

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

ASSESSOR: Monday 9:00 to Noon, 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

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR Monday – Friday: 7:00 – NOON
phone: 860-364-0909

HEALTH DEPARTMENT Monday – Friday: 7:00 - NOON
phone: 860-364-9397

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENT: 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

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Board of Selectmen: Second Tuesday @ 3PM and fourth Tuesday @ 5:30PM monthly except November and December when there is no 5:30PM meeting

Board of Finance: Quarterly @ 7PM, March 19, June 16, September 15 & December 8

Planning and Zoning Commission: Second Wednesday, monthly @ 5:30PM except February 13 & November 12

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

Sharon Housing Authority: Third Tuesday, monthly @ 5PM

Sewer & Water Commission: Second Thursday, monthly @ 7PM

Historic District Commission: Fourth Monday, monthly @ 6:00PM except for May when it will be Tuesday and no meeting for December

Board of Education: Second Monday, monthly

Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee: First Thursday @ 6:00PM monthly

Conservation Commission: Third Wednesday @ 6:30PM monthly

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

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission: Third Friday @ 8AM monthly

Board of Assessment Appeals: Feb. 20 @ 5PM, March 6 @ 6PM, March 7 @ 9AM, March 13 @ 6PM, March 14 @ 9AM, March 23 @ 5PM and Sept. 12 @ 9AM (this one is for motor vehicles only)

Transfer Station Building Committee: Third Wednesday monthly @ 5:30PM rotating between Salisbury and Sharon Town Halls starting in Salisbury from January to August –no schedule after that at this point

Transfer Station Committee: January 15 Salisbury Town Hall, March 18 Sharon Town, May 20 New Transfer Station, Sept. 16 New Transfer Station and Nov. 18 new Transfer Station all @ 6:30PM

SSRRA: check on Town Website

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facts and Figures -----	4
Elected Town Officers -----	5
Appointed/Hired Town Officers -----	7
Summary of Town Meetings -----	11
<i>Reports of Town Officers and Commissions</i>	
First Selectman -----	12
Town Clerk -----	13
Board of Education:	
<i>Sharon Center School Principal</i> -----	14
<i>Superintendent of Schools</i> -----	16
<i>HVRHS Principal</i> -----	19
Conservation Commission -----	20
Zoning Board of Appeals -----	21
Planning and Zoning Commission -----	21
Inland Wetlands Commission -----	22
Building Official/Fire Marshal -----	23
Road Foreman -----	24
Social Service Agent -----	24
Sewer & Water Commission -----	26
Historic District Commission -----	27
Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee -----	28
Sharon Green Committee.....	28
Registrar of Voters -----	29
Director of Health -----	30
Sharon Energy & Environment Commission -----	31
Sharon Housing Authority-----	32
Animal Control Officer -----	33
Board of Finance -----	53
<i>Town Assisted Organizations</i>	
Litchfield Hills Probate District, #24 -----	33
Sharon Day Care -----	35
Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad -----	36
Sharon Fire Department Inc. -----	37
Sharon Historical Society -----	38
Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association -----	39
CMHA-----	40
Northwest Hills Council of Governments -----	42

Northwest Regional Housing Council -----	44
Housatonic River Commission -----	45
Housatonic Youth Service Bureau -----	46
Women’s Support Services -----	47
The Hotchkiss Library -----	49
The Chore Service -----	51
Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station -----	52

Report of the Auditor, 2018– 2019

FRONT COVER

Steve Hassig has been the Head Custodian at Sharon Center School since November 1986. Sharon is known as the “cleanest school in the region”. It wasn’t that way when Steve started. Working with school and town administration, Steve has been a strategic planner always looking to maintain the school to the highest standards while being responsive to budgetary constraints. Steve was part of the team that planned and completed the major building renovation in 1992. Students, faculty, staff, and community members value the care that Steve has given to the building and to them personally. The community has been privileged to have Steve Hassig “at the helm” for more than three decades! Thank you Steve!

Barbara Yohe served as a teacher at Sharon Center School from September 1974 through June 2013. No task was too big or too small for her. She taught all grades with a fondness for Algebra and she took numerous 8th grade students on class trips to Washington, DC. She subbed from September 2013 through June 2016. She became our In-house Substitute from August 2016 through June 2019. Barbara’s dedication to the students and to the Sharon community has been unwavering for more than four decades! Thank you Barbara!

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. Total area: 59.6 square miles; land area; 58.7 square miles and has a population estimate of 2,747 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 Amenias Union (Hitchcock Corners).

SHARON TAX AND POPULATION DATA

Year	Mil Rate	Grand List	Population Estimate
2000-2001	16.40 revaluation	342,018,170	2,968
2001-2002	16.70	351,457,158	2,968
2002-2003	16.90	362,171,770	2,969
2003-2004	17.00	389,529,522	2,914
2004-2005	13.75 revaluation	518,775,238	2,968
2005-2006	14.20	525,462,385	3,012
2006-2007	14.90	532,251,589	3,012
2007-2008	14.90	541,255,445	3,036
2008-2009	14.90	558,016,740	3,052
2009-2010	10.35 revaluation	837,360,422	3,058
2010-2011	10.90	839,977,000	3,022
2011-2012	11.35	843,796,767	3,014
2012-2013	11.35	847,349,680	3,029
2013-2014	11.70	851,634,816	2,774
2014-2015	13.25 revaluation	720,510,556	2,766
2015-2016	13.70	725,187,484	2,747
2016-2017	14.40	733,261,051	2,725
2017-2018	14.70	742,904,118	2,725
2018-2019	14.70	750,070,851	2,706
2019-2020	14.40 revaluation	729,146,484	2,714

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brent M. Colley, *First Selectman*, 2021
Dale C. Jones, 2021 Casey T. Flanagan, 2021

BOARD OF FINANCE

Karen S. Dignacco, *Chairman*, 2023
Thomas H. Bartram, *V. Chairman*, 2023
VACANT, Secretary
Jessica K. Fowler, 2021 Mary B. Robertson, 2025 Harding F. Bancroft, Jr. 2025

Alternate Members

Cody W. O'Kelly, 2021 Robert W. Ensign, 2023

TOWN CLERK AND REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Linda R. Amerighi, 01/02/2022

REGISTRARS

Barbara S. Coords, *Republican*, 01/06/2021
Marel E. Rogers, *Democratic*, 01/06/2021

TOWN TREASURER

Tina M. Pitcher, 2021

TAX COLLECTOR

Donna A. Christensen, 2021

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Thomas F. Casey, Sr., *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth C. Forstmann, 2023 Brent N. Prindle, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Doug A. Cahill, *Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Kathleen Visconti, *V. Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Deborah Rathbun, *Secretary*, 11/07/2023
Amanda Thompson, 11/07/2023 Anne M. Vance, 11/02/2021
Monica Connor, 11/07/2023 Plamen Petkov, 11/02/2021

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Bob R. Whelan, 11/30/2021

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Diane Blick, 01/09/2019 – 01/04/2023

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Tina M. Pitcher	Casey T. Flanagan	Michael R. Tesoro
Edward M. Kirby	Richard H. Gottlieb	Linda R. Amerighi
Barclay W. Prindle	Michael D. Lynch	Estelle Gorkofsky
Brian F. Kenny	Harding F. Bancroft, Jr.	Howard M. Randall
Lorraine J. Lewis	Judge Manning, Sr.	

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Barclay W. Prindle, *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2021
Stanley MacMillan Jr., *Secretary*, 2025
Susan Lynn, 2025
Laurance B. Rand III, 2023

Alternate Members

Cybele Loening, 2023
Edward W. Wilbur, 2023
Larry Moskowitz, 2021

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William Trowbridge, *Chairman*, 2023
Allen I. Young, *V. Chairman*, 2023
Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., 2023
Michael T. Dignacco, 2021
Alphonse J. Tortorella, 2021

Alternate Members

Jill Suzanne Drew, 2023
Zelina Blagden, 2021
Scott J. Pastre, 2023

ELECTIVE STATE OFFICERS

UNITED STATE SENATORS

Christopher S. Murphy	01/03/2019 to 01/03/2025
Richard Blumenthal	01/03/2017 to 01/03/2023

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

5th Congressional District

Jahana Hayes
01/03/2019 to 01/03/2021

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate – 30th Senatorial District

Craig Miner
01/09/2019 to 01/06/2021

House of Representatives – 64th House District

Maria Horn
01/09/2019 to 01/06/2021

APPOINTED / HIRED TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN COUNSEL

Cramer & Anderson, LLP – D. Randall DiBella

TOWN AUDITOR

Sinnamon & Associates, LLC

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO FIRST SELECTMAN

Tina M. Pitcher

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

Marlene M. Woodman

ASSESSOR

Patricia S. Braislin
Jennifer Dubray, Assistant

**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF
VITAL STATISTICS**

Marlene M. Woodman

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Michael Crespan, MPH, RS
David R. Kurish, M.D., Advisor
Elizabeth H. Casey, Sanitary Inspector

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Lee Sohl

TREE WARDEN

Jeffrey Perotti

**CIVIL PREPAREDNESS
COORDINATOR**

Thomas H. Bartram

**FIRE MARSHAL &
BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.
Michael Carbone, Asst. BO
Charles Carleton, Deputy FM
Timothy Limbos, Deputy FM

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth H. Casey

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Anne M. Vance, *Alternate*, 2021

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John J. Baroody, *Chairman*, 2023

Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2020

J. Barclay Collins, 2024

Lionel Goldfrank III, 2022

Stephen J. Szalewicz, Jr., 2022

Alternate Members

Theo Coulombe, 2020

Scot P. Samuelson, 2022

Edwin Yowell, 2021

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

Stephen J. Szalewicz, Jr., *Chairman*, 2020

Elizabeth M. Rybczyk, *V. Chairman*, 2021

Douglas O. Hobby, 2024 Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., 2023 Joseph V. Hajek, 2022

Alternate Members

Dobрила M. Waugh, 2022

Jacob E. Fricker, 2023

SHARON HOUSING AUTHORITY

vacant, *Chairman*, 2024

vacant, *V. Chairman*, 2022

Patricia Whelan, *Treasurer*, 2023

William J. Manasse, *Asst. Treasurer*, 2021

Jeannette Moss, *Secretary & Tenant Representative*, 2020

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Donna A. Christensen

Thomas H. Bartram

Linda R. Amerighi

Zelina Blagden

SHARON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Donna A. Christensen, *Chairman*

Mandy Thompson, *V. Chairman*

Sara Lott

Alphonse J. Tortorella

Alexis Peterson

Meghan Flanagan

Michele Purdy

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Paul Bacsik, *Chairman*, 2024

Claudia E. Cayne, *V. Chairman & Secretary*, 2022

James D. Krissel, 2023

Wayne Purdy, 2020

Carl Chalet, 2023

Howard M. Randall, 2021

Cicily W. Hajek, 2023

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

James D. Krissel, *Chairman*, 2023

Scott L. Schreiber, *V. Chairman*, 2022

Michael H. Dudek, *Secretary*, 2022

Harvey W. Hayden, V.M.D., 2020

William Trowbridge, 11/21/2023

Laurance B. Rand, III, 11/23/2023

Sharon M. Tingley, 2020

Alternate Members

Janell Mullen, 2023

Robin L. Zitter, 2021

Edward M. Kirby, *Chairman Emeritus*

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Brent M. Colley
Casey T. Flanagan, Alternate

NORTHWESTERN CT REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Bob Whelan
Meg Szalewicz, Alternate

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Miriam Jones

OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

William R. Tingley, 2022
James Saunders, Alternate, 2021

SHARON GREEN COMMITTEE

Elizabeth M. Hall, *Chairman*

Thomas F. Casey, Sr. Linda R. Amerighi Marlene M. Woodman
Stephen R. Wasley Eric Golden

SAFETY OFFICERS (Halloween Only)

David G. Wilbur Thomas F. Casey, Sr. Howard Randall Ethan Fax

WESTERN TOURISM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

HOME LAND SECURITY

Thomas F. Casey, Sr.

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

James D. Reid, *Foreman*

Todd C. Anderson Mark A. Anderson, *Mechanic*
Daniel V. Bottass, *Asst. Mechanic* J. Todd Smith
Stephen R. Wasley Christopher Dennis

TRANSFER STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Casey T. Flanagan Anne M. Saunders VACANCY

SALISBURY-SHARON RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Brent M. Colley, 01/14/2020
William S. Braislin, Sr., 01/14/2021
Malcolm M. Brown, 01/14/2022
Thomas H. Bartram, Voting Alternate, 01/14/2020

SHARON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Carolyn O. Mattoon, *Chairman*, 10/09/2021
Douglas W. Rick, 10/09/2020 Sarah A. Coon, Secretary, 10/09/2020
Janice Dudek, 10/09/2020 Katy Kinsolving, 10/09/2021
Oscar R. Martinez, 10/09/2021 Roger Liddell, 10/09/2020

ALTERNATES – BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Three Vacancies
Terms to November 19, 2020

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Brent M. Colley Thomas H. Bartram James Reid
Elizabeth H. Casey Thomas F. Casey, Sr.
Todd C. Anderson

NORTHWEST CT TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

Vacant, January 2020

VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON

Miriam Jones

SUMMARY OF SHARON TOWN MEETINGS 2018 - 2019

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!

July 26, 2018: Approximately 14 residents gathered and voted to: approve an expenditure of up to \$32,594 from the Equipment Replacement Fund for the new vehicle for the Building Official/Fire Marshal.

September 21, 2018: Approximately 45 residents gathered and voted to: approve an expenditure of \$10,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Account (Parks & Recreation Committee's portion) for the completion of the walking track at Veterans' Field; and amend three existing Ordinances and adopt two new Ordinances.

December 7, 2018: Approximately 24 residents gathered and voted to: approve expenditures for the Sharon Green Rehabilitation Project.

December 20, 2018: Approximately 70 residents gathered and vote to: adopt a resolution pertaining to the project appropriation and borrowing authorization for the new transfer station.

February 21, 2019: Six residents and one non-resident gathered and vote to: approve the financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018; and to approve the lease renewal for 67 Main Street with Tri-State Public Communications.

May 10, 2019: Approximately 52 residents gathered and vote to: adopt the annual budget and other related items for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; to approve the allocation of up to \$25,000 from the Undesignated Fund for the purchase and installation of a new playground at the Sharon Beach; approve the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan; approve the allocation of up to \$35,000 from the Undesignated Fund for a water line replacement at The Hotchkiss Library, with the Town paying the invoices; and approve the allocation of up to \$10,000 from the Undesignated Fund to the Sharon Historical Society for repairs to the air conditioning system.

First Selectman

2018-19 highlights:

- We continued with our efforts to protect roads paved between 2010 and 2018 with crack sealing and chip sealing.
- The new Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station project is underway and should be completed by the spring of 2020; Thank you to all the committees involved- SSRRA, SSTSBC, TRAC, for their many years of service. We're almost done!
- The Green Committee's Upper Main Street Drainage and Green Regrading Project was approved and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019.
- Capital improvements to the Town Hall Parking Lot, Town Garage, and Sharon Center School are budgeted for 2020.
- Efforts to keep residents informed and promote Town events and meetings continue and we expect the new Town website, which will provide even more information, to go live in December of 2019.

There is much to be proud of and we thank all of the Elected Officials, their Staff, our Sharon Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Volunteers (especially our Volunteer Fire Department, Ambulance Squad and Ladies Auxiliary). Their hard work and dedication is the principal reason our taxes remain among the lowest in Connecticut.

As we do every year, we encourage your input and participation at all levels of Town Government. 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; We need you to volunteer for our Town boards, commissions, and committees.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, Jessica Fowler and Dale Jones, I close this report by asking you to contact us often and attend our meetings and help us make decisions that work for everyone. Our goal is to make Sharon the best it can be, with your help we can achieve that.

Look forward to seeing you in Town,

Brent M. Colley
First Selectman



701 documents were recorded for fiscal year 2018-2019.

71 Property transfers for fiscal year contributed \$76,694 in Local Conveyance Tax and \$250,397 in State Conveyance Tax.

During calendar year 2018:

228 Births were recorded	842 certified copies of Birth Certificates issued
146 Death Certificates were processed	675 certified copies of Death Certificates issued
33 Marriage Licenses were processed	45 certified copies of Marriage Certificates issued
9 Resident Births and 31 Resident Deaths	
287 Dogs were licensed 6/2017 – 5/2018	

The Town Clerk collected \$418,785 for 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Highlights for the Office:

VITAL RECORDS:

Electronic filing Death Certificates are in the final stages of approval. We are hoping that 2020 will bring a new electronic filing of Death Certificates for all of Connecticut.

LAND RECORDS:

The office is continually indexing records onto the IQS system. Records can be viewed online by visiting searchiqs.com. Fees are paid directly to the vendor and you can use your credit card. The Town still receives the \$1.00 per page statutory fee. People believed that having the availability of on line searches would eliminate traffic in the office, however, I am happy to say that searchers still come in to do that final search to insure accuracy in their reporting.

The future holds many changes concerning the electronic world but it is funny how much has changed but the work load hasn't. I guess somethings just never change.

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

I would like to thank Marlene for all that she has brought to this office. I am always in awe of her knowledge and willingness to help and search out information for those trivial nuisances that frequently happen in the office.

Respectfully,

Linda R. Amerighi

Principal – Sharon Center School

Sharon Center School welcomed 115 students to an inviting learning environment and ended the year with 117 students. Thirteen students graduated from eighth grade and celebrated with a lovely commencement ceremony filled with school and community sponsored academic and citizenship awards.

Transitions:

We wished ELA teacher Cici Nielsen the very best on her retirement and Thanked her for twenty years of service to Sharon Center School.

We cheered school secretary Amanda Kilian on as she moved from school secretary to Region One Application Support Specialist.

We thanked ELA teacher Paul Beckett and In-house Substitute teacher Barbara Yohe for their service.

We look forward to ELA teacher Olivia Sheldon and Librarian Jill Pace joining the team in the fall.

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 appreciated the generous support of the Sharon BOE, Sharon PTO, Salisbury Bank, Sharon Audubon, Sharon Historical Society, Hotchkiss School, Hotchkiss Library, parents, community members, faculty and staff. We have participated in many exciting enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

- Kindergarten: HVRHS, Ellsworth Farm, Sharon Audubon and, Freund's Farm
- Grade 1: Kids Play, Hotchkiss Library and, HVRHS
- Grade 2: Hotchkiss Library and, Maritime Aquarium
- Grade 3: Indian Institute, State Capital, Music Mountain and, Hotchkiss Library
- Grade 4: Grade 4 Arts Day @ Hotchkiss, Rockwell Museum, Music Mountain and, Hotchkiss Library
- Grade 5: Hancock Shaker Village
- Grade 6: Ropes Course, Academic Fair, and SMASH Day
- Grade 7: Nature's Classroom @ Wakefield, RI
- Grade 8: Washington D.C
- Regional Band / Chorus & Northern Regional Band / Chorus
- Sharon Drama Production of School House Rock Jr.
- Read Aloud Day
- Everybody Wins, community reading buddies
- Parent Child Book Clubs
- PTO Sponsored After School Enrichment Activities
- Geography Bee
- Hotchkiss Mentoring
- Maker Space
- Career Day
- Quiz Bowl
- Winter Concerts

- Spring Concerts
- Regional Track Meet for Middle School students @ HVRHS
- Field Day
- No Summer Slide in Reading Kick Off with “Storm Monster”
- Walking Tours to Hotchkiss Library

Music teacher, Laurie Ellington prepared students for an amazing band performance during the year. Our musical performance groups included: 5th Grade Band, Senior Band and Marching Band. The year ended with an awesome performance by the Sharon Center School Marching Band in the Memorial Day service.

We are appreciative that our middle school students had the opportunity to participate in soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball. We often joined forces with both Cornwall and Kellogg School in order to create teams. We appreciate the support and flexibility received from the students, their families, and coaches in order to make this work!

We offered congratulations to our 8th grade award winners: Sylvie Stiffler for both the 2019 Superintendents’ Award and the coveted 2019 Sharon Cup Award. Sylvie Stiffler and Shanea Togninalli were the recipients of the 2019 CABA Leadership awards. We were so very proud of both Sylvie and Shanea’s many accomplishments, wish them well in future endeavors, and look forward to hearing Sylvie speak at the Sharon graduation in 2023.

School wide initiatives included:

- 1) Implementation of a guaranteed and viable curriculum aligned to state and national standards. This work includes aligned formative and summative assessments, regional curriculum mapping, engaging learning activities, and intervention strategies.
- 2) Continuous improvement of student achievement based on analysis of multiple data sources and responsiveness to this data.
- 3) Implementation with fidelity, precision, and purpose of the district’s teacher and school leader evaluation plans.
- 4) Promotion of the positive social-emotional health and well-being of students.

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 Celebration of Learning was held in late June. Students across the grades shared their projects with peers, teachers, family members, and community members. The Celebration of Learning was a wonderful opportunity for students to publicly highlight their learning.

We are so very appreciative of all that the community has done for the Sharon Center School over the year! Sharon Center School is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow! I would like to thank the students, parents, their extended families, faculty, staff, BOE, PTO and residents of Sharon for their ongoing help and support. Have a wonderful summer. Stay safe, act respectfully and responsibly.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen Manning

Superintendent of Schools

The Region One School District has been following a Strategic Plan for School Improvement for the years 2017-2020. The plan was developed by the administration from the seven schools and adapted by each school, according to their most pressing needs. Components of the plan that were implemented in the 2018-2019 school year for the goals are the following:

Goal/Initiative 1. To implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum tied to comprehensive formative and summative assessments utilizing the Connecticut Core Standards, National Content Standards, and the Instructional Core

Much work has been conducted in the area of curriculum development. With the assistance of EdAdvance and teacher collaboration, we have developed agreed upon curriculum and resources for the upper elementary grades for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Training for all science teachers for the new state curriculum has also taken place. All other subject areas and grade levels are also beginning to meet and determine the curriculum, which helps to ensure that all students in Region One have a “guaranteed and viable curriculum” consistent across all K-8 schools and that which best prepares them for High School. Much work is being done at the High School grades to determine that we assess student learning by incorporating high quality assessments that match learning targets in all classrooms.

Meetings with staff and community members to discuss what we want for all graduates of HVRHS were dedicated this past year to develop a region-wide “Portrait of a Graduate”. After surveying students, staff, parents, and community, it was agreed that the characteristics most essential for our students are to be 1) a communicator, 2) a problem solver, 3) a self-advocate, 4) globally and environmentally aware, and 5) confident. As curriculum is planned, teachers will need to plan for how what is taught incorporates opportunities for students to demonstrate these attributes.

Goal/Initiative 2. To improve student achievement, as evidenced by multiple data sources such as local, regional, state, and national assessments.

Proficiency in all classes is the goal for all students, with the expectation that students will identify their areas of strength and areas of improvement and then set their goals. Teachers are to provide the support that students need to help achieve their goals. Student involved conferences for students at the primary grades and students led conferences for students at grade 3 and above, require that students lead and communicate their learning to their parents. These are held at all grade levels.

While we continue to analyze the results of our standardized test data, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment (grades 3-8) and the SAT's (High School), these are once a year assessments that cannot fully measure the knowledge that a student acquires. Our focus is on the classroom learning, based on projects and classroom assessments, as well as benchmark data that we assess 3-4 times throughout the school year to determine each students' growth. Ultimately, we want to prepare every child to be a reader and problem solver, ready to apply these skills and be successful in other subject areas.

Personalized learning has been a major emphasis for our students in all grades, with the most professional development for teachers in this area being done in grades K-8. A personalized learning system provides voice and choice on what, where, and how students learn in relation to world-class knowledge and skills. Students are learning to work with teachers to establish their goals and pace of learning to pursue investigations or projects to demonstrate these goals, evaluate their progress, and communicate their results as an indication of mastery. Teachers are to create a classroom that enables students to have these opportunities. And learning opportunities, inside and outside of school are to offer students chances to learn from experience through application of authentic situations. Personalized learning is designed for students to identify their interests and talents while expanding their learning and their interest in continuous learning.

Personalized learning continues to be our focus, as we blend this with social and emotional support for students. As teachers learn more about how we incorporate both, we implement this in our classrooms.

Goal/Initiative 3. To continue to implement the regional teacher and school leader evaluation plans, with precision, fidelity, and purpose, and aligned to the district's school improvement goals.

In order for all schools to continue to demonstrate improvement and achievement, the superintendent's goals need to align with the Strategic Plan. Subsequently, the principals' goals should align with those of the superintendent and with the goals of the teachers in their school. All of our school leaders agree that we must improve instruction and engage students in order for students to increase learning. Every school administrator has annual goals that are connected to the goals of teachers, which address the needs of their students. We review progress several times throughout the year. All schools encourage ongoing professional learning for all instructional staff, which includes time during the school year with colleagues with outside expertise, book studies and discussions, attendance at state and national conferences, and region

wide professional learning community groups that study and make recommendations based on our region's and schools' needs.

Goal/Initiative 4. To promote positive social and emotional health and well-being for all students.

An Inter-Agency Task Force was enacted this past year to discuss how we could take steps to shift the direction to ensure safety and well-being for students. Teachers, administrators, school counselors, clergy, HYSB, mental health and addiction prevention agencies have been meeting to discuss the various programs for social-emotional health being taught and the services being utilized in our schools to support these areas: 1) Prevention, 2) Intervention, 3) Parent and Community Involvement, and 4) School Culture. All schools are beginning to focus on social-emotional issues that are affecting students of all ages and how our schools and supporting agencies can identify ways we can address mental health issues.

While we are learning more ways we can support the emotional health of our students, we are also seeking ways to expand social opportunities for Middle School students through regional sports and potential extra-curricular activities, such as drama, robotics, and visual arts. More decisions will be made in this area this fall.

For students with special needs, Special Olympics was started in Region One. Eleven students participated in one or more sports, which included swimming, basketball skills, and track and field. It was a highly successful year in terms of students and family involvement, including high school students who donated their time to help our athletes at their events.

To seek additional ways we can try to ensure the safety of our students, all schools are implementing a crisis intervention online program that connects schools and families to community resources. "Crisis Go" was approved by all seven boards and is currently being implemented by all schools.

As we now enter the 2020 year, the Administrative team will be meeting to update the Regional Plan, so that we can be assured that we continue programs that are successful for students. The vision for our regional schools is to be strong learning communities. We must focus on continuous improvement and creativity throughout our organization and resist the temptation to accept the status quo.

In order for us to prepare each child for what comes next, we must align vision, expectation, and practice among all stakeholders.

We thank our parents, community members, staff, and all who support our students and the programs that build our students' experiences in Region One. Our schools and Shared Services Center will continue to build partnerships among students, staff, and community.

- Dr. Pam Vogel, Superintendent

Principal - HVRHS

With the New England Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation secured, the new Leadership Team at the high school, comprised of seventeen teachers and two administrators, embarked on a new era at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. At the start of the year, the team established three goals for the school:

1. To have teachers consistently use research-based instructional strategies
2. To implement the Regional Teacher Evaluation Plan with fidelity
3. To develop a scholarly, respectful culture of learning that encourages all students to achieve at the highest level.

Consequently, we worked with a team of five evaluators, comprised of both teachers and administrators, to identify strong teaching practices in classroom observations and support and promote those across the faculty. In particular, we focused on promoting Learning Targets, a research-based strategy that involves using student-friendly language to explicitly state the skills or learning that students can expect to achieve during the class period. Over the course of the year, our evaluators observed a significant increase in not only teacher use of this strategy, but in our students' ability to explain the learning that was happening during the class period.

We also continued to refine our grading practices to promote learning over "grade-chasing" by separating academic information from behavioral information in our grades. As a faculty, we believe that the purpose of grading is to accurately communicate a student's progress toward mastery of identified standards. Therefore, we continued to refine our curriculum and assessments to challenge students to meet the most important and meaningful learning in a course, and to align the results of those assessments with our grade reporting. The goal is to provide accurate data to parents about the knowledge and skills of their students, and to divorce the grade from behaviors that may not relate to their academic achievement.

The new administrative team of Principal Ian Strever and Assistant Principal Steve Schibi introduced several programs intended to promote a scholarly culture. First, Academic Achievement Assemblies were held three times during the year to celebrate student achievement both in school and in local, civic endeavors. Second, the Honor Roll criteria were revised and strengthened to increase the rigor of this distinction, and our AP/ECE Grade Scale changed to reflect a collegiate model. Thirdly, we challenged all students to achieve at higher levels by implementing the PSAT for all students in grades 9-11, and by promoting Advanced Placement courses for all students, with no charge for taking the AP test. This policy dramatically increased the numbers of students taking the test, and we will expand this policy in the coming year to require all students in AP-labeled courses to take the exam for that course. Our long-term goal is for all students to enroll in at least one college-level course during their high school career, and we are considering additional courses that would expand these opportunities for all students.

The tragic deaths of recent graduates last year led us to investigate ways to address the whole child in our work, and current research is leading us to consider the role of social and emotional learning in developing happy and healthy graduates. Our Regional Task Force brought together representatives from all of our schools and local mental health and addiction agencies to evaluate and introduce programs that address risk-taking behavior. Throughout the year, we presented information on substance abuse, risk factors that contribute to addiction, and social and emotional learning that is necessary for students to be successful in school and in life. Our work with students indicates that this will be of increasing necessity in the future, and researchers are beginning to understand just how central these skills are to learning.

Our school worked with local business and civic leaders to consider this information in light of their own experience with recent Housatonic graduates in a project we called, "The Portrait of a Graduate." A group met several times throughout the year with the goal of developing a "portrait" of what a graduate needs to be able to know and do in this day and age. We read, viewed, and discussed current literature and media about education and shared that information with our communities to gather feedback and input into our final design. The result is a comprehensive vision of our graduates that incorporates all aspects of what it means to be a successful citizen. We will be working across the region in the years to come to introduce programming that helps to realize this vision for all students.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. Continued upkeep of recreational easements. Phil Lovett has helped where heavy machinery was required.
2. Planning and brainstorming for conservation related workshops to be announced
3. Purchase and installation of Aeroqual AQY1 air monitor at the water station on Calkinstown Rd. This is a joint venture with a sundry other NW corner towns and municipalities working together through WCCAA (Western Ct Clean Air Action) to establish a baseline of air quality before the start-up of Cricket Valley Power in Dover NY. Have also gotten CT DEEP to participate in this project going forward after their initial reluctance to spare time and money on helping us.
4. John Purdy installed a bench and small foot bridge over a streamlet on Joray Rd as part of his Eagle Scout journey. We are extremely appreciative!
5. Working with Sharon Land Trust to produce a comprehensive map for town offices to be given to people wanting to hike and explore trails in Sharon. This will be ready soon and most definitely for Spring 2020.

Paul Bacsik, Chairman

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals exists for property owners who wish to make changes to their properties which are not permitted under Zoning Codes but who feel that unusual conditions of their properties deserve special consideration. These special conditions are addressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

In 2018-'19 two property owners applied to the ZBA. The first applicant wanted to build a garage closer to the adjoining property than the Zoning Codes allowed. Although the adjoining property owner had no objection, the application was denied due to the lack of a hardship. Even though there did not seem to be a problem with the applicant's wishes, the Zoning Codes were made to suit the community as property owners and population changes.

The second application came from the Catholic Church in Cornwall Bridge. Because the church has not been able to find a full-time priest to occupy the parish house, the church wanted to sell the parish house. However, the parish house stands on a property lot smaller than the Zoning Codes allows for a single dwelling. The application was withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

William Trowbridge, Chairman

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission has two basic functions. First, it administers the Town Zoning Regulations, in accordance with Title 8 and Chapter 124 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which was adopted in Sharon in 1972. Second, it oversees the proper and desirable use of the land in accordance with the Town Zoning Regulations and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Matters that often come before the Commission include; size, use, and placement of lots, buildings and other structures; residential or commercial use of property; location, size and depth of roads and driveways, and much more. Jamie Casey, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, is appointed by the Commission and among her many responsibilities she enforces the planning and zoning regulations. Copies of the Planning and Zoning Regulations are available on-line or at the Town Hall. The Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission meets each month to proceed with agenda items and planning sessions.

Over the course of the past year, examples of matters that came before the Commission were:

- Improvement and expansion of commercial businesses;
- Construction, expansion and repair of accessory buildings and other structures;
- Ordinance pertaining to filing of maps;
- Discussion on an Ordinance pertaining to farming and certain agricultural uses;
- Matters involving Subdivisions and Re-subdivisions;

- Monitoring & Oversight for Compliance of Approved Special Exceptions;
- Clarification of preexisting uses in rural residential zones.

Jamie Casey, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Administrator, performs so many functions, with such remarkable proficiency, I am always in awe of her knowledge and expertise. Tina Pitcher, our Recording Secretary, puts the jigsaw puzzle together, keeps it all organized and makes certain that we stay on the straight and narrow path. This Commission simply could not function without Jamie and Tina's experience, dedication and commitment. I greatly appreciate the countless hours and perseverance of all the Commission members who volunteer their time and talent to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the sole purpose of maintaining the quality of life that we all enjoy coupled with the opportunity for growth and progress, all of which are essential to our Town.

Respectfully submitted,
Barclay W. Prindle, Chairman

Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission

During Fiscal 2018-2019 your Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (SIWWC) has addressed a large number of applications for activities in regulated areas. The primary responsibility of the SIWWC is to monitor the environmental impact of activities on regulated areas, suggest options and issue permits where appropriate.

Another area of consideration is the preservation of any archaeological location, historic site or structure of antiquity in cooperation with the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission.

Each of the applications received resulted in one or more field site inspections before review at the following meeting. Most were issued permits, some with modifications. Approved activities included construction or repair of dams, stream crossings including bridges, farm ponds, timbering, construction of and additions to homes, building or replacement of decks, driveways, septic systems and recommendations concerning the use of aquatic control chemicals in ponds.

As chairman of the SIWWC for the past thirty-seven years and commission member since its 1972 conception, this will be my last annual report. I thank all those fellow board members for their attention to the regulations; and particularly Jamie Casey, Sharon Land Use Administrator, who has made the recent years more efficient.

Thanks to the Sharon Board of Selectmen, I shall continue with the SIWWC serving as Board Member Emeritus enabling me to attend meetings, conduct field site inspections and submit recommendations.

Congratulations to new SIWWC Chairman James Krissell. I am pleased to pledge him my support.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward M. 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 8 new homes and 3 demolitions.

	Permits Issued	Value	Permit Fee
2018-2019	636	19,416,431	153,041
2017-2018	638	14,487,196	114,572
2016-2017	620	19,408,755	148,517
2015-2016	749	21,184,084	168,232
2014-2015	698	17,706,939	137,578

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 521 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

Road Foreman

The past year has been a busy one.

2018-19 highlights:

- Mudge Pond Road was double chip sealed to complete that road project.
- Cole Road, Drum Road, Lovers Lane, and Silver Lake Shores were ground down 8" inches, graded, compacted and treated with calcium. We are looking into new ways to improve our gravel roads and these roads were chosen due to their lengths and chronic pot-hole issues.
- We chip sealed 101,533 square yards of paved roads this past year in an effort to extend the life of these roads and protect the Town's investment in them.
- Knibloe Hill Road, Weber Road, Benton Hill Road were paved by our Town crew with assistance from the Town of Salisbury's crew. This saved taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Dead and dangerous trees continue to be removed with assistance from Town Tree Warden, Jeff Perotti; Eversource/Lewis Tree; Town Sub-Contractors.
- Our roadside mowing and brush push back projects continue. Thank you to sub-contractor Scott Garay for his on-going service on this project.
- Drainage projects remain a big focus and we thank all the sub-contractors that have been helping us along the way. We especially want to recognize Sharon Lawn & Landscaping, as they have been a huge help with this effort.

As we move forward to 2019/2020, repaving the remaining roads on our list and addressing gravel road issues top our list of priorities.

Respectively submitted,

Jamie Reid
Road Foreman

Social Service Agent

Sharon residents can benefit from and contribute to many resources. The town itself oversees the **Sharon Fund**, created by the sale in the 1940's of the town "Poor Farm." **General Assistance**, a line item in the social service budgets of most Connecticut towns, can, with occasional exceptions, be used to provide up to \$500 per year per individual or household for emergency needs. Grants go to vendors, not to individuals. This year, the Sharon Fund helped four families, and General Assistance provided help for fourteen more.

When other funds are not available, we rely on the **Sharon Community Foundation (SCF)**, a private 501-c-3 created in 2012 with the assets of the former Sharon Fuel Bank and donations

from generous townspeople and organizations. Any Sharon resident, or any agency benefiting Sharon residents, may apply. Eleven families received help this year for rent, mortgage, car insurance, nursing school tuition, and fuel. SCF also provided funds for grocery vouchers, holiday gifts and two Housatonic Youth Service Bureau internships. (The Town of Sharon contributes \$1,500 annually to this fund.)

Fuel Funds: One of the largest sources of funds for Sharon residents (along with other government programs for food, cash and medical) is CEAP, the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, essential in a state like ours that has exceedingly high energy costs. CEAP provided over \$24,000 for 34 Sharon families this past season. Operation Fuel (the “Add-a-Dollar” program on your electric bill) helped two families, and the Litchfield Hills COG Fuel Bank (formerly the NW Corner Fuel Bank -- also privately funded) helped five more. I must point out that this fuel bank was saved from insolvency by a bequest from the most generous *John Morgan*, a Sharon farmer who bequeathed his entire estate to non-profit organizations he admired.

Community Foundations: The *Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation* gives annual grants to our food closet, to the Sharon Community Foundation, and to the regional fuel bank mentioned above. The *Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*’s Jane Lloyd Fund helped two cancer patients with household expenses, their Blue Horizon medical fund paid one medical bill, and their Neighbor to Neighbor Fund helped four families. Eleven individuals got help from the *Foundation for Community Health*’s prescription drug program.

Yet More Resources and Donors: Many generous individuals bring gifts throughout the year. Saint Bernard Church religiously brings donations of food to our food closet. Families can also go to the Corner Food Pantry (aka OWL’s Kitchen) in Lakeville, and St. Thomas’s Church in Amenia Union. Seasonal gifts and food also come from other churches, Sharon banks, Sharon Healthcare, the Sharon Woman’s Club, Sunday in the Country, the Taghannuck Grange, the Sharon Country Club, and Sergeant HoHo of Troop B. And let’s hear it for our volunteer fire and ambulance personnel, visiting nurse services, Meals-on-Wheels, Geer’s Dial-a-Ride and Day Center, Women’s Support Services, the Chore Service, and the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau.

Many generous individuals bring gifts throughout the year. We could not do the work without all of you. **Thank you.**

I have greatly enjoyed my time in this office, and shall miss it. But I am delighted to welcome Miriam Jones as my successor.

--Ella Clark

Sewer & Water Commission

The Sharon Sewer and Water Commission is a volunteer Commission comprised 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, Beth Rybczyk was elected Vice Chairman and Harding Bancroft was re-elected Financial Officer. Other Commission members are Doug Hobby, Joseph Hajek, alternates Dobrila Waugh and Jake Fricker.

The Commission reviews, each month, written reports from VRI, which are kept on file at the Water 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 2019 our records show over \$98,469.73 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. Our current indebtedness is approximately \$201,126.83 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.

The major aeration project for the reservoir to eliminate the causes of toxic algae bloom is underway with new electrical service in place for the aeration compressor. The project began with treatment of the reservoir to control the algae and will progress through the spring of 2020 with the installation of a new aeration system. This project is somewhat delayed due to additional engineering required and the permitting process for wetlands. This new aeration system and additional monitoring will insure a safe supply of water even in drought condition.

SEWER SYSTEM: The Commission continues to monitor the sewer system and with the recent completion of the sewer plant 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

Steve Szalewicz

Historic District Commission

The Sharon Historic District Commission (SHDC) is a unit of Sharon's Town Government organized and operating under principles set forth in Chapter 93a, Section 7-147 of the Statutes of the State of Connecticut as well as those of the Sharon Historic District Rules and Procedures.

The SHDC represents the interests of our community in maintaining the historical and architectural integrity of the town's historic districts. Working with property owners and municipal agencies, the SHDC helps to preserve buildings and structures within the designated areas by reviewing any proposed changes that will be visible from a public way.

The Commission helps promote the preservation and responsible treatment of Sharon's significant historical and architectural resources: providing a connection to our heritage, adding to the visual richness of the town, creating economic benefits such as more stable property values, well-maintained infrastructure, stronger community identity and increased tourism.

The establishment and designation of our historic districts are an effective legal means of giving local Sharon residents control over the character and appearance of our community while still allowing growth and change.

A Property Owners Guide for the District, created by the Commission, provides information and answers to frequently asked questions for the use of District residents and local real estate agents. It is posted for the general public on the Town of Sharon website.

Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year July 2018 through June 2019, the Commission held 10 regular monthly meetings and 1 special meeting. The Commission received and processed 17 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, 5 more than the previous year.

All open vacancies have been filled and the Commission is at full membership.

Sharon Historic District Commission

Current members: John Baroody, Chairman; Elizabeth Hall, Vice Chairman,
J. Barclay Collins, Lionel Goldfrank, Steve Szalewicz.

Alternates: Scot Samuelson, Edwin A. Yowell and Théodore Coulombe.

Commission Clerk: Jamie Casey

Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee

The Veterans' Field Walking Track was completed in the spring and a ribbon cutting event was held in May. The track is just about a half mile long and is regularly used by all ages. Other recent upgrades to Veterans' Field facility in the past have been: adding electricity to the Lion's Club Pavilion, installing a new basketball court, and installing a new bathroom building.

A new playscape was installed at Sharon Beach in time for the 2019 season. Plans are in the works to level the grassy areas to prevent ponding of water after heavy rains. The Town Beach continues to provide an affordable place to swim and enjoy the summertime. Little Rascals Camp is also located there and runs from mid-June until late August.

This year the first and second grade basketball program was held at HVRHS with players from the six school region. The coach was one of the high school coaches with help from varsity basketball players. The program was well attended and will proceed in that way going forward.

For information on programs, camps, adult trips, or committee vacancies please call the office of the Recreation Director at 860-364-1400 or visit www.sharonparksandrecreation.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Christensen, Chairman

Sharon Green Committee

The Sharon Green Committee is pleased to report that the major renovation of the Sharon Green has been completed. New drainage has been installed on Upper Main Street, granite curbing is in place and the Green has been graded and hydro-seeded. The entire project was carried out by R.A.R. Excavating LLC from Torrington. The way the Green looks speaks for the job they did. They were skilled, efficient, kept a neat job site, and handled problems which arose easily. Our thanks to them.

The Committee also wants to thank the people of Sharon who voted to fund this project and supported its execution. We hope you are pleased with the result.

As always, we are grateful to Steve Wasley for his superb care of the Green.

Committee members: Betsy Hall, Linda Amerighi, Tom Casey, Eric Golden, Stephen Wasley and Marlene Woodman

Registrar of Voters

The Registrars have completed the required classwork for certification, and in October 2019 we shall sit for the final exam. When not traveling to classes and examinations, we attend meetings, at the state and regional level, held by the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut to learn how to perform our duties in more efficient ways.

Those duties include running (with a Moderator) the elections and referenda and maintaining an up-to-date list of registered voters. This list is maintained by registering new voters and conducting an annual canvass. The canvass records moves out of town, deaths and actual voter activity. If a voter fails to vote in four consecutive elections, his or her status automatically goes to "inactive" and he or she must be re-instated by one of the Registrars to be allowed to vote. At this writing, Sharon has 1662 active registered voters: 644 Democratic, 448 Republican, 560 Unaffiliated and 10 voters registered in other parties.

Registering to vote is easy and there are several ways in which to accomplish your registration: in person, by mail or online. The ROV office is open every Tuesday from 10 AM until noon, our office is located on the first floor of Town Hall. When the office is closed, official voter registration forms may be obtained from the Town Clerk or on the display rack outside of our office. These registration cards can be mailed back to Town Hall or presented in person to the Registrars or to the Town Clerk. Online registration is available through the DMV or online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>. If you call our office (860-364-5514) we will be happy to mail a registration form to you.

A registration form must include proof of the applicant's identification, generally a Connecticut driver's license or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. We urge registrants to include a phone number so that we may contact you if we have a question. A letter confirming registration will be mailed, thus we need to have a correct mailing address.

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. For local referenda U. S. citizens owning property valued at more than \$1,000.00 may vote, even if they are not a registered Sharon voter. 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.

Connecticut now allows Election Day Registration. A Connecticut resident may register to vote and then vote with a special EDR ballot on the day of the election. This year is a municipal election, which is the grassroots of democracy. We urge all Sharon residents to vote every year, and we look forward to seeing you as you register to vote or at the polls.

Registrars: Marel Rogers (D) and Barbara Coords (R)

Deputy Registrars: Jan Dudek (D) and Miriam Jones (R)

Director of 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 2018-2019: 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. We also respond to incidents of possible rabies exposure reported by residents. 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:	4	New Systems installed
	8	New Testing
	12	Replacement or Repairs to systems
	11	New reserve area testing
	1	Central Sewage connections
Subdivisions/Re-subdivision:	2	
Well Applications	20	Wells

Respectfully,

Michael A. Crespan, MPH, RS

Director

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission

The mission of the Sharon Energy and Environment commission is to study and address some of the current and anticipated challenges related to energy supply and demand in our town, to attend to environmental issues affecting the community and the ecology of the natural environment, and to educate the public concerning these matters.

Two members of the Commission retired this year, Kathleen Fuhr and Michael Tesoro. Two new members, Jan Dudek and Katy Kinsolving, joined the Commission.

The Commission worked hard to craft an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags in Sharon stores. By putting a fee on single use plastic bags as of August 2019 and banning their use in 2021, The Connecticut state legislature rendered such an ordinance unnecessary.

The Commission has been working with the town to install solar panels on the town garage roof as well as the Center School. The Commission is studying funding options for such a project. Solar panels could provide all the energy needed at the town garage, and half of that required by Sharon Center School. In addition, if properly done, a solar array could make the town more resilient in the event of a grid shut down.

Along with other towns in northwest Connecticut, Sharon is susceptible to air pollution from the new Cricket Valley power plant in Dover, New York. We have followed efforts to address the issue and endorse the installation of the air quality monitor.

We have been following the construction of the new Sharon/Salisbury transfer station. We believe that single stream recycling which is the current system will prove to be too expensive and inefficient, and we promote a system in which recycled material is sorted.

The Commission sponsored a roadside trash pick-up on April 20. It was a rainy day and few people participated.

The Commission installed a receptacle to collect redeemable bottles outside the Sharon Center School to supplement the 8th Grade's in-house collection project.

Few people made use of it and the effort has been discontinued.

The Commission is looking at ways to work with other town entities which have overlapping concerns about energy use and environmental issues.

Sharon Energy and Environment Commission

Current members: Lyn Mattoon, Chair; Sarah Coon, Secretary; Jan Dudek, Roger Liddell, Oscar Martinez, Douglas Rick, Katy Kinsolving

Sharon Housing Authority

Sharon Ridge Housing Complex consists of two sections: Sharon Ridge and Sharon Ridge Expansion.

Sharon Ridge is an eight building, thirty-two apartment housing complex located in the Sharon Valley section of Sharon, Connecticut, owned and developed by the Sharon Housing Authority. Sharon Ridge is within a few minutes from Sharon town center, Sharon Center School, Sharon Daycare and Sharon's Hotchkiss Library. The Sharon Hospital and its affiliated doctor's offices are a short distance from Sharon Ridge and easily accessible. Veterans' Field is adjacent to the Sharon Ridge Housing complex. It offers a basketball court, tennis courts, a walking track, baseball and soccer fields free for all residents to use.

Sharon Ridge opened 1992 consisting of five buildings with a total of twenty moderate income affordable apartments. There are two-one bedroom, fourteen two-bedroom and four three-bedroom units. These twenty apartments are CHFA monitored affordable housing. To qualify, you must be at or below 80% AMI for Litchfield County and rent is based on 30% of gross income.

Sharon Ridge Expansion opened 2014 providing an additional three buildings with a total of twelve apartments. Sharon Expansion has eight one-bedroom (2 handicap accessible and 5 handicap adaptable) apartments and four two-bedroom apartments. These twelve apartments are USDA Rural Development subsidized. Applicants must be at or below 80% AMI for Litchfield County and rent is based on 30% of adjustable income.

All applicants must submit an application to Connecticut Real Estate Management, PO Box 248, Southing, CT 06489. Applications can be obtained by calling Sharon Ridge Office – on-site Manager Tammy Broderick at 860-364-1371.

Sharon Ridge 2018-2019: Sharon Ridge has had several brief vacancies due to tenants leaving the area or relocating for employment reasons but has remained fully occupied the majority of the year. HVAC systems have been fully evaluated and funding is being explored for total replacement of all twenty HVAC units. Eversource has been supportive with suggestions, engineer evaluations and financial options for this project. Sharon Housing Authority Commissioners are exploring grand options/availability and partnering options.

Sharon Ridge Expansion 2018-2019: Sharon Ridge Expansion has remained fully occupied this year. Geo-thermal HVAC systems have been evaluated with five of the twelve systems to be fully replaced beginning 10/19 – 11/19. Funding sources are being explored to replace the remaining seven units.

Sharon Housing Authority invites all Sharon residents to attend the monthly SHA meeting the 3rd Tuesday each month @ 5pm Sharon Town Hall. Check Sharon Town website for info and meeting minutes.

Respectfully Submitted;
David Hosier, Chairman

Sharon Animal Control Officer

A total of 5 dogs were impounded from July 2018 through June 2019. All the dogs were redeemed by their owners.

56 complaints were investigated, including missing pets, roaming dogs, one animal bite, and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

One infraction ticket was dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$75

Donation - \$15.00

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Sohl
Sharon Animal Control

Litchfield Hills Probate District, #24

The Honorable Diane S. Blick, Judge

Litchfield Location

Kent Location

Canaan Location

Linda F. Riiska, Chief Clerk

Judge Blick – Tuesdays Mornings

Beth L. McGuire, Clerk

Dawn W. Pratt, Clerk

860-927-3729

Megan M. Williams, Asst. Clerk

Tanya M. Matulis, Asst. Clerk

860-824-7012

860-567-8065

It is with great pleasure that I report to the residents of the Litchfield Hills Probate District the activity of the Probate Court for fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and request this report be included in the Town's next published Annual Report.

<u>Type of Matter</u>	<u>2017 – 2018 FY Number of Matters</u>	<u>2018 – 2019 FY Number of Matters</u>
Fee Waivers	105	55
Decedent's Estates	1,168	1,219

Trusts	248	223
Conservators	221	201
Name Changes	18	30
Guardian of the Person & Estate	123	96
Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	150	94
Children's Matters:		
Adoptions/Termination of Parental Rights and Emancipation of a Minor/Determine Paternity	14	12
Power of Attorney Accounting Matters		5
Total probate matters handled	2,047	1,935
Passports processed	135	131

Overall, the number of probate matters handled by the Court decreased by approximately 5 1/2% compared with the number of matters handled the previous year.

The category Fee Waivers represents the number of matters which were handled by the Court for which no probate filing fee is collected due to the fact that the Petitioner is indigent.

There are decreases in the case work handled for Trusts, Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Children's Matters. In each of the Trust, Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Conservatorship categories, unless specific hearings are requested to address a current issue, those categories only require formal reviews every three years.

The Court's location in the Litchfield Town Hall is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Court's location in the North Canaan Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. I continue to be available in the Kent Town Hall on Tuesdays 9:00 am to 11:00 a.

The Court Staff joins me in extending our sincerest appreciation to the town leaders, residents and professionals who utilize the services of the Probate Court for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted, Diane S. Blick, Judge of Probate

Sharon Day Care

The Sharon Day Care Center, located at the lower campus of the Sharon Center School, is completing its 34th year of operation. It is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. The trained and state certified staff includes a director and eleven teachers covering the programs maintained throughout the year. Strong support comes from a *volunteer* eight member board, cooperative parents, school administration/personnel, and generous backing from the Town of Sharon. We are accredited by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) which our director renews every five years, a very intensive process.

Child care programs are scheduled from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and include: Infant/Toddler (8 weeks and older), Pre-School, Early/Late Care, and Summer Camp. About 45 families are served throughout the year allowing for young families to live and work in the Sharon area. Our goal is to meet the developmental needs of each child through enriching and quality experiences that enhance self-esteem while promoting success.

An integral part of our educational focus includes:

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

We have been fortunate to receive funding for our programs, child care, and facility growth via generous financial support from the community, foundations, and grants (acquired by our director). When tuition poses an issue for families financial assistance is offered. With all of the fiscal changes currently occurring in CT, a watchful eye is kept over income and funding which gets more challenging each year. . .

Families are provided with conferences, parenting programs, and newsletters to keep them enlightened of their children's progress as well as to promote learning and social growth at home. The newsletter is available on our website: sharondaycare.org thanks to a *volunteer* web site manager. Events are communicated to the community via a *volunteer* manager of Mail Chimp.

Further highlights of 2019 include:

- Facility expansion to include a section of hallway at SCS as well as a room in which work is being done to allow it to be used for child care
- Maintaining communication with other child care centers in the area and participating in collaborative programs together

- Supporting businesses in Sharon as well as making an annual donation of goods to social services for community distribution
- Use of facility for evening meetings by the Women's Support Services
- Supporting the town's long term goals for growth and stabilization
- Conducting the 34th Annual Sharon Classic Road Race the first Saturday in May under the expert and tireless direction of *volunteer* Karen Dignacco
- Hosting an annual donors' reception to show gratitude to kind and generous benefactors
- Continuation of an Annual Appeal and sundry mini fundraisers
- Supporting the Sharon Scout groups and the SCS 8th graders' efforts to provide community service

We are proud of our Sharon Day Care, *A Center for Learning & Growing*, and the Sharon community that supports us. The Town of Sharon once again granted our budget request to provide funding for 2019-2020 which will help us to embark on our 35th year.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Nickson

Sharon Day Care Board President

Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad

This year the Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance Squad lost Jack Murtagh. Jack served for 55 years in both departments – acting as past Fire Chief and past Ambulance Captain. He is sorely missed.

The Sharon Fire Department, Inc. Ambulance members responded to 376 emergency calls to Sharon Residents this year. We respond 24 hours a day and remain 100% volunteer. There are 45 members --which include State Certified EMTs, EMRs and drivers.

Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Inc. awarded the Ambulance Squad a grant in order for us to purchase a Lucas Chest Compression unit – which is a machine that automatically performs CPR.

Our current ambulance is now almost 10 years old -- and we will embark on fundraising to replace it in the coming year. Continued support is needed. The ambulance depends solely on fund raising activities, donations and memorial contributions to purchase all equipment, including the ambulance itself, and all training.

Sharon continues to remain a HeartSafe Community. We offer CPR training and we purchase and maintain AED units throughout the town. Among other places, these units are located at Sharon Center School, Sharon Town Hall, Hotchkiss Library, Sharon Country Club, Sharon Playhouse, Sharon Recreational fields, Sharon Beach and Sharon Audubon. The town generously provides a line item in the year budget so that we receive \$5,500 each year towards the batteries and maintenance of this equipment.

Please join us each month on the Second Sunday for our Pancake Breakfasts at the Sharon Firehouse!

Respectfully,

Jamie Casey

Ambulance Captain

Sharon Fire Department, Inc.

The Sharon Fire Department, Inc. is comprised of 44 adult volunteers and 10 junior volunteer members to serve the Town of Sharon. Twenty-nine of these members and two juniors are dual members serving on the Ambulance Squad as well. The Fire Department has responded to over 250 incidents during this fiscal period. In addition to Fire Emergencies, we responded to Motor Vehicle Accidents, Automatic Fire Alarms, Ambulance Assists and numerous calls involving trees with wires down and flooding emergencies. A significant number of these calls were Mutual Aide calls to neighboring towns including Cornwall, Kent, Lakeville, Amenia and Millerton.

We operate and maintain the Main Station Fire House at 36 West Main Street as well as the Ellsworth Sub-Station at 7 Dunbar Road. The cost of operating and maintaining the two fire stations as well as maintenance to all apparatus and specialized equipment makes up our operating budget.

Sharon Fire Department maintains and operates several pieces of Apparatus, each necessary depending on the call received. For calls such as fires, car accidents and Automatic alarms, Engine 5 (2017 E-One Custom), responds in the area around the Main station and Engine 6 (2000 Kenworth) responds to calls near the Ellsworth station. Calls for any type of fire have our pumper-tanker Engine 3, (1990 Ford) respond. Tower 1 (2007 American LaFrance) is a 100-foot Tower Ladder. This is used for all chimney or structure fires. Brush fires have different equipment requirements, Utility 1 (1987 GMC) and Utility 2 (1953 Dodge) are first to respond for these incidents. Calls involving Hazardous Materials or traffic incidents require response by Hazmat 1 (2006 Freightliner). Rescue 1 (1999 Ford) is utilized for calls with wires down, traffic

control or closures, cellar pump outs, motor vehicle accidents and ambulance assists. It is necessary to maintain and keep each piece in good working order, ready to respond to any emergency. Often times we are confronted with emergency repairs to keep apparatus in service.

Our Fire Department, as with all others, must meet all NFPA, National Fire Protection Association, and OSHA mandates and regulations to remain in service. Every facet of Firefighting is regulated from training and certifications, driving, fire protection gear, all equipment and apparatus maintenance and life span.

Compliance is costly! These mandates often create a financial shortfall requiring fundraising efforts.

The department had to replace our aging oil boiler system this year. We had leaks in the boiler this spring that required its replacement. The new propane boiler and new 1000-gallon underground propane tank were installed this summer for a cost of about \$30,000.00. This has been an item on our 5-year budget plan for years and had kept getting pushed off for other projects.

The Town of Sharon generously supports the Sharon Fire Department, Inc. in the annual budget. This does not, however, cover our entire operating costs for the fiscal year. To offset this shortfall, the department works hard fundraising.

The Sharon Fire Department is grateful to the Town and its citizens for their continued support and generosity. Our volunteers are proud to serve the community of Sharon 24/7 - 365 days a year. We are always in need of new members to ensure this strong commitment. Visit our website at sharonfiredept.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Hohlfeld, Treasurer
Todd Anderson, Chief
Alton Golden, President

Sharon Historical Society

Support from our community this past year has helped make possible exhibits, programming, and publications which highlight our Sharon community's diverse history and build on our many partnerships in the region. As the curtain closed on Sharon Cures; Two Centuries of Medicine in One Small Town, curated by our now retired curator, Marge Smith, our team of volunteers opened their annual Sharon in 40 Objects. The inventiveness showcased in Sharon in 40 Objects, will be followed by, Wild and Beautiful Creatures: The Life and Work of J.J. Audubon, the illuminating story of a naturalist with diverse and surprising talents. Our Trustee,

Christopher Robinson, curated the Audubon exhibit and programs in collaboration among the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, Tremaine Art Gallery, and Audubon Sharon.

Looking ahead, the staff and board are planning a permanent exhibit on Sharon's iron industry aligned with the publication of Ed Kirby's new book, *The Making of the Iron Industrial Age*. We look forward to providing more exhibits of authentic objects and the stories they tell, tours of architecture and landscapes along the Sharon Green, contemporary art shows which we connect with our historical heritage, and new programming for new and diverse audiences we have not yet reached. With continued support from the community, the staff and board will grow and sustain the Sharon Historical Society & Museum as a thriving center for research and learning that inspires historical understanding and civic pride.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Beer, Volunteer, Collections

Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association

Since 1904, generations of local families have relied on Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association's (SVNA) skilled expertise to bring health, comfort, compassion and independence at home. Whether recuperating from a short-term illness, surgery, or managing a chronic condition SVNA's professional staff provides care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

SVNA provides professional, certified home health care and hospice services. In FY 2019 our staff of nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, medical social worker and home health aides made a total of **1553** visits within Sharon. These visits are typically covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance and provided to individuals of all ages.

SVNA continues to grow and expand our services to meet the needs of our community. Our private care home assistance program (HAP) provides basic services to families when assistance is needed not covered by insurances. In our communities many elderly residents live alone without nearby children or loved ones. This private pay program can assist some of these people.

SVNA provided 2 flu clinics within the town of Sharon at local businesses and at the Town Hall on Election Day, with 87 Sharon residents receiving vaccines at our flu clinics. Anyone who is a patient receives a flu shot in their home.

SVNA also offers, with funding assistance from the Town of Sharon, the following services free of charge to residents in Sharon:

- Matter of Balance Classes – classes focus on how to maintain balance, continue moving, and exercise at any age. There are two six-week sessions scheduled each year in Sharon.

- Wellness Clinics – SVNA wellness clinics promote community health by going beyond simple health screenings and establishing a patient managed preventative care plan. Growing out of the foundation of the SVNA blood pressure clinics, services have expanded to include mobile wellness clinics that provide health education opportunities to all members of the community.
- Health Guidance Visits – SVNA’s health guidance visits are used to help residents remain safe and healthy in their homes. Visits do not require insurance, there are no income minimum levels to meet and a physician referral is not necessary. In FY 2017 SVNA provided 52 health guidance visits (52 visits) to Sharon residents.

SVNA is committed to helping our residents to remain safe, health and independent at home. Support from the Town of Sharon helps us to fulfill this commitment and we are very grateful for your support.

Nancy Deming RN BS

Executive Director

CMHA’s Northwest Center

1. Funding Sources

CMHA received funding from a variety of sources, including its own annual fund drive, employee giving campaign, private donations, town grants, fees and insurance payments, state of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the United Way of Northwest CT.

Programs and Activities

Outpatient Mental Health

CMHA’s outpatient mental health clinic services include individual, family and group psychotherapy, psychological and psychiatric evaluation, medication management, behavioral health home services, peer engagement and support, and case management. Treatments include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for children, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for adults. When people in need of treatment do not have insurance, CMHA helps them enroll in Medicaid, if eligible, and to access other benefits. CMHA also offers a sliding fee schedule.

In FY19, the outpatient mental health clinic served 492 people, and provided more than 434 clinical sessions every month and over 5,210 sessions over the course of the year.

Parenting Support Services

CMHA's Litchfield County programs receive funding from the CT Department of Children and Families (DCF) to operate countywide services for parents/caregivers of children 3-17, utilizing a menu of evidence-based therapies for families and children. All treatment uses a combination of home visitation, individual and group therapeutic sessions, and other modalities as needed. CMHA staff works with parents in their homes to provide parenting coaching for DCF-referred families with children with behavioral issues. This program features the use of evidence-based curriculums: Triple P for children ages 6-12, Triple P Teen for children ages 13-17, and Circle of Security (COS-P) for children ages birth-6.

In FY19, 107 families received in-home parenting services.

Intensive Family Preservation

This intensive in-home program designed to support families in crisis when children are at imminent risk of out of home placement by DCF. 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 FY19, 249 families received intensive, home-based support, counseling and parenting assistance.

Family Based Recovery (FBR)

FBR 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. CMHA is partnering with Yale, DCF and others on this evidence-based program, which is utilizing an innovative funding model to demonstrate and capture money saved with successful services.

In FY19, 12 families received this in-home service.

Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) (for ages 7+). CMHA's new program offers therapeutic learning and behavioral health counseling with a Licensed Professional Clinician who is certified as an Equine Specialist in Mental Health & Learning (ESMHL) by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH). Through gentle, skill-building exercises, clients are guided by the therapist in partnership with the horse in cognitive behavioral therapy in both ground and stable work. EFP is ideal for the clients who have not responded to

traditional therapy, or for those simply wanting a unique experience. The intake session takes place at CMHA's Torrington office. EFP sessions take place at Breezy Pines Farm in Harwinton.

CMHA's Torrington Clinic provided more than 9,010 hours of service to more than 860 individuals and families, with more than 728 clinical sessions every month.

These services include individual, family, and group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, and medication management.

CMHA's Torrington Clinic was funded in 1952, and is a licensed outpatient mental health clinic and family service agency with Joint Commission accreditation. CMHA also provides services in New Britain and Waterbury and surrounding communities. Visit www.cmhacc.org to learn more.

Northwest Hills Council of Governments

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the northwest corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

The COG meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. The COG's work program includes activities in three focus areas: regional planning, grant writing and administration, and regional service delivery. Activities in each of these three focus areas are summarized below. More information on these and other COG activities is available at: www.northwesthillscog.org.

Focus Area One: Regional planning activities in 2019 focused on implementing the COG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. Major strategies in the CEDS include expanding access to high speed fiber optic broadband, promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs/innovation. The COG also pursued implementation of our updated Regional Plan of Conservation and Development this year, and developed a Resiliency Vision and Toolkit for the Northwest Hills. With technical assistance from the Housatonic Valley Association, the NHCOG also continued to promote the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed to enhance access to information on the public access trails in the region. The NHCOG also coordinated the preparation of a Regional Transportation Safety Plan this year with the assistance of a consultant.

Focus Area Two: Grant writing and administration activities in 2019 focused on administering grant funds awarded for 1) a rural broadband and mobile enhancement study, 2) coordination of a regional food hub, 3) implementation of the CEDS, 4) the design of a regional animal shelter to serve the Torrington area, and 5) implementation of the Rural Independent Transportation Service. In addition the COG is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvements, and serves as the oversight agent for about \$350,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding each year for our regional area.

Focus Area Three: Regional service delivery activities in 2019 included on-going coordination of a number of popular programs such as our household hazardous waste collection days, a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, a fuel bank program, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program.

A variety of issues of regional significance were discussed at the monthly meetings of the COG this year including transportation safety planning, economic development priorities, broadband service, GIS service, the opioid epidemic, legislative priorities, cyber security, recycling and disposal of municipal solid waste, housing issues, and demographic changes in the region.

The COG also provides assistance to a number of organizations in the region including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Public Safety Task Force, Recycling Advisory Committee, and the Housatonic River Commission. In addition, the COG hosts a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

Serving as officers of the COG in FY 2018-2019 were Bruce Adams, Chairman; Leo Paul, Vice Chairman; Bob Valentine, Secretary; and Don Stein, Treasurer. COG 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lynn, AICP

Executive Director

Northwest Regional Housing Council

Providing housing options that are affordable for young adults, young families, seniors, and those who work in our towns is critically important to many Northwest Corner towns. Creating these housing options is the sole focus of the Northwest Connecticut Regional Housing Council.

We have a new website with resources for our local housing organizations and people looking for information about affordable housing in Northwest Connecticut! The site contains links to all the housing organizations in our region, frequently asked questions, photos of the affordable housing in our region and stories from employers and residents about the importance of affordable housing options in our towns. Check it out at: www.nwcthousing.org

The Council is made up of representatives from each town's local housing organization who meet quarterly to report upon and gain valuable information for their town-specific planning and housing development. At meetings, we learn from each other as we share the progress and current hurdles we are encountering in our varied town housing initiatives. Questions raised and hands-on ideas and resources cause attendees to leave the meetings with possible next steps, support, and resources.

This year Housing Council representatives went to Hartford to meet with legislators and the new Connecticut Department of Housing Commissioner to advocate for the funding resources critically needed by our local housing organizations to build affordable housing in our towns. The Council also hosted a meeting and tour of affordable housing in our region with the Commissioner. We appreciate the information offered by Jocelyn Ayer from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG), David Berto of Housing Enterprises Inc., and Lesley Higgins-Biddle from LISC at our meetings.

We thank our member towns for their financial support and NHCOG for hosting our meetings and organizing speakers. Our towns' \$100 annual dues are a cost effective investment in our area's future. For more information on the Regional Housing Council or the local housing organizations which are members, visit www.nwcthousing.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Groody Musselman, Chair

Housatonic River Commission

"to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut"

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 10 regularly scheduled monthly meetings the past year. Meetings took place at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of each month at the Cornwall Consolidated School or Cornwall Fire Department. The Commission is made up of representatives appointed by the Board of Selectmen in each of the following towns along the Housatonic River: Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon. The HRC is responsible for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain an environmentally healthy and scenic river corridor. The annual dues requested from each town remain at \$350 per year.

The work of recognizing the Housatonic River through the National Park Service's (NPS) Wild and Scenic designation continues. The NPS recently completed its evaluation of the Governor's application for Wild & Scenic designation. Next steps include review and approval from the U.S. Secretary of Interior. Meanwhile quarterly meetings of the Housatonic Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee have continued with representatives from NPS, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Northwest Hills Council of Governments. At these meetings each group provides updates on their work addressing issues in the Housatonic River Management Plan including summer River Steward Program (HVA), angler surveys (CT DEEP) and river access management in the region.

HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the Housatonic River. Years in the making, the EPA's potential Rest of River cleanup (including all of Connecticut) continues to await the approval of its next phase. We will be pushing to help ensure that the interests of towns and residents are duly represented. The current proposal calls for "monitored natural recovery" for all of Connecticut with key details to be worked out near Pittsfield, where contamination is far more severe.

As always, land use issues within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a significant concern. A growing topic this year was efforts to address invasive plant species along the waterway, with several members working to monitor and in some cases control troublesome, aggressive invasives in the inner river corridor. Monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use and derailment risk continue. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on several proposed projects along the River, and 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. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

Housatonic Youth Service Bureau

Established in 1991, the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau is a 501(c)3 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. Our licensed clinicians provide a variety of services that promote the overall health and wellbeing of children and youth, ages 3-21, and their families living in our community.

HYSB provides no-cost services to the entire Region One community. Each year, HYSB develops new programs and services to meet the unique needs of each unique community in Region One. Services like our mental health counseling, case management services, referral services, community outreach, youth empowerment programs, the HYSB Summer Internship Program, and other services are free for the youth and families in the town of Sharon. All of this is made possible through town support and through the giving of generous donors from all six towns, and beyond.

Thanks to your continued support, we're able to provide this broad range of services for free and without income restrictions; an approach that creates an open-door policy for Sharon families to find support when they need it. HYSB also reduces the burden that transportation issues may bring by having clinicians available in Sharon Center School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School throughout the school day, as services are needed.

HYSB is invested in improving youth outcomes in the town of Sharon. By removing barriers to access mental health services and offering enrichment programs that meet the changing needs of the youth in Sharon, HYSB is providing them with tools to help them become successful community members. While a number of Sharon students accessed our mental health counseling and participated in enrichment programming throughout the school year, we were very excited to have two summer interns complete their internships at Sharon non-profit organizations; the Sharon Audubon and the Sharon Playhouse. Building young people's awareness of the opportunities that exist in many local organizations in Region One, contributes to long-term community building.

All of our work would not be possible without your generous support. We remain deeply grateful to you for your continued fiscal support and look forward to working as partners to promote the overall health and well-being of Sharon's children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Laurie Collins

Executive Director

WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Women's Support Services has been a steady presence in the Northwest Corner, helping victims of domestic violence and abuse since 1981, when we were established in a single room at the Sharon Hospital and known as Women's Emergency Services. WSS continued to provide support and intervention services, and gradually began working in some of the area schools, adding a prevention focus to our work. Three years ago, we were challenged to 'dream big' by one of our donors. The impact of that dreaming, and strategizing, and planning, is described in this report. Thank you for being a partner in this process – and helping Women's Support Services continue to grow and evolve to meet the ever-changing health and safety needs of our community.

Our current *Prevention Educator and Volunteer Coordinator*, *Deanna Barry*, joined WSS in the spring of 2018. The previous Coordinator had spent several years laying the foundational work for programming in our area schools, enabling Deanna to hit the ground running, and by the close of Fall 2018, we could confidently state that she was 'in' at most of the schools in the region. *Deanna is now a regular presence throughout Region One, managing the delivery of over 230 educational sessions to children and teens.* A key development that aided this process was the complete overhaul of the volunteer program, led by *Program Manager, Virginia Gold* when she joined the agency in the spring of 2017. Not only has our programming expanded far beyond what we thought was possible, we now have faculty and administration requesting our presence and support. They clearly see WSS as a resource provider, supporter, and knowledge partner.

This past spring WSS sent Deanna to New Haven to participate in a three-day training workshop on human trafficking entitled "Not a Number", run by Love146. Deanna is now certified to provide training in this area. This is a topic that the public schools are required by state mandate to cover and the Assistant Superintendent of Region One, Lisa Carter, approached WSS to co-facilitate this training to 7th and 8th graders with the Guidance Counselors, who will be trained in the curriculum as well. This speaks to a coordinated, strategic partnership with the schools and offers WSS the opportunity to expand our work in the schools given that Deanna will be working alongside the Guidance Counselors. This could not have happened without the groundwork and extensive relationship building that has occurred, nor could it have happened if we had not implemented quality programming that provided added value to the schools, and engaged both the students and the faculty and administration.

Women's Support Services has also made a major shift in our ability to undertake outreach and training with community partners and area businesses by recruiting *Robert Kuhn*, our new *Community Educator and Outreach Coordinator*. Robert joined WSS in April 2019, and has already established himself as a presence, managing training with local EMS, Sharon Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce and other new partners. Robert also attended a training workshop in San Francisco this June on the *Coaching Boys into Men* curriculum of *Futures Without Violence*. Robert is part of the team who is delivering this curriculum to our sister domestic violence agencies in Connecticut. Equally exciting, Robert worked with WSS program staff this summer

to build upon this training and is currently delivering our inaugural *Boys + Men* curriculum to the entire incoming 9th grade class at Salisbury Boys School this fall, as well as faculty, dorm proctors, and potentially coaches as well.

Thanks to the support of the Town of Sharon, Women's Support Services has experienced a year of tremendous growth and change. We:

Provided support services to **749 clients, 486 of whom were new clients**. The composition of our new clients includes:

450 adults and 36 children

363 female, 121 male, and 2 transgender adult and youth clients.

Responded to **941 hotline crisis requests**.

Provided **emergency shelter to 35 people, for a total of 406 nights of shelter**. Due to new partnerships, WSS was able to significantly expand our ability to shelter families in crisis.

Stood by 472 victims of family violence at court.

Conducted 230 prevention workshops to children and teens in local schools, daycare programs, and camps.

Women's Support Services activities in Sharon:

- ❖ **24 Clients assisted (22 female and 2 male)**
- ❖ **28 Prevention Education programs delivered at: Sharon Center School, Sharon Day Care, and the *Little Rascals* summer camp**
- ❖ **K – 8 faculty training in gender awareness and DV101**
- ❖ **Training/Programming: Sharon Hospital, Sharon Congregational Church, Silver Lake Conference Center/United Church of Christ**
- ❖ **27 Main Street Partners**

Hotchkiss Library

Fiscal year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 was an exciting year of change for the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. We rolled out our Three-year Strategic Plan to the community during two open houses. In September Gretchen Hachmeister assumed the role of Executive Director. The staff and board are enthusiastically working together to implement the goals set out in the plan.

We strive to offer a balanced and wide array of materials for our patrons, including many *New York Times* bestsellers, the latest in literary fiction, and pertinent nonfiction, all in book, audio, or electronic formats; new movies on DVD; and popular periodicals. What we don't have in our collection we are happy to locate through interlibrary loan. Over 1000 audiobooks, over 3000 DVDs, and more than 8000 books for all ages circulated.

Imaginative programming brought in kids of all ages. The *Earth Magic* themed summer reading program celebrated the art of nature, books, and our raised bed vegetable gardens. Children read books and wrote reviews for prizes from the pirate's treasure chest. Our weekly *Once Upon a Slice* program featured stories and pizza on the lawn. Audubon paid a visit with *Radical Reptiles*. Chess Club met once a week throughout the summer. *Take Your Child to the Library Day* was well-attended. The Library sent staff members to read at Sharon Center School for *Connecticut Reads Day*. Silent movies with Joanna Seaton and Donald Sosin paid a rousing musical and visual tribute to Presidents' Day. We offered *Quangles and Zentangles*, a four-part series about wordplay and doodling. Our *Marvelous May* program was an homage to springtime. Magician Mike Bent performed with books, tricks and more. Our collaboration with Sharon Day Care continues with weekly story time for preschoolers at the Library. Teens enjoyed movie nights to see *Black Panther* and *A Quiet Place*.

We expanded our adult *Sundays at Four* series, and some programs generated so much interest we held them at Town Hall: Adam Van Doren presented his film on James Thurber; Frances Fitzgerald discussed her book *Trump and the Evangelicals*; and a large group enjoyed tasting delicious early harvest olive oils under the tutelage of expert Steve Jenkins. Back at the Library, Barbara Paul Robinson enthralled garden lovers with her presentation on *Heroes of Horticulture*; scholar and Supreme Court expert Steve Wermiel enlightened a packed Library about the issues facing our nation's highest court. The year's programming concluded with Tom Schachtman's discussion of *The Phony War*. We are the home of three monthly book groups: the Tuesday evening readers; the Sharon Women's Club's Literary Ladies; and the weekend History Book Club. Our art programs kicked off with the Second Annual Sharon Art Walk, featuring Susan Rand. Peter Steiner's paintings brought color and joy to the Library in the late spring.

The Library hosted Volunteer Day on August 11 to honor the Town's Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Squad. On an unseasonably chilly and rainy day, forty hearty souls celebrated those who offer critical emergency services to our community.

During National Library Week in April the *Friends of the Library* organized and hosted the Town Reading Jubilee, which brought together Town officials and representatives of other Sharon nonprofits, churches, and organizations to read aloud from their favorite works of literature or their own writing. It was a wonderful celebration of the diversity of community interests and the power of the written and spoken word.

Our 126-year-old building requires constant maintenance: we cleaned out our basement, upgraded thermostats, cleaned out vents, repaired the interior basement stairs, and assessed larger building needs to prepare the Library for the future. We replaced two of our computers, consolidated printing, faxing, and scanning capabilities in a new machine, and installed a new phone system for the library staff.

We applied for and received grants that support our work and special projects. The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation awarded us \$1500 for our Books for Babies Program at Sharon Hospital (The Feliciano & Lydia Turri Zaccheo Fund); and \$3500 toward a Fundraising Feasibility Study (The Edward W. Diskavich Fund). In addition, the Library's executive director participated in the Foundation's Leadership Enrichment for Advancing Professionals (LEAP). State Street Corporation awarded us a \$15,000 Community Leadership Grant to be used toward our general operating expenses. And the Rhoades Robinson Foundation provided \$5000, which partially funded technology upgrades. The Connecticut State Library granted us an extension on a construction grant until August 17, 2020.

Our two annual events were especially notable and successfully contributed to our fundraising, which accounted for 66.4% of our annual operating budget (the third highest percentage of the State's 168 libraries.) Strong summer thunderstorms threatened to derail our 22nd Annual Summer Book Signing. The skies cleared, but the power went out fifteen minutes after opening. The Sharon Volunteer Fire Department was quick to the rescue, installing two portable generators that got the lights back on and the checkout moving. Guests were unfazed and went back to buying some wonderful books by Simon Winchester, Eileen McNamara, Dar Williams, Nadine Strossen, Steve Israel, and many others.

Carolyn Roehm and Elaine Bresee opened their beautiful home, Weatherstone, for our Annual Gala on October 20, with a record crowd celebrating our 125th Anniversary in great style. They generously supported our operating expenses by bidding on wonderful auction items, a paddle raise, and a very special Jasper Johns lithograph.

We are grateful to the Town of Sharon for their increased financial contributions, including ongoing support of capital improvement projects to maintain our facility and to the people of Sharon for their generous financial support and their enthusiastic participation in our services and programming.

The work continues as the Board evaluates how best to adapt our beautiful and historic 126-year-old building to be a full-service twenty-first-century Library accessible for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Hachmeister, *Executive Director*
Robin Yuran, *Head of Library Services*

Chore Service

The Chore Service, founded in 1992, provides non-medical help at home such as cleaning, running 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 pays workers \$14.00 per hour for their time. Fundraising, grants, and town contributions make up the difference between what clients can contribute and the cost of providing services.

From July, 2018 through June, 2019, Chore Service provided services to twenty-six Sharon residents. These 26 clients received over 800 hours of help with cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to comfortably remain in their homes. Seven Chore Workers who live in Sharon earned over \$20,000 last year. Our federal grant monies that subsidizes services for those age 60 and over is always depleted before the year ends, so we are delighted that the Town of Sharon continues to contribute to these services.

Here is what a few clients had to say about Chore Service recently:

“I’m one among many to know how lucky we are to have such a caring group – many, many thanks!!”

“She is young with energy that I no longer have, as such as I used to have. Many thanks!”

“Reliable, very pleasant, intelligent!”

“She’s always pleasant, loves to clean and FUN to be with. Thank you! I really cannot express my gratitude.”

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.

Thank you!

Pat Wright, Executive Director

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station

Construction has begun at the new Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station (SSTS) site! Groundbreaking commenced in early April. It is estimated the new site will open in the late Spring or early Summer of 2020.

Contamination in the recycling stream continues to be a problem across the country. “Wish-Cycling” is a term to describe the tossing of non-recyclable items into the recycling container – wishing for them to be recycled. Wish-Cycling non-recyclable items such as Tarps, garden hoses, plastic bags, shredded paper, and even loose bottle caps are top contaminants. They tangle around sorting equipment, create a fire hazard, and contaminate the recycling of glass bottles at the recycling facility.

This year the SSTS began using the State’s universal recycling campaign “What’s IN? What’s OUT?”. The campaign was created to harmonize what is accepted in the Mixed Recycling (Single Stream Recycling) bins throughout the State, and to help contamination in the recycling. More information about “What’s IN? What’s OUT?” can be found at RecycleCT’s website: www.recyclect.com

Sadly, this year we said goodbye to “Bullet” Sherwood. We will all miss seeing Bullet in the settings where he helped residents. Whether at the SSTS, a car accident, a fire department alarm, Fall Festival, etc. Bullet was there serving the community. Thank you Bullet, rest in peace.

Town of Sharon

Budget 2018 – 2019

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

General Summary

	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
Board of Selectmen Budget	\$4,459,838	\$4,609,567
Less non-tax revenues	<u>460,407</u>	<u>504,061</u>
	\$3,999,431	\$4,105,506
Board of Education Budget	\$6,689,618	\$6,703,592
Less non-tax revenues	<u>9,960</u>	<u>9,960</u>
	\$6,679,658	\$6,693,632

The Board of Finance approved the following:

TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES, 2018-2019

\$10,805,514

GRAND LIST, OCTOBER 2017

750,070,851

MIL RATE

14.70

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Dignacco
Chairman, Board of Finance