

SHARON CONNECTIONS

The Sharon, VT Town Quarterly Newsletter



Issue#2

NEWS FROM THE SHARON CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Based on enthusiastic responses to the inaugural edition, there is a high level of interest in continuing this newsletter. So let the presses roll... and keep your submissions coming in!



We have a couple of new exciting developments to share with you. Future editions of this quarterly publication will no longer be mailed to everyone, but subscriptions are available for \$6/year if you prefer to receive a copy in your mailbox. To subscribe, please send a check for \$6 to the Town of Sharon, P.O. Box 250, Sharon, VT 05065 with NEWSLETTER in the memo line, and include your name and the address to which you'd like it mailed. Sharon Connections Newsletter may be purchased for 50 cents at the town office, Baxter Library, Sharon Trading Post, Midway Station and Dixie's. It is also available at no cost online at the Town website: www.sharonvt.net



Sharon Connections is now open to local ads. Place your business card size ad in the winter newsletter for the special introductory rate of just \$4.

The next newsletter will come out in early December, filled with news, events and articles covering the busy holiday season and other events between December and February. Articles must be submitted by November 7th, 2011.

Send your submissions to:
sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com

Congratulations

on a successful celebration of Sharon's Old Home Day



Photos by Mike Tracy

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

The next newsletter will come out in early December, filled with news, events and articles covering the busy holiday season and other events between December and February.

Articles must be submitted by **November 7th, 2011.**

Send your submissions to:
sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com

Editorial support provided by Swift Ink Editorial Services

Newsletter layout and design by Tracy Hazen

PRSRSTD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sharon VT
Permit No. 6

CONNECTIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 10 - The "Sprouty" Fun 5K & 1 mile Walk/Run at Sharon Elementary School - 8am

Sept. 11 - Sharon Congregational Church Community Dinner - Meet & Greet Pastor, Rev. Dr. Duane Brown - 6pm

Sept. 13 - Craft Evening @ Baxter Memorial Library

Sept. 19 - Sharon Historical Society program - Charlie Marchant - Old Cemeteries

Sept. 21 - Dance, Music and Story @ Barrett Hall, South Strafford - Wednesdays, 3:30pm

Sept. 24 - Boy Scouts Kick-off night at Sharon Congregational Church - 3:30pm

Oct. 8 - Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Workshop - Seven Stars Building - 1:30-4pm

Oct. 8 - Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market - 1st Annual Tailgate Cook-off - 10am

Oct. 21 - Galen Mudgett - "Stories of Sharon's History" at Baxter Memorial Library - 7pm

Oct. 28-29 - Sharon Fire Department "Haunted Firehouse"

Oct. 31 - Baxter Memorial Library open in evening for Halloween Trick-or-Treaters

Nov. 12 - Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market - One Planet Holiday Craft Fair - 10am



SELECT BOARD BUZZ

Road Crew Changes: Unfortunately the Road Crew’s fall project schedule was rearranged by Hurricane Irene, causing improvements on Beaver Meadow Road to be moved down on the list behind multiple critical road repairs. Following damage assessment these new projects will be prioritized and scheduled. The scale of damage to town roads is daunting, but we are fortunate to have a competent, dedicated road crew and interim repairs were started even before the mud had dried to dust. Please use care around the work crews.

Road Improvements: The crew has been hauling gravel in preparation for reconstruction of Beaver Meadow Road in September between O’Donnell Farm and Drum Heller Roads to improve drainage, install road fabric to help reduce spring runoff problems, and rebuild a suitable base and topping to reduce mud season problems in the future. Another project scheduled for early September will result in a safer, wider bridge at the upper stream crossing on Quimby Mountain Road.

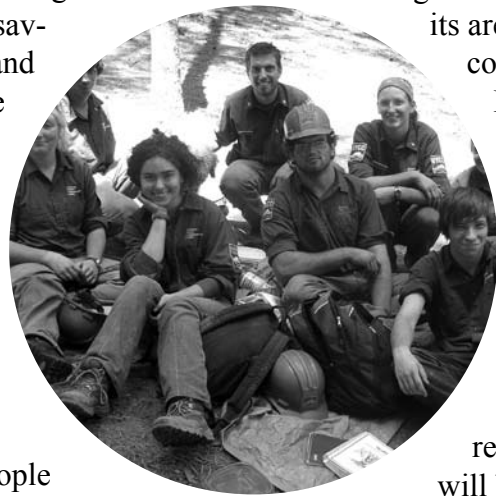
Earlier this summer the crew completed work to repair a major wash-out on White Brook Road when a hard spring rain blocked culverts and turned the roadbed into a watercourse. Major reconstruction at the end of Downer Road was recently completed to repair

a landslide that left only one lane available for traffic. Again, heavier than normal rains caused this damage. The Town will be reimbursed for 90% of these costs from State highway emergency funds.

Road Safety: The Select Board reminds motorists to slow down and use caution in construction zones as well as when mowing and grading operations are taking place. Law enforcement personnel will be monitoring areas where road work is being performed. Drivers are also advised that there may be minor stoppages and delays where construction is underway.

Improved Efficiency: Replacing the old six-wheel dump truck with a new ten-wheel model has greatly improved efficiency for hauling materials as well as winter sanding operations by reducing the number of trips, and saving on both mileage and labor costs. Therefore a second ten-wheeler will replace the next dump truck in the rotation, and will be in use in time for winter plowing.

New Trails Open: A crew of ten young people working with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps spent a very productive month in Sharon this summer working on two projects. The first was building a new woods path connecting the elementary school fields with Fay Brook Road, the first phase of a planned trail network to extend from the park and ride lot to the area around



Sandy’s and Dixie’s, and perhaps eventually to the Sharon Academy. The other was opening up the formerly poison ivy-infested river access on Route 14 just north of the Town garage to give access to a wonderful swimming and fishing beach with a safe off-road parking area. These are both lovely amenities for the community, though the river access will need more work to repair storm damage.

Face-lifts: Two sides of the Old School House received a fresh coat of paint and no longer show their age, and the back portion of the town offices is next in line to be painted this fall. What a difference a coat of paint can make!

Looking Ahead: The onset of fall always turns the Select Board to thoughts of the next fiscal year’s budget. Area non-profits are invited to contact Miriam Rubin, Select Board Administrative Assistant to be placed on the notification list for funding requests. There will be a public meeting at which funding requests may be presented to the Select Board. Groups that have been funded in the past and are not requesting an increase in funding do not need to make their appeal in person, though they are always welcome to do so.

REGISTRATION FORM



Participant 1: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Participant 2: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Participant 3: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Participant 4: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Participant 5: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Participant 6: _____ Age: _____ 5K 1 Mile

Register by making checks payable to:
Health Connections of the Upper Valley
 Mailed to:
 P.O. Box 4, North Pomfret, VT 05053
 call: 802-457-4780
 email: info@myhealthconnections.org
 or drop off at the Sharon Town Office
 69 Rt. 132 Sharon, VT

Total Participant Fees \$ _____
 Please accept my donation \$ _____
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

For more info:
www.sharonvt.net

Registration is also available to download at www.sharonvt.net

Waiver of Claim for Participation *(Read Carefully)*

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I hereby waive and release the Town of Sharon and sponsoring individuals, businesses, and their representatives from any and all claims or demands for damages or liability in any manner arising out of my participation in the Sprouty Fun Run.

Participant's name: _____ Date: _____
 Participant's signature: _____
(Parent Signature required if Under 18)



What: Sharon’s First Annual Sprouty is RIGHT AROUND the CORNER – Register TODAY for the 5K and/or One Fun Run (or register on the day of the run)

Cost: \$5.00 per person or by donation

When: Saturday, September 10th at 9:00am – Pick up Race Numbers starting at 8:00am

Where: Start at Sharon Elementary School and follow a 5K route along the River Road, or follow a one-mile circuit around the school grounds

- Why:** Celebrate Sharon’s 250th Birthday-
- Have lots of fun-
 - Welcome in the autumn-
 - Promote community health and fitness
 - Strengthen and enjoy our fabulous community!
 - Hey – Why NOT?

Activities and goody bags for the runners and non-runners alike! Fill your morning with the walk/run events, supervised kids’ activities, Farmers’ Market and luncheon, and the grand opening of the new trail!

- The 5k road route travels from the Sharon Elementary School to Back River Road via Route 132 and Route 14, and returns to the school via the new Woods Walk connecting Fay Brook Road with the Elementary School.

- The one-mile route follows a half-mile circuit on the school grounds (those who would like a shorter distance may choose just one time around the route).
- Grand Opening of the new Sharon Woods Walk Trail from the amphitheater to Fay Brook Road. Come check out the new walking path!
- Supervised kids’ activities from 9:00 – 9:45 during the 5K Run (jumping rope, skipping, hula hoops, etc.).
- Delicious snacks at a gathering around the Sprouts garden follows the run/walk programs.
- Celebrate autumn with the season’s first Farmers’ Market inside the school.
- Enjoy a delicious local luncheon for sale at 11:30 at the Farmers’ Market



SHARON ONE PLANET

We welcome our new Site Coordinator, Phil Dimond, to the Sharon One Planet Program. He certainly had his hands full this summer. Nearly 70 children in kindergarten through sixth grade participated in the Summer Camp. Here are just some of the things the campers did:

- Learned how to use GPS units (led by Upper Valley Trails Alliance)
- Used GPS units to navigate from one location to another, collecting ingredients for trail mix along the way
- Scaled a climbing wall at Competition Complex
- Participated in 2 weeks of swimming lessons at Vermont Technical College
- Identified constellations in a blow-up planetarium led by the Montshire Museum
- Kayaked at Silver Lake in Barnard
- Took a drumming workshop
- Participated in a drum circle with students and parents from Tunbridge, South Royalton and Sharon
- Learned how to juggle from professional entertainer, Tony Duncan
- Hiked Mount Tom
- Went swimming at the Aquatic Center
- Learned how to shoot a bow and

arrow

- Built solar ovens
- Learned about solar energy during a visit from the Solar Bus
- Made candles
- Explored the Shelburne Museum
- Decorated a float for Sharon Old Home Days
- Built solar ovens
- Learned about solar energy during a visit from the Solar Bus

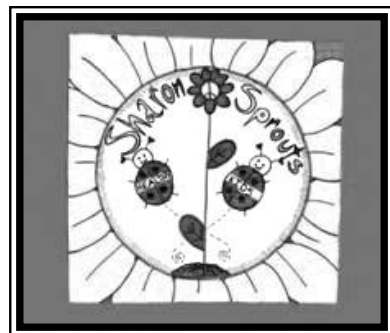
What a summer!



New Site Coordinator, Phil Dimond leads the "Fire Eaters" group during Circus Fun Week at Summer Camp

YOUR BUSINESS CARD COULD GO HERE!

We're soliciting for advertisements for future issues highlighting local businesses. \$4.00/issue for a business card size space/ad. (2" x 3-1/2")



SHARON SPROUTS FARMERS' MARKET Fall 2011

- September 10** - The "Sprouty" 5K Walk/Run
 - October 8** - 1st Annual Tailgate Cook-off
 - November 12** - One Planet Holiday Craft Fair
- 10am - 1pm
Local Lunch available
11:30am - 1pm
Sharon Elementary School Gymnasium

We welcome local farmers featuring selections of vegetables, eggs, meats, cheese, jams, jellies, maple syrup, apples, canned vegetables, breads, baked goodies, herbs and spices, and more! A few crafters will be showcased.

Tables fees as low as \$7. Call Donna Foster for table registration or to join our Co-op Table where we sell for you!!

Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars



HURRICANE IRENE SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Residents of Sharon have been deeply affected by the hurricane, but the effect of this storm could have been much worse in its human toll had our remarkable volunteer fire department and road crew members not responded in such a timely, professional manner. The entire community extends our deep appreciation to these dedicated people who worked grueling hours almost straight through the storm and on into the initial days after the water began to recede. We are truly blessed to have this amazing corps of people working so hard for all of us.

Please use great CAUTION on all roads as there are many damaged areas.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

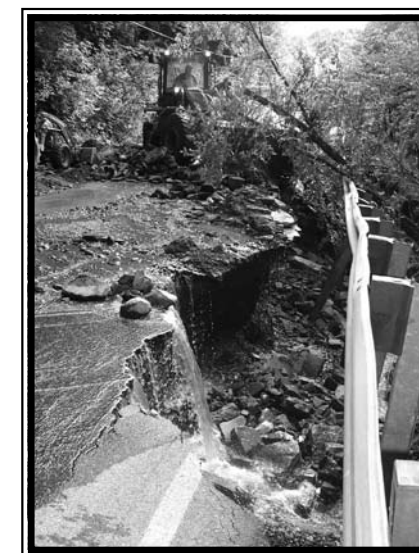
The following links provide information regarding eligibility for emergency assistance to help with damage from Hurricane Irene:

www.fema.gov

www.disasterassistance.gov

Also check the town website for more information.

Please also report all individual damages in excess of \$1,000 to the Select Board for inclusion in the Town's overall damage report.



A NOTICE FROM THE TOWN OF SHARON TREASURER

The new Sharon Town Grand list has just been finished, delaying the due date for the first installment of taxes.

Taxes will be due thirty days after bills have been sent. The February tax payment will still be due 2/21/2012.

Margaret Raymond, Treasurer

SHARON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Sharon Energy Committee Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Workshop

Saturday, October 8th
1:30 – 4:00pm

Seven Stars Building – Vermont Independent School of the Arts

Drawing for a FREE ENERGY AUDIT of your home!

Featuring presentations by:
Efficiency Vermont – Energy efficiency tips and rebates
CVPS – Smart metering
ReKnew Energy Systems – Solar power & incentives

The Sharon Energy Committee thanks you for visiting our tent at Sharon's Old Home Days! We distributed some energy efficient CFL light bulbs and information regarding the upcoming Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Workshop. The FREE workshop will be held Saturday, October 8th from 1:30 – 4:00 at the Seven Stars building. The Vermont Independent School of the Arts will be receiving an energy audit of the building. The results of the audit will be presented as part of the workshop. At the workshop, the Energy Committee will also host representatives from Efficiency Vermont, who will present energy efficiency tips and rebate options to button up your home for the winter. CVPS electric company will present information concerning the "smart grid" and "smart metering," and how a smart energy grid can reduce your electric bills. ReKnew Energy Systems will be on hand to discuss solar photovoltaic and solar hot water

systems and the current rebates and incentives for solar that are available. There will also be demonstrations of window inserts to weatherize your home windows. And more! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8th! Cold weather and high heating bills are just around the corner! The Sharon Energy Committee meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:15pm in the town offices. All are welcome.



WHITE RIVER PARTNERSHIP FINDS EXCELLENT WATER QUALITY IN SHARON

August 15, 2011 – Since June, the White River Partnership (WRP) staff and volunteers have monitored water quality at 2 sites in Sharon along the White River: the Sharon Academy pull off on Route 14 and the White Brook pull off on Route 14.

At the Sharon Academy site, community volunteers have tested bacteria, conductivity, and water clarity on 5 test dates: June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, and August 3. On each test date, the bacteria count was below the EPA standard of 235 colonies/100mL sample. These test results indicate that the White River at the Sharon Academy site is safe for swimming.

At the White Brook site, WRP staff have tested total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total suspended solids on 2 test dates: June 22 and July 20. The Vermont Water Resources Panel has established water quality standards for nitrogen, phosphorus, and total suspended solids in state waters. For nitrogen, Vermont rivers should not exceed 2.0 – 5.0 mg/L. For phosphorus, 90% of Vermont rivers should measure <46 micrograms/L. For total suspended solids, cold water fisheries like the White River should not exceed 10 NTU. On both test dates, all three parameters were below Vermont's water quality standards, indicating that nitrogen, phosphorus, and total suspended solids are not problematic at the White Brook site.

WRP volunteers and staff will continue monitoring at both sites through September 28; water quality results are available on the WRP website: www.whiteriverpartnership.org.

The WRP is a community-based non-profit organization with an office in Royalton village. Since 1996, the WRP has recruited over 500 annual volunteers to participate in hands-on watershed restoration activities, including planting trees, monitoring water quality, and cleaning up the river. By raising awareness about watershed issues, mobilizing community volunteers, and facilitating local stewardship, the WRP is working to bring people and local communities together to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed.



YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

Sharon's transportation connections...

By Holly Brown

Rich in history, cultural offerings, educational opportunities and natural beauty, Sharon appears to be the ideal place to call home. Because of the rural nature of the area, however, access could be a challenge for Sharon's inhabitants. Fortunately, Stagecoach Transportation provides residents with a variety of connections.

Commuters bound for jobsites and school in the Upper Valley (such as the VA Hospital, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and Dartmouth College) can board Stagecoach's 89er at the Exit 2 Park-and-Ride lot in Sharon where they return on the evening north-bound service, as well. By using this convenient public transportation option, Sharon residents save money and conserve energy daily. Those in the Sharon vicinity can avail themselves of a weekly chance to shop. This popular West Lebanon Fixed Route picks up passengers at the Exit 2 Park-and-Ride at 11:10am every Saturday morning and returns them to Sharon at 2:20pm, affording 2½ full hours of shopping among the three main plazas there.

Thanks to Stagecoach's partnerships with the Central Vermont

Bring your craft project, meet new people and get inspired by seeing what others are doing.

Beginning Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:00 PM and thereafter on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

Rug Hooking @ Baxter Memorial Library

Do you hook rugs or would you like to learn to hook rugs? Join us at the library on the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome. See what others are working on and learn simple techniques from others. It is amazing how motivating sitting together and sharing experiences can be.

Third Sunday @ 2:00 each month. Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.



WORLD LANGUAGES, WORLD CULTURES CLUB

Do you speak another language besides English? Have you traveled abroad? Do you have an interest in world languages and cultures? We are looking for community members to share their talents and enthusiasm with Sharon Elementary School students and their families. A group of adults is starting a World Languages, World Cultures "Club" to organize events for the school that involve students in learning about cultures and languages around the world. Some tentative ideas include: a Latin

American dinner with a salsa dance lesson, a Saturday morning French cafe with language and croissants on the menu, mini-lessons of world languages at school, arts and crafts, world music, etc. Everyone is welcome, no foreign language experience necessary. Questions? Please contact Karen Rodis.

SHARON LIST-SERVE

Announcing the Sharon Town List-serve
Anyone Can Sign Up!

In the interest of providing Sharon residents multiple and varied means to communicate we have established a town List-serve. This will enable town residents to send out messages to all subscribers about issues and events, formal and informal, that either involve or may impact town residents: lost pets, items for sale, community events and meetings.

To subscribe, 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.

This is an unofficial List-serve in that it is not officially sanctioned by the town, though it has the Select Board's support. It will be a moderated forum to ensure that all topics are appropriate and that the dialogue is conducted in a civil manner befitting the town of Sharon.

The primary purpose of this List-serve is to aid in supporting a sense of community and facilitate town communication. It is a plain

text List-serve and should be easily accessible via all types of Internet connections.

For more information about events happening in the town of Sharon visit
www.sharonvt.net

Sharon Connections is now open to local ads!

Introductory Rate!

YOUR BUSINESS CARD COULD GO HERE!

We're soliciting for advertisements for future issues highlighting local businesses. \$4.00/issue for a business card size space/ad. (2" x 3-1/2")



SHARON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

I trust and hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Although it was a very busy summer here at the elementary school it was nice to see kids in and about the building for a variety of reasons. Our summer school program was a great success once again as it served 20-25 kids in the month of July. In addition to summer school the Sharon One Planet program also continued its tradition of offering fun and exciting activities for kids. Phil Dimond has done a wonderful job as the new Site Coordinator for the Sharon One Planet program, but is quick to point out that he could not have done it without his hardworking and dedicated staff.

Our school year was to have started on the 29th of August, but the storm delayed that by over a week. Parents and students shared in first day activities that included a parade through town, an inflatable obstacle course and a session with renowned Vermont storyteller Tim Jennings and his wife Leanne Ponder.

We look forward to another wonderful year filled with academic, social and emotional growth.

We will continue to implement a positive behavioral support system that encourages students to make good choices and supports those who continue to struggle. As a faculty and staff we will focus on assessment this year, building upon the curriculum work we began in literacy last year. Our big initiative this year is the development of a pre-school program here in Sharon. Our committee, which any and all are welcome to be a part of, has spent a great deal of time visiting other programs, researching potential sites in town, meeting with state officials and working closely with the Pratt Institute to design a play space that fosters learning and creativity.

As always we welcome any and all volunteers from the community and hope that you get an opportunity to visit some of the great outdoor learning environments we have been fortunate enough to develop over the past three years.

Best Regards,

Barrett Williams
Principal
Sharon Elementary School



Newly constructed Amphitheater
at Sharon Elementary School



BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

Upcoming Events Planned:

- October 21 at 7pm—Galen Mudgett will share stories of Sharon's history. Bring your questions!
- October 31—Open in the evening for Halloween trick-or-treaters
- December (early weekend)—Cookie Walk fundraiser. Pay for a bag and fill it with cookies of your choice baked by wonderful, generous folks in town!

Ongoing offerings:

- Craft Club (formerly the Knitting Club) on 2nd Thursdays at 7pm
- Rug Hooking Club on 3rd Sundays at 2pm
- High speed internet and Wi-Fi
- Free downloadable audio books
- Basic computer skills help

Please call Rachel at the library for more details or to see if other events are planned!

Craft Evening @ Baxter Memorial Library

Do you have a craft you like to do? Would you enjoy a few hours out once a month? Come to the library on the second Tuesday of each month and enjoy some time in a relaxing, positive environment.

Council on Aging and the Gifford Adult Day program, Sharon residents are able to participate in programs tailored to their needs. Twice a week, homebound seniors in Sharon can receive "Meals on Wheels" delivered by Stagecoach, fresh from the Royalton Senior Center's kitchen, while other townspeople are transported to the Gifford Adult Day facility for nutrition, socialization, and activities.

While the white and yellow buses provide very visible services, Stagecoach also has a network of volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to drive folks from Sharon to health care appointments and to receive essential services under the Medicaid and Ticket to Ride programs. Requests and arrangements for these door-to-door transports are processed directly through Stagecoach.

Often times, locations that afford the highest quality of life come with trade-offs, but thanks in part to connections via Stagecoach, those who dwell in the Sharon area can enjoy the best of both worlds! For more information about Stagecoach, check out www.stagecoachrides.org.
Note: Sharon is represented on the Stagecoach Board of Directors by John Harrington.

For more information about events happening in the town of Sharon visit
www.sharonvt.net



THE SHARON RECREATION ALLIANCE

The Sharon Recreation Alliance Committee has been meeting to program events of a recreational nature for the Sharon community. Our primary goal is to find a Recreation Coordinator to oversee the programming of sporting activities for ALL members of the community, with a special focus on the elementary children's sports program.

Early in the spring we met with the Sharon Youth Baseball, the recreational adult softball team, and Sharon Academy to ensure that the playing fields and supporting infrastructure would be in place for the baseball season. We approved spending from the recreation budget to complete the fence surrounding the 2nd baseball field with covers (bright yellow rails) and safe bases for baseball/softball, and the purchase of sand for the field. The three groups committed to share maintenance responsibilities for the field during the playing season.

The three groups came up with a list of additional improvements that needed to be carried out to the playing fields such as new dugouts and back fence.

Carol Harry stepped forward again this year to coordinate the mixed ages/skills Ultimate Frisbee group. From late June through the end of August the group met on Wednesdays at 5:30pm on the playing field in the front of the school. Each week eight or more people of various ages met for fun and fitness. People who thought they couldn't play found that they could! Loads of encouragement, laughter, and running! Join in next year.

We are in the process of developing guidelines for community groups who wish to apply for Recreation funds to begin a community activity.

Are you interested in offering a recreational activity? Knitting? Scrapbooking? Running group? Would you like to coordinate a movie night? Field trip? Please contact a member of the committee (listed below).

Would you like to join the committee? Contact Eric Foster
Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

Recreation Alliance Committee
Members:

Eric Foster - Chair
Margaret Raymond - Treasurer,
Barrett Williams - School Representative,
Sharon Adams, Suzanne Jones, Stacey Lober, & Michele Robinson

SIGN UP FOR SOCCER!

FLOCK OFFERS

Morning Dance, Stretch and Conditioning Classes:
Tues. & Thurs. 8 - 8:40 at the Flock Barn off Downer Rd.
\$7 a class or \$10 for 2 of a week. Starts Tues. Aug. 16

Young children are welcome to come and hang out and/or be up in the reading nook in my house. If they take the class it would be \$5 per child. The class will be oriented to adults, but I always work with what we have.

Dance, Music and Story - for ages 5-11 will be on Wednesdays at 3:30pm at Barrett Hall, South Strafford. 7 classes starting Sept. 21- \$65 or \$10/class. Family discounts available. If interested in any classes contact Carol Langstaff *Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.*



VTISA 2011

Over the past 10 years, Vermont Independent School of the Arts (VTISA) has provided arts instruction to students of all ages. We offer music lessons, drawing, Japanese Calligraphy, Yoga, Tai Chi and more! VTISA teachers have collaborated with area schools such as Randolph Union High School and South Royalton High School in providing supplemental music lessons during the school day. These

lessons can be partially funded through VTISA's scholarship program - donations from the local community has helped this happen! See our listings below - Mondays and Wednesdays: Kripalu Yoga - Rose Loving, Instructor
Wednesdays: Japanese Calligraphy and Brush Painting - Ginger Armstrong
Thursdays: The Panhandlers Steel Band - Scott Paulson - Instructor
Come Join Us! Vermont's largest steel band is always looking for new members. Beginners start by taking private or semi-private lessons with Scott and start joining with the Panhandlers as they learn the tunes. Come check out a rehearsal on Thursdays. Contact Scott and get started today!
Scott taught the Sharon Elementary 5th grade Steel Drum this past year and the kids were awesome - everyone had a great learning experience!



Photo by Mike Tracy

There are a two scheduled September performances left this year with The Panhandlers. And (exciting news) after many MANY requests, The Panhandlers are going to do a "LIVE" performance

recording for a new CD! The tentative date and place is October 13th, at the Tupelo Music Hall in White River Junction, VT. Watch this newsletter, OR- check out the VTISA web page (www.vtisa.org), - OR check out the Panhandler's Facebook Page and VTISA's Facebook Page for regular updates and ongoing information! This year, as for the past four years, The Panhandlers were VERY proud to be part of the volunteer musical program for The Prouty in New Hampshire: - you should have seen us playing for over four hours on The Chieftain Hill - spurring the many riders on to the finish line! We also hope you had a chance to see us at the Sharon Old Home Days Celebration in August.

Sunday / September 4 / 12:00-12:45 // Main stage / Northfield, VT
Saturday / September 10 / 11:00-12:00 // Hop Plaza in front of the Hopkins Center / Rain location: Alumni Hall at the Hop / Hanover, NH
Saturdays:
Tai Chi-Catherine Freese
Instructor

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, vtisa@aol.com
Barbara C. Smith - Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Beth Telford - Cape Breton Fiddling,
Lindsey Warren - Voice and Piano

Since VTISA acquired the property in 2006, restoration of the building has been a primary concern. Through funds provided by



FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sharon Volunteer Fire Department purchased new pagers and radios this summer and constructed two new dry hydrants (one located on Route 132 and the other on Drum Heller Road) with grant money. Through fundraising and careful budget planning, we also purchased a new Freightliner tanker and turnout gear.

Special thanks to all who attended our annual barbecue at Sharon Old Home Day, which was very successful. We were pleased that other local fire departments joined us and participated in the annual parade. Parade prizes went to the following departments: Norwich Fire (best apparatus), Tunbridge Fire (oldest apparatus), White River Valley Ambulance (furthest distance traveled), and South Royalton Fire/Rescue (most apparatus).

Fundraising never ends. Firefighters are currently selling tickets for the January rifle raffle. Each day in January, a firearm will be raffled off using the Vermont Pick 3 Evening numbers. Tickets are \$30 each, and they stay in the drawing for the entire month, allowing a ticket to win more than once. Contact any firefighter to purchase your ticket or contact the station. These

make great holiday or birthday gifts. These will go fast, so do not wait too long to purchase yours.

After hearing resounding disappointment of not hosting a haunted forest last year, the department decided to organize a "haunted firehouse" this year on October 28-29. Using the firehouse, we should not have any issues of unpredictable weather, so we look forward to seeing everyone there. Contact us if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned for more details.

Last but not least, the Sharon department will host a Firefighter 1 class beginning December 19 and running through May 19. This class is open to all Vermont firefighters who need certification. Alan Beebe, from the Hartford Fire Department, and the Vermont Fire Academy, will lead the instruction. Classes run on Mondays and Thursdays and some Saturdays. Let us know if you are interested in joining the class or the department.



Contact us!
We have gone online and have a website full of useful information with a membership directory, photos, a calendar of events, and important announcements. Also, "like us" on Facebook: "Sharon Volunteer Fire Department."

Sharon Volunteer Fire Department
Sharon Fireman's Association, Inc.
PO Box 74
5808 VT Route 14



SHARON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sharon Historical Society had a busy summer. A large crowd attended our July program. - *Neil Goodwin - "Royalton Indian Raid."*

On August 20th the Sharon Historical Society participated in the White River Valley Historical Fair in South Royalton. A replica of the Sharon Trading Post Store, built by George and Janet Burnham, was on display. The replica will be on display at the Sharon Historical Society museum - the brick building located on the green. Copies of Historical Notes: The Sharon Trading Post are also available to own by donation at the museum.



The Sharon Historical Society's last program will be September 19, 2011 - *Charlie Marchant - Old Cemeteries.*



SHARON GIRL SCOUTS

Meetings every other week during the school year
Sundays, 3:00 to 5:00pm
at the Sharon Town Offices

Daisies: Kindergarten and 1st Grade
Brownies: 2nd & 3rd Grade
Juniors: 4th & 5th Grade

Registration in September at Sharon Elementary School

Call Donna Foster or Dawn Smith for more information



Marshall Melancon, Robbie McShinsky, & Bailey Bean

The Sharon Girl Scouts and One Planet Summer School teamed up to celebrate the 100th birthday of Girl Scouts and the 250th birthday of Sharon! The children came up with the birthday theme and they all worked together to decorate the float and had a fun time!

Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.



SHARON BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts will be having a Kick-off night September 24th at the Sharon Congregational Church starting at 3:30pm.

Anyone interested in what scouting is about, please feel free to stop by.

Contact Info:

Perley Champney - Scoutmaster
Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

Jordan Daigle, a Life Scout, has been approved for his Eagle Project building dug-outs for the first baseball field at the Sharon Elementary Church. Any donations would be appreciated and can be arranged by contacting the Scoutmaster.

(Info above)

Here are two pictures of the Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 205 and Boy Scout Troop 205 leading the Sharon Old Home Day parade.



SHARON UP-N-DOWNERS

Our first meeting of the new season will be held on October 17, 2011 at the firehouse at 7:00pm. It is hoped that a work day at the fire pit will take place in September and a cook shack will be built. There are trail upgrades planned for that area as well.

The Club participated in the Old Home Day Parade on Saturday, August 13th. The theme of our float was "Snowmobiling, a safe family sport." We borrowed child size snowmobiles from the Lober family and had trees, a real fire and real hotdogs being roasted. Thank you to all who participated.

YOUR BUSINESS CARD COULD GO HERE!

We're soliciting for advertisements for future issues highlighting local businesses. \$4.00/issue for a business card size space/ad. (2" x 3-1/2")

the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Preservation Trust, we were able to install a wheel chair lift in 2009 - matching the funds through fund raising at the school. We have had a newly designed fire escape installed at the rear of the building and current projects being undertaken include correcting the rear wall of the building and having more insulation added to parts of the roof and attic.

It has also come to our attention that the clock in the tower was dedeed to the Town of Sharon many years ago by Wilmer Brooks. This clock is one of a few remaining clocks that still has all the working mechanisms - and some weights and a support beam may be the only things needed to be repaired! Do you love old clocks? Would you like to help us fix the Sharon town clock? Please let us know!

We have had many concerts at our school this past spring/summer - if you missed them, please keep an eye on our front board for announcements, check out the web page, and be our "FRIEND" on Facebook - we would love to be your friend! Don't forget - the Seven Stars Center is also available to rent for your party! Please call us for information! Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

Don't Forget - The Panhandlers are working hard to fund their ambitious live CD recording session, so watch for tag sale notices, raffles, coin drops, bake sales, and more at Vermont Independent

School of the Arts - your community minded place to be!



Photo by Mike Tracy

SHARON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Sharon Congregational Church has formed a new group known as the Fundraising Committee. We are busy planning activities for the Church within the community to bolster not only our bank accounts, but also our pews. We are an energetic bunch of about 10 members who are busy trying to make our Church more visible within the community. One of our first projects is a community calendar which will be very similar to the ones that the firemen sold a few years ago. Businesses can advertise on the perimeter of the calendar for a \$50.00 fee. Community members can purchase a calender for \$10.00 and add all birthdays and anniversaries of their family. We are taking orders now and hope to have the calendars ready by the first of December. You can purchase as many calendars as you like. Payment is due upon placing your order and important dates.

Another exciting activity will be a Community Dinner taking place on Sunday, September 11, 2011, where our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Duane Brown and his wife Amy will be welcoming the community into the Sharon Congregational Church for a free (donations only) dinner where you will get to meet them, and to honor our home town heros, the fire department and first responders group. A candlelight vigil will take place after the dinner and a short ceremony. Please come and honor our volunteers, meet our new pastor and enjoy a night in your community. The supper will begin serving at 6:00pm.

This community dinner is just the first dinner in our "Pasta with the Pastor" series which will take place for the next seven Sunday evenings after that. Community members will volunteer to host an event either at their homes or at the Church where they prepare a meal for 10 guests (plus the pastor and his wife) who will sign up ahead of time, pay a suggested donation of \$20 and get to spend the evening with the pastor and his wife in a small intimate setting to get to know him and fellow community members over a good meal. We are still looking for hosts for the end of October and there is still room during each week for guests. The dates are as follows: 9/11 - Community Dinner - all are welcome; 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23 and 10/30. If you are interested in signing up for a dinner and/or hosting a dinner, please contact Pam Brackett Thank you for your interest. Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

2011 *Old Home Day* SHARON, VERMONT



Photo by Mike Tracy



Photo by Mike Tracy



Photo by Mike Tracy



Photo by Mike Tracy