

TOWN OF SHARON CONNECTICUT ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

**FIRST
SELECTMAN:**

Monday - Friday: 9:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00
phone: 860-364-5789, (H) 860-364-7475

NW PROBATE

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00
phone: 860-824-7012

ASSESSORS:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 – 4:00
phone: 860-364-0205

**TAX
COLLECTOR:**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 – 3:30
phone: 860-364-5402

TOWN CLERK:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00
Friday: 8:30 - NOON
phone: 860-364-5224

**BUILDING
INSPECTOR &
FIRE MARSHAL:**

Monday - Friday: 7:00 - NOON, Saturday: 8:00 - 9:00AM
phone: 860-364-0909

**ZONING
OFFICER:**

Monday - Friday: 7:00 - NOON
phone: 860-364-0909

**SOCIAL
SERVICE:**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00
phone: 860-364-1003

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: Tuesday: 10:00 – NOON
phone: 860-364-5514

Board of Selectmen: Second Tuesday @ 5:30PM and fourth Tuesday @ 2PM each month

Board of Finance: Quarterly – March 17, June 16, Sept. 15 & Dec. 8 @ 7PM

Planning and Zoning Commission: Second Wednesday, monthly @ 7:30PM, except for November when it will be November 4

Inland Wetlands Commission: Second Monday, monthly @ 6:30PM except October when it will be October 13

Sharon Housing Authority: First Tuesday, monthly @ 5PM except November when it will be November 4

Sewer and Water Commission: Second Thursday, monthly @ 7PM except for February when it will be February 19

Historic District Commission: Fourth Tuesday, monthly @ 6PM except for May when it will be the third Monday

Board of Education: Second Monday, monthly

Sharon Parks and Recreation: First Thursday, monthly @ 6:30PM

Conservation Commission: Fourth Wednesday, monthly @ 7PM except November and December when it will be the Third Wednesday

Zoning Board of Appeals: Quarterly, Feb. 17, May 18, Aug. 17 and Nov. 16 @ 6:30PM

Sharon Energy and Environment Commission: Third Thursday, monthly @ 8AM

(For precise time and place check with Town Clerk where agendas/notices must be posted at least 24 hours in advance)

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Report of the Auditor, 2013– 2014

Front Cover

Sharon Fire Department, Inc. 125th Anniversary Parade

Photo by Brian Wilcox



FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE TOWN OF SHARON

The Town of Sharon, in Litchfield County, was incorporated in October, 1739, and held its first Town Meeting on December 11, 1739. Sharon continues in the original Town Meeting / Selectmen / Board of Finance form of government. The Town covers 60.3 square miles and has a population of 3,029 according to the Department of Health. The Town maintains 83.54 miles of roadways, of which 55.84 miles are Improved (asphalt) Roads and the remaining 27.70 miles are Unimproved (gravel) Roads. Bowne Road, Butter Road, Herb Road, Cole Road, Modley Road and West Woods Road #1 have been designated as "Scenic Roads" under Town ordinance, and portions of State Highways 7 and 4, and all of Rt. 41, have been designated as "State Scenic Roads". Elevation ranges from 1551 feet on Ellsworth Hill to 503 feet at Amenia Union (Hitchcock Corners).

SHARON TAX AND POPULATION DATA

Year	Mill Rate	Grand List \$	Population
<u>1969-70</u>	<u>52</u> reval	10,945,998	2,400 est.
70-71	40	16,834,116	2,491
<u>1979-80</u>	<u>49</u> reval	22,416,055	2,700 est.
80-81	17	68,600,478	2,623
88-89	29.5	88,330,878	2,900 est.
<u>1989-90</u>	<u>31</u> reval	90,336,977	2,910 est.
90-91	11	284,799,006	2,928
98-99	17.00	305,583,708	2,928 est.
99-00	17.40	309,021,794	2,978 est.
2000-01	16.40 reval	342,018,170	2,968
01-02	16.70	351,457,158	2,968 est.
02-03	16.90	362,171,770	2,969 est.
03-04	17.00	389,529,522	2,914 est.
04-05	13.75 reval	518,775,238	2,968 est.
05-06	14.20	525,462,385	3,012 est.
06-07	14.90	532,251,589	3,012 est.
07-08	14.90	541,255,445	3,036 est.
08-09	14.90	558,016,740	3,052 est.
2009-10	10.35 reval	837,360,422	3,058 est.
10-11	10.90	839,977,000	3,022 est.
11-12	11.35	843,796,767	3,014 est.
12-13	11.35	847,349,680	3,029 est.
13-14	11.70	851,634,816	2,774 est.
14-15	13.25 reval	720,510,556	2,766 est.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brent M. Colley, *First Selectman*, 2015

Dale Jones, 2015

Jessica K. Fowler, 2015

BOARD OF FINANCE

Barbara Prindle, *Chairman*, 2015

Karen Dignacco, *V. Chairman*, 2017

Thomas Bartram, *Secretary*, 2017

Eric Seibold, 2015

Mary Robertson, 2019

Harding Bancroft, 2019

Alternate Members

Elaine La Roche, 2015

Kevin LaFond, 2015

TOWN CLERK AND REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Linda R. Amerighi, 2018

REGISTRARS

Mary Robertson, *Republican*, 01/04/2017

Angela Gibbs, *Democrat*, 01/04/2017

TOWN TREASURER

Tina M. Pitcher, 2015

TAX COLLECTOR

Donna A. Christensen, 2015

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Mary T. Kirby, *Chairman*, 2015

Helen Degener, 2015

Brent N. Prindle, 2017

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Electra Tortorella, *Chairman*, 2015

Darin S. Hudson, *V. Chair*, 2015

Brian Kenny, 2015

Doug A. Cahill, 2017

Kathleen Visconti, *Secretary*, 2017

Michelle Pastre, 2017

Jennifer A. Hansell, 2015

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Richard Beatty, 2015

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Diane Blick, 01/07/2015 – 01/09/2019

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Tina M. Pitcher	Bruce Dechert	Michael R. Tesoro
Edward M. Kirby	Richard H. Gottlieb	Linda R. Amerighi
Barclay W. Prindle	Michael Lynch	Louise F. Brown
Estelle Gorkofsky	Lawrence Kurland	Judge Manning
Nicholas Gordon	Lorraine J. Lewis	Howard Randall
Brian F. Kenny	Harding F. Bancroft, Jr.	Paul C. Rooney

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Barclay W. Prindle, *Chairman*, 2017
Elizabeth M. Hall., *V. Chairman*, 2015
Stanley MacMillan Jr., *Secretary*, 2019
Dona M. Ferry, 2019
Laurance B. Rand III, 2017
Alternate Members
Susan Lynn, 2015
Edward W. Wilbur, 2015
Glenn R. Dennis, 2017

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William Trowbridge, *Chairman*, 2015
Nicholas Gordon, *V. Chairman*, 2015
Allen I. Young, 2015
Michael Dignacco, 2017
Alphonse Tortorella, 2017
Alternate Members
Harding Bancroft, 2015
Michael Tesoro, 2017
Scott Pastre, 2015

ELECTIVE STATE OFFICERS

UNITED STATE SENATORS

Christopher S. Murphy	01/03/13 to 01/03/19
Richard Blumenthal	01/03/11 to 01/03/17

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

5th Congressional District

Elizabeth Esty	01/03/15 to 01/03/17
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REPRESENTATIVES IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate - 30th Senatorial District

Clark J. Chapin	01/07/15 to 01/04/17
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House of Representatives - 64th House District

Roberta Willis	01/07/15 to 01/04/17
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APPOINTED / HIRED TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN COUNSEL

Judith Dixon - Dixon & Brooks, P.C.

TOWN AUDITOR

Baude & Rolfe

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO FIRST SELECTMAN

Tina M. Pitcher

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

Kayla Johnson

ASSESSOR

Patricia Braislin

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Kayla Johnson

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Daniel L. Baroody, MPH, RS
David R. Kurish, M.D., Assistant
Susan Zaborowski, Food Inspector

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Lee Sohl

TREE WARDEN

Jeffrey Perotti

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Thomas H. Bartram

FIRE MARSHAL & BUILDING OFFICIAL

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.
Michael Fitting, *Deputy*

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth H. Casey

REPRESENTATIVES TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Michelle Pastre, *Alternate*, 2015

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chairman - vacant

J. Barclay Collins, 2019
Lionel Goldfrank III, 2017

John Baroody, 2018
Elizabeth Hall, 2015

Alternate Members

Stephen Szalewicz, 2017

Michael Lynch, 2016

Sarah Day, 2015

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

Stephen Szalewicz, *Chairman*, 2015

Harry Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2016

Douglas Hobby, 2019

Harding Bancroft, 2018

Joseph Hajek, 2017

Alternate Members

Dobрила Waugh, 2017

Elizabeth Rybczyk, 2018

SHARON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Lynn Humeston, *Chairman*, 2019

Vacancy, *V. Chairman*, 2017

Cynthia Conklin, Treasurer, 2016

Patricia Purdy, Asst. Treas., 2018

Jeannette Moss, Secretary, 2015

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Donna Christensen Tom Bartram Linda Amerighi

SHARON PARKS AND RECREATION

Donna Christensen, *Chairman*

Joan Yahn
Alphonse Tortorella

Karen Bristow
John Ongley

Sarah Sellers
Robert Maxwell

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Cicily Hajek, *Chairman*, 2018

James D. Krissel, 2018
Glenn Dennis, 2015

Claudia Cayne, 2017
Carl Chalet, 2018

Howard Randall, 2016
Paul Bacsik, 2019

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Edward M. Kirby, *Chairman*, 2019

James Krissel, *V. Chairman*, 2018

Harvey W. Hayden, V.M.D., 2015
Michael Dudek, 2017

William Trowbridge, 11/19/2015
Lynn Kearcher, 2015

Laurance Rand, 11/21/2017

Alternate Members

Scott Schreiber, 2018
Sharon Tingley, 2016

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Brent M. Colley

Jessica K. Fowler, Alternate

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Dona M. Ferry

NORTHWESTERN CT REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Vacancy

Vacancy, Alternate

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Ella L. Clark

OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

William R. Tingley, 2016

Vacancy, Alternate, 2018

SHARON GREEN COMMITTEE

Betsy Hall, *Chairman*

Karl Golden

Linda Amerighi

Alton Golden

CONSTABLE (Halloween only)

David G. Wilbur Thomas F. Casey Richard Gottlieb

WESTERN TOURISM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant , Representative December 15, 2015

HOME LAND SECURITY

Thomas F. Casey, Sr.

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Scott Schreiber, Foreman

Mark Anderson

Raymond Aakjar, II

Robert Roy

Daniel Bottass

Jeffrey Farnham

James Todd Smith

TRANSFER STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jessica Fowler

Patricia Chamberlain

Carolyn Mattoon

Simeon Winburn

SALISBURY-SHARON RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Brent M. Colley, January 14, 2017

William Braislin, January 14, 2018

Malcolm M. Brown, January 14, 2016

Thomas H. Bartram, voting Alternate, January 14, 2016

SHARON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Vacancy, 10/09/16

Kathleen Fuhr, Co-Chair, 10/09/16

Sarah Coon, Secretary, 10/09/16

Michael Tesoro, 10/09/15

Oscar Martinez, 10/09/15

Carolyn Mattoon, 10/09/15

Vacancy, 10/09/16

SHARON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Rafe Churchill, *Chairman*, 03/18/2016

Lilly Rand, *Vice Chairman*, 03/18/2017

Peter Wertheim, *Secretary*, 03/18/2015

Stephen Bowen, 03/18/2017

Richard Hotaling, 03/18/2016

ALTERNATES – BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

George Holst-Grubbe Thomas F. Casey, Sr. 1 vacancy

Terms to November 19, 2015

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Stanley MacMillan

Raymond Aakjar II

Thomas Bartram

Michael Beck

Douglas Cahill

Eizabeth Shapiro

NORTHWEST CT TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

Vacancy, January 2017

NORTHWEST CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patricia Chamberlain, Board of Selectmen's Representative, February 5, 2015

John Mathews, Board of Education's Representative, January 14, 2015

Summary of Sharon Town Meetings, 2013-2014

Governing of the Town of Sharon is based on the Town Meeting as the legislative body with financial concerns in the prevue of the Board of Finance and the day to day governing under the Board of Selectmen, primarily the First Selectman. In lieu of a county system, Connecticut Towns govern the "township" as well as any villages within their borders. Important to note is the fact that major decisions are accomplished by those in attendance at Town Meetings, there is no quorum required, nor are absentee ballots available!

January 10, 2014: Approximately 14 residents gathered and voted to: adopt an Ordinance to create an Economic Development Commission.

February 21, 2014: Approximately 9 residents gathered and voted to: adopt a Resolution approving a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Agreement.

April 1, 2014: Approximately 50 residents gathered and voted to: accept the Town of Sharon's financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; approve the expenditure of up to \$218,400 out of the Sharon Board of Education's portion of the Capital for Non-Recurring Account for window replacement; approve a one-time allocation of \$15,000 out of the Undesigned Fund to the Sharon Historical Society to assist them with restoring the brick facades of the Gay-Hoyt House; and approve additional appropriations in the 2013-2014 budget – Highway Line Item 26b – Overtime & Extra's, up to \$40,000 and Highway Line Item 26m – Salt, up to \$100,000 – funds to come out of the Undesignated Fund.

May 2, 2014: Approximately 28 registered voters gathered to elect Richard Beatty as Sharon's new Representative to the Region One Board of Education – term to expire November 30, 2015.

May 9, 2014: Approximately 48 residents gathered for the Annual Town Meeting and voted to: adopt the Town Budget for fiscal year 2014-2015; to approve other budget related items; and to adopt the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

First Selectman

Municipal election years are important years, as they offer us the opportunity to gather, discuss and reflect on what's working, what's not working and what we'd like to focus on moving forward. Much of what's been accomplished in "our half" of 2013-14 relates to the conversations Dale, Jessica and myself had with many of you in 2013.

Through communication and collaboration we've gone after the problems we knew we could correct immediately and have begun the planning process on many issues that we know will take a little longer to address.

Some of this year's highlights included:

- Protecting the Town's bonded road investment by sealing 40+ miles of our newly paved roads and improving drainage on all newly paved roads with a 6% grade or steeper.
- Improving efficiency and reducing waste in all our buildings and properties. With the help of Sharon's Energy and Environmental Commission we have successfully improved the lighting and energy efficiency at Town Hall and are now exploring ways to further reduce the Town's energy budgets.
- Supporting both our Housing Authority and Housing Trust in their efforts to increase the number of affordable housing options in Town.
- Creating an Economic Development Commission to explore ways that we can better the Town, expand our economy *and* maintain our rural character.
- Entering in Federal, State and Local programs that allow our residents and businesses the opportunity to apply for grants and subsidies should they wish to.

There is much to be proud of and we thank all of the Elected Officials here at Town Hall, their Staff, our Sharon Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Volunteers (especially our Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance squad) for all their hard work and dedication.

2013-14 was a historic year: The Town celebrated its 275th Anniversary, the Fire Department Celebrated its 125th Anniversary, Sharon Hospital celebrated its 105th Anniversary and Housatonic Valley Regional High School celebrated its 75th Anniversary. We would like to thank all the local businesses, non-profits and churches that made note of these anniversaries and celebrated them with us.

In 2014-15 we encourage your input and participation. We need your help to accomplish what's best for this community:

- We need to know your opinions
- We need to know your preferences
- We need to know your concerns

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, Dale C. Jones and Jessica Fowler, I close this report by asking you to please contact us often and attend our Town Meetings to share your views. 2013-14 has been a productive year and 2014-15 is looking even better.

Look forward to seeing you in Town,

Brent M. Colley
First Selectman

Town Clerk & Registrar of Vital Statistics

1070 documents were recorded for fiscal year 2013-2014. 153 Property transfers for fiscal year contributed \$86,473.19 in Town conveyance tax and \$269,311.56 State Conveyance Tax . \$59,340.00 collected under Public Act 490. The office processed 790 requests for certified copies of Birth Certificates, 207 requests for Death Certificates and 38 requests for Marriage Certificates.

The Town Clerk collected the following monies for 2013-2014 fiscal year.

	Previous Year	Fiscal Year
Document Fees	\$21,179.00	\$ 56,238.00
Vital Statistics	\$38,805.00	\$ 34,567.00
Dog License	\$ 2,843.00	\$ 3,199.00
Copies	\$ 6,346.75	\$ 8,698.48
Miscellaneous	\$ 182.00	\$ 612.00

Highlights for the Office:

VITAL RECORDS:

The State of Connecticut with the Department of Public Health did not roll out the computerized Death filing Program in 2011. Unfortunately, this new system did not work for Connecticut. In 2011 I remained optimistic that a solution would be found to allow Connecticut to move forward in a positive aspect to provide accurate computerized filing system for the Vital Records system in our State. A new program is in the works to expedite the issuance of Birth Certificates. The new system will be web-based, meaning that ALL Towns will utilize the system, not just those Hospital Towns or the Towns who requested to purchase the current system. The pilot program will begin in the fall of 2014 and the roll out of the new system is targeted for January 1, 2015.

LAND RECORDS:

E-Recording will be making it to Sharon, CT. Twenty-five years ago I could not have seen this far into the future and believed that the electronic world would impact the office of the Town Clerk in this magnitude. I have educated myself to embrace the enhancement of what is being offered to make Town Clerk's Offices conform to technology of today. I don't believe Sharon should sit still because we are a small New England Town but to be proactive and move forward

with opportunity and advancement in our offices which provide the residents of Sharon accurate information.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Grant money awarded to the Town Clerk's Office for 2014 was \$4,000. My goal for this year was to continue preserving our vital records in Sharon. Vital records from 1800 to the early 1900's have been preserved and microfilmed and will be available for years to come. Second part of the preservation was to have Minutes of our Boards and Commissions microfilmed. These minutes are permanent records of the Town and unfortunately we have had some disappear. With this money made available to the office with the Historic Preservation Grant Program, my office is now comfortable to get the things done that are important to the integrity of our history and future.

WEB SITE:

Our web site has been up and running and has provided the community with valuable information regarding Sharon. We are continuing growth with the demand of providing more information to Sharon residents. Please visit our website and be sure to sign up for our monthly Board and Commission meeting Calendar and our monthly happenings in Sharon. Please check it out. www.sharonct.org.

Respectfully,
Linda R. Amerighi-CCTC

Sharon Center School

Sharon Center School welcomed one hundred and eighty-eight students to an awesome positive learning environment and ended the year with one hundred eighty-seven students. Twenty-one students graduated from eighth grade and celebrated with a lovely commencement ceremony filled with school and community sponsored academic and citizenship awards. All of the graduates planned on attending Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

During the 2012-2013 school year, we welcomed art teacher Alison Pilon and music teacher Laurie Ellington. We were thrilled with our new teachers and delighted that Alison and Laurie joined our team. We wished Barbara Yohe our very best on her retirement after thirty-nine years of remarkable teaching at Sharon Center School.

Sharon Center School partnered with many local organizations and businesses in order to offer real world opportunities for students to learn both in and out of their classrooms. We appreciate the generous support of the BOE, PTO, Salisbury Bank, Sharon Audubon, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon Hospital, Hotchkiss Library, parents, community members, faculty and staff; we have participated in many exciting enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

Pre- K: FFA Open House

Kindergarten: Sharon Audubon & FFA Open House

Grade 1: Action Wildlife, Sharon Audubon & FFA Open House

Grade 2: Hotchkiss Library, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon Audubon, & Maritime Aquarium

Grade 3: Indian Institute, NY State Museum & Sharon Audubon

Grade 4: Grade 4 Arts Day @ Hotchkiss & Capitol Building in Hartford, CT

Grade 5: Mystic Seaport

Grade 6: Egyptian Assembly, Ropes Course, Academic Fair, Miles Sanctuary & Sharon Audubon

Grade 7: Nature's Classroom @ Wakefield, RI & Academic Fair

Grade 8: Washington D.C & Academic Fair

Back-to School Bash with author Bruce Coville

Regional Band / Chorus & Northern Regional Band / Chorus

Sharon Center School Talent Show

Sharon Drama Production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Chamber of Commerce Read Aloud Day

Scholastic Book Fair

PTO Craft Fair

Nutmeg Readers @ HVRHS with author Linda Sue Park

Everybody Wins, community reading buddies

Parent Child Book Clubs

TV Turn Off Week

PTO Sponsored After School Enrichment Activities

Geography Bee

Ski Club

Quiz Bowl

Winter Concerts

Spring Concerts

Regional Track Meet for Middle School students @ HVRHS

Field Day

Walking Tours to Hotchkiss Library

Music teachers Laurie Ellington and David Poirier prepared students for several amazing choral, band and jazz band performances during the year. We are very excited about our new Boys' Chorus joining our existing musical performance groups: Band, Jazz Band, Senior Band, Marching Band, Strings and Girls Chorus. The year ended with an awesome performance by the Sharon Center School Marching Band in the Memorial Day Parade.

Our coaches: Soccer: Justine Smith & Jason Conway, Basketball: Eric Forstmann and Matt Budge, Cheerleading: Katrina Stossel, Baseball Sharon/Kent co-op team: Jason Conway and Softball: Susan Freudenberg provided amazing opportunities for our middle school students to participate in cheerleading, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball.

We offered congratulations to Scott Dignacco both our 2012 Superintendent's Award Winner and 2013 Sharon Cup recipient. We were so very proud of Scott's many accomplishments!

School wide initiatives continued to focus on reading improvement, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RtI).

PBIS is a systematic initiative targeted to improve behavior and academics on a school-wide basis through identification of expected behaviors, teaching the behaviors and rewarding when the desired behavior was observed. We want our children to grow into active citizens who possess those valuable habits of mind in order to make good decisions and stay safe.

RtI keeps the focus on academic and behavioral growth providing interventions for all students who are performing below the expected grade level standards. Fortunately, all of our faculty and staff members are highly qualified and worked to help every child reach their goals. We celebrated student growth in literacy, mathematics and behavior as a result of the interventions.

Education is a shared responsibility and we value the participation of the entire community. Working together, community members, parents, families, friends, teachers, staff and students facilitated the development of good citizens with strong values and keen intellects. We provided our children with a comprehensive educational experience including music, art, library, computer, Spanish, physical education and the opportunity for enrichment experiences including assemblies and field trips. Research shows these activities nourish children's brains and stimulate

their overall development. The PTO supported these goals by providing enrichment opportunities and assemblies. The assemblies focused on a science theme in 2012-2013 and included parents Wendy Welshans, who shared her Costa Rican research experiences, Dr. Martin Nweeia discussed his research on narwhals and "Locomotion" presented by modern dance artist, Adam Battlestein explained the scientific principles of movement in a very engaging manner.

Teachers worked to begin implementation of the Common Core State Standards, CCSS which are rigorous K-12 college and career readiness expectations for American students. The goal of the standards is to prepare all students for successful participation in a competitive global economy. Connecticut will assess student performance on the standards in a test known as SBAC produced by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The new SBAC testing program will begin in 2014-2015 and replace the Connecticut Mastery Tests or CMTs.

Two very special events deserve mention. The first was our new Academic Fair that was held in late May. In a festive setting, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students shared their projects with peers, teachers, family members and community members. Sixth grade students studied American history by reading both fiction and non-fiction, topics studied included: civil rights, slavery, segregation, The Civil War and World War II. Seventh grade students presented their Multi-cultural projects and eighth grade students shared their Science Fair projects. The Academic Fair was an opportunity for students to publically share their learning as well as meet new core requirements presentation and public speaking.

The second memorable event was the Sharon Woman's Club, *Faces Make Places* project, which gave students an opportunity to develop a relationship with a community member and create a collage. Local artist Ellen Griesedeiek worked with art teacher Alison Pilon in order to facilitate a relationship building experience and the completion of an art project. The successful program concluded with a lovely reception hosted by the Woman's Club. It was wonderful to see community members take a pro-active approach as they reached out to connect with our students.

We are so very appreciative of all that you have done for the Sharon Center School community over the year! Sharon Center School is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow! We would like to say thank you to students, parents, their extended families, faculty, staff, BOE,

PTO and residents of Sharon for your ongoing help and support. Have a wonderful summer. Stay safe, act respectfully and responsibly.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Manning, Principal Sharon Center School

Superintendent of Schools

As the 2013-2014 school year draws to a close, we begin to reflect upon our many achievements throughout the Region. It is always a challenge to enumerate these accomplishments, in that there is so much happening in each of our seven schools; hence, I will attempt to highlight some of our major accomplishments.

Students, staff and faculty returned with great enthusiasm to well-organized openings throughout the district. The school year commenced with the appointment of Assistant Principal Ian Strever as Interim Principal and Liam O'Reilly as Interim Assistant Principal at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. With what would have seemed to be a challenge for both administrators, they rose to the occasion and completed a successful year at HVRHS. We thank them for their cooperation, diligence and service. Dr. José Martinez was hired to commence on July 1, 2014 as the new Principal at HVRHS and has settled in to his new office and position in a very short time. Our now veteran principal staff in the elementary schools accomplished an extraordinary amount of work over the course of the school year.

Seven teachers celebrated 25 years of service to the region this year. In addition, we welcomed nineteen new teachers to our regional schools. Under the direction of our Assistant Superintendent, many of our teachers worked through the summer in the content areas of: mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies to develop and revise curriculum. Numeracy and literacy were the focus, as regionally we are aligning curricula to the State adopted Common Core State Standards. We are indeed fortunate to have incredibly talented and dedicated faculty and staff working for the greater good of our students and schools.

Annually, initiatives and goals are established by administrators in our schools along with their faculties; regional initiatives established this year were:

1. To improve student achievement as evidenced by multiple data sources such as local, regional, state, and national assessments with benchmarks established by each school through the use of Common Core, SRBI/RTI, PBIS, and Differentiated Instruction;
2. To begin implementation of the new regional teacher and school leader evaluation plans;
3. To promote active citizenship within and among faculty, staff and students using the following indicators: self-management, increased involvement, communication, respect, outreach, and shared leadership (including systematic responsiveness to at-risk youth);
4. To implement a "guaranteed and viable curriculum" tied to comprehensive formative and summative assessments utilizing the Common Core of Teaching and the instructional core (student, teacher, content), for example:
 - a) Regional and School Grade Level Meetings – Outcomes
 - b) Strategies for Intervention
 - c) Regional Continuum of Professional Practice

- d) Region Assessments Aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- e) Continuous Assessment and Improvement of School Safety and Security

Principals, working with their faculties, developed building goals that supported the regional initiatives, and each faculty member then developed their professional goals to accomplish the building goals. This coordination allowed for effectively and efficiently providing professional development for faculty and administrators. Ongoing teacher development focused on curriculum alignment with the Common Core and implementation of the revised curricula, along with technology. While challenging, we implemented the new evaluation plans for teachers and administrators and subsequently sent revised plans to the State Department of Education for their approval. We will continue to refine and implement the plan throughout the year.

While CMT and CAPT state testing were still utilized this past year in the area of science, a new “Field Test” was implemented in the areas of language arts and mathematics. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a state-led consortium, implemented next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in both of these areas to more accurately measure student progress toward college- and career-readiness. The field test this year was a trial run of these assessments, utilized to ensure that the assessments are valid, reliable and fair for all students. This field test will also be used by test developers to show which items work well and which ones need to be improved so that they can contribute to the operational assessment in the spring of 2015. Because the field test this year was an evaluation of items and processes, schools and districts will not receive individual student results this fall. Schools from across the country participated in this field testing for the overall development of the assessments with over five million students testing.

Economic constraints continue to cause our schools to be conservative in addressing the building needs of each school. Sound fiscal planning and monitoring by our business manager, seven principals and boards of education continue to serve us well. All budgets throughout the region passed in May in preparation for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

The Central Office team successfully negotiated three certified teacher contracts and a new contract for the Administrator Collective Bargaining Unit this past school year. In addition, a non-certified contract was negotiated at North Canaan Elementary School. The Business Office continues to support the needs of our regional schools when necessary or requested.

In closing, it is more important than ever to remain focused on the needs of our students throughout the region as our student enrollments decline. We continue monitoring and reporting enrollment projections that will continue to gradually decline if predictions remain accurate. The 2013-2014 school year has been a challenging yet educationally productive year for our students and staff. Our dedicated and talented staff, faculties and administrators continue to work hard toward the success of all children. We appreciate the contributions made by our community volunteers and the efforts of our seven Boards of Education in the maintenance and success of our outstanding schools.

Patricia Chamberlain
Superintendent of Schools

Principal - HVRHS

Student leadership was the theme for this year at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where young people undertook the challenge of changing their world, both near and far. Spearheaded by a motivated, inspired senior class, students took on topics as near as the Salmon Kill watershed and as far as global warming in the Pacific Ocean. Student groups addressed an array of social topics, in some cases provoking community discussion and in other cases initiating material responses such as fund raising and structural enhancements around the school. The screening of "Girl Rising" and student Civic Life documentaries highlight the former, while their work to fund and install bottle-filling stations around the school exemplifies the latter.

These same students rose to the elevated standards of the Common Core Curricula, which has been phased in over the past few years, most noticeably in Mathematics, English, and Social Studies classes. Students and teachers alike experienced a piloted version of the Smarter Balanced Assessment that tests student attainment of Common Core skills, and which will be used to inform curriculum and instruction in the future. Our teachers are working in a data-heavy environment, with greater access to student performance feedback than ever before. This is prompting a shift toward a more scientific and diagnostic approach to teaching, and the influx of computers that was approved by our voters this spring will assist our staff in maximizing the power of technology to harness all of this information.

Such objective data is only valuable, however, when paired with insight about our students' personalities and individual needs. Our Guidance Department began programs this year that used academic and behavioral statistics to develop a list of students in need of intervention, which they cross-referenced against their personal experiences with students to identify groups for targeted assistance. This and similar efforts around the school indicated the need for an additional Intervention teacher to work with students on literacy instruction, and we will continue to use data-informed practices to serve the needs of all students.

Our students gave us many reasons to be proud this year, from outstanding performances in academic competitions such as the national French and Spanish tests to brilliant theatrical, musical, and artistic performances. *Hello, Dolly* featured a seasoned cast and earned rave reviews, our Envirothon and Robotics teams competed near the tops of their categories in state competitions, and our artists and musicians were recognized both around the state and nationally for their work.

Many of these activities acquire the flavor of sporting competitions, and a spirit of camaraderie and teamwork pervades all of these arenas. In each athletic season this year, several teams qualified for state tournament play, and many of our senior athletes will go on to compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics. In addition to their accomplishments on the field, however, their academic and philanthropic efforts reflect our interest in developing well-rounded individuals

Ian Strever
Assistant Principal

Conservation Commission

Members for the July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 Year; Cicily Hajek: Chairman, Khurshed Bhungara: Secretary, Paul Bascik, Claudia Cayne, Carl Chalet, Glenn Dennis and Jim Krissel. Carl and Glenn had recently been appointed to replace Myrtle Hayden a long time member who had died suddenly and Scott Heth who had moved. At the Start of the Town year the Commission sent a letter of commendation to Scott for his years of active service.

With the help of volunteers the Commission members continued to clear the Town Recreational Easements. Signs were placed at the trailheads and markers along the way. Considerable attention was given to using the correct kinds of nails to protect the trees. We clarified the correct use of any potentially wet areas with Judy Dixon.

Glenn is particularly interested in the free flow of the rivers and protecting clean water. He brought in his study of the deterioration of some local streams. Beavers were a problem in some areas and lead to stagnant water and buildup of contamination. He consulted Tonia Shoumatoff and HVA water experts. In June Tonia lead a very interesting presentation held in Amenias on the Ten Mile River Watershed featuring stream protection. A section of the Ten Mile flows from Sharon. The talk featured ditch and culvert problems among others.

The Conservation Commission meets on the 4th Weds of each month except for November and December when it meets on the 3rd Weds. Guests are always welcome. We appreciate hearing your ideas and concerns. Thank you

Respectfully submitted
Cicily Hajek, Chairman

Zoning Board of Appeals

One application came before the Zoning Board of Appeals this past year. The applicant wanted to build a garage fifteen feet from the road where the Zoning Code required fifty feet. The property is at Silver Lake Shores which was developed before Zoning Regulations were established. These lots are 40' x 90' which makes it difficult for property owners to build on their property and still comply with the current Zoning Regulations. The concern of the Board was that a garage so close to the road might block emergency vehicles. A variance was granted with the condition that no vehicles be parked between the garage and the road.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is made up of knowledgeable and congenial people who are proud to give thoughtful hearings to the people of Sharon.

William Trowbridge
Chairman

Planning and Zoning Commission

The zoning standards in Connecticut are codified in accordance with Chapter 124 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Matters that often come before the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission include review and regulation of subdivisions and re-subdivisions, special exceptions, and rezoning applications, etc. The Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission meet each month to proceed with the business at hand as well as for planning sessions.

This year there were numerous applications for home and outbuilding construction, renovations, accessory apartments, home occupations, boundary line adjustments and more. There were several approvals concerning commercial use, including the approval of an expansion of a small commercial building and two separate properties to allow tent/wedding events on site.

This year, the Commission also drafted proposed amendments to the Non-Conforming Use and Conditions section of the Regulations.

Attorney Steven Byrne held an informative workshop/training session to update and further educate the Commission members on proper process and procedures for Planning and Zoning Commissions.

This report outlines a small sample of the enormous work and commitment of the individuals who serve on the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission. None of this could be accomplished without the two people who keep the public and the Commission fully informed on a day-to-day basis; Jamie Casey, our Zoning Enforcement Officer and Tina Pitcher, our Commission Secretary. Their countless hours of service to the town coupled with their knowledge and experience can never be understated.

I am most fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a group of dedicated individuals who debate with respect and cooperate with each other in order to ensure that Sharon, Connecticut continue to be the bucolic, quintessential New England town, while determined to improve and develop each year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barclay W. Prindle, Chairman

Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission

Inland wetlands and watercourses are indispensable and irreplaceable but fragile natural resources. The wetlands and watercourses form an interrelated web of nature essential to the adequate supply of surface and underground water. Wetlands and watercourses contribute to hydrological stability, control of flooding and erosion, the recharging and purification of ground water, and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life.

Included in Sharon's wetlands and watercourses are fens, marshes, swamps, vernal pools, beaver ponds, streams, lakes and ponds. Your commission has the responsibility of protecting not only

those vital resources but also run off areas and forests as an important adjunct to hydrology. Rain on forests rather than fields, agricultural lands or pavement seeps into the ground becoming groundwater and a source of drinking water.

Under the guidelines of the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (S.I.W.W.C.), areas to be regulated include any activity to be conducted within fifty feet of a wetland soil or within two hundred feet of the bank of a stream course or open body of water. The primary responsibility of the S.I.W.W.C. is to monitor the environmental impact of activities in regulated areas, and to issue permits where appropriate. The guidelines also provide the commission with the responsibility of protecting historic sites in regulated areas.

In fiscal 2013-2014 your S.I.W.W.C. evaluated a large number of applications a majority of which involved maintenance or improvement of existing structures. Permits were also issued for construction of driveways, installation of septic systems, bridge replacement, pond cleaning, stabilization of stream banks and other regulated activities. In addition the commission also dealt with the use of aquatic control chemicals in ponds. For each application S.I.W.W.C. teams conducted one or more field site visits.

The chairman extends thanks to the commission members for their continued fine efforts and expertise both in the field and at meetings. Special thanks are extended to Jamie Casey, Sharon Land Use Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Kirby, Chairman

Building Official / Fire Marshal

BUILDING OFFICIAL

Our office is located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 63 Main Street. The Building Inspector is available in the office Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 9 AM. The office is open from 7 AM until 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

Single family construction resulted in 6 new homes, 5 demolitions and construction for the renovations to the original Sharon Ridge units.

	Permits Issued	Value	Permit Fee
2013-2014	672	15,908,929	119,251*
2012-2013	811	18,253,915	117,179
2011-2012	705	11,849,943	85,955
2010-2011	643	14,751,207	94,710
2009-2010	661	17,746,251	115,277

- Fees were not collected for the Sharon Ridge Renovation

FIRE MARSHAL

In addition to the investigation of all fires, the Fire Marshal is responsible for the annual inspection of all Public Facilities as well as multi-family dwellings. Included are: Sharon Hospital, Sharon Health Care, Sharon Center School and Sharon Daycare. The Fire Marshal conducts all Fire Prevention education for Sharon Center School and daycare students during Fire Prevention Week in October.

OPEN BURN OFFICIAL

There were 381 Open Burning Permits issued this year. Open Burning is allowed in Connecticut with a valid permit. Two indexes are checked to see if a day is acceptable to burn – the Air Quality Index (AQI) through the DEEP and the Open Burning Index. If the AQI is higher than 75 anywhere in the State, there would be no burning that day. Permits are available in this office and are valid for 30 days.

Respectfully,
Stanley MacMillan
Building Inspector, Fire Marshal, Open Burn Official

Social Service Agent

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) has been sued. For two years, the department has frequently failed to provide timely support for families who needed food, medical help, housing and other basic needs. This represents an “ongoing, persistent systemic failure” according to District Judge Vanessa Bryant – a failure that prompted two class action lawsuits against DSS, because “delays in processing Medicaid applications have left poor state residents waiting months to get coverage and care.” (CT Mirror 5/14/13) People who needed home care often waited up to six months to have applications processed. Nursing homes went for months without reimbursement. Applications for food stamps (now known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) have also been delayed, as have redeterminations for existing benefits.

Such failures of the statewide system compel us, once again, to find or create local resources for the Mean time.

Regional resources include the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation’s Neighbor to Neighbor Fund, Blue Horizon Medical Trust and Jane Lloyd Fund, as well as the Chore Service workers and its Friendly Visitors/Garden Angels volunteers, the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut (for food and fuel), the Foundation for Community Health (for prescription drugs), Geer’s Dial-a-Ride and Day Center, the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (even more valuable now that the local Community Mental Health Association has left the area), the Northwest Corner Fuel Bank and Operation Fuel, the Northwest Transit District, the Corner Food Pantry (OWL’s Kitchen) and HVRHS’s Future Farmers of America for food, visiting nurse associations, Women’s Support Services, and the constant care and attention of our indefatigable Fire Department and EMTs. Three Sharon families have benefitted from the regional HUD no-interest loans available for essential home repairs. And we are all grateful for the strategic

efforts of our legislators in Hartford, in particular Representative Roberta Willis and Senator Chris Murphy.

This office is also fortunate that Sharon has two funds specifically for town residents. The **Sharon Community Foundation** helped 10 families this past year with emergency needs and hosted a free regional Dental Day that served 25 participants. Thank you, dentists, for donating your time! The municipal **Sharon Fund** helped eight families. Sharon Ridge Expansion has just opened its doors to twelve families, supplementing the moderate income housing at the 20-unit Sharon Ridge. We also enjoy donations (and food for the **Food Closet!** and gifts for the holidays) from our Sharon churches, Woman's Club, banks, the Taghannuck Grange, Sharon Center School and Sharon Day Care students, Sharon Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, and thoughtful individuals. They are joined by Sergeant HoHo of Canaan's Troop B (along with his Explorers) and Nascar Dave's "Sunday in the Country" and WHDD who provide the moveable feasts.

We welcome your participation. Please call (860) 364-1003 or e-mail ellaclark@sharon-ct.org if you have questions, concerns, suggestions or offerings. Let us hope that our state's Department of Social Services will soon recover from its current problems. Meanwhile, you can contribute, even in small ways, to help us to help others. Thank you.

--Ella Clark

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station

Thank you to the residents and businesses who helped to recycle over 800 tons of paper, cardboard, bottle & cans! This recycling saved over \$50,000 in disposal costs.

Here are some of the changes that occurred during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

- The "Mixed Paper" was closed in January in preparation for Single Stream Recycling.
- In March we began delivering the Construction & Demolition materials to a new vendor.
- July 1, 2013 Connecticut's Product Stewardship law went into effect for paint. The Transfer Station now accepts oil & latex paint from residents without a fee. (Please note the paint is required to still be in the original container). Over the last year the Transfer Station received 11.21 tons of paint under this PaintCare program.

Are you having a special event in town? The Transfer Station has ClearStream recycling bins available for residents to borrow for special events. Please email Brian to reserve the bins. BBartram@Salisburyct.us

Please join me in thanking the dedicated Transfer Station staff for their hard work. Gary Duntz, George Silvermail, Jason Wilson, "Bullet" Sherwood, Thomas Sherwood and Matt Murtagh all help to keep the materials moving, be it during a "Polar Vortex" or one of the dog days of summer!

Thank you, and please continue to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! Brian Bartram, Manager

Sharon Housing Authority

With the twelve new units that were completed as of June 1, the Sharon Housing Authority (SHA) now has thirty-two affordable rental apartments at the Sharon Ridge complex – 10 one-bedroom, 18 two-bedrooms and 4 three-bedrooms. All the units continue to be fully occupied by individuals, families and seniors.

The SHA, working with The Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development and Viking Construction, completed the Sharon Ridge Expansion Project on-time and within the approved budget. The project consisted of adding three new building with 12 apartments -- 8 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedrooms. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 24 with approximately 40 people attending from the Sharon community, the CT Department of Housing (DOH), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state and local governments. The \$4,314,394 project was financed through the USDA and the CT DOH.

In addition, working with The Women's Institute, the SHA completed the Sharon Ridge Renovation Project in April. This project consisted of renovating the 20 existing units that opened in January 1992. Renovations included repacking basement and wall joints; sealing floors; improving drainage; replacing bathroom vanities, carpeting, kitchen cabinets/sinks/ranges/range hoods, bathroom/kitchen fans, hot water heaters, refrigerators, windows, doors, door locks, screen doors, gutters, signage, and electrical boxes; repairing basement stairs and the main complex road and power washing buildings. The \$745,404 project was funded by a grant through Governor Dan Malloy's First \$30 Million initiative. These funds represented the first year award of the Governor's 10-year commitment to the State Sponsored Housing Portfolio, administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA).

Based on completing both the renovation and expansion projects, the SHA is in the process of revising its Residence Handbook which should be completed in the Fall.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our dedicated Board members – Cynthia Conklin, Lea Davies, Jeannette Moss and Pat Purdy, as well as Tina Pitcher, our Recording Secretary. In addition, we also want to thank Maura Reilly, our on-site manager and the rest of the CT Real Estate Management team that manages our property.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Humeston, Chairperson

Sharon Sewer and Water Commission

The Sharon Sewer and Water Commission is a volunteer Commission of five members with up to two alternates having the responsibility of operating and maintaining the water supply and sewer systems. Both activities are non-profit and entirely self-supporting. Cheryl Ziegler manages the business office; phone 860-364-8009, located at the Calkinstown Road water filtration plant. The Commission has a contract with VRI Environmental Services of Millbrook, New York, which provides certified operators for both the water and the wastewater facilities. They can be reached at 860-364-0457.

During the June meeting of the Commission, Steve Szalewicz was re-elected Chairman, Harry Hall was re-elected Vice Chairman and Harding Bancroft was re-elected Financial Officer. Other Commission members are Doug Hobby, Joseph Hajek, and alternates Beth Rybczyk and Dobrila Waugh.

The Commission reviews, each month, written reports from *VRI*, which are kept on file at the Filtration Plant. These reports reflect the functioning of the various aspects of the systems and provided the data for required reporting to the state. As in the past we routinely meet or exceed the stringent state and federal quality requirements. We continue to operate on a financially sound basis in spite of having no rate increases since 2002 for the Water, and 2003 for the Waste Water systems. Currently (September 2014) our records show nearly \$130,000 past due, although many of these accounts are in payment agreements and some have property liens applied to insure payment should the property be sold. It is in the best interest of all users of the Sharon Water and Sewer services to keep accounts current in order to provide for reliable cash flow for running the plants. Up to date payment of all service charges lessens as much as possible the requirement to initiate increases for all customers to provide working capital. The Commission is attempting to keep rates as they are and users should see the benefit of this when the first of the loans for the building of the Water Treatment facility is paid off in May of 2017. Our current indebtedness is approximately \$800,000 down from over \$2.3 million.

WATER SYSTEM: The system is, as a result of many major projects over the past 15 years, essentially in very good working order. Although no major projects have been undertaken this past year, future needs include enhancements to the main piping systems to and from the water plant, and work on the Beardsley Pond dam and containment structures to prevent inflow of surface water from the nearby highway. These projects are not time critical and will be undertaken as funds permit.

SEWER SYSTEM: The Commission continues to monitor the sewer system and with the recent completion of the sewer plan upgrades no major repairs were needed this past year.

The continuing maintenance and upgrades to both the Water and Sewer systems provide opportunities and challenges for the Commission. Those concerned with their water or sewer services may want to consider joining the Commission and assisting in the management of these critical services. The Commission meets each month on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00PM on the second floor of Town Hall, visitors are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen S. Szalewicz, Chairman

Historic District Commission

Our picturesque town of Sharon continues to change and evolve. The Historic District Commission is called to preserve the historical value of the district through the preservation of historical buildings and landscapes, while respecting the right of property owners. While change is vital for a healthy community, the safeguarding of the historical integrity of the town is equally important and worth the effort. To that end, the Historic District Commission is assigned the responsibility of issuing Certificates of Appropriateness for the exterior architectural features of any building, structure, or improvement to be erected, altered, restored, moved or demolished within the historic district, regardless of the necessity of a building permit. The Commission also regulates signage and landscape features visible from a public way or place within the district.

Originally, the Sharon Historic District followed Route 41 from Low Road south to the intersection of Mitchelltown Road, including North Main and South Main Streets, Upper and Lower Main Streets and the complete length of the Sharon Green. The Calkinstown Road extension was added in 1985. The addition continues the Historic District from the north end at Low Road including the south side of Gay Street to Calkinstown Road, and continues along Calkinstown Road to the Jewitt Hill intersection. The Oblong Valley addition was approved in 1992. The Oblong Valley extension enlarged the original District to the south. This addition runs south on Route 41 and further south on West Woods Road #1 and Amenia Union Road to, and including, Boland Road.

The Sharon Historic District Commission is organized in accordance with the applicable Statutes of the State of Connecticut (sections 7-147C) and the enabling ordinance of the Town of Sharon, legislated on July 10, 1975. The Commission is comprised of five regular members and three alternate members, all of whom volunteer their time and talent. Currently the Commission is comprised of regular members: Vice-Chairman Steve Szalewicz, Graham Klemm, Lionel Goldfrank and J. Barclay Collins. Alternate members include: Michael Lynch and John Baroody. Thanks to efforts of all its members, and especially Steve Szalewicz who has been acting Chairman for several months, the Commission continues to function successfully. This fiscal year the Commission held ten regular meetings and two special meetings. Nineteen Certificates of Appropriateness were approved for a wide variety of requests ranging from pool installations to permanent business signage to construction projects.

The Commission is grateful to the Selectmen of Sharon for their support. The Commission is also appreciative of the assistance from the Town Hall staff, especially Stan McMillan, Jamie Casey and Tina Pitcher. The Commission holds its regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and special meetings as the need arises. Public attendance at any meeting is welcomed and encouraged. Your help in preserving Sharon's historical integrity for generations to come is crucial. The Commission continues its work on addressing temporary signage issues as well as improving the application process for property owners within the Historic District by standardizing the application process and adding to the lists of pre-approved materials for various projects. Your interest and input to the Sharon Historic District Commission are most welcome; please contact us with any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Marshall, Clerk

Sharon Parks and Recreation

The Sharon Parks and Recreation Department held their first Summer Kick Off Day at Mudge Pond this spring. Area recreation departments, Sharon Hospital, Camp Sloane and many town organizations participated with information and displays. Information and signup sheets were available for all of the Parks and Recreation programs, camps, and lessons; as well as the schedule about upcoming trips. There were sessions of gymnastics, yoga, and soccer available and pontoon boat rides on the lake.

Weed mats were installed this spring at Sharon Beach to reduce the amount of weeds in the swimming area and boating launch area. Also at Sharon Beach this year there was an organic garden planted and overseen by lifeguard Jake Renner. The concept was to involve the Little Rascals campers through hands on education about nutrition and waste. We look forward to continuing the garden as a regular Little Rascals activity.

Some new additions this year were a Robotics Club, introduced by Michelle Purdy, and Yoga classes which are held at the Sharon Community Center by Bright Energy Yoga. Also in addition to the yearly adult trips to the Goodspeed Opera House, this year a trip to IKEA and the Thimble Islands were added. Information about programs and activities can be found at www.sharonct.org under Recreation.

The 7TH Annual Sharon Sprint Triathlon was held this summer with 60 participants joining in. The Sharon Ambulance and Lakeville Water Rescue Team again donated their time to make sure it was a safe event. The money raised from the Triathlon, along with a donation from Salisbury Bank and Trust, was used to present the Music On the Green series. There was an increase in attendance over last year and we expect interest to continue to grow. This year Tri Arts performers joined us by starting the music off with a medley showcasing their current show.

The Board continues to work on plans for Veterans' Field. The improvements include new bathrooms to be installed in 2015, a walking track, a new basketball court, and an upgrade to the playground.

Again we would like to thank all of the volunteers who make our programs possible. To inquire about serving on the Board, please contact Recreation Director, Matt Andrulis-Mette at 860-364-1400.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Christensen, Chairman

Registrar of Voters

The office of the Registrar of Voters is a state-mandated, elected position. Two Registrars, one Democrat and one Republican, and their deputies are to maintain an up-to-date list of registered voters and manage the elections in Sharon. We conduct an annual canvass of all voters and also add newly registered voters and remove inactive and deceased voters and those who have permanently moved out of town on an on-going basis. Inactive voters are those who have not voted on the past four years.

The ROV office is open every Tuesday from 10 AM till noon on the first floor of Town Hall. (Note the change from our previous Monday hours.) Our office phone number is 860-364-5514. Official voter registration forms may be obtained from the Town Clerk on weekdays and in the display rack outside the ROV office at any time. We will also mail you a form if you call us. These registration cards can be mailed back to Town Hall or presented in person to the Registrars or the Town Clerk. The form must include the applicant's identification, generally a CT driver's license or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number.

A registered voter from any party or an unaffiliated voter may vote in any election. A voter must be registered in a political party to be able to vote in the primary elections of that party. If a voter cannot vote in person for a reason defined in the State regulations, he or she can obtain an application for an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk or download one from the Sharon web site: www.sharonct.org

Voters should be aware that CT now allows Election Day Registration; a CT resident may register to vote and then vote by a special EDR ballot on the day of the election.

Registrars: Mary Robertson (R) and Angela Gibbs-Duffy (D)
Deputy Registrars: Helen Degener (R) and Jan Dudek (D)

Office of Public Health

Description: The Office of Public Health provides a range of services that improve the health of Sharon residents. The office enforces the uniform public health code of the State of Connecticut to ensure safe food, drinking water, bathing beaches and sewage disposal. The office investigates potential violations of the Public Health Code to prevent impacts to the public health and safety of residents.

YEAR 2013-2014: The Office of Public Health has worked with the Planning & Zoning Commission to conduct compliance reviews for projects involving land use proposals. This office works with Sharon Hospital in response to infectious diseases and possible outbreaks. We continue regulation inspections of the 27 food service establishments. We hope to continue to expand lead poisoning prevention and abatement activities in partnership with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health and private providers. The department will continue efforts to increase public health and environmental quality initiatives while expanding our Town's preparedness in the event of a natural or manmade incident.

Septic Systems:	6	New Systems installed
	13	Replacement or Repairs to systems
	10	New reserve area testing
	2	Central Sewage connections

Subdivisions/Re-subdivision: None

Well Applications 8

Respectfully,

Daniel L. Barody, RS, MPH
Director

David Kurish, MD
Assistant Director & Medical Advisor

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission

The most significant event of the year was the departure of Scott Heth, the Chairman since the earliest days of the Commission. He had guided the Sharon Energy Task Force until it became a fully fledged Commission.

His place was taken by Kathleen Fuhr and Khurshed Bhumgara as co-chairmen of the Commission. In order to accomplish this, the By-laws of the Commission were redrafted to allow for two chairs.

During the year, Kari Morales, serving as a consultant for the Commission, completed a benchmarking analysis of ten major properties and energy users in Sharon which consume electricity, oil and/or propane. The completed report was made available to all residents and multiple copies were placed around town. The report formed the groundwork to allow the Commission to recommend and examine properties where there could be significant energy savings.

Sharon was also awarded a \$5,000 Bright Ideas Grant from CL&P when over 240 residents took advantage of the Home Energy Audits in 2010. This money will be used to promote more energy efficiency in one of our town building. Another Home Energy Solutions audit program is available until December 31, 2014 for our residents who may call 800-992-2227 to schedule an appointment.

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, based upon guidance provided by the SEEC, had a comprehensive lighting audit completed by an authorised (by CL&P) vendor and received a subsidy to replace its lighting with more energy efficient fixtures. Currently the SEEC is working with the selectmen to complete a lighting audit of the Town Garage and a full energy audit of 67 Main Street, occupied by Robin Hood Radio.

Respectfully submitted,
Khurshed Bhumgara and Kathleen Fuhr
Co-chairmen

Sharon Day Care

The Sharon Day Care is in its 29th year of operation. With an experienced director and staff, diversely skilled twelve member volunteer board of directors, cooperative parents, supportive school administration and personnel, and many caring townspeople, we are experiencing another year of achievement and growth. Located in the lower campus of Sharon Center School, we offer a nurturing program of child care and learning content to area families.

We were able to serve 30 families throughout the year with our regular school year program (7:30 AM – 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday), with our After Care program for children through grade 7 (3:00 PM – 5:30 PM), and by continuing our nine week Summer Camp Program that we initiated in 2007. This year's camp participants are enjoying the fruits of their labor harvesting various vegetables from a raised bed garden planned and constructed by talented board members and parents.

We are accredited by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and implement the Creative Curriculum Gold program to offer our children strategically planned daily activities focusing on social, emotional, physical, cognitive and creative development. We are currently working to keep our accreditation up to date. The work involved is extensive but meaningful.

Content learning in the Creative Curriculum concentrates on:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science & Technology
- Social Studies
- The Arts

When financial need is an issue, we offer a scholarship program as we are always trying to best meet the needs of our children and their families. Parents are offered conferences, programs, and newsletters to keep them enlightened of their children's progress as well as encouragement to promote learning and growth at home.

Further highlights of our year include:

- Last summer we were flooded out of our facility and received cooperation from the school, parents, board, and townspeople in moving all of our furniture and supplies to the SCS cafeteria where we continued our summer camp program without missing a beat
- We meet and cooperate with area day care centers in the Northwest Collaborative for keeping all of our programs current; each center enjoyed a music grant this year that provided extra instruction/entertainment
- Supporting our community by participating in the annual holiday gift and food collection organized by Ella Clark
- Creating a web site that will keep the community and other area day care centers current as to our programs and events, thanks to Joel Minton (Exposure-Digital)
- Conducting our 29th Annual Sharon Classic Road Race the first Saturday in May under the direction of long time race director Karen Dignacco; we increased the number of non-

profits invited to participate and celebrated the town's 275th Anniversary as reflected in the design, colors, and logo of our race t-shirts.

- Conducting our very first SCRR Donors' Reception on May 8th in order to thank our community sponsors and businesses who have been generous loyal supporters for decades
- Applying for grants to access supplies for our playground facility as per suggestions from the NAEYC
- Continuing our traditional Annual Appeal, Catering of the Sharon Historical Society's Cocktail Party, and several small scale profit projects
- Supporting the SCS 8th graders' efforts to provide community service
- Purchasing from local businesses when possible to show support and thanks
- Offering space at our center for WSS to conduct meetings
- Working with the Long Range Planning Committee to find a venue for a much needed Infant Toddler Program; in 2014 the board felt that we cannot at this time support an Infant Toddler Program on our own as our funds are limited and we are obliged to adhere to strict budget restrictions in order to continue the programs we have. We will continue to search and plan.
- Keeping our web site up to date, interesting and informative to all; visit us at sharondaycare.org

We are very proud of our Sharon Day Care, *A Center for Learning and Growing*, and the community that supports us. The Town of Sharon was once again agreeable to the funding we requested for 2014-2015. We are about to embark on our 30th year with continued hope and enthusiasm that the children are our future, therefore, we will do our best to help insure a bright one for them and for us.

Janet Nickson, President SDC Board

Sharon Historical Society

The mission of The Sharon Historical Society is to connect people to the town of Sharon, its history, and its culture. For more information, visit www.SharonHist.org.

Back in 2009, Sharon Historical Society reevaluated itself and concluded that our role in the community was to connect people to the town of Sharon, to foster civic pride and encourage good citizenship. The year 2014 offered us a grand opportunity to showcase how well we've turned that vision into reality.

With the Town's 275th Anniversary serving as our catalyst, SHS provided a whirlwind of celebratory programs, activities, events and exhibits for the residents of Sharon in 2014. The fun included a Historic Photo Tour of Sharon and Singer/Historian Rick Spencer at the Congregational Church; Civil War reenactor Kevin Johnson at Sharon Center School; Connecticut's Historic Town Sign authority Tom Fatone at our Annual Meeting; The post-parade party/cookout on Memorial Day; Our always popular Great Attic Classic fundraiser in July; A bus tour of Sharon's historic cemeteries in October; The annual Sharon Tree Lighting and Cookie Party (presented in conjunction with the Sharon Green Association) in December; And

throughout the year, a total of six art exhibits and six opening receptions were hosted in the Gallery @SHS.

In addition to these community minded activities our staff and volunteers continued to provide history programs to students of all ages at Sharon Center School and Sharon Day Care. We also hosted several Interns this summer from Housatonic Valley Regional High School through our partnership with Housatonic Youth Service Bureau's Annual Internship program.

None of this is possible without the Town's support! Donations and fundraisers are how we make this all possible and we are grateful to all that have supported us along the way. The Sharon Historical Society takes great pride in its building, grounds and collections and is blessed with a staff and group of volunteers that goes above and beyond the call of duty to promote our mission daily and a community that supports our mission annually.

Having said all that, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz Shapiro, who retired this year as our Executive Director, and note that the individual effort that she put forth in her tenure at Sharon Historical Society will never be forgotten. Liz is a visionary and her visions and leadership got us to where we are today.

2014 has ended but 2015 holds even more excitement- we have a new Executive Director, Moira Conlan, who you can meet at our new historical exhibit opening in January; we are installing recording stations in the museum so Sharon residents can record their memories and "Seldom Told Tales" of Sharon; we are updating our website and expanding our photography collections; We are planning informative programs such as: genealogy workshops, historical fiction book clubs, and interactive history games; And finally, updating the landscaping outside the building.

The Sharon Historical Society is grateful to the Town of Sharon for helping us sustain our ongoing efforts to preserve and share the stories that make Sharon a special place to live.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Staff and Trustees of SHS,
Brent M. Colley
President

Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association

During Fiscal Year 2014, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association provided a variety of skilled home health and hospice care to Sharon Residents; in addition SVNA also provided wellness clinics, Matter of Balance Classes, flu clinics and health guidance visits.

Home Health and Hospice service visits to Sharon residents, paid by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance, totaled 2,076 visits for the year. These visits included the following services:

Service/Visit Type	# of Visits
Home Health Aide	801
Skilled Nursing Care	795
Physical Therapy	266
Medical Social Worker	169
Occupational Therapy	32
Clergy	6
Speech Therapy	5

Physician	1
Volunteer	1
Total Visits	2,076

SVNA also offered the following services, which were partly funded via the Town of Sharon.

- **Matter of Balance Classes** - Classes focus on instruction on how to safely maintain balance, continue moving, and exercise well at any age. Classes were offered during the year at the Town Hall for a total of 6 sessions – each session consists of 6 classes held once a week. A total of 38 individuals participated.
- **Wellness Clinics** – SVNA wellness clinics provide each participant with a holistic, individual-centered health screening including blood pressure, heart rate, and pulse oximetry analysis, health history, and risk factors for future conditions. Clinics were held monthly at the Sharon Pharmacy, for a total of 12 hours of clinic services, with a total of 30 client visits.
- **Health Guidance** – SVNA’s health guidance visits are used to help residents in the Town of Sharon remain safe and healthy in their homes. Visits do not require insurance authorization, there are no income minimum levels, and no physician referral is needed - participants in the program are often self-referred or referred by a family member. During the year SVNA provided 41 Health Guidance visits to Sharon residents.

In addition to the above services, SVNA also held 3 public flu clinics and 2 private business clinics, in Sharon, with a total of 111 vaccines administered. SVNA was also able to provide skilled nursing care to a Sharon resident who did not have insurance coverage; services were funded by a “Skilled Nursing Care Fund” available to SVNA.

Northwest Hills Council of Governments

The Northwestern CT Council of Governments and the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials merged this year to form a new 21-town “Northwest Hills Council of Governments” (COG). A new webpage was created this year (www.northwesthillscog.org) with more information on COG activities, planning related data, and resources for all member towns.

The COG board consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from the 21 member towns. The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues in municipal management, oversee existing COG programs, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation to enhance local government efficiency. Member towns include Barkhamsted, Burlington, Canaan (Falls Village), Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington, Warren, Washington, and Winchester.

The COG’s work program includes activities in both regional planning and regional service delivery. Regional planning activities this year have focused on developing a regional plan of conservation and development, a regional transportation plan, a regional infrastructure plan, natural hazard mitigation plans, emergency management planning, and village center revitalization.

The COG also coordinates a number of popular regional service delivery programs including household hazardous waste collection days, a prescription assistance program, a fuel bank program, the Litchfield Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program. The COG also provides assistance to a number of organizations in the region including the Northwest CT Economic Development Corporation, Regional Housing Council, Road Supervisors Association, Public Safety Task Force, Recycling Advisory Committee, Housatonic River Commission, Regional Planning Collaborative, and Torrington Facade Improvement Committee. This year the COG established a quarterly "5th Thursday" meeting schedule to provide a forum for area Planning and Zoning Commissions to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

A variety of issues of regional significance were discussed at the monthly meetings of the COG this year including energy savings programs, pavement management, state legislation, and the need for a centralized transit facility for the Northwestern CT Transit District. In addition to the COG's regular monthly meetings, a special meeting of the COG was held to discuss legislative priorities with local legislators.

The COG responded to numerous requests for demographic, economic, and housing data. The COG also reviewed and commented on several referrals of proposed zoning changes, town plan updates, or development proposals near municipal borders this fiscal year, as required by state statute.

The COG, in conjunction with the NWCT Economic Development Corporation and the NWCT Chamber of Commerce, also helped coordinate an update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which was approved by the federal Economic Development Administration this year.

Serving as officers this fiscal year were Barkhamsted First Selectman Donald Stein as Chairman; Canaan First Selectman Patricia Mechare as Vice Chairman; Kent First Selectman Bruce Adams as Treasurer; and Norfolk First Selectman Susan Dyer as Secretary.

The COG is in the process of establishing new offices at the Village Market Place in Goshen Center. The staff of four consists of Darlene Krukar, Office Manager; Lois Pinney, Financial Manager; Jocelyn Ayer, Community and Economic Development Director; and Rick Lynn, Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Lynn, AICP
Executive Director

Northwestern Connecticut Regional Housing Council

Affordable housing is on the agenda of most Northwest Corner towns, and rightfully so. It is the prime focus of the Northwestern Connecticut Regional Housing Council where town representatives gather quarterly to report on and gain valuable information for their town specific plans.

2013-14 has been a busy year for the Housing Council. Guests to our meetings this year included Evonne Klein, Commissioner of the newly established Connecticut Department of Housing, the statewide Emerging (Housing) Leaders Network and members of the Habitat for Humanity group from the Hotchkiss School.

We all celebrate when one of our member towns successfully opens its doors to new housing as did Bonney Brook in Cornwall Bridge and Sharon Ridge this past year.

We thank our 13 member towns for their financial support. The \$100 annual dues from the towns is a cost effective investment. With the merger of the Council of Governments (COG), we expect to gain additional member towns to the Housing Council. More information on the Housing Council and on affordable housing in the region can be found on the COG's new website www.northwesthillscog.org.

We also express our appreciation to Jocelyn Ayer, Community & Economic Development Director, and Lois Pinney of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments for hosting our quarterly meetings, providing accurate minutes, and keeping members informed about new opportunities to develop safe and affordable housing in the Northwest Corner.

Respectfully submitted,
William Bachrach, Chairman

Housatonic River Commission

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 11 regularly scheduled monthly meetings the past year. Meetings took place on the second Tuesday of each month at the Cornwall Consolidated School. The annual dues requested from each town remain at \$350 per year.

This year the River Commission continued the process of pursuing locally initiated National Wild and Scenic River Act designation for the Housatonic. This designation would provide an extra level of protection from the impacts of potentially harmful projects such as waterway alterations, energy developments, and federally funded road expansions. River Commissioners presented information to their respective town leaders and Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, and Sharon's Boards of Selectmen have submitted letters of support for the designation process to date. A public meeting was also held in May 2014 at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School where residents were able to voice their opinions on the topic and have questions answered by a panel of experts on Wild and Scenic River designation. The HRC will continue to work on this process, providing information on and gauging public support for designation.

Pursuant to its duty to recommend uniform locally adopted minimum standards for protection of the River Corridor, the Housatonic River Commission has recommended to each member town that it consider updates to its Housatonic River Overlay Zone (HROZ) regulation and mapping. In most towns these regulations were adopted in the late 1970's when there was so much less known about how to protect riparian buffers. This year the Town of Cornwall updated their HROZ regulation. We believe the regulation updates proposed by Cornwall would be a significant step up in protection for the River and have asked each member town to consider making similar regulation updates.

The Commission continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the Housatonic River. HRC members are regular attendees of the CCC public meetings in

Massachusetts where information is shared and comments are received about the cleanup process. In June the EPA presented its plan for cleanup of the "Rest of River" (including all of Connecticut) at public meetings in Lenox, MA and Kent, CT. While the EPA's plan is not ideal (trying to balance the demands of many disparate interest groups) it does present progress to further clean up the River. We will be pushing to help ensure that the interests of towns and residents are duly represented, especially during this public comment period on the EPA's proposed plan.

As always, land use developments within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a major component of our efforts. During the year, the Commission provided comments and suggestions on several proposed projects along the River, and were pleased to see enforcement agencies have agreed to many recommendations to protect the Housatonic from poorly-designed projects that could negatively impact our valuable river resources. All towns are reminded to please be sure that the HRC is notified on any proposed project within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the river. As always we are very grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials and the Northwestern CT Council of Governments.

Housatonic Youth Services Bureau

Established in 1991, the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau is a 501c3 nonprofit founded to respond to the needs of the children, youth and families living in the Region One School District. The towns we serve include North Canaan, Canaan, Salisbury/Lakeville, Sharon, Cornwall and Kent. The focus of the organization is to provide a variety of service options that promote the overall health and wellbeing of children, youth and families living in the Region One area. HYSB helps youth up to age 21 and their family. We offer individual and family clinical therapy, advocacy, prevention and referral services, enrichment programming, outreach and community events. Services are free and without income restrictions, an approach that creates an open-door policy for children and their parents to find help when they need it.

This year has been busy: over the last school year, HYSB provided over 600 free hours (worth approximately \$50,000+) of counseling for area children, youth and/or their family members. This represents a 41% increase in service hours from last year. Beyond this, we provided support in the areas of crisis intervention, ongoing case coordination and parent education. Our newly launched Youth in Philanthropy program, HYSB Internship Project and the Outdoor leadership Programs are going strong. Our longstanding F.Y.I. workshops continued to engage families each month, the "Empowering Young Women" project remained on its successful path, the annual Battle of the Bands brought out talented bands, we once again celebrated youth and young adult musicians at our annual Music Mountain event, and our Donald T. Warner Community Service Award recognized the incredible efforts of Lea Davies.

All of our work would not be possible without your generous support. We remain deeply grateful to the Town of Salisbury for their continued fiscal support and look forward to working as partners to promote the overall health and wellbeing of children, youth and families living in the Town of Sharon.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Pohl, Executive Director

The Chore Service

The Chore Service, founded in 1992 provides non-medical help at home (cleaning, errands, yard work, etc) for clients in Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville and Sharon. Clients contribute only what they can (if they can) toward the service, and Chore Workers are paid \$14/hour for their time. Fundraising, grants, and town contributions make up the difference between what clients can contribute and the cost of running the service.

Sharon residents continue to benefit from help at home provided by the Chore Service. Twenty-nine residents received 1,990 hours of service, and fifteen workers from Sharon earned nearly \$77,000 helping their neighbors. Here is what a few clients had to say about Chore Service:

"This is a very valuable service, especially for the older and others unable to drive or physically undable to clean or do yard work."

"Chore Service has been a lifesaver!"

"I feel that I will come to rely on you more and more. The fact that you are available relieves much anxiety and gives me the hope that I'll be able to stay in my home longer."

"Invaluable resource for the elderly!"

"Very important, my grandmother couldn't live independently if it wasn't for Chore Service."

"I always recommend Chore Service. Some think it is too good to be true."

As we face shrinking federal and state grants, we are most grateful for the support of our donors, including the Town of Sharon for your generosity.

Heather Dinneen, Executive Director

Women's Support Services

Women's Support Services, Inc. (WSS), a non-profit organization, provides free and confidential services to those affected by domestic violence and abuse in the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and surrounding areas. We provide crisis intervention and client centered services as well as violence prevention education. These services include a 24-hour confidential hotline, short-term emergency shelter, referral to long-term shelter, individual counseling and safety planning, support groups for women and children, legal advocacy, transportation, information and referral. WSS staff is available to accompany persons to court, assist in obtaining financial assistance, housing, employment, clothing, daycare and other needs. In addition to providing direct services for victims of abuse, WSS is committed to

violence prevention education and continues to offer free programs in the schools and communities we serve.

From July 2013 through June 2014, WSS worked with 671 individuals (615 adults and 56 children), responded to 462 crisis contacts (phone calls and walk-ins) and provided 333 individual counseling sessions for persons in our service area. In addition, staff offered 943 counseling and supportive contacts to adults and children. WSS provided short term shelter to 13 individuals. During that period, 44 individuals (adults and children) attended support group sessions totaling 394 contacts. WSS also provided clients with 466 units of information and referrals. Our community educator and staff were active in the schools and with community groups, reaching 8,063 participants through presentations and public awareness activities and events. Through our car donation program, we were able to transfer ownership of 2 cars to local residents in need.

Our Board of Directors continues to explore ways to help our clients. Ongoing fundraising efforts support our Client Emergency Fund which was created to help individuals with a variety of critical financial needs. These efforts have also led to the creation of a Legal Fund, to help clients access and pay for necessary legal costs and a Housing Fund, to help clients obtain safe and affordable housing. Our strategic planning committee continues to work on ways to address our client's needs. WSS provides ongoing violence prevention education throughout the Region #1 School District. Topics such as cyberbullying, bullying, healthy relationships, teen dating violence, self esteem, and others, have been well received in local schools. All curriculums are age appropriate and are available for children in pre-K through 12th grade. WSS is also active in the community hosting a variety of public awareness events and campaigns. Community collaborations and partnerships are developed and existing relationships are strengthened in order to better serve the community. In addition, support and advocacy is provided to local victims of domestic violence at the Bantam Criminal Court in Bantam, CT.

WSS receives approximately 40 percent of its funding from town, state and federal grants. Our active Board of Directors, staff and volunteers work to raise the remaining funds necessary to assure that the needs of victims of domestic violence and abuse in our communities are met effectively. This joint partnership of public and private support has enabled WSS to meet these needs locally- 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for the past 33 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori A. Rivenburgh, M.A.
Executive Director

Board of Directors (FY 13-14): Maria Horn, Chair; Marianne Ostendorf, Vice Chair; Laura Wernth, Treasurer; Sara Joannides, Secretary; Maria Bulson, Judith Crouch, Rita Delgado, Susan DeMelle, Mimi Estes, Lisa Foster, Katherine Freygang, Jodi Luby, Stephen McKibben, Rev. Richard Taber, Louisa Yap

Community Mental Health Affiliates

Founded in 1952, Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health (NWC) is part of Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc. (CMHA). CMHA's Northwest Center is a licensed outpatient mental health clinic and family service agency with Joint Commission accreditation. In addition to CMHA's locations in 3 other cities and towns, CMHA served the residents of Litchfield County through offices in Lakeville and Torrington.

CMHA's NWC remains the only state licensed, nonprofit mental health clinic serving all of Litchfield County. The Center also serves clients from 13 border towns in New York State including Millerton, Amenia and Dover. CMHA's Litchfield County offices operated eight programs and provided over 14,310 hours of service to more than 1,431 individuals and families.

In fiscal year 2013-14, more than 91 Sharon area residents received services from one of the many programs at CMHA's Northwest Center.

Funding Sources:

Annual Fund Drive and Annual Event	Foundation for Community Health, Inc.
Private Donations	Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Town Grants	Civic Family Services
Fees and Insurance Payments	Private Contracts
Department of Children and Families	Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc.
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	
United Way of Northwest CT	

Current Programs and Activities:

Outpatient Mental Health

CMHA's NWC operated two outpatient mental health clinics in the past year, serving people of all ages: children, adolescents, adults and seniors. Services include individual, family and group psychotherapy, psychological and psychiatric evaluation and medication management and case management. In addition, CMHA continued its contract with Trinity Glen, a residential substance abuse treatment facility in Sharon, CT, to provide medication management services. CMHA also continues its collaboration with RHA Pediatrics in Sharon; a clinician is embedded into the practice three days a week to assist in evaluating and providing mental health services for patients and their families.

In 2013-14, approximately 542 people received services monthly in the clinics for a total of over 8,585 visits annually. CMHA's Northwest Center provides more than 584 clinical sessions every month. These services include individual, family, and group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, and medication management.

CMHA's Litchfield County programs receive funding from the CT Department of Children and Families (DCF) to operate two distinct county-wide services:

Positive Parenting Program is an in-home, evidence-based program that helps parents manage their child's behavior and become independent, resourceful problem-solvers.

Parents/caregivers are given the tools to create a positive and safe home learning environment that will help to develop and nurture their child's behavioral, emotional and cognitive strengths.

In 2013-14, 67 families received this in-home service.

Family Preservation Intensive is an intensive in-home program designed to support families in crisis in which children are at imminent risk of out of home placement. The goal is to keep children safe and avoid either a permanent or long-term separation from their family and community. IFP builds upon the conviction that many children can be safely protected and treated within their own homes when parents are provided the services and support and are empowered to change their own lives. **In 2013-14, 24 families received intensive, home-based support, counseling and parenting assistance.**

Family Based Recovery Program is an in-home service program which provides family recovery and substance abuse treatment to families who have identified substance abuse issues and a child(ren) under 2 years old in the home. The program also provides individual, family and group therapy and child attachment treatment. Clinicians work with child behavioral issues, housing, transportation and other basic needs of families. **In 2013-14, 18 families received this in-home service.**

Collaborations

CMHA collaborates with a number of area agencies, receiving and giving referrals so that clients can obtain the appropriate level of coordinated holistic care. The following agencies are collaborators: RHS Pediatrics in Sharon, Litchfield County Pediatrics in Torrington, Connecticut DCF, FAVOR (advocacy for parents/caregivers), FOCUS in Canton (occupational therapy and social skills groups for children on the autism spectrum), Wellmore and Family & Children's Aid (intensive, in-home programs), Trinity Glen in Sharon (inpatient substance abuse program for adult family members), The McCall Foundation in Torrington (intensive inpatient for adults), Charlotte Hungerford (outpatient/partial hospitalization for adults and adolescents in recovery), and the Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington for families experiencing domestic violence.

Upcoming Changes in Service Delivery

CMHA will be closing the Lakeville Office of our Northwest Center on October 31, 2014.

After 7 years of stagnant grant support (without a cost of living adjustment) from the state, and Medicaid rates that pay less than 65% of the cost of care, state officials have decided to significantly reduce grants for outpatient services made by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

Because DMHAS grant dollars supported one third of our Lakeville operating budget, we can no longer afford to operate the Northwest Center without them. CMHA's leadership team and board have exhausted all avenues and explored all of our options, and our decision to close the Lakeville office has not been made lightly.

We believe that about half of our Lakeville patients, or about 90 clients, will transfer to our Torrington Child and Family Services location, which serves over 850 clients annually. We are working closely with the Local Mental Health Authority to ensure that our 40 DMHAS clients can see their current therapist in Torrington. And thanks to support from the Foundation for Community Health, we will also continue to provide behavioral health care to about 100 children annually through a clinic co-located at Regional Health Care Associates Pediatrics in Sharon.

Most of the clients from your town receive services from the programs listed above, which are primarily operated from our Torrington office. Thus, we believe that we will continue to serve a

majority of these clients in the 2014-2015 program year. We hope that you will continue to support services provided out of the Torrington office for your town residents. If you have questions, please call Marie Mormile-Mehler, MSW, VP of Planning and Performance Improvement at 860-826-1358 x 1630.

Hotchkiss Library

Hotchkiss Library Services and Outreach Programs

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon continues to see increased activity and services to the community. The library's circulation has continued to increase and our programming numbers continue to grow. We strive to bring quality library services, with minimal cost, to Sharon and the surrounding community, and our patrons have responded positively to the services offered.

The Library is happy to provide our patrons with four desktop computers and three iPads for public use. All of these devices are used on a daily basis for internet browsing, printing capabilities and other electronic communications. We also provide WiFi service to the public and it is not unusual to see a patron sitting on a bench outside working on their mobile device. The Children's Room has a dedicated iPad, which is frequently used and offers children a different learning experience. Although many do have access to internet and other technology at home, the library still provides a vital service in providing internet, scanning, faxing, printing and photocopying capabilities.

Most importantly the Hotchkiss Library's interlibrary loan services are used on an ever increasing basis. Through the use of two databases, library staff order books from other public, academic, and special libraries located throughout Connecticut. Since other libraries are generous with their materials, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon is pleased to reciprocate. Nothing pleases our library staff more than to help a patron find the materials for which they are looking. As one of the smallest libraries in Connecticut, this service is essential for our library to provide needed materials.

The Hotchkiss Library continues Books for Babies, a community outreach program in conjunction with Sharon Hospital and Read To Grow Inc. The project strives to provide early literacy information to new parents and to introduce children to reading at a very early age. With a grant from the Foundation for Community Health, the Library has distributed hundreds of packets to newborns and their families.

Program offerings have expanded in the last year and we have experienced unprecedented numbers attending these Sunday evening events. Among the many memorable presentations were Tim Prentice speaking on his kinetic sculptures, Guy Wolff, potter, demonstrating how he creates his art of clay, and Roberta Bernstein and her personal account of the Art of Jasper Johns.

Focusing on reading and writing, the Library continues to offer a Memoir Writing Class which is, once again, being led by writer Carol Ascher. Avid readers enthusiastically attend our monthly Tuesday evening book discussions. For over 15 years minds have been expanded by these stimulating gatherings. Each fall we also invite a scholar to the Library to moderate a series of discussions which draw readers from the entire northwest corner. The Sharon Woman's Club

continues to gather here. It is a pleasure for us to serve their desire to meet over books. A discussion group, organized by one of our Library Board members, draws male readers from adjoining towns. All of the books for these group meetings are borrowed by the library staff from libraries throughout the state.

The annual Summer Book Signing, held the first Friday evening in August, continues to be a much anticipated event and major fund-raiser for the Library. Throughout the winter and spring a team of volunteers gratefully accept book donations which are sold at the Annual Used Book Sale. Our "Eat, Drink and be Literary" Gala Auction, now in its 7th year, also provides major funding for Library operations. Art Shows, an additional source of income, support local artists and offer the public exposure of another dimension.

This year, the 275 Anniversary of the Town of Sharon, the Library reached out to the community in an unusual way. Our desire to support the call from the Sharon Historical Society to commemorate this anniversary year resulted in the creation of a commemorative flower pot. Guy Wolff, a resident of Bantam, and a nationally known potter was commissioned by the Library to create the Bartram flower pot which is available for sale until the end of our anniversary year 2014.

The Library chose to invest this year in a much needed update to our web site. Patrons can now search for books, track our events and programs, and donate in a more user-friendly way.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Szalewicz
Executive Director
The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon

Town of Sharon

Budget 2014 - 2015

For the Fiscal year ending, June 30, 2015

General Summary

	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
Board of Selectmen Budget	\$4,221,026	4,074,196
Less non-tax (current) revenues	<u>532,635</u>	<u>521,200</u>
	\$3,688,391	3,552,996
 Board of Education Budget	 \$6,150,706	 6,549,359
Less non-tax revenues	<u>146,334</u>	<u>146,334</u>
	\$6,004,372	6,403,025

The Board of Finance approved the following:

TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES, 2014 - 2015

\$ 9,260,359

GRAND LIST, OCTOBER, 2013

720,510,556

MILL RATE

13.25

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Prindle,
Chairman, Board of Finance