

MAR 2012

SHARON CONNECTIONS

The Sharon, Vermont, Quarterly Newsletter



Issue#4

NEWS FROM THE SHARON CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Adrienne Kinne and Miriam Rubin

Welcome to the Town Meeting edition of the *Sharon Connections* newsletter, marking our fourth quarterly issue and wrapping up the first year of our town newsletter! Thank you again to everyone who submitted articles and photographs and donated their time and money to make this edition happen.

As we noted in previous issues, the town newsletter was established as a means to foster communication within the Sharon community, following a proposal that was raised during last year's Town Meeting. At that time, residents were hesitant to add a line item to the town budget to support a newsletter without a clear proposal. Since then, the Sharon Connections Committee was formed and has put together and distributed quarterly newsletters utilizing various funding and support strategies.

As we put together this fourth issue, we have a clearer understanding of the value a town newsletter offers the community, and a realistic budget based on experience. The Sharon Connections Committee now requests your input and support. Overall, your enthusiasm has been great, but ultimately we need to know whether the town is willing to support this endeavor in the years to come. The Committee is happy to volunteer our time to solicit, write, edit and compile articles and put them together in a newsletter format, and we

appreciate all who have taken the time to share their goings-on through our newsletter. Now it is up to you as Sharon taxpayers to decide if you want to support the printing and distribution of our town newsletter as a town-funded effort. Based on our experience with the first four quarterly issues, although folks seem to enjoy the *Sharon Connections* when it arrived in their mailboxes, and found it quite useful, distributing it through subscription and/or through purchase at the local stores, library and town office was unsuccessful. The cost to print and mail four copies to each home in Sharon will be \$2,400 per year for the four quarterly issues. This will be a cost of \$1.55 per year, per \$100,000 of value on a Sharon tax parcel; for an "average" Sharon home valued at \$200,000 that will cost \$3.10 per year. It is our sincere hope that you will support a motion during Town Meeting to have the town fund the printing and distribution and keep this town newsletter going!

For those households with easy access to the internet, information about events happening in and around the town of Sharon can be found at 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 are 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.

THE MOST PERFECT CONGRESS IS IN SHARON

Frank Bryan

Like me, many of the people of Sharon will remember Charles Kuralt and his famous “On the Road” reports for CBS news. For years, Kuralt traveled the nation to take America’s pulse on the values and aspirations that sustain the Republic. One March he came to a hill town in the White River Valley. Here he found something that later caused him to say that of all the places he had visited in America this was his favorite. What Kuralt found was town meeting.

No political institution in the history of America has received more praise than town meeting. Thomas Jefferson called it “the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self government.” Henry David Thoreau called it “the true Congress, the most respectable one ever assembled in the United States.” James Bryce, in his classic *The American Commonwealth* (1912), wrote “the town meeting has been not only the source but the school of democracy.” Even a leading scholar of the American city (Lewis Mumford) would say as late as 1961 that the failure of town meeting to extend past New England and to the rest of the country was “one of the tragic

oversights” of American political history.

All this should cause every citizen of a Vermont town, especially a small Vermont town, to smile deeply with pride.

What is it
about
**TOWN
MEETING**
that makes it the
envy of all those
everywhere who
value
democracy?

What is it about town meeting that makes it the envy of all those everywhere who value democracy? Democracy is for those who trust humanity. Town meeting is an expression of this trust. It is for all of us. We with the warts and prejudices and misconceptions. We of the callused palms and fat bellies, of straight ties and cardigan sweat-

ers. We the young and we the old, flatlanders and woodchucks, in the black and in the red, farmer, lawyer, mechanic. We the people.

When I am asked to speak about town meeting around the state, I urge citizens to beware the tyranny of perfection. For town meeting is us and we’re not perfect. Those who shun their town meetings because they fear conflict or incivility should remember this: mistakes made by town meeting are a glorious affirmation of democracy’s value. For real people practicing real democracy are bound to make mistakes – real ones. And at least with town meeting the failures are visible. Larger governments hide behind size and complexity and distance and detail.

At town meeting, we come face to face with our common humanity. By this and this only democracy is sustained.

Frank Bryan is a UVM - John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science (1976). He is an expert in American Politics, State and Local Government.



SELECTBOARD BUZZ

Miriam Rubin

**PLEASE ATTEND
THE SCHOOL MEETING
ON
MONDAY MARCH 5, 7:00PM
&
THE TOWN MEETING
ON
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 9:00AM**

Engage in informative presentations, lively discussion, and important decisions affecting the entire community.

Your participation is strongly encouraged!

The weeks leading up to Town Meeting are always a very busy time at the town offices, preparing various grant applications, getting the next fiscal year's budget finalized, and preparing reports for the Annual Report. This year the Selectboard has worked diligently to present a budget that, while higher than the current fiscal year's spending, is about even in expenditures with the budget in fiscal year 2011. This is quite an accomplishment, given the increase in prices of just about everything the town uses, the addition of a full-time staff member on the road crew, and the added expense of paying for the projected local share of highway repairs after Tropical Storm Irene.

One of the lessons learned through Sharon's experience in the flooding that followed this storm is that there is a serious need for more people to be involved in the community's Emergency Planning Committee. We are very fortunate in Sharon to have a superb team of emergency responders within the Fire Department, our "boots on the ground", but there remains a great need for active emergency planning and incident command team members. Training programs and classes are available at no cost to individuals interested in learning about Incident Command Systems and Emergency Operations Planning. We encourage anyone interested in getting involved in this critical area of community service to contact the Selectboard office as soon as possible.

There is an article on the warning for Town Meeting this year that may be new to most residents: the option for voters to designate Sharon as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District. The Selectboard supports this article because the PACE designation would open opportunities for property owners to access low-interest loans for home improvements that increase the energy efficiency of their homes and lower energy costs. Eligible projects include improvements such as insulation or better windows to reduce heating costs, state-of-the-art heating systems to cut fuel use, or alternative energy systems like a solar electric installation. There is no cost to Sharon residents for this designation; only the property owner installing the improvements would incur a cost.

The purpose of the designation is to allow the property owner access to financing for their clean energy improvements as an assessment paid alongside their annual property taxes, such that the cost of these improvements travels with the property in the event of sale of the home. This eliminates the hesitation someone might have to invest in an energy improvement that may have a longer payback period than the homeowner thinks he or she might live in that home, allowing them to realize cost savings for whatever length of time they do live there, with the remainder of the cost of improvements passed to the next owner, who of course continues to realize the benefit of those improvements. The financing will all be done through a private nonprofit organization, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, known as Efficiency Vermont, under an appointment issued by the Vermont Public Service Board.

There are two new vehicles rolling down local highways bearing the inscription "Sharon" on their sides. The replacement dump truck that will be hauling sand and gravel and plowing the snow is a welcome addition to the town fleet, and the new ambulance responding to calls in Sharon from the South Royalton Rescue, now includes both "South Royalton" and "Sharon" on its sides.

The Selectboard welcomes visitors to all Selectboard meetings, held on the first and third Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices.

TOWN OF SHARON WARNING

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

The legal voters of the Town of Sharon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Sharon Elementary School in said Town on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 9:00AM to transact the following business.

NOTE:

**THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN
FROM
7:00AM TO 7:00PM
FOR VOTING BY
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.**

Voters, or their family members, authorized persons, or health care providers may request early or absentee ballots for the articles to be voted on by Australian Ballot until 5:00PM February 29, 2012 by contacting the Town Clerk at 763-8268 ext 1. Voters wishing to vote by mail should request ballots early. The deadline for submitting voter applications for this annual meeting is February 29, 2012. The Town Clerk's Office is open that day from at least 3:00PM to 5:00PM for the receipt of voter application forms.

Article 1. To elect the following Town Officials by Australian Ballot:

Auditor for 3 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year
First Constable for 1 year
Lister for 3 years
Moderator for 1 year
Second Constable for 1 year
Town Clerk for 3 years
Selectman for 3 years

Article 2. To elect the following Town Officers:

Town Grand Juror –
1 year term
Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits –
1 year term
Trustee of Public Funds –
3 year term
Trustee of Baxter Library –
5 year term
Trustee of Downer Fund –
3 year term

Article 3. To receive the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon appropriate the amount of \$1,065,040 for necessary Town Expenses, including highways, and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon authorize the Town Treasurer to collect the Town general and highway tax and the School District Tax on real and personal estate in two installments within the next fiscal year, the first being on or before (or by mail postmarked on or before) Tuesday, September 18, 2012 and the second being due on or before (or by mail postmarked on or before) Tuesday, February 19, 2013, with interest of one percent per month or part thereof for the first three months and one and one-half percent thereafter for each installment until paid in full, and a late fee of eight percent following any delinquency after the second installment due date?

Article 6. Shall the voters designate the Town of Sharon as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District and authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with Efficiency Vermont to operate the PACE home energy improvements program for interested homeowners as provided by 24 VSA Chapter 8, Section 3261 et seq, such that only those property owners who have entered into written agreements with the municipality under section 3262 of this title would be subject to a special assessment, as set forth in section 3255 of this title?

Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon request all of the following: (1) that the Vermont Congressional delegation and the US Congress propose a US Constitutional amendment for the states' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, and that (2) the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that (3) the Town of Sharon send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty (30) days of passage of this measure?

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Sharon authorize the Selectboard to initiate a public process to investigate reclassification of Class III highways serving a very limited number of residences to Class IV highways?

Article 9. To transact any other business not of a binding nature.



SHARON VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Dawn Robinson

Happy New Year from the Sharon Volunteer Fireman's Association! Renovations on the Fire Station are near completion and look amazing. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Sharon community for your support and contributions to the recovery efforts of the station and in the community at large. We are proud to be part of a community that cares so much about its neighbors. We would also like to thank the hardworking individuals directly involved in the renovations. Thank you to Alan Stender, Electrician; Dennis Preston and Larry Kendall, Carpenters; Ottauquechee Plumbing and Heating; Storm Woodard, Drywall; Derrick Durkee, painting; Barre Tile, flooring; Dana Geno of Dayco Insulation; Andrew Brackett, window installation, and a very special thank you to our own volunteer firefighters, Denis Carpenter, for giving so much time to the demolition process and Rex Dyer for the added time and effort managing all the financial and communication aspects of the community donations, FEMA applications and insurance reporting. We could not have gotten through this challenge without all of the hard work and dedication from all involved.

We would also like to report that we have several members of the Department enrolled in a Fire-fighter I course to become certified firefighters. We are fortunate to have Lieutenant Alan Beebe of Hartford Fire Department running this course which will bring an added level of knowledge and understanding of fire management to our department and the community.

Lastly, we have had several new members join the Department this year and we are pleased to welcome them. Thank you to all of our volunteers who give their time to be involved in an important part of our community.



NOTES FROM THE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Dee Gish

The Energy Committee, with support from Representative Margaret Cheney, will be giving a presentation and answering questions regarding Property Assessed Clean Energy district (PACE) at the Town Meeting. This group will also be presenting an exciting proposal from the SunGen Sharon company that is currently installing a significant solar farm in Sharon at the industrial park. Through their generous sponsorship, Sharon has the opportunity to become the most "solarized" community per capita in Vermont by taking advantage of SunGen's offer to provide solar systems at less-than-market cost, and train local residents in tech-

niques of installation and operation of solar systems. SunGen has also offered to provide a solar system for the town offices at no cost to taxpayers, and would like to locate a community-wide source of solar electricity on a south-facing site along Rte 14, River Rd, or Rte 132, to provide electricity at discounted rates to Sharon residents. In addition, they have offered to match 2:1 all funds raised by the elementary school to install a solar array to serve their electrical needs.

The Energy Committee is also promoting the Go Vermont program (www.connectingcommuters.org). Go Vermont is a web-based clearinghouse for all transportation modes in Vermont, featuring an automated carpool, vanpool and public transit matching service, information for state Park and Ride locations, and a link to "511" traffic conditions. The goal of the program is to increase carpools and vanpools to support efficient transportation choices. Transportation is the leading expenditure of energy and greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont. The Energy Committee supports Go Vermont in their effort to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles driven, in order to save all Vermonters energy, money, and our environment. Go Vermont materials will be available at Town Meeting. Please consider carpooling!



SHARON RECREATION ALLIANCE

Ben White

As we approach the spring, the Alliance for Recreation is looking forward to its regeneration under my leadership. In the recent past, recreation in Sharon has primarily focused on youth activities, but my plans are to increase our activities to meet the social needs of the adult community as well. Sharon is such an active community with wonderful people and a diverse interest in recreational activities. Below are some of our future anticipated events:

- **Bus Tour to Fox Woods Casino**
- **Weekly Adult Basketball Pick-up Game Night**
- **Increased event nights in the clubs of Sharon**
- **Bingo Night**
- **Active Adult Walking Fitness**
- **And Much, Much More!**

I would also like to give a little information about myself, for those of you whom I have not had the pleasure to meet yet. I graduated from Saint Joseph's College of Maine in 2009 with a B.S. in Physical Education and began teaching in Salem, NH. I have also been coaching basketball, soccer, track, swimming and baseball from youth leagues to high school varsity teams. I met my wife in New Hampshire and decided it was time

to settle back down in her hometown of Lebanon, NH, which is what brought me back to the area. I absolutely love the community here in Sharon and feel that we made the smartest decision of our lives in coming back home.

My passion is recreation, which is why I am very excited to help broaden Sharon's recreation activities, and I would not be 100% honest if I did not admit that I want to participate in most of these activities myself!

We have launched our new Alliance for Recreation website, which can be found on the Town of Sharon Website or at <http://sharonvt.net/recreation/index.html>

For game and practice schedules as well as cancellations and changes, please visit this website. It will be actively maintained and should reflect most current changes.

Looking back on our basketball season, the Alliance would like to personally thank Michele and her husband Todd for providing such an enjoyable and skill-based learning experience for all of our

kids: thank you Michele and Todd! We would also like to thank all of the coaches and parents for all their hard work and dedication in bringing about such a great basketball season: thank you! A special shout out needs to go to Carol Rousseau at the elementary school for being key in disseminating information on schedules and schedule changes!

Looking to the future, we have already begun planning for our baseball season. The recreation department is going to be running the baseball program, working closely with Tom Lober and Jeremy Rhodes, the presidents of the Sharon Baseball Association, in order to provide an amazing experience for all participants. Watch for information about sign-ups and schedules at the school and on the town website.

Any questions, comments, requests can be sent to me at:

Benjamin White
 Director of Recreation
 P.O. Box 250
 Sharon, VT 05065



SHARON SPRING TRAINING! “FAMILY” WIFFLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Come watch your favorite hometown teams compete for the
coveted title of

“WIFFLEBALL CHAMPIONS 2012”

When: Sunday, March 25th

Where: Sharon Gym

Who: Kids and Adults ready for Family Fun!

- Delicious Steamed Hot Dogs!
- Thirst Quenching Drinks &
- Baseball Treats for sale

Sharon Wiffleball Tournament Rules:

1. Tournament to be played in the Sharon Gymnasium
2. Teams can have up to 10 players. Comprised of adults and children
3. Teams can have up to 4 adults (12 yrs and above) on the field during an inning
4. Each must have at least 4 children (12 yrs and under) on the field
5. Adult must pitch
6. No crazy, wild, high-speed pitching unless adult at plate
7. Hit batter, in batter's box, gets free base
8. No stealing or leading
9. Each game consists of 5 innings
10. Ten run rule in effect after 3 complete innings
11. Only official wiffle balls and bats can be used
12. Any live ball caught off the wall(s) is an out
13. Any ball that makes it through the basketball net is a homerun
14. No gloves allowed
15. Single elimination format
16. Team name and roster required
17. Spectators will watch at their own risk
18. Ball can be thrown at runners for an out
19. Players will play at their own risk

Tournament is for FUN only!

Please call _____ to register your team before March 10th so we can set up the bracket.



*Sherrie's
Soups & Such
by Sherrie Mauer*

WELCOME!

*Mmmmm
Yummy!*

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

They all have great taste!

BAKED OATMEAL

Wonderful! Make this the night before and then bake in the morning for a perfect breakfast-brunch.

1/2 cup softened butter (1 stick)
1/4 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
1 cup milk
1/2 to 1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tbs. baking powder
3 cups regular or quick cook oats
1/2 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
1 peach, skinned, chopped-no pit
2 Tbs. vanilla sugar or maple sugar or both

Beat together the butter and sugars. Mix in the eggs, milk, cinnamon, salt, baking powder and oats. Beat well. Add the fruit. Pour into a greased 8 inch square pan. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Uncover pan and sprinkle with vanilla or maple sugar. Bake in preheated oven until firm, about 45 minutes. Serve topped with any combination; warm milk, yogurt, cream, kefir, or as is. Prep time: 15 minutes Baking time: 45 minutes Serves: 4 - 6

COTTAGE CHEESE – DILLY BREAD

Quick – Tasty – Keeps well!!!

20 minutes to prepare

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

35 – 45 minutes to bake

Butter an average loaf pan

1 cup unbleached white flour

1 cup cottage cheese

1 cup whole wheat flour

2 large beaten eggs

2 tsp. baking powder

6 Tbs. milk

1/2 tsp baking soda

1 Tbs. honey

1/4 tsp salt

4 Tbs. melted butter

2 Tbs. fresh dill weed

1 Tbs. onion flakes

Sooo good!

1) Sift together dry ingredients

2) Beat together the wet ingredients. Add the dill and onion flakes with the wet. Gradually sift the dry into the wet, stirring and scraping the sides as you go. Don't beat – just mix enough to thoroughly blend. The batter will be quite stiff.

3) Spread it into the buttered pan (take your time) and bake it 35 – 45 minutes

SQUASH – KALE – HASH

Quick, Easy, Healthy and Delicious; What more can you ask for?

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

1 cup butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut into large chunks

1 cup kale, stemmed, chopped

1 lb. Boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 2" chunks

salt and pepper

1 Tbs. olive oil

1 cup red onion, sliced

1/2 cup dried cranberries

1 Tbs. minced fresh sage

1/2 cup chicken broth

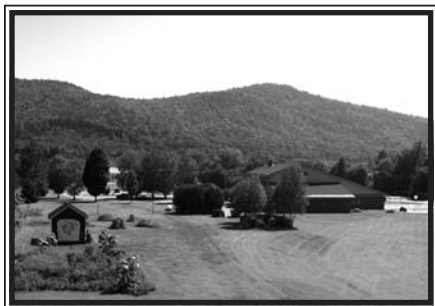
1/4 cup pure maple syrup

1 Tbs. Dijon mustard

Blanch squash in a large pot with salted boiling water until almost cooked through, 3 - 4 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in kale and let stand, uncovered, for 3 minutes. Drain vegetables and set aside. Season chicken with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in the same pot over medium-high heat and sauté chicken until browned on all sides. Add the onion and sauté 2 minutes. Stir in the prepared squash and kale, cranberries and sage; sauté another minute.

Whisk broth, syrup and Dijon together; pour over the hash. Simmer until liquid reduces by half, about 2 – 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper before serving.



SHARON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Carol Rousseau

January marks the end of the second marking period - we're half way through the academic year! Our kids and staff are staying active and healthy by participating in many events. We have more than 30 children enrolled in alpine skiing and snowboarding at Ski Runners on Fridays in South Pomfret. Another 20 or so learn cross country skiing and snowshoeing here on our fields, as well as in Downer Forest. And during recess and after school you will see graceful skaters on our own town rink! With all these wonderful activities there are wonderful volunteers to keep it going. Parent chaperones take the bus to Ski Runners, Martha Cain and John Sears get the Nordic skis and boots ready and have several adult guides. We also thank the Fire Department (Rex Dyer and Tom Lober) for flooding the rink and making it smooth. Another way for our kids to keep active during the long winter months is the Passport to Winter Fun, a program designed by the Upper Valley Trails Association. The Passport program is an elementary school fitness program

designed to encourage children and their families to remain physically active during New England's long winter season. It emphasizes outdoor activities such as sledding, skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, building snowmen or igloos, or just playing in the snow, but also includes indoor physical exercise. Participants track the days on which they have engaged in at least one hour of physical activity in a booklet resembling a travel passport, progressing through several levels of achievement when they have completed ten, twenty or thirty days of physical activity within the six-week program period. These achievement levels are milestones at which the children receive their choice of a healthy incentive prize.

As we welcomed in the New Year we also welcomed some new people to Sharon Elementary. Ben White is our new One Planet Site Coordinator and also our new Sharon Recreation Alliance Director. He has designed a new website for the Recreation Department that you can find at: <http://www.sharonvt.net/recreation/index.html>. Ben hails from Maine, and taught Physical Education in Salem, NH. He can be reached at the school.

We also welcome two new little ones, Porter Hayley born to our third-grade teacher, Keenan Hayley, and his wife Kristi, and Sawyer Boulbol, born to our sixth-grade teacher, Janis Boulbol, and her husband Greg. Corinna Dooley

from Barnard will be our sixth-grade teacher through the end of the year with Janis returning next fall.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Saturday February 25th, 9:30 to 11:00 am: Tumble Time for Tots

at the Sharon School Gym
An active playtime for children ages birth to 5 years AND their parents! Supervised activities for your tots. For more information, contact Amy Bogardus.

February 27th – March 6th: School Vacation

Monday, March 5th at 7:00 pm: Sharon School District Annual Meeting

Elect moderator, hear and act on reports of the School District Officers, Vote on 2012-2013 school budget, vote on establishment and operation of a public pre-school for 2012-2013, elect one school board director, and other business as needed.

Tuesday, March 6th at 9:00 am: Town Meeting Day

Girl Scouts Cookies on sale at School Meeting and Town Meeting, March 5th and 6th, and the Farmers' Market on March 10th and 31st.

Saturday, March 10th: Farmers' Market and Chili Cook Off

**Saturday, March 24th:
Junior Iron Chef**

For the third year we have a team of students attending the Jr. Iron Chef at the Champlain Valley Expo facility Saturday, March 24th. This is an exciting competition that supports Farm to School programs. Sponsorships are available to promote healthy eating and your business name as well. Go to: www.jrironchefvt.org for more details.

**Sunday, March 25th:
Whiffle Ball Tournament**

Call Stacey Lober at 763-8261 for more info and to register your team!

**Saturday, March 31st:
Farmers' Market**

**Thursday, April 12th:
Spring Concert**

**Friday, April 13th:
Child Development Day**
(ages birth to 5)

On this day we invite parents with children aged birth to 5 to meet the people in our district who work directly with your children. If your child is age 4 by Sept. 1, 2012, you also will be able to pre-enroll for preschool, or age 5 by Sept. 1, 2012, for kindergarten. Call Lori Ballou at OWSU to make a specific time to come on the 13th: 763-8840.

**April 23rd – 27th:
School Vacation**

Carol Rousseau, Secretary
Sharon Elementary School
75 VT Route 132 Sharon, VT
05065

www.sharon.owsu.org



**SHARON STUDENTS
HONOR ROLL
FROM THE
SOUTH ROYALTON SCHOOL**



Honors

**Rachel Moore
Maevae Naumann**

Honorable Mention

Mariah Davis



Aaron Robinson
Guidance Assistant
Grades 5-12 Drama Coach
South Royalton School
223 South Windsor Street
South Royalton, VT 05068
www.soroschool.org



For more information about
events happening in the town
of Sharon visit

www.sharonvt.net

**ATHLETIC NEWS
SHARON STUDENTS IN
SOUTH ROYALTON SCHOOL**

Tyler Benson: playing middle school boys basketball

Cheryl Flint: enjoying a fine season on the varsity girls basketball team. Leading scorer several times.

Andi McPhetres: playing JV girls basketball

Andrew Moore: having a great season for the middle school boys basketball team

Nate Moore: starting on the varsity boys' basketball team as a sophomore.

Rachel Moore: having a tremendous season on the middle school girls' basketball season. She is a starter and a leading scorer.

Maevae Naumann: playing middle school girls basketball

Jordan Robinson: having a fine season on the middle school girls basketball team

Dylan Striker: member of the bowling team and one of the better players on the team

Jeff Moreno
Vice Principal
Athletic Director
South Royalton School



BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Rachel Clark, librarian

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

As we head toward Town Meeting time, the trustees and I want to thank you for your support of the town's public library over the years. This library is now serving so many people of different ages and from different walks of life, and it is a pleasure to be able to provide them with information they need, basic computing help, and good reads to enrich their lives, all close to home.

Among our recent new books are several in large print, so if you know someone who reads large print books, please tell them their library is working to shore up that collection. Other new titles include *Swamplandia* by Karen Russell, *The Passage* by Justin Cronin, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other* by Sherry Turkle, the George R.R. Martin *Song of Ice and Fire* series, and many other historical fiction novels, mysteries, children's books, teen books... too many to list, so come in and browse!

The craft night has been discontinued for lack of regular attendees, but the rug hooking group on third Sundays at 2pm is going strong and welcomes anyone interested.

Please call or stop by if you have any questions, suggestions, or requests!



Vermont Independent School of the Arts is Moving Forward to SPRING!

Marsha Curtis

The Vermont Independent School of the Arts had a BUSY winter! We hosted a Community Recovery Partnership meeting for residents of Sharon, Royalton, Bethel, and Randolph, to consider the impact and implications of Hurricane Irene. This was the fifth of ten statewide meetings, and the first to be attended by Governor Peter Shumlin, whose address to the packed house was sympathetic and upbeat. Noelle McKay, Commissioner of the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Resources, led a discussion of successful and less successful recovery efforts following the flood, as well as perceived future needs for improved communication, access to safe areas, infrastructure rebuilding, and more. Thank you to Emma Zavez, Two

Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Planning Commission, for her work as liaison for this meeting.

Governor Shumlin listens to locals tell about their experiences relating to Hurricane Irene



The Panhandlers Steel Drum Band is on a "drum" roll! We took the stage at the Tupelo Music Theater last October to record our new CD "The Panhandlers Steel Drum Band.....Live at the Tupelo"-- and it was a great success! Thanks to the hard work of Bennett Shapiro and Scott Paulson, we are moving forward towards our April release date at a fast rate! Our Holiday concert this past December, which featured the Panhandlers and music students of Barbara Smith, Beth Telford, and Lindsey Warren, was a great success. Our CD raffle drawing awarded three prizes. The third-place basket of Vermont Goodies went to Rob Carr, from Montpelier, the second-place basket of Vermont Goodies went to Beth from Annapolis, MD, and our first-place prize, a hand-forged artisan clock, went to Pat Mayer from Brookfield. We congratulate all our winners and thank everyone who bought tickets to help support the Panhandlers' CD! A great effort on the part of all the members of the band as well!

You still have time to pre-purchase the CD online at VTISA.org at a reduced rate. Buy now in advance of the release date for only \$13 – that’s a \$2 savings! In the meantime, come and see the band “live” for yourselves at one of many concerts this year, starting with the Manchester Chili Fest at the Equinox Hotel in Manchester, VT, on February 9th at 5:30 pm – it’s going to be Hot Hot HOT! Next up, the Panhandlers perform in the Farmers Night Concert Series in the House Chamber of the Vermont State House on March 28th at 7:30 pm. “Like” us on Facebook or go to VTISA’s website (www.vtisa.org) for updates on the band. Come help support a local multi generational FAMILY flavor band – we have LOTS of fun and you will too!

A new program at VTISA:

Take The Stage! Performance practice classes - Tuesdays at 6:15 pm starting 1/10/12 Ages 8 and up and all ability levels - Whatever your level of experience you can “Take the Stage!” Build on and improve your skills using our resources and tips on the elements of great performances! Reach your performance goals by sharing your chosen musical or spoken material with a supportive group each week. Instructor Jennifer Grossi. Space is limited.

Ongoing classes and programs at Seven Stars:

Kripalu Yoga

Rose Loving, Instructor
Contact Rose

Japanese Calligraphy and Brush Painting

Ginger Armstrong, Instructor
Contact Ginger

The Panhandlers Steel Band

Scott Paulson - Instructor
Contact Scott

Tai Chi & Qigong

Catherine Freese, Instructor
Contact Catherine
Classes are Saturdays at 9am



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

Barbara C. Smith

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone

Beth Telford

Cape Breton Fiddling

Lindsey Warren

Voice and Piano

Don Sinclair

Guitar

For more information, contact VTISA

Vermont Independent School of the Arts at the Seven Stars Center is 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 – we would love to see you!

Send your submissions to:
sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com



SHARON SPROUTS FARMERS' MARKET

Donna Foster

The Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market celebrated many successes last year. Thanks to all who came out to support this great program! The Farmers' Market has become a wonderful community event, with so many faithful craft and food vendors, a delicious and reasonably-priced lunch, and FREE activities for the children!

The market returned on February 11 in conjunction with the 5th Annual Winter Festival, with Ben White of One Planet and Sharon Recreation Alliance coordinating fabulous events in celebration of winter! 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 generous support of the local community at our farmers' market provides for the purchase of local foods for the school food service program and learning opportunities

for Sharon Elementary students, centered around food, farming, and nutrition. Special thanks to the Sharon PTO for their continual, generous support of the program; to Sharon Recreation Alliance for their support of the program and help with community events at the market; and to Sharon One Planet for continual market help and summer garden maintenance.



SHARON GIRL SCOUTS

Donna Foster

Sharon Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts are selling Girl Scout cookies! Sales continue through March with Booth Sales occurring at the School and Town Meetings on March 5 & 6, the Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market on March 10, and the Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Market and Spring Craft Fair on March 31. Contact Donna Foster for more information on Girl Scout Cookies or Sharon Girl Scout. Be sure to read all about us in the Town Report!

For more information about events happening in the town of Sharon visit

www.sharonvt.net



SHARON CUB SCOUTS NEWS

Richard Kent

The Sharon Cub Scouts have been meeting every other Sunday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 PM at the Sharon Elementary School and learning new skills and knowledge necessary to advance in rank as well as enjoying many fun activities. Cub Scouting combines outdoor activities, sports and academics, and is designed for boys ages 7 to 10. The program also helps families teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship and respect. The Pack is currently planning two fund raising events: a car wash and a bottle drive. Money donated during these events will be used to help defray the cost of sending cub scouts to a week of residential camp at Camp Sunrise in Benson, VT. While attending camp the boys will learn new skills and participate in archery, BB gun target shooting, swimming, boating, nature studies, handicrafts and field sports. If you would like more information, contact Cubmaster Todd Robinson.



THE SHARIN' STITCHERS

The Sharin' Stitchers meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 at the Sharon Congregational Church. If you have ever wanted to learn to quilt, this is for you. If you already know how to quilt and want to pick up some pointers from experienced quilters, this is for you, too! If you are an experienced quilter, this is a great time for you to join our group to offer your experience. We usually meet until 8:00ish. Learn the proper ironing techniques, cutting tools and tips with rotary cutters and mats, tools of the trade, and tips of choosing fabrics and colors. If you enjoy other forms of stitchery, please come join the fun as well. We are open to all forms of stitchery crafts. We are currently making a community quilt. Come join the fun.

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Foster Gardens
 Donna Foster
**VEGGIE PLANTS,
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Spring Open Greenhouses and Sharon Sprouts Farmers' Markets; May 12 Yard & Plant Sale; and Plant Stand May 18 - June 13. Sharon, VT (802) 763-8280 vtfoster@myfairpoint.net


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 A non-profit educational organization

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CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First and Third Mondays at 7:00pm
Selectboard Meetings at Town Office

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

Second and Fourth Mondays at
6:30pm Sharin' Stitchers Meetings at
the Sharon Congregational Church

February 27th – March 6th:

Sharon Elementary School Vacation

Mar. 5 Annual School Meeting -
Sharon Elementary School @ 7pm

Mar. 6 Town Meeting - Sharon
Elementary School @ 9am

Mar. 10 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off
and Farmers' Market Day @ SES

Mar. 25 Whiffle Ball Tournament @
Sharon Gym

Mar. 31 Farmers' Market @ SES

Apr. 12 Spring Concert @ SES

Apr. 13 Child Development Day
at Sharon Elementary School

April 23rd – 27th:
Sharon Elementary School Vacation

May 5 - Green-Up Day

May 19 - Mardi Gras Girl and Tea
Party, Sharon Elementary School @
11:30am

SHARON CONNECTIONS

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