic challenges. Known personally and professionally for his unique sense of humor, keen intellect, and humanity, Patrick had a passion for challenges, a gift for visionary leadership, and a widely appreciated knack for identifying and nurturing talent. Consistent with interests in world affairs and journalism and respect for his own Irish heritage, Patrick loved nothing more than talking and learning about the interrelatedness of politics, history, and culture. This intrinsic curiosity and informed perspective not only provided a compassionate undercurrent to his life and work but also led to a lifelong interest in film. People and their stories were central to his interests, a characteristic that undoubtedly fueled his armchair ambition to be a documentary filmmaker. He instead served on the board of several film festival organizations, most recently the Vermont International Film Festival.

Patrick is survived by his most trusted partner, his wife, Phyllis Mazurski, of Charlotte; daughter Hannah (Frank Espinoza), granddaughter Ella, and son Curran (Celia Brisson); as well as siblings Tom, Bob, and Penny Van Amburg.

A private green burial will be held at Green Mount Cemetery, Montpelier. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations in Patrick's memory may be made to Vermont International Film Festival, www.VTIFF.org or Spring Lake Ranch, springlakeranch.org.

Submitted by Lynn McDermott

Road Crew Kudos

A shout-out to Shrewsbury's doughty road crew. Driving from Rutland in the deep slush on Routes 7 and 103 during the February 3 Nor'easter was an adrenaline experience. That is, until reaching Lincoln Hill, which was immaculately groomed and nearly snow-free. Hurray for Jamie, Dan and Matthew who work so hard to keep us safe! ~Submitted by Sandy Bragg

Cuttingsville Break-In

On Friday, Feb. 18 around 4:15am, the private residence of some of our family - which is within the same building as our Stewart Maple Marketplace; was broken into while they were asleep. Thankfully, everyone living in the residence was unharmed, but it has served as an important reminder that even our incredible and friendly town is subject to this level of crime.

We regret to have to remind our community to be extremely vigilant while both at home and around the local area. Reporting suspicious activity quickly, keeping up to date with security cameras, installing motion lights to keep areas well lit, and locking your homes, vehicles, and belongings is essential. We must also remember to check in with our neighbors...many of us have been less social since the pandemic but communication is the key. If something feels off - tell someone!

Thank you to those who have reached out, we are so thankful for this incredibly supportive community. Wishing everyone a SAFE and healthy Spring! ~The Stewart Family of Cuttingsville

Editor's Note: Always call 9-1-1 to report a crime or life-threatening situation. Reports of suspicious activities of a Neighborhood Watch variety can also be emailed to the News Flash Email List maintained by Betsy Jesser at vtbenbeano@gmail.com or benbeano@vermontel.net so that many eyes can look out for similar or other activity.

Support for Adrienne Raymond

We are writing in support of Adrienne Raymond for school board. In the 11 years our kids have attended school in the district (only 11 left to go), she has thoughtfully responded to our questions and concerns and has pushed for child-centered and inclusive policies for our students.

We are impressed by her commitment to children through volunteering for years in the four winds program, on the schoolboard, and as a court appointed guardian ad litem, looking out for the best interest of children caught up in the legal system. These are all time consuming, necessary, and thankless commitments aimed at improving the lives of our kids. Adrienne is willing to do the hard work most of us shy away from, and we are thankful for her commitment.

~ Gretchen Gould and Davis Terrell

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS *(continued)*

Thank you, Steven Nicholson

Steven is not standing for reelection to the selectboard this year and is planning to take a little time off before; hopefully, he will reengage with service to the town in another elected or appointed office.

I have worked with Steven as he served the town as auditor, lister, FEMA administrator, and selectboard member and found him to be very detail oriented and tenacious (traits upon which all these offices place an emphasis).

His attention to detail and tenacity were very evident when he became FEMA administrator. There he was confronted with many applications for reimbursement of Tropical Storm Irene expenses that required additional information before they could be submitted to FEMA for processing and repayment. Over the course of two or three years he diligently and methodically went about identifying the necessary data and compiling them from town records as well as state and federal agencies and departments. By this HUGE effort he was able to, literally, recover "every last eligible cent" in funding for the town to reimburse our Tropical Storm Irene expenses. All Shrewsbury property taxpayers owe Steven a debt of gratitude; otherwise, our property tax bills would have been significantly higher.

Thank you, Steven. Enjoy your time off and I hope you will reenter town service soon. ~Rich Biziak

Thank you, Lee Wilson.

Lee volunteered for, and was appointed to, the Board of Auditors in 2017 then being elected to serve till this Town Meeting Day when his most recent term will expire. During that time, he has worked diligently on various auditing and annual report tasks and performed them very well. His work effort and insights are appreciated. We wish Lee a relaxing "retirement".

Submitted by Rich Biziak and Sandy Bragg

Support for Adrienne Raymond

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Adrienne Raymond for school board. In full transparency, Adrienne is my wife. We have lived in this community all of our adult lives and raised three boys here. During the years the kids were in school Adrienne was highly supportive and active in the ski program, Four Winds/ELF and numerous other efforts to improve educational and social opportunities at the Shrewsbury Mountain School.

As the children grew, Adrienne volunteered for other positions within the town such as zoning administrator, DRB member, lister, and poll worker. For 20 years now she has been a member of our multiple school boards and now serves as the district's board chair.

I have never known Adrienne to be other than fair and equitable to the gamut of people she encounters in her public service. The education of our children, in a legal, fair and equitable manner, is always at the forefront of Adrienne's mind as she conducts the business of the people.

As anybody who has worked with their hands or their minds knows, tearing things down is easy. The real and hard work is navigating within a system that is largely controlled and

mandated by State and Federal regulations and union contracts. Adrienne is the best candidate for school board in Shrewsbury and the only one running with a history of public service conducted at the highest standards.

Submitted by ~ Ed Raymond

Thank You Adrienne Raymond

Adrienne Raymond has dedicated countless years to the education of our community's children through her service on both the elementary and high school boards. Having served briefly on the Mountain School Board myself, I know how many, many late nights away from her family Adrienne has given in service to the children of this town. It is a thankless, difficult job that Adrienne has performed with grace, calm and dependability. She does the hard work for the rest of us because she cares deeply about our schools. She has the experience we need right now to transition away from Covid protocols; hire a new superintendent; and support our schools in teaching accurate information while developing students' understanding of our individual differences as humans on this earth.

Adrienne is the most qualified person for the job of School Board Director. Thank you, Adrienne for everything you have done to ensure that our children's educational needs are being met. We owe you a huge debt of gratitude!

~Lily (and Eldred) French

Letter of Support

We would like to express support for Adrienne Raymond for the position of Mill River school board director in the upcoming election. We have worked with Adrienne in her various roles in school and town government, and have done business with her and her family. We have found her very capable of dealing with and resolving fairly the many issues that have been her responsibility in those positions.

In serving with her on the Mountain School Board for four years, Art found her very caring and competent concerning the items that needed to be addressed. She was especially good with the budget, which is one of the most important duties of a school board director. ~Art Krueger and Trish Norton

Gratitude for Years of Service

Kara and Ryan Fitzbeauchamp write to share our gratitude for Adrienne Raymond's years of service on the MRU school board, and we support her campaign for re-election. For years, in the many roles that she has filled, Adrienne has been a dedicated public servant for our community. Our town and school district is fortunate to have someone with so much talent, experience, and institutional fluency who is willing to continue to volunteer their expertise on behalf of our community. Thank you to Adrienne for all that you do in service of our town. ~Ryan and Kara Fitzbeauchamp



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS *(continued)*

Varied Experience in the Community

The undersigned Shrewsbury residents are writing to indicate their support for Adrienne Raymond as one of our two reps to the Mill River Unified Union School District board.

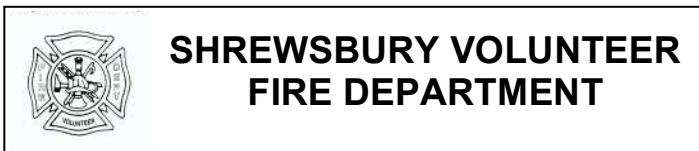
Adrienne has selflessly served our town over the years in a variety of capacities: zoning administrator, auditor, fire auxiliary, lister, as well as school director and other volunteer roles. Through her work for our community, she has demonstrated fairness and integrity while gaining a broad understanding of how town government functions.

Her prime consideration on the school board is to help make the best decisions to support the educational needs of the students. We believe that the experience gained during her 20 years of service, first on the Mountain School board and now as chair of the Mill River board, will be invaluable going forward with the many new faces serving at this time.

We are grateful for Adrienne's willingness to continue during this particularly difficult period, when so many, both employees and board members, are finding it too stressful. Along with her varied experience serving the community, Adrienne's calm presence, ready smile and common sense are especially needed at this time.

Signed by Nancy Bell, Ludy Biddle, Sandy & Kristi Bragg, Grace Brigham, Sally Deinzer, Stan & Louise Duda, Scott Garren & Heather Shay, Jonathan Gibson & Eliza Mabry, Pam & Peter Grace, Daphne LeaHemmer & Ed Hemmer, Turiya & Marcos Levy, Alice McGarey-Martin, Pam & Jeff Monder, Paul Sgalia, Martha & Podge Sirjane, Dirk & Judith Thomas, Ann Vanneman, Phyllis & Michael Wells, Lee Wilson, Sharon Winnicki, Francis Wyatt, Mark & Connie Youngstrom

~~~~~



Members of the SVFD enjoyed a respite from emergency calls in recent weeks with the pagers standing silent since January 13. This ended, however, when a call came in on February 18 for a flooded basement at a Lottery Road residence. In addition, on February 19, the department responded to a chimney fire at a home on the Crown Point Road.

Although a bitter cold January and beginning of February was a relatively quiet time for department members, there were always things to keep the department occupied. This included some indoor hands-on training led by Chief Phillip Severy. A training was conducted to re-familiarize members with the use of air packs, including how to remove the air bottles, don the masks, remove batteries for charging, use the built-in pass alarms and much more. Also, training was done with some smaller equipment including the use of thermal imaging cameras and the setting up of portable lighting equipment. The lighting equipment instruction was conducted by our newest and youngest members, Phillip Severy Jr., Ethan Severy, and Dylan Thomas who have great knowledge of how to activate

the portable lights. It is good to see our younger members taking on this type of responsibility.

In station activities, the long awaited and much needed well to provide water for the Northam Station was drilled by Parker Brothers Well Drilling. The well, which is 245 feet deep, produces 10 gallons of water per minute. This is more than sufficient for the station needs of washing vehicles, washing turnout gear, and general usage. The new well will allow the department to function separately from the water supply at the town office.

SVFD is very proud that this year's town report was dedicated to our own Barry Griffith, who has served us for many decades as our secretary/treasurer as well as being a dependable and adept firefighter. This is a great recognition for an exemplary member of our community. Congratulations, Barry, for an honor well deserved.

As town meeting and voting day are quickly approaching, the SVFD would like to note that the department will keep its budget request exactly as it has been for the past few years. The monies voted by the town keep us all protected by providing a well-trained and prepared group of individuals who dedicate their time and energy in response to any emergencies. SVFD members are true volunteers who answer calls for structure fires, car accidents, carbon monoxide alarms, brush fires, and much more. Tax dollars go to maintain equipment and stations, support the volunteers and ensure that they have the best equipment possible to protect them and the people and property where they respond. The other SVFD item goes toward a sinking fund to replace vehicles when current vehicles need upgrading. Currently, our oldest truck is Tanker 1 at the Cuttingsville station. It was built in 1992 making it 30 years old. There are presently committees in the department working to assess all vehicles and stations. When a new truck is necessary, the department will have money available through the sinking fund for a replacement. Currently, through diligent maintenance, our fleet of fire apparatus is in good shape, but these things must be watched very carefully as age does take its toll on this equipment.

The SVFD appreciates all of the support given by our taxpayers, and we hope that you will continue to support the efforts of the SVFD in protecting all members of the community.

Finally, as March and April approach and the snow melts, we come to the grass fire season. Dry grasses and leaves can quickly ignite and potentially become serious brush fires. Please be sure that if you consider burning brush, you call one of our Forest Fire Wardens for a burn permit. The wardens, Kevin Brown, (802-345-8668) and Al Ridlon Jr. (802-282-3642), can quickly issue a permit or advise you if conditions are not good for burning. They can also inform you as to how to conduct your burn safely. And should your burn get out of control, please make a call to 9-1-1 to get help from the SVFD.

Please remember to vote, and  
**STAY FIRE SAFE.**  
*Submitted by Bob Snarski,  
SVFD Safety Officer*



Time for the  
Snowdrops!

Hello, Shrewsbury Neighbors!

My name is Kristine Billings and I'm seeking election as the Shrewsbury representative for the MRUUSD School Board.

I graduated from Mill River (MRU) in 1988 and earned a degree in mathematics with a psychology minor from UVM in 1992. These degrees allowed me to enter the construction industry as a critical thinker and an inquisitive learner.

My construction career gave me extensive experience working with towns, lawyers, and subcontractors (union and nonunion). I have interviewed and contracted countless subcontractors and been responsible for overall project specifications and budgets up to \$58 million.

In 2012 and 2013, my husband Mark (1985 MRU graduate) and I welcomed our daughter and then our son into the world. My priorities changed, and I left the construction industry to stay home and raise our family. Our daughter attended pre-K at Shrewsbury and kindergarten at Clarendon. In 2018, we chose to enroll in the VT Home Study Program. I then became a Certified Reading/Spelling Tutor for Dyslexia, which opened my eyes to how children uniquely learn.

Even though we currently homeschool, we are still interested in our district's success and follow board meetings. The Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is used by Vermont to rank schools on educational proficiency. Historically, MRU ranked in the top 25% of Vermont schools. In 2015-16; however, the scores started declining and by 2018-19 (the most recent data on schooldigger.com because of Covid-19) MRU was in the bottom 12% of Vermont schools. Surprisingly, the district eliminated the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and 9<sup>th</sup> grade remedial reading programs. This decision has negatively impacted reading proficiency. To ensure our students are able to reach their full potential, our school must strive to graduate students who are at (or above) state standard proficiency in reading and math.

On top of that, this year's district budget eliminated 15 teachers and support staff and only ½ admin position! When the student population of the high school (grades 7-12) hovered at 800, MRU had one superintendent and one principal, and each elementary school had a principal. Currently, Mill River (7-12) has 368 students and K-6 has 443. MRU's ENTIRE District population is about equal to just the high school years ago. Student population has dropped, teachers have been cut, and administrative positions have increased. This defies common sense!

Furthermore, in my experience contracts should include safeguard clauses to protect the district from a contract breach, such as a penalty for ending a contract early.

The problems at MRU go beyond the low test scores, declining enrollment, collapse of academic programs, behavioral issues, and low morale. The greatest problem is lack of appropriate district level leadership. The district has lost sight of the core principles that launched MRU in the mid-1970's. We excelled through innovative teaching, celebrated arts, spirited athletics, and responsiveness to the community.

Our beautiful strong community needs to get back to its roots. It begins with the board hiring a new superintendent, who will reorganize the leadership to reflect new goals. These goals are ours to develop as a community. We, the community, are the ones who tell our representatives on the board what we desire from our schools. The board directs the superintendent to make it happen. And the superintendent has the board support to achieve the board's goals.

As a school board member, I will do my best to listen and communicate with everyone and to serve with integrity and transparency and will work collaboratively to propel MRU back to excellence! Please consider me for your MRU Board Rep.

Kind Regards, Kristine Billings

**Paid Political Advertisement**

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The logo for Evergreen Realty is shaped like a house. Inside the house shape, there is a stylized landscape with a mountain range, a river, and several evergreen trees. Below the house shape, the text "EVERGREEN REALTY" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "EVERGREENVT.COM" is written in a slightly smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the website, the phone number "802.492.9600" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the phone number, the slogan "OVER 35 YEARS OF DOING IT RIGHT!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the name "ROBERT BALEWICZ" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "BROKER/AGENT" in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. Finally, the address "151 MOUNT HOLLY ROAD SHREWSBURY, VT 05738" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# SHREWSBURY LIBRARY

Library News Submitted by Joan Aleshire

## LIBRARY & FOOD SHELF HOURS

Monday 10am to 12pm

Tuesday 7pm to 9pm

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

Thursday 7pm to 9pm

Friday 10am to 12pm

Saturday 10am to 12pm

\*\*MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS who, in addition to our faithful trustees, help keep the library open by staffing during our regular hours. We've been very pleased to welcome several new volunteers in the past year: Logan Faulkingham, Fred Michell, Ed Snyder, and Katie Stickney. We're always glad to have new staffers, and welcome back old friends and former trustees. In the winter, when many of our regular volunteers are away enjoying libraries in warmer climes, we especially appreciate more help. If you're interested, please call the library at 802 492-3410, and we'll sign you up!

\*\*WINTER CLOSINGS: Please call ahead to see if we're open in bad weather. We try to send out e-mails about weather closings or other cancellations ahead of time, but can't always inform everyone of last-minute changes. Thanks for your patience!

The Library is requesting level funding at \$7,500 for the coming year, to cover basic operating expenses: heat, electricity, phone & internet, and insurance. Please see our report in the Town Report for full information, and PLEASE VOTE ON MARCH 1!

### Continuing Programs:

Sunday, March 20 @ 4pm: FAMOUS BOOKS BOOK CLUB: Dante's Paradiso, translated by Allen Mandelbaum. We'll spend several sessions on this last volume of The Divine Comedy: rising to the heights as spring begins! Copies are available at the Library, contact Joan if the supply has run out: joanaleshire@vermontel.net, and for detail on how to connect via Zoom.

Sunday, March 27 @ 4pm: SCIENCE BOOK CLUB: How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming by Mike Brown. Science as whodunit, about the discovery of a new planet. Copies are available at the library, or let Margery know if you want an e-book: salmonm@vermontel.net, and for detail on how to connect via Zoom.

### New Books include:

- *It Wasn't All Beer and Skittles* by Betsy Patten Gardner: A remarkable family chronicle based on Gardner's parents' letters during the Depression and WWII years, as they

- struggled to find their true home in Cuttingsville. Must reading!
- *Hummelo: A Journey Through a Plantsman's Life* by Piet Oudolf: A beautiful and informative book about the Dutch landscape architect's garden designs. A breath of spring air!
- *The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants, and an Extraordinary Reckoning*, by Ben Raines: The history of a historic shipwreck and its implications for the present.
- *Lost and Found: A Memoir* by Kathryn Schulz: An engaging story of loss and love, by a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer.
- *Eating to Extinction: The World's Rarest Foods and Why We Need to Save Them* by Dan Saladino. A fascinating and urgent plea for food diversity.
- *Five Tuesdays in Winter: Stories* by Lily King: Appealing takes on contemporary life by this popular Maine writer.
- *Free Love* by Tessa Hadley: A novel set in 1960's London, about families in a time of seismic change.

New DVDs coming next time!

## Evening Song Farm is Hiring!

**One full time position available, but can be open to part time help. We love our farm's positive work culture... Come join the team!**

For more information contact Kara or Ryan at  
492-6265 or [eveningsongcsa@gmail.com](mailto:eveningsongcsa@gmail.com)



**MARCH IS VT MAPLE SYRUP & BEEF BRISKET MONTH**

Check our website & Facebook Page for Maple Open House details.  
Mark your calendars for March 19-20 & March 26-27,

Come on up, check out our small farm!

2450 Lincoln Hill - Shrewsbury, VT 05738  
802-492-2151 [MapleCrest.info@gmail.com](mailto:MapleCrest.info@gmail.com)

Farm Store Hours

Wed - Fri 10 am - 6 pm & Sat - Mon 10 am - 5 pm



**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, March 12, 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.**

# Shrewsbury Historical Society

www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

## March Musings

Can it be possible that it is time for Town Meeting Day? Seems like we just took down our Christmas tree. The Historical Society Museum has been closed for two years now due to the pandemic. However, it has been busy backstage all this time. We are hoping that perhaps this year we will be able to open safely for the summer. In the meantime, we respectfully request \$2500 from our town for the maintenance of this cherished landmark, the museum on Route 103.

Volunteers have been busy with filing the current history pages in their respective albums and filing copies of all pages in the storage area. We have also received some artifacts to be shown in future exhibits, and sold our history book, to folks near and far. Also during the holidays, we dressed up the windows with candlelight and hung wreaths at the door.

Just recently the Society added a book written by former resident Betsy Patten Gardner, who compiled information from diaries and letters that were found written by her deceased parents, Arthur and Peggy Patten, during the 30s and 40s. Arthur was the town moderator for many years. The title of the book is "It Wasn't All Beer and Skittles".

Back in September, Marty Podskoch, author of many books re: the CCC Corps in the 30's and 40's came to research North Shrewsbury's camp. He was surprised at the number of photos we had to show him, thanks to the diligence of the late Marjorie Pierce and brothers. We were able to add photos to his collection to be included in his book about the Vermont camps. There has been lots of interest in the Corps and when you next visit the museum you will be able to enjoy the two-panel exhibit that Marjorie worked so hard on.

## Found article

The following article was found in a clipping dated March 21, 1931 as it appeared in The Concord Monitor and New Hampshire Patriot. It was found in envelope addressed to Dr. H.S. Martyn of Cuttingsville, also a State Representative from Rutland Co.

"GRANITE CHIPS, H.C.P.: Our friend in the Vermont Legislature, Doctor Martyn of Cuttingsville, sent us this week, upon the eve of final adjournment of that body, a handsome photograph showing the state capitol at Montpelier beautifully illuminated on a midwinter night. Apparently, they do not clear as much of the state house grounds from snow as we do here in Concord and in the picture the white carpet reflects the electric lights as dazzling as does the dome and front of the capitol building. We are looking for an opportunity to show the picture to Park Commissioner Will J. Drew, who long has insisted that Concord is missing a chance in not having our state house illuminated in some effective manner until midnight for the aesthetic pleasure of our own folks and as a reason for travelers to tarry here overnight."

I wonder if the capital in Concord was since illuminated at night? Spring is on its way. Still be diligent, stay safe. And please vote.  
*Submitted by Ruth Winkler*



*Wheweee! It's so much fun getting a good roll in fresh fallen snow even when your clothes are still on. I do believe this is what Cutie loves best about winter. Plus, she's on vacation.*

## News From Rainbow Riding Center

Snow and cold aside, Rainbow Riding is already gearing up for the coming lesson season. Besides getting funding and programs lined up we're working on a new design for T-shirts and caps and hope to have them ready to show everyone next month. Planning is on for spring work at Stonewall Farm that will include spring cleanup, fencing, getting equipment ready and brushing that long winter hair out of the coats of those fuzzy horses.

School programs are filling up. The 2022 registration paperwork is now available on the website for anyone who would like to participate in Rainbow Riding Center programs as a rider or volunteer. Please inquire about financial assistance that is available. If you need a hard copy, send us an email at the address below or contact Janet at [janupton@comcast.net](mailto:janupton@comcast.net)

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. ~Janet Upton

## 3rd Annual Shrewsbury Meeting house Concert Series

Hi Friends of Live Music!

We're gearing up for summer, and in communication with lots of talented musicians. We're working on booking eight to ten concert dates, about every two weeks from June through September 2022.

Some terrific bands, some new to our series, are already booked and more in the hopper! It's going to be a great season of live music, right in our backyard, outdoors at the Shrewsbury Meetinghouse. Stay tuned!

~Victoria Arthur

## New Life into an Old Program

People have always been interested in “big trees.” That is those that catch our eye and inspire majesty and curiosity in us. The Redwoods of California have been the “must see” trees since our country was settled and still attract millions of visitors annually. However each state, including Vermont, has its own set of big trees and for years people have searched for not only large trees but the largest trees of each species. Jeff Freeman, botany professor at Castleton, started Vermont’s big tree effort in 1973 and the list included 27 trees. It grew quickly and in 1977 had 75 trees and then grew to 81 in 1982. It has since grown to 114 in the early 2000’s and today about 150 species are under consideration. In 1940 American Forests developed a National Register of Champion Trees which is the standard for the big tree program nationwide and includes the measuring system used to register trees and assign points to them based



National Champion  
shadblow in Clarendon

on circumference, height, and crown spread. This national list of big trees exceeds 800 species.

The Vermont Big Tree Program has been such a wonderful way to connect people and trees and the list has been supported over the years by multiple organizations and many people. One only needs to view the Big Tree display located in the Forestry Building at the State Fair each year to see that people-tree connection. Unfortunately, the big tree program has been mostly dormant for about a decade as the

trees and those who measure them got older and as both slowed down as the aging process continued. However, last year the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program began working on updating the Vermont Big Tree Program by breathing new life into the old list. Information was examined on 150 trees and 53 trees are now verified on the updated list. And

this will no longer be simply a dropdown list nor in booklet form but a searchable data base with images, measurements, total points by tree and location information. All data is collected through ArcGIS Survey123, displayed through ArcGIS Experience Builder, and is searchable and sortable. For example, one can now search for trees by species or genus and sort by county, by size, or by trees that are publicly accessible. To see the tree information on the 53 Vermont trees listed search Vermont Big Tree List.



Fair Haven Red Pine  
awaiting measurement

So where do you fit in? The list is far from complete and will be constantly changing as new big trees are discovered. My first

scan of the new list revealed that the former Vermont Big Tree Champion cottonwood in Hubbardton has been replaced by a cottonwood in Colchester and the former state black locust in Pittsford has been replaced by one in Milton. If there is a big tree in your life nominate it. Remember it is not the largest tree in Vermont but the largest tree of each species that makes the list. So while the largest tree in Vermont is the Colchester cottonwood (447 points) the national champion tree from Vermont is the round leaf shadblow in Clarendon (114 points). Nomination forms with instructions can be found on the Vermont Big Tree List website. To ease the workload the format for nominating and measuring has been “standardized” somewhat by having nominations accepted between January and July of each year with follow up measurements done between July and December. Further information on this latest big tree effort will be published this spring. There might be a big tree in your life.

~Gary Salmon, Tree Warden

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**www.stewartmaple.com**  
 Shop online and have it shipped or pick-up curbside

## The Shrewsbury Community Church



*Compiled by Sue Ransom-Kelley*

The Shrewsbury Community Church Welcomes all Visitors. If you need to combat cabin fever you are always welcome to join

Keep on showing up.  
Keep on seeing the good.  
Keep on being mindful.  
Keep on helping.  
Keep on trying.  
Keep on hoping.  
Keep on giving back.  
Keep on paying it forward.  
Keep on being the light.  
Keep on shining.  
Keep on loving.  
Keep on caring.  
Keep on smiling.  
Keep on.

*by Rachael Marie Martin  
Submitted by Sue Ransom-Kelley*

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).

Keep on keeping on, that's what we do, day in and day out. Some of us do it for the paycheck. Some of us do it because of our sense of duty. Some of us do it because we are so ingrained in our work we have no other choice. Some of us do it because we feel a sense of purpose. Some of us do it because there isn't anything else we can do. I was told once that 80% of success is just showing up. Sometimes the best we can do is just show up. There is too much good in the world to allow ourselves to get sucked into the black hole of negativity. After two years of Covid, we are all struggling. Some days are more difficult than others but the key to surviving those days is to just keep on keeping on! ~Cindy Lack

### 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 7pm-9pm, Wed 10am-5pm; 7pm-9pm, Th 7pm-9pm, Friday 10am-12noon & 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!

### 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 March 6, 10;30 am Worship & Holy Communion led by Pastor Wendy Savery

-Sunday March 13, 10;30 am Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery

-Sunday March 20, 10;30 am Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery

-Sunday March 27, 10;30 am -Worship Service led by Pastor Wendy Savery.

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## MILL RIVER UNION UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Our Town Clerk is both sending out absentee ballots and allowing early voting in the office during open hours. Always remember your vote is your voice. Please make it as informed as possible.

On to the District news. Winter is a busy time for the schools. Kids are deep into the school year's work. Music ensembles are performing- hope you caught the Mill River Singers' Valentine's performance somewhere. Art programs are showing off their work all around. Our outdoor sports program at Okemo has finished for the season after some really great days. Sports teams at all age levels are looking towards the finish of the winter season and the start of spring sports. I hope you check the school calendars to see what is happening. Important news is the recommendation by the State to Superintendents and Boards that schools that have an 80% or higher immunization rate for eligible students can discontinue masking. At our 2/16/22 board meeting, Supt. Hill recommended that we follow that guidance as well as other changes as they are announced. The board voted to support that advice as well as a plan to revisit the issue at every upcoming meeting. Of note, none of our schools are at the 80% level of immunizations.

About the budget and other articles to be voted on 3/1/22.

I won't sugarcoat that our schools have suffered during the pandemic. It continues to affect students and staff and that affects our budgeting needs. Increased spending on social and emotional wellness and general academic remediation is needed and all spending is pressured by the many year drop in student numbers which increased in the last two years for a number of reasons. I am happy to say that there is a generous amount of federal resources available that will help with some of the extra spending that is needed in the short-term. There have been multiple conversations, led by district administrators, on the importance of keeping the short term nature of the money in mind and not include it for long-term program needs. That said, to control the tax rate, we have planned cuts in every sector of spending. The expected tax rate will be a bit lower than last year when the CLA is applied. This is great, but it is the result of the increased yield for each student from the state due to an Education Fund surplus. Without that increase in support our tax rate would have increased. Expenditure cuts are planned across all segments of spending with care being taken to affect students as little as possible. Where exactly those cuts will be has generally been decided, but there is some flexibility and needs will be looked at closer to the next school year before final decisions are made. For more detailed information, the School District Annual Report can either be picked up in a print copy at a school, the Central Office, as well as the Town Office or you can access it online at millriverschools.org. The other articles are statutory language so if you have questions, please feel free to contact any schoolboard member for clarity.

Shrewsbury representatives:

Adrienne Raymond, araymond@millriverschools.org

Sam Green, sgreen@millriverschools.org

*Submitted by Adrienne Raymond, School Board*

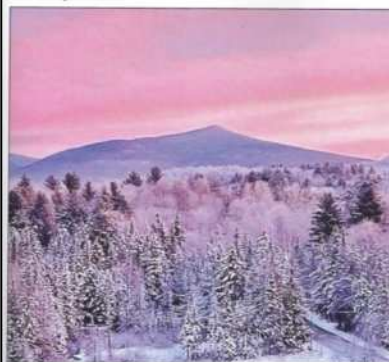
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### Town of Shrewsbury, Vermont



### 2021 Annual Report

The 2021 Annual Report was mailed to town mailboxes on Thursday, February 17, 2022 and is also available for viewing on the town website: [www.shrewsburyvt.org](http://www.shrewsburyvt.org). Some copies are available at the town office

### Annual Report Cover Photo

Congratulations and thanks to teacher Erin Rice. Her extraordinary photo of a pink sunrise over Shrewsbury Peak graces the cover of the 2021 Annual Town Report. Rich Biziak noted that the auditors, who collect and compile each year's facts and figures into this book, had been considering using colored photos someday. "Erin's picture pushed us over the edge!" He said she sent many beautiful Shrewsbury scenes captured on her way to school. Lovely to be reminded of Shrewsbury's treasures. Best wishes for kite flying and sugaring season! ~Grace Brigham





The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) has been helping homeless animals in Rutland County since 1959.

There is so much to know about us!

Do You Know? In 2021, RCHS...

Accepted 4 owner surrender cats from Shrewsbury out of 444 owner surrendered cats and kittens.

Adopted 1 dog into his forever home in Shrewsbury out of 821 total animals adopted.

Received \$5,413.55 in donations from 26 households in Shrewsbury out of \$736,587.00 in total donations.

Provides programs for Shrewsbury and all towns in Rutland County including:

- Pet Adoptions • Lost & Found Pets • Animal Surrenders • Humane Education
- Spay the Mom Program • Free Roaming Cats and Trap Neuter Release (TNR)
- Community Pet Food • Have-A-Heart Trap Loan Program • Shelter Tours

***If you believe in the work we do for the homeless animals, please consider adopting, volunteering or donating. Together we can make a difference.***

Rutland County Humane Society • 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763

802.483.6700 • [www.rchsvt.org](http://www.rchsvt.org)



*This page was sponsored by a Shrewsbury resident.*



Mike Stewart (standing) shaking hands with Rick Lees, clockwise is Scott Ryan, Scott Ballard, Dave Fucci, Mike Gabriele, and Ray Duquette (May 2018)



**News from the Sno-Birds**

Our club has been out grooming and clearing trees this season. The snow conditions have been slim for the most part of this season. This last month we were out every week doing what we could with the snow that we have. All the riders and the others that use our trails are happy to at least get out and enjoy the winter. I was out walking the trails on Feb. 20 and I was surprised to see so many riders out and tracks from feet and skis. There is ice under the snow that may pose a problem later but for now things are as good as you get for the conditions. Our new Mogul Master Multi-Planer Drag is a great improvement to our ability to cut the hard pack and make a smooth trail for everyone. Hope to see you on the trails or at our meetings.

On a somber note, our long-time past president Rick Lees passed away last week. He will be deeply missed by me and all that knew him for his friendship and efforts to promote the snowmobile sport. Rick, rest in peace! ~Roy Arthur

**Only 206 days until Shrewsbury Day 2022!**

Hopefully, we've made it through the worst of Covid 19 and its variants. As we move forward to some sense of normalcy, we are excited to announce that there are only 206 days until Shrewsbury Day 2022. We were all saddened to cancel the 2021 version after building toward a bigger and better event.

We are returning with our 2021 theme of Red White and Blue, Wear or Wave. After months of isolation, we can all come together in a wave of color as a community. Each month we will introduce exciting new details about the gathering.

This month we would like to introduce local townspeople, Ray DiPrinzio and his family, who live on Crown Point Road. Ray and his family live between Shrewsbury and NYC. They love winters in Vermont and frequent Spring Lake as a family in the summer months. Like all of us they are ready for the pandemic to be over and Ray's band, Spring Porch Revival, is looking forward to playing for our event. Last fall, Ray and his band played for the Vermont Farmers Food Center Harvest Dinner. We have a feeling Ray is one of Shrewsbury's best kept secrets. We invite you to come find out for yourself September 17, 2022. Shrewsbury Day is full of good fortune. Thank you, Ray DiPrinzio!

P.S. I myself listened to one of Ray's Bands on YouTube today and I have to say, he is true Shrewsbury Style. ~ Betsy  
Submitted by Grace and Betsy

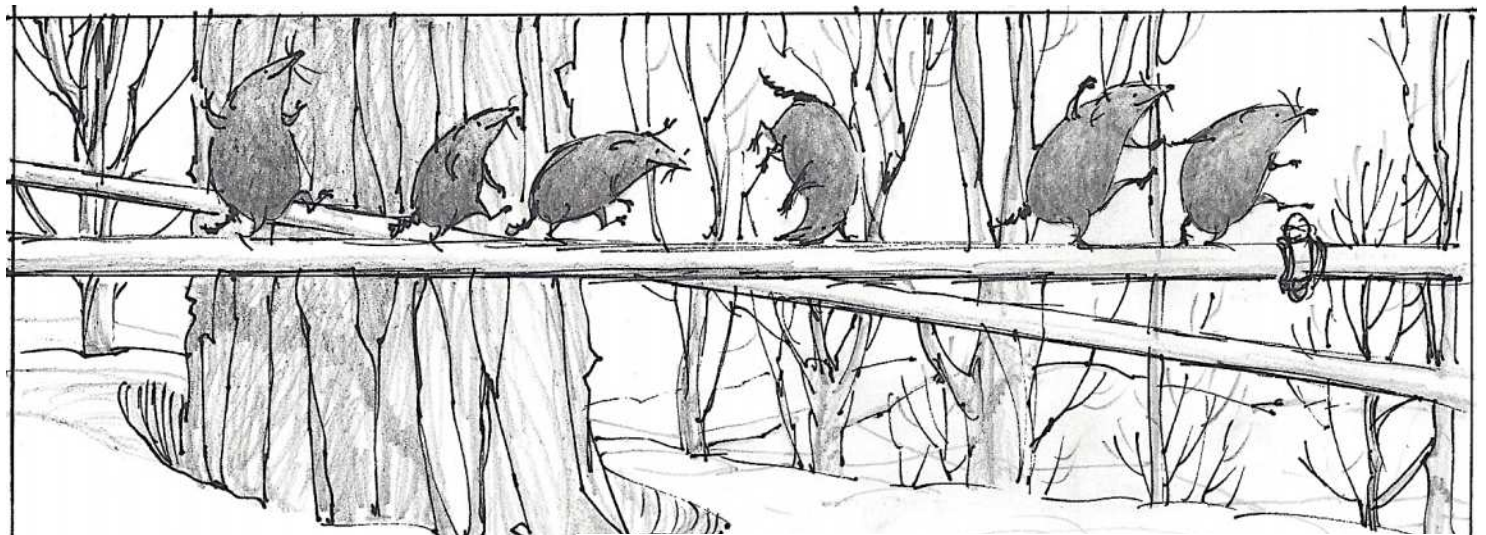
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Shrews dancing on the maple sap tubing and celebrating the coming of Spring!  
By Grace Brigham

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## DEAR MOTHER EARTH

*An Advice Column*

### Plastic in the News

#### Dear Mother Earth,

I had no idea that my clothing also was polluting the ocean and our soil! This feels overwhelming to me, but I am still happy to know so that I can change my buying habits. I will try to avoid all synthetic materials, buy less clothing (like my grandmother did), and not put my old clothing into the trash. I have always taken usable clothing that I no longer want to area thrift stores, but I have thrown ripped or stained clothes and textiles (e.g.: towels, sheets, etc.) into my trash can. I recently noticed bins at my town's solid waste district for textile recycling and I will be more careful to put old, unusable textiles in these bins. I understand that our landfills are rapidly becoming overloaded, and that textiles need to be separated out like other recyclables and food scraps. I must admit however, that I still find a trip to the grocery store to be the most challenging for avoiding plastic. I bring my own mesh produce bags in order to avoid the plastic film bags they make available at the store and I always buy products in glass, cardboard, or metal if given a choice, but it seems that there are fewer and fewer plastic free options available. How can we reverse this destructive trend? I am only one person! **~Feeling Frustrated**

#### Dear Feeling Frustrated,

You are right, you are only one person, but each person has the power to affect change. You are a role model to others by the choices you make. You also can write letters or make phone calls to businesses and corporations expressing your concerns. But of course, big changes will come only when our elected officials at all levels of government pass laws to protect us from plastic pollution in our water and food. In this vein, France recently passed a bill that bans plastic packaging from essentially all fruits and vegetables! This bill went into effect early in January 2022. It is estimated that this bill alone will prevent more than 1 billion items of unnecessary plastic packaging each year. One billion per year! This is significant, and a similar law is about to pass in Spain. It can be done!

Other measures that France has taken within their recent law are the banning of plastic wrap for all newspapers, magazines and publicity publications, as well as the installment of more public drinking fountains to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. France is leading the way in showing other countries what can be done to reduce plastic waste, especially single use plastics. If France can do it, perhaps the United States could too. I encourage you to put the pressure on your lawmakers so that you too can get out from under the burden of mountains and mountains of plastic being dumped on humans everyday! If you need more information to bolster your arguments with legislators, businesses, or just family and friends, consider watching any of the following documentaries on YouTube: Plastic Ocean (by the United Nations), A Plastic Wave, The Plastic Problem (PBS News Hour), or The Story of Plastic. Watch them and weep. Then get busy to do your part. Be empowered! **~Mother Earth**

### Reducing Plastic - What's In Your Trash Can?

#### Dear Mother Earth,

I read today that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recently released a report on the global plastics pollution problem. They reported that we cannot recycle or reuse our way out of this enormous problem, we must simply STOP producing (and purchasing) so much plastic in the first place. Seems like common sense to me! If we as consumers can signal our intolerance for more plastic, perhaps it will have some impact. In that vein, I no longer purchase toothpaste in a tube, plastic toothbrushes, deodorant or dental floss in plastic containers, etc. I feel really good about the changes I have made and can really see the difference in my weekly trash. My problem now is, as I try to eliminate all plastic from my home, I would like to subtract the plastic bag that lines my trash can! How can the items inside of my bag effectively biodegrade if the bag itself will be forever on the Earth? Can you offer some solutions in this area?

**Sincerely, Buying Less Plastic**

#### Dear Buying Less Plastic,

I am so grateful for all that you are doing to reduce your use of everyday plastic items! Every little bit really does help. If we could eliminate plastic toothpaste tubes alone, we would save the equivalent of 50 Empire State buildings full of plastic tubes from going into our oceans and soils PER YEAR! That's a lot of plastic for clean teeth! So, please keep up the good work.

Regarding your garbage liner bag, I know it can be very confusing. There is a lot of greenwashing going on out there, as companies try to trick you into thinking that their products are good for the planet. Beware of garbage bags labeled biodegradable plastic, compostable plastic, or recycled plastic. All of these are made out of plastic that ultimately will end up in human bodies or in the bodies of your animal friends.

One trash bag that appears to be 100% plant based is the "If You Care" brand that is made from potato starch and is perfectly harmless to the Earth. The tall kitchen bags are not as tall as some others, so it works best in a shorter garbage can. But as you produce less garbage, smaller may be better. Many people have reported to me that they no longer line their trash cans with any bag, but use newspapers on the bottom and then dump the whole contents into their larger (hopefully metal) cans for the dumpster or trash hauler.

The contents of our garbage cans should be very small if we are following best trash practices, such as composting all food scraps (the law in Vermont), and recycling all glass, paper, metal and cardboard. The only thing left is plastic, and if you don't buy it, you won't have to trash it! Try to eliminate plastic bags from your life. That means no liners for your bathroom trash containers, no black plastic bags for leaves and garden waste, and no plastic bags for returnable bottles and cans. Use cardboard, paper, burlap bags, or no liner at all. Bit by bit we can reduce the impact of plastic on our planet. There is enough plastic already on the Earth that we can't deal with, we don't need more! Stay committed and just say "no" to plastic!

**Thank you, Mother Earth**



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## NEWS FROM PIERCE'S BOARD

The annual meeting of the Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 7pm at the Meeting House/Town Hall. At that meeting we will give a report to our members of the financial standing of the store, the year in review, and plans looking ahead. Members must be present to vote and we are hoping for a quorum to complete our business. Hope to see you there!

We have openings for three members on the Board for which we have two new candidates, Debbie Schoch and Larry Abelman. Also, up for election is Jeff Monder who was appointed to an empty seat on the Board during the past year. Board members will be voted in at the annual meeting for three-year terms. We will be saying goodbye to long time Board member and former Chair of the Board, Paul Sgalia. Thank you, Paul, for all of your time and commitment to Pierce's Store. Paul wore many hats over the years including store musician, cashier, fixer-upper, and Board representative. We hope you will continue to cheer for Pierce's from the sidelines, Paul, and remain in several of the above-mentioned roles!

Debbie Schoch, Larry Abelman, and Jeff Monder have each submitted brief bios to introduce themselves to the Pierce's Store community:

### Debbie Schoch

I was born in Bryn Mawr, Pa and moved to Shrewsbury 42 years ago with my husband Steve Walsh. I have a BA in Political Science from Ursinus College. My first career was in the ski industry where I was an auditor for SKI Ltd, the parent company of Killington ski resort. After eight years I left there and chose to be a stay-at-home mom for our three sons. At that time I became very active in town volunteer work including the SMS school board, the PTO, Planning Commission, Preschool implementation, and starting the Conservation Commission. My 2nd career began 20 years ago working with volunteers in the healthcare field and I'm currently the Director of Volunteers

at RRMC and chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Council. I've been an active trustee of the Rutland Free Clinic and held positions on environmental nonprofits. My current passion is working with refugees and I was appointed a USCRI Vermont official family friend of the last Syrian family to arrive in Rutland. I truly believe in the intrinsic value of community, which is often echoed in refugee stories during these times of continuing world unrest. Pierce's is such a gem that should be preserved and valued for years to come - as a gathering place bringing our neighbors together for food, comradery and events. I'm so happy to contribute to the store's continuing history.

### Larry Abelman

I was born and grew up in D.C., spending my teenage years in the Maryland suburbs. I served in the Navy from 1969-1971. I moved to Vermont in 1977 as a ski bum at Killington. I was the Tennis Director at the Cortina Inn for six years in the early to mid 90's. I have spent the last 25 years of "workhood" as the Retail Director for Okemo overseeing their retail operations. I grew up in a retail family mostly concentrating on women's clothing. I have lived in Shrewsbury for 34 years with my wife of 37 years, Lori. I have been retired for almost eight years. I love to downhill ski, and play Pickleball and Tennis in my spare time. I also am a dog lover, and enjoy my two-a-day walks on the dirt roads of town with my dog, Tyler. I hope to put my retail experience to good use for the Pierce's store and the community.

### Jeff Monder

I was born in Brooklyn and attended college at SUNY Plattsburgh where I met my future wife, Pam. After I graduated with a BA in Philosophy, Pam and I moved to the Washington DC area, where I built a career in information technology. We moved to Shrewsbury in 1994 with our two young children, and I worked at Central Vermont Public Service until it was acquired, then continued with Green Mountain Power until I retired in 2021. Over my career, I developed hands-on and management experience with a variety of technologies, an understanding of electrical business, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. The portion of my career that I enjoyed most was devoted to how those disciplines could be leveraged together to reduce carbon emissions. I have served on the Rutland Coop Board of Directors and the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department. Currently, I serve as a layperson on the State of Vermont's Judicial Conduct Board. I have a passion for history, and love skiing, mountain and road biking, baking, and foraging for mushrooms. Pierce's Store is a wonderful establishment in our town. In addition to providing unique and much-needed services, it stands as an important historical touchstone in our community. I look forward to continuing as a member of the Pierce's Store Board of Directors, supporting the store as it continues and evolves to meet the needs of Shrewsberries and visitors alike.

*~Submitted by Lily French,  
Pierce's Store Board Co-Chairman*

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# NEWS FROM PIERCE'S STORE

**802-492-3326**

Bob Knudsen, Manager

Hello friends and neighbors! Springtime is almost here, but we still have a few more weeks of snow and cold to enjoy first. If you need help staying warm, stop in and we'll help you out.

### LOCAL FOODS AND GOODS

Our local food options have been a smash hit! In addition to the ever-popular muffins and scones, Button Hill Bakery has added brownies and will also be bringing us some new flavors and treats in rotation for some of the other ones to keep things seasonal!

And VT Bliss has kept up the excellent work with the soups and sandwiches, bringing variety every week while still keeping some of the top options available all the time! If you want to keep abreast of menu changes, follow both Pierce's and VT Bliss on Facebook, or subscribe to the store email:

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

We have also added some additional local options for jams and eggs, as well as some consignment items. You may have noticed some changes coming as we try to clean up and fix the way we do consignment to better serve both the artisans and the customers, so keep an eye out if you are looking for gifts or collectibles.

### SPRING CLEANING

Speaking of cleaning up, you may also notice that we are in the process of doing a deep clean on the store, piece by piece. Everything from dusting the upper shelves and antiques to weekly floor cleaning to having the appliances serviced is in progress, and we are going to be moving some of the shelving around as well. We are working hard to make the store a more welcoming place for everybody!

### SUPPLY CHAINS AND COSTS

Some of the supply chain issues we have recently experienced have eased a bit, most notably on cheeses and related products, but other items have started to become a bit more scarce, especially produce. But as we head into spring, our local providers will be able to keep our greens and vegetables in stock pretty reliably. While we do expect some prices to continue to rise with inflation, some stability seems to have returned, which is good news for everybody.

If you would like to see us carry something you can't find elsewhere, or just would find easier to have in town, let us know! We have more than 70 vendors who have been able to keep us better stocked than even some of the big chains! And if one vendor doesn't have a particular item, often we can find an alternative from one of the other ones.



### NEW FACES IN THE STORE

If you have been by recently, you may have seen a couple of new faces helping out around the store. Jean Marie Walker and Ed Sawyer have stepped in to volunteer at the register and on the floor a few times a week, and we have a new employee as well, Logan Faulkingham (*in the photo*). Logan will be joining us as an interim assistant for a few months while we continue to search for a longer-term assistant manager. Please come by and meet and greet them all!

### HELP WANTED

We are looking for a part time assistant manager to work four days a week. Email Bob at [pierces.store@gmail.com](mailto:pierces.store@gmail.com) if you are interested!

### COVID AND PORCH PICKUP

Covid does seem to be on the wane lately, but we've all heard that song before. As such, we are still requiring masks to be worn in the store until we can be a bit more certain about the future safety of our patrons and workers. As always, if you have concerns about entering the store because of either Covid or any other reason, porch pickup is available weekdays until 3 pm.

*News from Pierce's by Bob Knudsen*



### Wine Tasting March 25

We'll be sampling wines featured by the New York Times wine critic Eric Asimov in his latest selection of good value wines for \$20 or less. It will be an eclectic assortment because Asimov likes grapes and appellations that are off the beaten path. Join us at Pierce's Store on Friday March 25 from 4pm to 6pm.

*Submitted by Sandy Bragg*

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