

DEC 2011

SHARON CONNECTIONS

The Sharon, Vermont Quarterly Newsletter



Issue#3

NEWS FROM THE SHARON CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Adrienne Kinne

Welcome to the third installment of the town newsletter, Sharon Connections! We appreciate the continued fantastic response to the first and second editions, and thank everyone who submitted articles and photographs, and donated their time and money to make this edition possible.

You will probably notice that you may not have received this issue in your mailbox. This is because after receiving town support for the first two issues we are now being supported by subscribers who have purchased a subscription to cover the cost of printing and mailing their issues, and donors who have helped supplement the cost of printing (many thanks!). Printed copies are available at Town Hall, Baxter Library, Sharon Trading Post, and Midway Station for 50 cents (which will go towards printing future copies). It is also available at no cost on the town website:

www.sharonvt.net

Send your submissions to:
sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com

If you did not receive a copy in your mailbox this time around and would like to in the future, please send a check for \$6 to the Town of Sharon, P.O. Box 250, Sharon, VT 05065 with NEWSLETTER in the memo and include your name and the address to which you'd like it mailed. A subscription would also make a great gift idea for town residents who have moved away but would like to keep in touch with the town of Sharon and what we're up to. Donations above the minimal subscription rate will help ensure that this worthwhile endeavor will continue in the future, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

For more information about events happening in the town of Sharon visit **www.sharonvt.net** Sharon also has a Town Listserv that provides a quick way for town residents to send out messages to all subscribers about issues and events, formal and informal, from lost pets and items for sale to community events and meetings. Discussions welcome!

To subscribe to the listserv,
please send a "blank" email to
Sharon-Subscribe@lists.valley.net
You will then receive an email guiding you
through the rest of the registration process.

Adrienne Kinne &
Miriam Rubin

Here's a little history about how our town newsletter came to be. It all started last winter when Tracy Hazen, a skilled graphic artist, identified the need for a community newsletter. At a Selectboard meeting last February she presented several examples of area towns' newsletters (Tunbridge, Barnard, and Plainfield, NH) and also a prototype she had developed for a newsletter for Sharon, which she suggested could be called "Sharon Connections". The Selectboard viewed this very favorably and was happy to support getting it started, agreeing to provide modest funding for printing and mailing the first two issues. Peter "Pano" Rodis spoke at the Town Meeting, proposing that because we could all benefit from strengthening communication with one another as neighbors, a sum of money be voted to hire someone for the purpose of developing town-wide communication. This sparked a lively discussion that ended in a "no" vote for funding a vaguely-defined position – but not for the concept of a newsletter. Town residents agreed with the sentiment but weren't ready to commit a line item in



the budget without having a clear plan in mind, and several residents volunteered to help work towards this goal.

A communications work group met soon after town meeting to think through the options available and further develop Tracy's newsletter proposal. These community volunteers have brought Tracy's vision into reality, and the concept she initially presented to the Selectboard in February was issued as the first edition of the Sharon Connections Newsletter in June. Although some Sharon residents have internet access, many people don't, and some of us just still prefer good, old-fashioned written words on paper. The newsletter working group elected to pursue a combination of the written and electronic forms and hence both the town newsletter and list-serve have been launched.

The Sharon Town Newsletter Committee is still a work in progress. We have included a masthead of our current membership and we would like to thank Pano Rodis, Mike Barsanti and Paul Haskell for their support in getting things started. If anyone is interested in becoming involved, please contact

us as you are more than welcome (email Sharon Connections or call Miriam at 763-8268 ext 4). A draft town newsletter policy is available online at the town website SharonVT.net and in hard copy form at Town Hall. This gives a basic overview of how the committee operates and guidelines for the newsletter content and publication. Feedback is welcome!

We are still trying to see what works best, whether it is sustainable to operate based on subscriptions, what printing and mailing costs would be if the town decides to support the newsletter in the future. Regardless, we are committed to making the Sharon Connections a continued success and hope you enjoy this edition – making special note of our new column, Sherrie's Soups and Such!

Reminder

Sharon Connections is now open to local ads.

Place your business card size ad in our next edition for the rate of \$10.00.

The next newsletter will come out in late February, filled with news, events, articles and recipes, with special attention given to our next town meeting.

Articles for our next issue must be submitted by **February 1st.**

Send your submissions to:
sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com



SELECTBOARD BUZZ

Miriam Rubin

Appreciations: The Selectboard once again would like to thank ALL the people who gave so much time, energy, food and money in the response to, and recovery from, Tropical Storm Irene. There has been such an outpouring of support from hundreds of people, both within Sharon and from afar, but in particular we would like to recognize the efforts of the core team who coordinated central aspects of this work: John Durkee, Carol Flint, Megan Calla, Steve Gagliardone, Gina Capossela, Jason Flint, Dana Durkee and the entire Sharon Fire Department, and Mary Russ. Their weeks of work behind the scenes was crucial to the community's ability to respond effectively to this event. These people volunteered their time day after day, taking significant time from their employment and other commitments to ensure that Sharon residents' needs were addressed and critical public infrastructure was repaired. A special thanks is also due to the Rodewald sisters and folks at the Vermont Independent School of the Arts who provided an extensive clothing and dry goods exchange.

FY13 Budget: The Selectboard office has been abuzz with FEMA activity for the past three months. Now that the initial recovery efforts from Tropical Storm Irene are winding down, the Selectboard is turning its attention to the next fis-

cal year's budget. Keeping a level budget will be out of reach, given the unanticipated expenses incurred as a result of the storm damage. This presents the Selectboard with an enormous challenge to find as many other places to cut back as possible. A public budget workshop will be held on Monday December 12th at 6:30pm at the Town Office. All members of the Sharon community are welcome to help shape this budget. The focus of budget workshops is to identify and prioritize community needs, strategize approaches to long-term funding for storm repairs, review all areas of municipal spending and prepare a budget to be presented to the town residents in the Town Report. The December 12th workshop will be the third public budget forum; more will be scheduled as needed to complete this work.



Sharon's hardworking Road Crew from L to R:
Rick Bowen, Nick Potter,
Bobby Cushman and foreman
Tim Higgins

Increasing the Road Crew's Capacity: In response to increasing demands on the three-person road crew, the Selectboard has added a fourth full-time road crew position and welcomes Sharon resident Nick Potter to the town roster. This new position will enhance the town's over-all efficiency in road and equipment maintenance and

will alleviate the task of advertising, hiring and training part-time temporary helpers for both summer mowing and winter plowing.

Road Repair Status: The road Crew and contractors have worked to repair or substantially stabilize all storm-damaged town roads to the extent time allowed before winter. This has been a tremendous effort on their part, and the Selectboard extends its most sincere appreciation for all their hard work. A new bridge is under construction on Fay Brook Rd because the previous structure was condemned due to the collapse of one wing wall and extensive "scour" beneath the bridge supports. Damaged bridges on Broad Brook Rd and White Brook Rd will be under design and engineering contracts over the winter for construction next year. Work on Rte 132 and River Rd will also be completed next summer.

Due to all the extra emergency repair work, the anticipated projects rebuilding a section of Beaver Meadow Rd and improving safety on the upper Quimby Mountain Bridge had to be postponed. These projects are substantially funded by state grants which allow the work to be completed next year.

Looking Ahead...

Please put the Town Meeting on your calendars: Tuesday March 6th will be here before we know it! The Selectboard welcomes your attendance at all its meetings; regular meetings are every first and third Monday at 6:30pm at the town office.

FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S CALENDAR

Debra St. Peter

Town Meeting Day and the Presidential Primary are on the first Tuesday in March. The official date for 2012 is March 6. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Sharon Elementary School.

Town Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the Sharon Elementary School multipurpose room.

School meeting will be held Monday, March 5, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Sharon multipurpose room.

Some important dates to remember:

January 1, 2012:

2012 Dog Licenses available for purchase. \$7/dog neutered or spayed and \$10/not neutered or spayed

January 26, 2012:

Last day to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the voters with Town Clerk for articles to be included in Town Meeting Warning. 17:2642(a)

January 30, 2012:

Last day for filing with the Town Clerk nominating petitions for town offices to be voted on by Australian ballot. 17:2681(a)

February 29, 2012:

Last day for Town Clerk to receive applications for addition to voters checklist.

March 5, 2012:

School Meeting 7 p.m.

March 6, 2012:

Town Meeting Day 9 a.m. and Presidential Primary

March 2012:

Rabies Clinic at Sharon Fire Station (please call for date & time)

April 1, 2012:

Last day for dog or wolf-hybrid licensing.

If you are interested in helping with check-in or check-out at the polls, please give me a call:

Debbie St. Peter, Town Clerk,
763-8268 ext 1



SHARON ENERGY COMMITTEE

High Energy Weatherization Work!

Dee Gish

The Sharon Energy Committee held a Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Workshop on Saturday, October 8th. Around 25 local residents attended all or part of the 3-hour workshop. Presentations were given by CVPS on Smart Meter technology. Smart meters are coming to CVPS customers in Sharon next summer. Efficiency Vermont provided information on appliance and lighting rebates and incentives, as well as home performance and weatherization incentives. Brent Mellon from Building Energy presented his findings from the energy audit of the Seven Stars building, and ReKnew Energy discussed solar photovoltaic and solar hot water technologies and incentives. Most attendees took advantage of the free weatherization supplies including window insulating film, pipe insulation, spray foam insulation, outlet cover insulation

and even rolls of fiberglass insulation. Congratulations to Jim Fisk - winner of the Energy Committee's free home energy audit.

The Energy Committee's next goal is to get a warrant for voting at Town Meeting for the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program. PACE would allow Sharon homeowners to take low-interest loans to cover the up-front cost of approved weatherization or renewable energy projects. The most notable benefit of a PACE loan is that the loan is paid back to the town by payments on property tax bills and the loan stays with the property in the event of a home sale.

The Energy Committee encourages Sharon homeowners and businesses to save money and resources by weatherizing and conserving energy. If you would like to join us, the Energy Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:15pm in the Sharon town offices. All are welcome.

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SHARON RECREATION ALLIANCE

Suzanne Jones

The Sharon Alliance for Recreation is pleased to welcome Ben White as the new recreation coordinator. Ben & his family have recently moved to the Upper Valley from southern NH and Maine. He brings a strong education background and work experience in the recreation field. Ben is also the new One Planet site coordinator at Sharon Elementary. He is excited to get to know the Sharon community and hear your ideas. Contact him at bewhite3@gmail.com or call him at (207) 631-0876.

Congratulations to the ad hoc community race committee that organized the Sprouty Run in September. We are thrilled to report that the first annual Sprouty Fun Run was a resounding success with more than 120 participants enjoying a 5 kilometer and/or one mile run on a gorgeous sunny day, so put the second Saturday in September (Sept. 8th) on your calendars for the 2012 Sprouty Race.

Kudos to Michele Robinson for stepping forward to coordinate the elementary school soccer. She recruited a great crew of coaches this past fall:

Grades 1/2 Rob McShinsky
Grades 3/4 Christine Dobrich
Grades 5/6 Steve Gagliardone

Many thanks to coaches and also to the referees for each of the home games - know that you are very much appreciated! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to providing our elementary school kids the opportunity to play soccer, learn sportsmanship and develop a sense of teamwork.

With a successful soccer season behind us, we are looking forward to a great basketball season. The Sharon Alliance for Recreation would like to take this opportunity to thank Michele Robinson for her work on, both the

soccer and basketball seasons. Any questions about basketball may be directed to her via email at robinsoncrw@aol.com. Michele has recruited another great group of coaches. Practices began the week after Thanksgiving and games will be posted on the board at the Sharon Elementary School entryway and also on the Town website Recreation page. Please keep checking these postings as games are subject to change due to weather and other constraints!



Photo by Xiaonan Winters

FREE Basketball Coaching and Officiating Training Clinics - This year there will be a stipend paid to refs, so come to a free clinic to become qualified for a paid ref position! Sunday, Dec. 4th - Bring a whistle. This clinic is for youth coaches and officials. Please come prepared to participate on the court. Held in the Dothan Brook School Gym on Rt. 5. Run by the Hartford Parks & Recreation Department <http://www.hartford-vt.org/>. Call 295-5036 to register by Dec. 2nd, and/or to confirm details.

- 1) Officiating Clinic for ages 15 & up
1-2pm Instructor: Dan Pause, IAABO Certified Official. Topics covered to include: rules, positioning, signals, communication, as well as hands-on practice.
- 2) Coaching Clinic for ages 18 & up
2:15 - 4pm Instructors: Paul 'Doc' Donohue & Chris Leazier. Topics covered include: Drills, strategies, game & practice scenarios as well as team management.

Go Cyclones!

Are you interested in offering a recreational activity? Knitting? Scrapbooking? Running group? Would you like to coordinate a movie night? Field trip? Please contact our new Recreation Coordinator Ben White to share your ideas. We'd love to get some activities going to connect us and bring community members together for social events throughout the year.

Recreation Alliance Committee Members:

Eric Foster, Chair. Eric.Foster@state.vt.us; Margaret Raymond, Treasurer, margmbr811@yahoo.com; Barrett Williams, school representative bwiliams.sharon@gmail.com; Sharon Adams, saadams40@aol.com; Suzanne Jones, suzanne.m.jones@valley.net; Stacey Lober, staceylober@myfairpoint.net; Michelle Robinson robinsoncrw@aol.com



Huge washout at Sharon Dam

Photo from *Flootide of 1927*:

A gathering of reports and pictures which tell their story graphically of the great November flood in Vermont State

Compiled by Luther B. Johnson

LOOKING BACK...

Galen Mudgett

The Great Flood of November 1927 and Hurricane Irene had a number of similarities. Both had too much rain, the White River went way over normal flood stage, roads and bridges and homes and businesses were destroyed. One

major difference is that no lives were lost in Sharon this time. In 1927, Mrs. Claude Reynolds and her two children were swept away in their house during the night of rising water. Neither the house nor the family was ever found. The Reynolds family lived where Lawrence "Tom" Paronto lived. The house in which Tom lived was built by the Red Cross after the flood for Mr. Reynolds and his son. According to the book *Floodtide of 1927* written by Luther B Johnson, "the property losses included four occupied residences carried away entirely, one partially gone, five wrecked more or less completely, and four houses flooded so as to ruin the furniture on the ground floor."

In the 1927 flood, two businesses were destroyed. One was the Sharon Creamery which was located at the end of the present steel bridge over the river and the other was the Noyes and Gibson sawmill located between the river and what is now Stationmasters Rd. Ironically, two businesses were destroyed in this recent flood as well.

Hurricane Irene swept one garage away, destroyed nine manufactured homes and damaged two others. At least 17 houses had water in

the basement or on the first floor. The Fire Station was flooded along with total losses at both Dixie's and Sandy's Restaurants.

As there was no way after the 1927 flood to gain access to the opposite sides of the river after the iron bridge and the railroad trestle south of town were swept away, a ferry was put into service after the river's ice melted in 1928. The ferry was nothing but a wooden raft and was pulled from one side of the river to the other by rope. The present steel bridge was built in 1928. Evidently, the bridge was built by the State of Vermont, as there is no mention of any cost to the Town in any of the Town Reports.



Photo from 2011 Sharon, VT Flood just south of the village

The 1928 Town Report does record that \$2,858.79 was paid for flood damage to the roads. Another \$3,539.98 was spent to build or repair four bridges. One interesting expense was on Oct 18, 1928 Cheemauna Camp was paid \$25.65 for 171 loads of gravel at 15 cents/yard. Wouldn't it be lovely if that were still the price! To date there has been more than ten times

this amount used, at a price of more than ten dollars per yard.




SHARON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Principal Barrett Williams


Amazingly enough we have just completed our first marking quarter, which we celebrated with an all-school hike to Downer State Forest. We have been very busy this fall with events centered around food and place-based learning opportunities. Our hike for hunger and harvest festival events provide a wonderful opportunity to incorporate core academics with hands on learning experience. In an effort to support the use of local food in our food service program we host monthly farmers' markets in the gym, which are organized and run by Donna Foster. We cannot thank her and other regular contributors enough for their efforts in this area. If you would like to see a schedule for the markets and other events, please visit the school's website for more information.

At the administrative level the Sharon School Board is very focused on a couple of different initiatives. First and foremost is their focus and commitment to providing a public pre-school program to 3 and 4-year-old students. While the



Vermont Independent School of the Arts, Inc.

A non-profit educational organization

5144 Route 14 P.O. Box 216
 802-763-2334 info@vtisa.org
 www.vtisa.org



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details are still being worked out, it is our hope to have this option available for the 2012-2013 school year. There are many challenges that include but are not limited to: space, money and the development of a relationship with a community partner to provide childcare options for parents. We strongly encourage community input and would love to have you join us at our meetings, which occur on the fourth Thursday of every month. Other topics of discussion include the tracking of secondary-student information and budget preparations for the upcoming school year.

There are many other wonderful events that have occurred this fall, most of which focused on supporting those families affected by the flood. The PTO as always has led this charge by raising \$3500 for the Sharon Fire Department. Our sixth grade students followed this up by planning a jobs day that raised money that was given directly to families along with care packages created by all the kids in our school. On December 8th the PTO in conjunction with the school is hosting its annual silent auction which features wonderful holiday gift items, musical entertainment from our students and drinks/desserts for folks to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there. As always this community amazes me with your support for the education of our kids and the compassion for those in need.

Best Regards,
Barrett Williams
Principal
Sharon Elementary School



BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
2:00-6:00
Saturday 10am-12pm
763-2875

Upcoming Events Planned:

Holiday Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 3
9am-12noon
\$8 per bag

(proceeds benefit the library)

Come fill a bag with an assortment of your neighbors' fine cookie offerings!

Cookie donations sought--bakers can drop them off by 6pm on Friday the 2nd, or by 9am the day of the sale.

The library has many wonderful holiday-themed books to enjoy with children in your life this season. Mona Foster was considerate to pick out many on her volunteer trip to the regional library for our supplemental rotation collection.

A craft group meets 2nd Tuesdays of each month at 7pm (formerly the "knitting group" but now expanded to any portable craft), and a rug hooking group meets on 3rd Sundays from 2 to 4pm. Anyone is welcome to join in, whether a beginner or advanced or somewhere in between!



WORLD LANGUAGES, WORLD CULTURES CLUB

Latin American Night Planned for February

Karen Rodis

Escape from the cold with a mid-winter "tropical getaway" featuring Latin foods, salsa music and dancing, Spanish language activities for adults and kids, and more!


The Sharon World Languages/World Cultures organization is planning a family-friendly

Latin American Night for

Friday, February 3, 2012
at Sharon Elementary School.

We are looking for your ideas and creative hands to help make this an exciting event. If interested, please contact Karen Rodis at 763-2423.





Sherrie's Soups & Such

by Sherrie Mauer

WELCOME!

to the first installment of Sherrie's Soups & Such!

The first recipe has a very interesting history

and they all have great taste!

THREE SISTERS CHOWDER*

Native Americans call corn, squash and beans the Three Sisters. They grow well when planted together, allowing the corn to support the climbing bean plants while the sprawling squash plants shade the soil beneath the corn, keeping it cool and weed free. When eaten together, the Three Sisters provide complete nutrition and a hearty, satisfying meal. Corn, beans and squash are native to the Americas, as are the peppers, tomatoes, garlic and onions used to flavor them. Serves four.

2 Tbsp. corn oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 small red or green pepper, chopped
2 cloves of garlic, chopped
1 cup broth or water
1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/2 inch slices

1-14.5 oz. can of beans: kidney, pinto, black, great northern, lima, or cannelloni, drained and rinsed.
1-14.5 oz. can of diced tomatoes, with juice
10 oz. package frozen corn kernels
1 tsp. chili powder (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste

*serve with
warm
cornbread!

Heat oil over moderate heat in a large saucepan. Add onion and pepper and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute longer. Stir in broth, zucchini, beans, tomatoes, and corn. Add chili powder, if using. Raise the heat to high and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and simmer for 10 minutes. Taste for salt and pepper and season to taste.

THE BEST CORN BREAD *Ever!*

1 cup yellow corn meal
1 cup all purpose flour
1/4 cup sugar
4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. Salt
1 cup of milk
1 egg
1/4 cup veg. oil or melted butter

Sooo good!

Preheat oven 425°.

Combine corn meal, flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Add milk, egg and oil. Beat until fairly smooth. Bake in 8-inch square baking pan, or pie pan or iron skillet (my favorite). First add oil to pan to coat all surfaces. Bake in oven 20 to 25 minutes.

This recipe used to be on the old Quaker cornmeal box 40 or 50 years ago.

CREAMY CHICKEN AND POLENTA CASSEROLE

Great for this time of year!

This recipe makes two casseroles. Keep one, and give the other to a friend, along with baking instructions.

Prep: 20 min. Cook: 36 min. Other: 10 min.

1 (32-oz.) container chicken broth
2 tbsp. butter or margarine
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 cup yellow cornmeal
3/4 cup shredded parmesan cheese
1 (12-oz.) jar marinated quartered artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
1 (12-oz.) jar roasted red bell peppers (or your own), drained and chopped
4 cups shredded cooked chicken (about 1 large rotisserie chicken)
1 (16-oz.) jar roasted garlic Alfredo sauce (we tested with Classico)
1/3 cup chopped fresh basil
1 1/2 cups (6 ozs.) shredded Italian cheese blend

Bring first 3 ingredients to a boil in a large saucepan; gradually whisk in cornmeal. Cook 4 minutes or until thickened and bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in Parmesan cheese. Spoon polenta evenly into 2 (8") square disposable ovenproof pans (see note below). Cool 10 minutes. Sprinkle artichoke hearts, peppers, and chicken evenly over polenta. Pour Alfredo sauce over chicken in both pans. Sprinkle with basil; top with Italian cheese blend. Cover and chill until ready to bake. Before baking, place pan on center of a baking sheet. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 25 minutes or until casserole is thoroughly heated. Yield: 2 casseroles (4 servings each). Can be frozen before cooking.

Note: We tested with Glad OvenWare disposable pans. Clip and save instructions from back or bottom panel, and share these instructions when gift giving.

This recipe was passed on to me by Jan Wylie of So. Strafford

FLOCK OFFERS**MODERN DANCE**

for Teens & Adults

Tuesdays from 5 - 6 pm

starting January 10

at "Seven Stars" in Sharon, VT

8 sessions \$70 for term

If interested contact Carol

at 765-4454 or carolang@aol.com

DANCE • MUSIC • STORY

for children ages 5 - 11

Eight Wednesdays starting

Jan. 11

3:30pm - 4:30pm

at Barrett Hall in South Strafford

\$70 for eight-session term

Financial aid available

Music and Dance taught by

Carol Langstaff

Modern and Traditional Dance

**SEVEN STARS****LIGHTS UP SHARON!**

**Vermont Independent
School of the Arts - Seven Stars
in Sharon, VT**
Marsha Curtis

It has been a busy and exciting Summer/Fall for the Vermont Independent School of the Arts. We were very proud to be a part of the Sharon Flood Relief, offering of

our school building for distribution of badly needed clothing, food, and cleaning goods in September. We are also very happy to report that the November 5th benefit concert at the Seven Stars building by Still More Cats and the Kerry Rose Band brought in over \$800 for flood relief, all proceeds going to the Sharon Hurricane Irene Relief Fund - applause all around, please!

THE PANHANDLERS STEEL BAND'S SECOND CD RECORDING was done LIVE at the Tupelo Music Hall in White River Junction on Thursday October 13th 2011 with a terrific and enthusiastic crowd! We had a great time with our fans, and we are sure we made some new ones too! Our CD has yet to be named - you can suggest one to us if you want - check out our Facebook page, or send us an email at info@vtisa.org. We will be selecting a name soon - so get your idea in to us! To help raise money for the production we are offering pre-buys of the CD made from this show! Buy a CD for \$13 (\$2 off) AND have it signed by the band and mailed to you! Delivery is expected Spring 2012! CDs aren't cheap and we are a non-profit. We estimate it will cost \$5000-\$6000 to produce this CD. You can go on the web site to pre-buy your copy at www.vtisa.org

We also are having a raffle to benefit the Panhandlers' new CD - tickets are available now online at www.vtisa.org or from your favorite Panhandler. We have an incred-

ible clock made by Steven Bronstein at Blackthorne Forge and two VT product gift baskets that we are raffling off. The drawing will be at our December concert at the Seven Stars on 12/14/11 at 6:30pm. You don't have to be there to win (but we'd love to see you!) and you can buy raffle tickets anytime! Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Email mc926@sover.net to get tickets! And don't forget to come and see the Panhandlers and music students perform at the free Holiday Concert at Seven Stars in Sharon on December 14th!

**Ongoing classes and programs
at Seven Stars:**

Kripalu Yoga

Rose Loving, Instructor

Contact Rose at

802-763-7434 or

Loving@sover.net**Japanese Calligraphy
and Brush Painting**

Ginger Armstrong, Instructor

Contact Ginger at

617-686-6433 or

ginger_armstrong@hotmail.com**The Panhandlers Steel Band**

Scott Paulson - Instructor

Contact Scott at

visavt@aol.com or

802-234-698

Tai Chi & Qigong

Catherine Freese, Instructor

Contact Catherine at

889-9410 or freese@valley.net

**Private instruction at VTISA
Enroll in private music lessons
with one of our talented teachers:**

Scott Paulson

Steel Drums, Snare Drum or Drumset, Bass Guitar
Visavt@aol.com or
802-234-6987

Barbara C. Smith

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
802-234-6987 or
Mscwinds@aol.com

Beth Telford

Cape Breton Fiddling
802-728-6351

Lindsey Warren

Voice and Piano
802-649-1737 or
classicsinger@juno.com

Don Sinclair

Guitar

More information is available by contacting VTISA at 802-763-2334 or send an email to info@vtisa.org.

The Vermont Independent School of the Arts at the Seven Stars Center is becoming an Upper Valley performance/arts center where people of all ages can meet, enjoy, and work together in the arts. Stop by and see us soon - we would love to see you!



Photo by Mike Tracy

**SHARON CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

Pam Brackett

Sharon Congregational Church is hosting a gathering for stitchers... whether it be quilting, hand sewing, embroidery, knitting, crocheting...come one, come all. Sharon will have its own Stitch and Bit ___, beginning January 9th, 2012 in Steele Chapel, under the leadership of Lynn Wheatley. Stitchers are encouraged to bring a project that they are either already working on, something that got put away due to being so busy over the holidays, or something that you want to start or learn. Lynn has started a part-time business of machine quilting in her home and has a vast amount of knowledge and experience in quilting. We will also have veteran knitters, so there is something for everyone. We will gather on January 9th at 6:30 and figure out from there where we would like to take this group...perhaps we will want to work on a group project of some sort. You are encouraged to bring your own sewing machine if you like. Tables will be provided. Please contact Pam Brackett (802) 763-7355. Thank you for your interest.



**SHARON BOY SCOUTS
Scouting the Local History**

Richard Kent

Sharon Boy Scout Troop 205 recently spent a weekend participating in the Revolutionary Youth Muster held at Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, NH. This was a gathering of Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H members held where history shows Brig. General John Stark gathered 1500 militiamen before his march in 1777 to the Battle of Bennington, where he defeated the English and the Hessians, a major turning point in the Revolutionary War. The Sharon scouts enjoyed learning history from the Polish Hussar Calvary re-enactors, working hard to complete the GPS Challenge Course and enjoying the many other events such as the rope bridge, Revolutionary War Flag display, flint and steel fire starting, archery range and black powder range provided during the weekend.

The troop held a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, November 19 at the Red Door (United) Church in South Royalton from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. All profits are to be used for rank awards and merit badges earned by our scouts, and subsidizing our troop outings, such as a week of

summer camp, weekend camp outs and special high adventure trips.

The troop is chartered by the Sharon Congregational Church and meets Sunday afternoons starting at 3:30 pm in the chapel. All boys 11-17 are welcome to visit.



We currently have three scouts who are working on their Eagle Scout rank. Jordan Daigle has an approved Eagle Project in which he will build dugouts for the first baseball diamond at the Sharon Elementary School. His timetable is to complete fund raising this winter and then construct the dugouts in the late spring. Our other two Life Scouts are still considering a variety of possible projects.



**SHARON UP-N-DOWNERS
THINK SNOW!
Chill news from the
Up-n-Downers Snowmobile Club**

Pam Brackett

The Sharon Up-n-Downers Snowmobile Club is in the process of checking our trail system for damage caused by the Irene storm. The bridge over Fay Brook between Potters and Jennings was taken out in the flooding, but we were able to salvage the bridge. The trailmasters have decided to temporarily place the bridge at a narrower crossing point on the brook. It was hoped that this bridge would be upgraded this fall so the big groomer would be able to cross it and groom to our sign-in box. Because all of our trailmasters and a large number of our club members are also volunteer firemen, this project has been put on hold. Our dedicated firemen have been out straight trying to put the fire house back together after the devastating flooding. At our October meeting it was decided to purchase the cement blocks necessary to complete the upgrade, but rebuilding the bridge will wait until next summer.

Our next meeting will be December 3rd for our annual ornament swap. The location is still uncertain at this time due to the firehouse not being available for use. Postcards will be sent out to mem-

bers to let them know when and where to meet.

We are hoping that we will have a snowmobile season with ample snow to ride, but not epic in proportion. Happy Trails!



**UPDATE FROM THE
SHARON FIREHOUSE
RECONSTRUCTION CREW**

Dana Durkee

We would like to thank all who supported the fire department and the town as we recover from Irene. Like many of our neighbors, the firehouse endured 7 ½ feet of water, and we lost everything on the first floor. Thankfully, we retrieved the trucks just in time and moved them to higher ground, but everything else was a complete loss. Good news followed weeks after Irene as we learned that the firehouse has flood insurance. This was good news as we continue to move forward with rebuilding. Your generosity is very much appreciated as we continue on with this arduous task.

Good news is that the firehouse is getting closer to completion. New doors, windows, wiring are nearly complete, as well as new insulation and a new heating system. Sheet rock is in full progress and soon we'll be painting. We hope the firehouse will be ready to host a 180-hour Firefighter 1 course for all local departments beginning the first week of January and running

SHARON MARSHALL

NORAH'S NOSHES
Snacks and More

P.O. Box 177
Sharon, VT 05065

(802) 384-6572
norahsnoshes@gmail.com

through the end of May.

Have you purchased a ticket for our 31-day raffle? A drawing will occur every day in January, and we'll be raffling off one rifle per day. Your ticket stays in the drawing for the entire month, so you have the opportunity to win more than once! Tickets are \$30.00 each and only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Purchase your ticket by contacting a Sharon Fire Department member or e-mail us at sharonfirehouse@gmail.com.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires:

A live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames in mere seconds. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house.

A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases. Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree: Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree: Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.

When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights: Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations: All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace - It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire. Artificial Christmas Trees - If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant. Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

FINALLY... Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis. Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family. Contact the Sharon Fire Department for advice if you have a question on home fire

safety by email at: sharonfirehouse@myfairpoint.net For many more very useful and important fire safety tips please look at the following websites: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm



STILL MORE CATS SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

Anne Mapplebeck

Still More Cats, a Sharon band with Anne Mapplebeck on vocals and bass, Michael Barsanti on drums and Peter Neri on vocals and guitars, organized a fundraiser for the Sharon Hurricane Irene Relief Fund on November 5. The Kerry Rose Band opened the evening with a great selection of acoustic folk, rock and blues songs and Still More Cats carried the evening forward with some good old electric rock 'n' roll. Folks were incredibly giving, helping to raise over \$800.00. The Vermont Independent School of the Arts generously offered their performance hall for the event.



Photos by Mike Tracy



SHARON ONE PLANET
An Update on Sharon
Elementary's One Planet After
School Program...

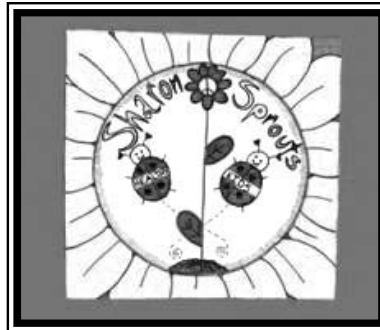
Phil Dimond

One Planet would like to announce our HOLIDAY SESSION of 2011. During the last week of school before our winter break (12/13 - 12/17; 12/20 & 12/21), we'll be hosting a variety of activities to help celebrate the holidays. We'll be making gingerbread houses and dipping candles, cooking holiday treats in our kitchen and decorating our room with festive colors and crafts. Sure to please will be the construction of holiday cards and personalized tree ornaments. Nothing means more to the holidays than having hand-made creations to bring out year after year. We conclude the week with a classic holiday movie, perhaps accompanied by some cookies and hot chocolate.

All those already signed up for Session II of One Planet are going to be there, but we whole-heartedly invite anyone else who would like to join us and share in the holiday spirit. If we've piqued your inter-

est please see Ben White, the new Sharon One Planet Site Coordinator, or call 763-7425 ext.18. And may all the people of Sharon have a marvelous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

From All of us at One Planet



SHARON SPROUTS
FARMERS' MARKET
Fall/Winter 2011

Donna Foster

The Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets started the new school year with great successes! The Sprouty Fun Run generated a great turnout of runners and walkers (over 100!) and many attended the farmers' market after the race. Few farmers can attend our early fall markets with so many summer markets still in operation, but our faithful vendors returned and offered a wide variety of food and craft selections. The 1st Annual Tailgate Cook-off at the October 8 market was a lot of fun. Excitement is building and improvements are

already underway for next fall's tailgate extravaganza! The annual Holiday Craft Fair at the November Farmers' Market is surely one of the year's best community events, with so many great craft and food vendors, a delicious and reasonable lunch, and FREE activities for the children.

The markets will take a break for the holidays and New Year. The community markets return on February 11 in conjunction with the Winter Festival. The remaining winter and spring markets are: March 10 with the 4th Annual Chili Cook-off; March 31 with the Spring Fling Craft Fair the weekend before Easter; and May 12 to close the school year with the Garden Workday. The local community's generous support for our farmers' markets provides money to purchase local foods for the school food service program, which in turn provides Sharon Elementary students with many learning opportunities centered around food, local farming, and nutrition.

1341 Faybrook Rd.
 Sharon, VT 05065

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 f. 802.763.2526

naturalenvironments@yahoo.com


jack jones
CONSTRUCTION INC.

Jack Jones *President*
Deb Jones *Vice President*

APPRECIATIONS AFTER THE STORM:

Thank you from the Bird Family
@ 2544 VT Rte 14 Sharon

Dear Sharon Community,

A special thank you for all your helping hands, dinners, donations, gifts and time. We couldn't ever thank you enough for all your kind acts nor could we have ever done it all without you! You're all in our thoughts daily and we are very grateful to live in this caring, sharing and loving town and have you all as our neighbors!

Sincerely,

James, Danielle, Trenton
and Blake Bird
2544 Vermont Route 14 Sharon,
VT 05065
(802) 763-2372

Cheryl and Tom Foote

Thank you, Sharon friends and neighbors, for your generous help following the flooding by Irene. Your organization, physical labor, food, showers, doing laundry, lending of tools and equipment and so much more was exactly what we needed. We couldn't have faced the damage alone and we feel very fortunate to have had so much support. As one out-of-state friend and helper remarked after witnessing all the people, activity and food deliveries, "Wow, what a great town to live in!" We couldn't agree more.

Sincerely,

Tom and Cheryl Foote

*Thank you
members of the
Sharon Volunteer
Fire Department,
Sharon Road Crew
&
Community Volunteers
for your amazing
response to the
Tropical Storm!*

SHARON IRENE RELIEF FUND

Jim Kearns

Through the generosity of Sharon citizens and friends from other areas, over \$13,000 has been donated to assist those stricken by the storm. Even the Sharon Elementary sixth grade class decided to do fundraising to contribute to the cause. The Sharon Selectboard decided to appoint a temporary committee to deal with the disbursement of the funds. Primarily, through the efforts of Steve Gagliardone and Margaret Raymond, town treasurer, a list of approximately 30 residents who

were impacted by the storm have been contacted about the fund and how the funds would be disbursed. Basically, each resident was asked to complete an application form and submit it to the town treasurer. The committee then reviewed each application and got back to each person who filed. The resident was asked to provide receipts for durable goods purchased to replace items lost to the flood. At this time maximum grants have been paid up to \$500. If there is anyone reading this who had losses from the storm that were not covered by insurance or FEMA reimbursements, please contact Margaret for an application.

Respectively,

Sharon Irene Relief
Fund Committee
Jim Kearns, chair
Bob Ferguson
Pam Bracket

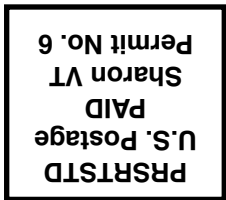


TEL (802) 763 2200 | FAX (802) 763 7320
Post Office Box 275, Sharon, Vermont 05065-0275
VT LIC. # P.M. 3052 NH LIC. # 2922

ED JODICE

BEN LINEMAN

ben@ahtph.com



Town of Sharon
P.O. Box 250
Sharon, VT 05065

CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First and Third Mondays at 6:30pm
Selectboard Meetings at Town Office

Second Tuesdays at 7:00pm Planning
Commission Meetings at Town Office

**Thanksgiving through December
31st** – LDS Church Holiday Light
Display, free and open to the public

Dec. 3 Cookie Walk at Baxter Library,
9am - 2pm

Dec. 3 Up-n-Downers Snowmobile
Club Annual Ornament Swap

Dec. 8 SES PTO Silent Auction,
Bids close @ 7:15pm

Dec. 12 Energy Committee Monthly
Meeting 5:15pm at Town Office

Dec. 12 Selectboard FY13 Budget
Workshop 6:30pm at Town Office

Dec. 13, Jan 10, & Feb. 14 Craft Club
@ Baxter Library, 7pm

Dec. 14 Panhandlers' Winter Concert –
Come hear the red-hot beat of Sha-
ron's own steel drum band and VTISA
music students perform! Free concert
starts at 6:30pm

Dec. 18, Jan. 15 & Feb. 19 Rug
Hooking @ Baxter Library, 2 - 4pm

Jan. 9 Sharon's Own Stich 'N Bit__
Sharon Congregational Church at 6pm

Feb. 3 Latin Night - Dinner and
Dancing at SES

Feb. 11 Winter Festival and Farmer's
Market

Mar. 5 Annual School Meeting -
SES 7pm

Mar. 6 Town Meeting - SES 9pm

Mar. 10 4th Annual Chili Cook-off
and Farmer's Market Day @ SES

SHARONCONNECTIONS

Editorial Committee:
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Jessica Swift
Miriam Rubin

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Carol Langstaff & Dean Stearns

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Tracy Hazen