

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

CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4 - Fishing Derby for Sharon Elementary School children, K-6th grade on Eastman Road from 9-11am.

June 4 - "Still More Cats", a Sharon band will play for the Sharon Food Shelf Fundraiser at The Seven Stars Center, 7pm.

June 4 & 5 - Baxter Library's Annual Plant, Book and Bake Sale, 9am-1pm.

June 8 - World Languages Club meeting at Sharon Elementary School, 6pm.

June 10 - The Sharon Academy 8th grade Graduation Moore Hall, 6:30pm

June 12 - The Sharon Academy High School Graduation in school gym, 2pm.

June 15 - Summer Ultimate

Frisbee starts at Sharon Elementary School every Wednesday at 5:30pm.

June 18 - Community Education Forum about Sharon's Flood Hazard By-Law, 10:30am - 12 noon at Sharon Elementary School.

June 20 - Old Home Days Info meeting at Sharon Elementary School, 6pm.

June 25 - Farm to School Celebration and Fundraiser to benefit the Upper Valley Farm to School Network Mini-Grant Fund at the Barnard Town Hall, 5pm-10pm.

July 1 - Historical Society museum opens every Sunday thru to August 31st. 1-3pm.

July 4-24 - Carol Langstaff's FLOCK Dance Troupe Summer Intern Program "JOY!".

July 18 - Sharon Historical Society Pot Luck Supper 6pm. Program - Neil Goodwin - "Indian Raid & Sharon" 7pm.

July 22, 23 & 24 - Carol Langstaff's FLOCK Dance Troupe presents "JOY!" at the Star Mountain Amphitheater in Sharon.

August 13 - Sharon Old Home Days

August 20 - White River Valley Historical Fair at South Royalton High School. Our Topic - Main Street Then & Now - focusing on the "History of the Sharon Trading Post".

September 10 - Sharon Town Community event: The "Sprouty" Fun Run.

Newsletter layout and design by Tracy Hazen



INTRODUCTIONS: "Sharon Connections" Sharon's Town Newsletter

Welcome to the first complimentary issue of Sharon Connections, a quarterly newsletter for the town of Sharon, VT. We hope you enjoy this Town newsletter, your introduction to Sharon's resources, events, documents and organizations. If we've forgotten something, that's because we need to hear from you! Interested in writing?

Send submission ideas to

sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com

Our deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before issue. We're working on our fall issue - deadline is August 15th. If you like to get the Sharon Connections newsletter electronically rather than in print, you can find future issues online at the Town of Sharon's website at www.sharonvt.net. To subscribe to the print edition, please watch for information in the next newsletter.

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

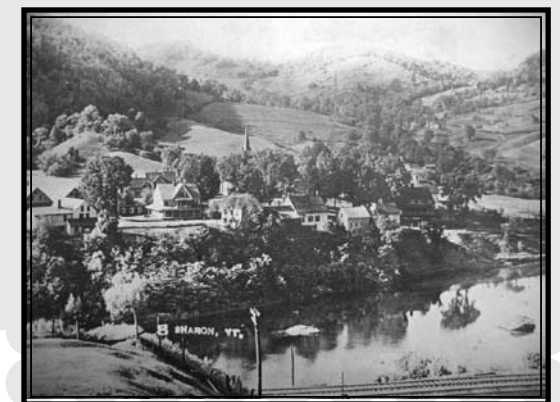
residents: lost pets, items for sale, community events and meetings.

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 selectboard'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.

*Happy 250th Birthday
Sharon!!*





SELECTBOARD BUZZ

We are all glad to put behind us one of the snowiest winters in recent memory followed by the longest, deepest mud season most of us have ever seen. Summer is right around the corner, and the Selectboard welcomes all of Sharon to turn out and enjoy all the community activities of the season, especially the semi-quincentennial celebrations!

In addition to the sundry tasks overseen by the Selectboard to keep the town running smoothly, this summer's agendas will also include a review of town policies and ordinances - some of which have not been updated in almost two decades. First up for review and revision are the Ordinance Relating to Traffic Control, the Ordinance Relating to Dogs, and the Personnel Policy. Any change to an ordinance requires a public hearing, which is scheduled for Monday July 18th at 7:30pm at the Sharon Elementary School. This hearing will be advertised at least two weeks in advance in the Randolph Herald, and notices will be posted at all locations utilized by the Town to provide public information: the town's www.SharonVT.net web page, the Town Hall, Sharon Post Office, inside at the Sharon Trading Post and outside on the board at Midway Station. Copies of proposed ordinances will be available

at the Town Office.

Other special projects being undertaken around town during the summer are further rebuilding along sections of Beaver Meadow Road, improvements on Quimby Mountain Road, insulation and painting at the Town Office building, and painting at the Old School House. As always, the community is welcome to attend and participate in the Selectboard meetings on the first and third Monday evenings of the month beginning at 6:30pm.

At the March Town Meeting there was not sufficient time to answer questions about the Flood Hazard Bylaw adopted last December, so as a follow-up the Selectboard encourages all Sharon residents interested in learning more about our Flood Hazard By-law to attend a community information session that will be held on Saturday June 18th at the Sharon Elementary School Multi-purpose Room from 10:30am to 12:00. This session is oriented primarily towards private landowners and local officials, and will focus on reading flood maps, understanding the various kinds of flood areas and flood risks, exploring how flood insurance and flood regulations intersect, and answering questions related to the effects on potential development under the town's flood regulations. This session will be presented by Kevin Geiger, Senior Planner at the regional planning commission and a certified flood manager.



SAVE THE DATE for A VERY SPECIAL EVENT:

Sharon's first "SPROUTY" Fun Run on Saturday September 10th. Run on out to celebrate our community's 250th birthday and the bounty of the harvest at the Sharon Sprout's garden with our very own version of the famous run - a "SPROUTY" right here in Sharon!

Pick your own distance and pace - there's something for everyone, whether a casual stroll through town from the elementary school to the bridge, or a 10K run along the river, this day is for YOU. Be it at a snail's pace or a fleet-footed run, the purpose is to come together as a community and enjoy our neighbors' great company in Sharon's beautiful setting, celebrating health, happiness, and our community's present and past efforts and accomplishments. Watch the town website and town-wide postings in August for more information on the SPROUTY! Thank you AHT Plumbing and Heating for your sponsorship!

WHITE RIVER TASK FORCE Proposes Culvert Project

The Town's White River Task Force, an advisory panel to the Selectboard, is recommending replacement of an undersized culvert located on Cross Road and will pursue \$30,000 in federal funding

schoolboard meetings, adding an item to the proposed schoolboard meeting agenda, proposing a way that we can improve educational opportunities for Sharon students, and more.

We would like you to view the Sharon school community as YOUR school community, realizing that it will thrive only if we all invest in it actively.

You will find the agenda for each month's upcoming meeting--as well as the minutes of past schoolboard meetings--on the Sharon School District website at www.owsu.org.

Sincerely,
Pano Rodis

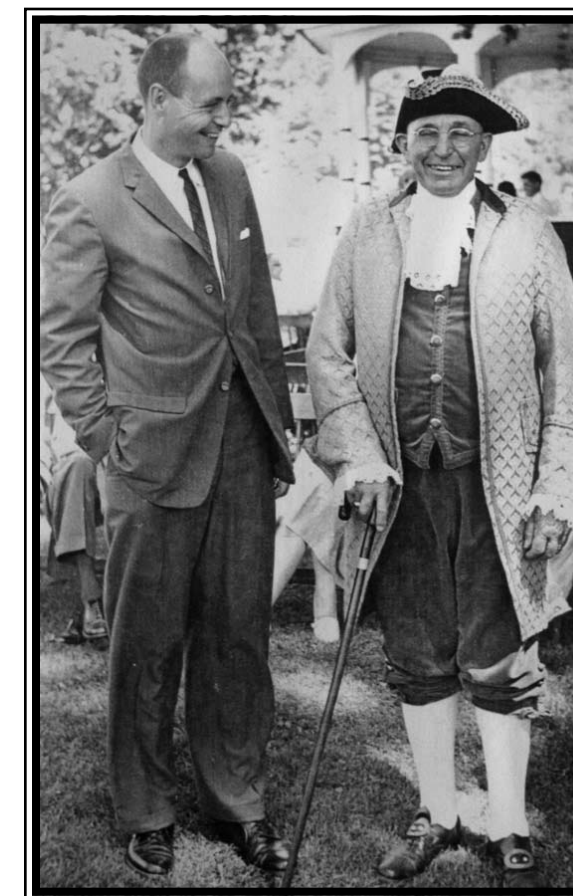


THE SHARON ACADEMY NEWS

Come celebrate with The Sharon Academy! The Sharon Academy will be holding its 8th grade graduation on June 10th at 6:30 pm in Moore Hall of The Sharon Academy High School. Our High School graduation will be on June 12th, from 2:00 until approximately 4:30, in The Sharon Academy High School Gym. Each of our graduating students has the opportunity to speak about their experiences at TSA, so this is a great opportunity to learn more about our students and to celebrate their accomplishments. We hope to see you there.

YOUR BUSINESS CARD COULD GO HERE!

We're soliciting for advertisements for future issues highlighting local businesses. \$5.00/issue for a business card size space/ad. (2" x 3-1/2")



Old Home Day, 1961

Sharon Bicentennial

Then VT Gov. F. Ray Keyser Jr. and John W. Gibson as (Gov. Wentworth)

Thank -You!

to the following Newsletter contributors:

Miriam Rubin, Carol Langstaff, Adrienne Kinne, Paul Haskell, Michael Barsanti, Dean Stearns, Pano Rodis, Karen Rodis, Mary Ayer & The Sharon Historical Society, Rachel Clark, Keenan Haley, Barrett Williams, Marsha Curtis, Anne Mappleback, Amber Wylie, Diedre Gish, Mary Russ, Stacey Lober, Linda Moore, Carol Harry & more!

classroom was given a raised bed which they would use as a learning lab around the growing of food. At the same time our kitchen created a production garden where food was grown for the cafeteria. As a way to bring all of these wonderful projects together it was decided to have a group oversee all of this and to help raise funds to support this education and the buying of local foods. This is how the Sharon Sprouts came to be.

The Sprouts have monthly meetings where they discuss Farmer's Markets, gardening efforts and much more. Other school groups have also been involved in supporting these programs, most noticeably the PTO, but the Sprouts' main focus is around food, farm and nutrition education. If you would like to be involved in the Sharon Sprouts, contact Keenan Haley at the school 763-7425.

Farm to School Event:

The Barn-Yard Bash:
A Celebration of Farm to School in
the Upper Valley

All proceeds go to the Upper Valley
Farm to School Network
June 25th

Barnard Town Hall (Right next to
Silver Lake State Park)

5:00pm - 10:00pm

Live Music with local musicians
and special guest: Quincy Mumford
and the Reason Why

Tickets: \$10.00 individual \$20.00
family (for advance tickets contact

Keenan Haley

Food will be on sale

Games for kids

WORLD LANGUAGES 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 "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. Bring your ideas and your talents to the first meeting at Sharon Elementary School on Wednesday, June 8, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, no foreign language experience necessary. For more info: *Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com or call town office for particulars.*

SHARON SCHOOLBOARD NEWS

Directors have the satisfying task of supporting the Sharon community in the fulfillment of its mission to "promote quality education that emphasizes high academic standards, sound personal development, and positive social growth -- thus laying the foundation for lifelong learning and a personally fulfilling and productive life." The three current members--Don Shaw, Steve Gagliardone, & Pano Rodis--have spent the last few months

on a variety of initiatives & challenges--some of them chosen, some of them pressed upon us by the state of Vermont, and many of them suggested by community members. An exhaustive list of these wouldn't fit on this page, but some chief topics of interest are & have been:

* School choice: its value, its cost, and its impacts on the community

* Improving science education at the Sharon Elementary School

* Partnering with the Sharon Academy to achieve mutually valued educational goals

* Establishing a preschool/daycare program in Sharon

* Developing our capacity to more effectively advocate for our secondary level students.

We have had the pleasure over the last year of many well-attended schoolboard meetings, with community members engaging constructively in solving problems, proposing ways to further enhance the quality of education offered to Sharon students, and partnering with Sharon educators.

You should know that you are welcome to schoolboard meetings whether you are a parent of a current student or not. In fact, we are certain that we cannot accomplish much at all without the active support of community members.

We would be delighted if you would contact us via the Sharon List-serve (see page one of this newsletter) or by calling Principal Barrett Williams at (802)763-7425 if you have an interest in serving on a committee, sharing your expertise with students, teachers, or the general community, responding to one of the topics raised during

for the project.

According to Sue Sellev who chairs the Task Force, undersized culverts such the one on Quation Brook can easily become clogged with ice or other debris. Water trapped behind that point will eventually jump the stream bed with significant damage to roads and private property downstream resulting.

Sharon qualifies for this FEMA funding to improve bridges and culverts because of its recently adopted Flood Hazard Bylaw. FEMA money is released for projects whenever there is emergency flood damage in Vermont similar to what happened with Lake Champlain this spring, or to prevent future damage.

Members of the Task Force include: Paul Haskell, Mary Russ of the White River Partnership, Susan Sellev, Ned Swanberg, and Fritz Weiss. If you are interested in attending our meetings, please contact Sue Sellev.



BOOKENDS

BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

2:00-6:00

Saturday 10-12

763-2875

Summer News from Your Library

By Rachel Clark, librarian

The library will usher in the summer with our annual **Plant, Book & Bake sale, Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th, from 9-1.** Proceeds go to the library book and program funds. As always, we would love donations of perennials and books in good condition (no text books or magazines, please). We may not be able to do as much digging of plants this year, so we would appreciate drop-offs at the back of the library close to the event date. Thank you in advance for all your donations and help—every year this is a wonderful community event, rain or shine.

The Vermont Summer Reading theme for children this year is "One World, Many Stories." We hope to have a storyteller perform in July, and very cute reading records with stickers are available for families who want to encourage their early readers to take pride in each book they read. Just pick one up free at the library anytime. Rachel has a treasure box of little prizes for the end of the summer if kids want to bring in their reading record to show what they've done. There will also be simple crafts and activity sheets out on the table for drop-in fun during the summer. Sometimes this buys parents a moment of peace to find a book for themselves.

The knitting and rug hooking groups may be continuing through the summer—please call to confirm. The rug hooking group has been especially keen and growing, I hear. Many talented people out

there!

Keep in mind that your library has books on great bicycle routes in Vermont, hiking guides, the Valley Quest guides, books on gardening and animal husbandry and fishing and...the list goes on, give a call or stop in if you are looking for something. Not to mention easy vacation reads and audio books for long trips! (Both cd's and the large, free downloadable selection at www.listenupvermont.org). Have a great summer, and stop by.

SHARON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brick Building on the Town Green

Open Sundays 1-3pm

during July & August

Also by appointment

Call Mary Ayer
or Phyllis Potter



Sharon Old Home Days

The Old Home Day committee would like to announce that Saturday August 13th will be the official day for this year's event. The festivities start at 10am with a parade through the town and ending on the green where there will be additional activities that include but are not limited to: music, clogging and a firemen's barbecue.

Please spread the word as we are hoping for a greater turnout than in years past for this time honored community event. Info meeting will take place on June 20 at Sharon Elementary School at 6pm. For parade information please contact Tammy Pratson.

SHARON ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Sharon Energy Committee invites you to attend our regular meetings held the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:15 in the town offices. We always welcome new members and good ideas. Current goals of the Energy Committee include upgrading the street lights in the city limits to efficient LED lighting, creating a volunteer crew of weatherization workers to assist low-income homeowners, and securing solar panels for Sharon Elementary School. Join us as we strive for energy conservation and efficiency in the town of Sharon. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8th. Following the Sharon Sprouts' Farmer's Market, the Energy Committee is hosting a home weatherization and efficiency workshop. The event is possible thanks to a "Building the Power of Vermont Communities" grant award from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. The event will be held at the Seven Stars building (Vermont Independent School of the Arts) and will feature an energy audit of the building and a demonstration workshop where you can make your own plastic film insulation window inserts. Home weatherization contractors and renewable energy vendors will be on hand to answer your questions and help you improve the efficiency of your home. More details will follow in later newsletters, but mark your calendars now! Look for the Energy Committee at Old Home Days, August 13th, and at the 250th Anniversary SPROUTY fun run on

September 10th. If anyone has any questions, please contact Margaret Raymond at 763-8268 x3.

WHITE RIVER PARTNERSHIP

White River Partnership monitors water quality in Sharon

On June 8, the White River Partnership (WRP) will kick-off its 11th season monitoring water quality at 2 dozen sites on the White River and its tributaries - including the Route 14 pulloff at White Brook Road in Sharon.

In 2001, the WRP developed a volunteer-led Water Quality Monitoring Program in response to community concerns that bacteria and other contaminants might be making some waters unsafe for recreation. Each summer, the WRP recruits and trains community volunteers to monitor bacteria, conductivity, temperature, and water clarity at "River Stations" around the watershed. This water quality data is shared with town officials and posted on the WRP website to raise awareness about water quality on the White River.

Over the past 7 months, the WRP has worked with the Dartmouth Institute to survey watershed towns about their use of our water quality monitoring data. As a result, the WRP will improve education and outreach about water quality issues so that town officials and community members in Sharon can make informed decisions that protect public health and the environment. For more information about the WRP's 2011 monitoring program, visit 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 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.

TOWN RECREATION



Summer Ultimate Frisbee

Wednesdays
Starting June 15th
Sharon Elementary School
5:30 pm
All ages - All abilities
For more info
call Carol or

Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

FLOCK Invites Interns

FLOCK Dance Troupe offers a limited number of Summer Intern Program positions for a residency at FLOCK's Star Mountain Road home in Sharon, July 4-24. Interns will participate in creating together Flock's summer offering JOY!, rehearsing, training in FLOCK technique and creating the visual

SHARON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Please visit our website, www.sharon.owsu.org for daily updates of school and community events and activities. Email us at sharonelementary@myfairpoint.net if you would like to receive our newsletters, or check the bulletin board at the Trading Post for newsletters and brochures.



If you're a Facebook fan, you can find our school's page and join us!

We have 2 ongoing fundraising events:



1. Boxtops for Education - please save and send in these little 10 cent coupons found on many grocery items. You also can sign up at www.boxtops4education.com for recipes and contests to help our school earn even more! If you shop online, you can earn a percentage of your purchases for our school at the Box Tops Marketplace.

2. We have another online shopping link where a percentage of your purchases go to an account for our school. Go to our school website, www.sharon.owsu.org and click on the SchoolStore.com banner. Over 200 online merchants available! Gift Cards for classrooms can also be purchased, giving teachers purchase power for their classroom.

Sharon Elementary School Upcoming Events

June 2 - Farm and Field Day - Newton school will be joining us to celebrate food education with local farmers bringing animals and skills used in traditional agricultural living.

June 7 - River Day: The sixth grade has been studying streams and rivers with a local scientist and will present a full day of lessons to the younger grades at Paines Beach in S. Royalton.

June 10 - Kindergarten Registration. If you have a child who will be 5 by September 1, 2011, please come visit with your child. Call 763-7425 for a time that works for you.

June 16 - 6th grade Graduation

June 17 - Last day of school.

Dismissal at 12 noon.

Summer Day Camp Registration is now open!

Applications at the school, at our website: www.sharon.owsu.org and click Programs, or call 763-7425 to have it mailed.

The program will run from June 20 through August 12th, 8:30-4:30. Child care available starting at 7:30 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Child care subsidy and scholarships are available. Swimming lessons will take place at Vermont Technical College during the 2nd and 3rd weeks in the afternoon.

Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 4th 9-11am. Registration begins at 8:30 at the pond. For Sharon Elementary school children, K-6th grade. Located on Eastman Road, leaving Town go north on RT 14, take a

right onto White Brook Road, go 1/2 mile. Take right onto Eastman road, go 1/2 mile. Pond is on the left. Please park along side of road. Burgers/Hot Dogs/Drinks.

SHARON SPROUTS

The Sharon Sprouts mission is...

"To support the education of our students about the value of farming, food, and nutrition. It is our hope that this knowledge will inform and empower them to make healthy choices for themselves, the community and the world."

Sharon Elementary is a model school in the Upper Valley and in the state of Vermont as a whole when it comes to teaching students about farm, food and health education. In the early stages of our development the staff participated in professional development with a group called FEED (Food Education Every Day). FEED is a collaboration between Shelburne Farms, Food Works of Montpelier and the North East Organic Farming Association (NOFA). Staff worked together on developing curriculum and food related experiences that would expose students to healthful foods in a variety of ways. After completing the FEED training, Sharon applied and was awarded the Vermont Farm to School Implementation Grant. This grant allowed the school to make connections between the school and local farmers. Sharon began purchasing foods from local farms, purchased a salad bar and conducted field trips to learn more about our local agriculture. In unison with all of this, the school began to create school gardens. Each

(con't from page 5) for June 4.

Please visit our website at www.VTISA.org or call for more information 802-763-2334 or just stop by and visit us - we would love to chat with you about our facility!



TAI CHI QIGONG at Seven Stars Center

Saturday mornings from nine to ten o'clock folks gather at the Seven Stars Center on Rte 14 to enjoy the healthful pleasures of practicing Tai Chi and Qigong. This wonderful class is approaching its third anniversary and is designed to accommodate the people who have been learning with Catherine Freese since the beginning, as well as newer members. "The class has been growing steadily in numbers and I love when new folks join us" remarks Anne Mapplebeck, "It helps deepen the practice and brings new and fresh energy." Catherine has been practicing Tai Chi for 18 years, studying Yang and Chen forms. She loves sharing the good health and harmony that Tai Chi can bring. One of her favorite reasons to study this age-old art is expressed in the quote from Chen Mang Ch'ing: "When you finally reach the point where you understand what life is about, you'll have the health to enjoy it." All are welcome in the class. For more information give Catherine a call. *Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.*



Rock 'n Roll Fundraiser

Still More Cats, a new Sharon band - with Michael Barsanti, Anne Mapplebeck and Peter Neri - will play for the Sharon Food Shelf Fundraiser on Saturday, June 4th. Held at The Seven Stars Center, 5126 Route 14, Sharon, VT doors open at 7pm with festivities going to about 10 o'clock. There will be baked goods for sale. This is a non-alcohol event. A small admission fee of \$5 - \$10 is requested and if folks want to bring a donation item for the food shelf these are the items in most need: mustard, ketchup, pickles, relish, paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, foil and plastic wrap. Come, kick up your heels and have some fun! Call Peter A. for info. *Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.*

GET CONNECTED!

Sharon is small in numbers but large in spirit, with an abundance of opportunities for volunteer activities and service. In addition to the organizations with activities featured in this newsletter (Baxter Library, Alliance for Recreation, Historical Society, Sharon Energy Committee, Vermont Independent School of the Arts, Old Home Day Committee, White River Partnership, and the Sharon Elementary School with its multitude of opportunities to work with children), there are also the following groups

and activities in Sharon that always welcome fresh volunteer energy: drivers for Stagecoach Transportation to help folks get to senior center meals or doctor's appointments, Green-up Committee, Sharon Fire Department and the Firemen's Association, people to care for all the historic town cemeteries, activity leaders for boy and girl scouts, Sharon Planning Commission, White River Task Force, Sharon Food Shelf, Community Meals, Sharon Emergency Planning Committee, Up-n-Downers Snowmobile Club, and Sharon Conservation Committee, and last but not least - contributing to this newsletter! If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities to put your talents and energy to work please send an inquiry to the sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com or call the town office at 763-8268 to get names and telephone numbers for the groups of interest to you.



Poster on display at the Sharon Historical Society circa 1905.

elements. Interns will come away with new skills, strength in performance techniques and will gain all the experience that being a member of a performing troupe offers.

Resident Intern fee: \$500

Day Intern fee: \$300

Scholarships available.

Inquiries:

Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.

FLOCK Performs JOY!

Carol Langstaff's FLOCK Dance Troupe will be presenting JOY!, a full-length dance/theater performance celebrating the continuum of living and dying, at the Star Mountain Amphitheater in Sharon, July 22, 23 & 24, at 6:30pm.

FLOCK, now in its twelfth season, is made up of community members of all ages who perform to a very high level, propelled by a powerful and varied musical score. Families are encouraged to come early, bring a picnic and absorb the magical atmosphere of the Star Mountain Amphitheater. Tickets at the gate: \$12.00, Seniors & Students \$10, children under 10 free.

For information:

Contact sharonconnectionsnewsletter@gmail.com for particulars.



VERMONT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



I am standing outside of a tall, graceful old white building in late Fall - and I am reminded of a popular finger rhyme for young children. It goes like this: Fold hands together so that fingers are hidden inside, with thumbs pressed together and pointing straight up.

"Here is the church", raise index fingers and put tips together to form a tall triangle.

"Here is the steeple".

Separate thumbs.

"Open the doors", turn figure 'inside out', to reveal fingers interlaced and wriggling.

"And see all the people!"

If you visit Vermont Independent School of the Arts located at The Seven Stars Center you will find this can be true of any given afternoon in this wonderful place nestled in the village of Sharon. Music and arts in a variety of shapes, forms, sizes and sounds can be found here. The diversity is unlimited. Would you ever think to find the tropical sound of a steel drum band in Vermont? Well, there is one here! The Panhandlers set folks at a music event to tapping their feet and smiling no matter where it is. Check our website for more than a

dozen upcoming Panhandler events - including the Quechee Balloon Fest, the Randolph 4th of July Parade, and The Prouty! Would you ever think to find Japanese Calligraphy being taught - Yoga - Tai Chi - flute-saxophone-cello-guitar-fiddle-or hear the melodic harmonies of young voices all in the same place? Look no further. The Vermont Independent School of the Arts, Inc. ("VTISA") is a non-profit tax exempt (501 C (3)) corporation, dedicated to the exploration of the diversified arts.

The Seven Stars Center has an amazing history. Built in the mid-nineteenth century on the Beaver Meadow Road, it was a Baptist Church for many years. In 1910, when the congregation had dwindled, the building was disassembled and moved to its present location, where it has served as a Grange Hall, a Universalist Church, and a venue for community theater. The bell and clock in the tower are among the last remaining examples in Vermont of antique clockworks. Restoration of the clock, which presently is not functional, is one of VTISA's future projects. Donations are always needed and most welcome!

The Mission of The Vermont Independent School of the Arts is to nurture a love and understanding of the arts and to serve the Upper Valley Community by providing diverse educational opportunities and performances.

Our large music hall is available to rent for events and it is handicap accessible. We have already had Jeanne & The Hi Tops doing a benefit for Wellspring, and upcoming and "Still More Cats" - scheduled

(con't on page 8)

Memories

Over the years...

250 Years of Town History

by: The Sharon Historical Society

The following was found by Reginald Blair, long time Sharon teacher and former President of the Society. It is taken from a paper of reminiscences of Joel Shepard at his age of 92.

Sharon was chartered Aug. 17, 1761 by Gov. Benning Wentworth of N.H. The first recorded meeting was in Plainfield, CT on Nov. 18, 1761 when Lt. Joseph Parkhurst was chosen Moderator and John Parkhurst Clerk.

It appears they had a hard time getting people to sign up to spend a winter in the wilderness. Four men finally made the difficult journey in the summer. Issac Marsh spent the winter to fulfill the requirement to secure their Charter.

Sharon has grown from a farming community with sheep dotting the little cleared fields. Bigger land clearing projects were undertaken as lumbering became a big industry. The railroad's construction changed the landscape yet again as more goods were able to be purchased and exported.



This envelope which is on display at the Sharon Historical Society shows the 101st Old Home Day stamp. Sharon is also named "The Oldest Ongoing Old Home Day in the nation."



This is a copy of a photograph taken by C.E. Parkhurst of Sharon of the people who attended the "Old Folks Picnic" in 1894. The Sharon Old Folks picnic, later named Old Home Day, has been celebrated each year since it was first established on August 31, 1893 by Rev. C.M. Palmer. It is believed to be the oldest continuous such celebration in the country, and is unique in that it is a day set aside by the community to honor all persons 70 years of age and older. A free chicken pie dinner is served to these guests of honor and the day's entertainment is aimed toward their interests.



Will Clifford dressed for the Old Home Day Parade, 1918.

A home made pin was designed by Sharon resident Alice Smith in 1978 to celebrate the 85th Sharon Old Home Day.

Alice lived to be 100 years old!



...in Sharon, Vermont