

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: 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 @ 2PM and fourth Tuesday @ 5:30PM monthly except Feb. when the 2PM meeting will be Feb. 13 and there is no Dec. 5:30PM meeting

Board of Finance: Quarterly @ 7PM, March 19, June 18, September 17 & December 10

Planning and Zoning Commission: Second Wednesday, monthly @ 5:30PM

Inland Wetlands Commission: Second Monday, monthly @ 6:30PM except October when it will be October 15 AND November when it will be November 12

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 @ 6:30PM monthly

Conservation Commission: Third Wednesday @ 6:30PM monthly

Zoning Board of Appeals: Quarterly, Feb. 19, May 20, August 19 & Nov. 18 @ 6:30PM

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission: Alternating – Third Thursday for 6 months and Third Friday for 6 months @ 8AM – starting with Friday, January 18th except of April when it will be Thursday April 18 and no meeting in August

Board of Assessment Appeals: Feb. 20 @ 5PM, March 8 @ 6PM, March 9 @ 9AM, March 15 @ 6PM, March 16 @ 9AM and Sept. 14 @ 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 Sharon except for August and December when there is no meeting

Transfer Station Committee: January 16 Sharon Town Hall, March 20 Salisbury Town, May 15 Sharon Town Hall, Sept. 18 Salisbury Town Hall and Nov. 13 Sharon Town Hall 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

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Report of the Auditor, 2017– 2018

FRONT COVER

Representing over 155 YEARS of combined and continued service to the Sharon Fire Department, Inc.: Jack Murtagh, Betsy Hall and Stanley MacMillan Jr.: Jack served as past Chief and Ambulance Captain; Betsy, past Ambulance Captain, EMS instructor; and Stan, past Fire Chief, President and CT Fire Instructor. Jack, Betsy and Stan continue to volunteer as CT certified EMT's with Jack and Stan still fighting fires!!!

The Town of Sharon THANKS YOU!!

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

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brent M. Colley, *First Selectman*, 2019
Dale C. Jones, 2019 Jessica K. Fowler, 2019

BOARD OF FINANCE

Karen S. Dignacco, *Chairman*, 2023
Thomas H. Bartram, *V. Chairman*, 2023
Eric C. Seibold, *Secretary*, 2021
Casey T. Flanagan, 2021 Mary B. Robertson, 2019 Harding F. Bancroft, Jr. 2019

Alternate Members

Elaine A. La Roche, 2021 Robert E. Duncan, 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, 2019

TAX COLLECTOR

Donna A. Christensen, 2019

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Thomas F. Casey, Sr., *Chairman*, 2019
Susan Lynn, 2019 Brent N. Prindle, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Doug A. Cahill, *Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Kathleen Visconti, *V. Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Brian Kenny, *Secretary*, 11/05/2019
Jennifer C. Anderson, 11/05/2019 Anne M. Vance, 11/02/2021
Plamen Petkov, 11/02/2021 Deborah Rathbun, 11/05/2019

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Bob R. Whelan, 11/30/2019

Diane Blick, 01/09/2019 – 01/04/2023

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.	

Barclay W. Prindle, *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2021
Stanley MacMillan Jr., *Secretary*, 2019

Dona M. Ferry, 2019Laurance B. Rand III, 2023

Susan Lynn, 2019 Edward W. Wilbur, 2019 Larry Moskowitz, 2021

William Trowbridge, *Chairman*, 2019
Allen I. Young, *V. Chairman*, 2019
Harding F. Bancroft, 2019 Michael T. Dignacco, 2021 Alphonse J. Tortorella, 2021

Jill Drew, 2019 Zelina Blagden, 2021 Scott J. Pastre, 2019

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

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

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

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

**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF
VITAL STATISTICS**

Marlene M. Woodman

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Michael Crespan, MPH
David R. Kurish, M.D., Advisor
Tiziana Covacci, RS
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*, 2019

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John J. Barody, *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2020
J. Barclay Collins, 2019 Lionel Goldfrank III, 2022 Stephen J. Szalewicz, Jr., 2022
Alternate Members
Theo Coulombe, 2020 Scot P. Samuelson, 2019 Sarah B. Day, 2021

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

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

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

Douglas O. Hobby, 2019 Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., 2023 Joseph V. Hajek, 2022

Alternate Members

Dobrila M. Waugh, 2022

Jacob E. Fricker, 2023

SHARON HOUSING AUTHORITY

David Hosier, *Chairman*, 2019

Meg Szalewicz, *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*

Joan W. Yahn

Karen M. Bristow

Alphonse J. Tortorella

Alexis Peterson

John D. Crodelle

Mandy Thompson

Meghan Flanagan

Michele Purdy

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Paul Bacsik, *Chairman*, 2019

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

James D. Krissel, 2023

Michael Lynch, 2020

Carl Chalet, 2023

Howard M. Randall, 2021

Cicily W. Hajek, 2023

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Edward M. Kirby, *Chairman*, 2019

James D. Krissel, *V. Chairman*, 2023

Michael H. Dudek, *Secretary*, 2022

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

William Trowbridge, 11/19/2020

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

Sharon M. Tingley, 2020

Alternate Members

Scott L. Schreiber, 2023

Robin L. Zitter, 2021

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Brent M. Colley

Jessica K. Fowler, *Alternate*

NORTHWESTERN CT REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Bob Whelan
Meg Szalewicz, Alternate

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Ella L. Clark

OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

William R. Tingley, 2019
Vacant, Alternate, 2018

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

Robert E. Carberry, *Foreman*

Todd C. Anderson Mark A. Anderson, *Mechanic* Timothy J. Marks
James D. Reid Daniel V. Bottass, *Asst. Mechanic* J. Todd Smith
Stephen R. Wasley

TRANSFER STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jessica K. Fowler Patricia A. Chamberlain Anne M. Saunders

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*, 10/09/2019

Douglas W. Rick, 10/09/2020

Sarah A. Coon, Secretary, 10/09/2020

Vacancy 10/09/2020

Michael R. Tesoro, 10/09/2019

Oscar R. Martinez, 10/09/2019

Roger Liddell, 10/09/2020

ALTERNATES – BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Three Vacancies

Terms to November 19, 2019

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Brent M. Colley

Thomas H. Bartram

Robert E. Carberry

Elizabeth H. Casey

Thomas F. Casey, Sr.

Robert B. Carberry

George Holst-Grubbe

Todd C. Anderson

NORTHWEST CT TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

Vacant, January 2019

SUMMARY OF SHARON TOWN MEETINGS 2017 - 2018

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!

October 11, 2017: Approximately 19 residents gathered and voted to: approve a request from the Sharon Board of Education to expend up to \$200,000 from their portion of the Capital Non-recurring Account for the purpose of removing and replacing the school's underground fuel storage tank.

March 23, 2018: Approximately 12 residents gathered and voted to: amend or repeal various Town Ordinances and accept the Town financial report for the year ending June 30, 2017.

May 11, 2018: Approximately 55 residents gathered and voted to: adopt the annual budget and other related items for fiscal year commencing July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; approve the proposed Five-year Capital Improvement Plan; approve the allocation of up to \$36,500 from the Undesignated Fund to The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon for Capital Improvements; approve the allocation of up to \$10,000 from the Undesignated Fund to the Sharon Historical Society for completion of their lighting renovation project; and approve the authorization of the First Selectman to secure a 7 year loan through Salisbury Bank and Trust Company for the purchase of two new Freightliner Trucks.

First Selectman

The past year has been a busy one.

2017-18 highlights:

- We continued with our efforts to protect the Town's roads with chip sealing, paving, and drainage improvement projects.
- The new Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station project continues to progress and will go out to bid in Fall 2018; All committees involved- SSRRA, SSTSBC, TRAC, continue to work together to bring the project to completion.
- All three Selectmen and several Boards, Committees and residents continued reviewing existing Town Ordinances and discussing new ordinances. A Town vote on approving language edits and new ordinances is expected in fall 2018.
- We finalized our Five-year Capital Improvement Plan in May (2018-2023). Capital Improvements to the Town Hall Parking Lot, Town Green, Town Beach, Town Sidewalks, 67 Main Street, and Sharon Center School are budgeted for 2019.
- Efforts to keep residents informed and promote Town events, and businesses were boosted via Facebook accounts for the Town, the Highway Department, Parks and Recreation, and NorthwestConneCT. Also, the Town newsletter launched in 2017 has been successful and increased to a monthly report in 2018.

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) for all their hard work and dedication.

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. This year we've opened up new online communication options to keep you informed of what's going on and we plan to add more next year.

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

Town Clerk

860 documents were recorded for fiscal year 2017-2018.

80 Property transfers for fiscal year contributed \$107,132.44 in real estate Local Conveyance Tax and \$392,056.00 in State Conveyance Tax.

The office processed:

834 certified copies of Birth Certificates

617 certified copies of Death Certificates

62 certified copies of Marriage Certificates

286 Dogs were licensed

Issued 33 Marriage Licenses

The Town Clerk collected \$592,066.56 for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Highlights for the Office:

VITAL RECORDS:

The New Electronic Registry System for Birth Certificates is working smoothly. All births from 2002 have been merged into the new system. The need for paper trail is necessary so all records are required to be archived on archival paper and maintained in the vault.

Death Certificates are in the process of being done electronically. We are hoping that 2019 will bring a new electronic filing of Death Certificates.

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.

E-recording has taken off in the office and we are seeing an increase in receiving documents electronically. The Department of Revenue Services has now launched an electronic method of filing and paying Real Estate Conveyance Tax on line.

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

My assistant, Marlene Woodman continues to amaze me. Her knowledge of State procedures seems to be the staple needed in the office for gathering information. I cannot extend my gratitude enough for all that she has brought to this office. Thank you again Marlene.

Respectfully,

Linda R. Amerighi, CCMC

Sharon Center School Principal

Sharon Center School welcomed 139 students to an inviting learning environment and ended the year with 139 students. Seventeen students graduated from eighth grade and celebrated with a lovely commencement ceremony filled with school and community sponsored academic and citizenship awards.

We wished Terri Bunce (15), Judy Gafney (18), and Terri Pastre (33) well on their retirements. We wished Karen Iannucci (22) good luck on her move to Kent Center School.

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

- Kindergarten: HVRHS, Daisi-Hill Farm, Imagine Nation
- Grade 1: Daisi-Hill Farm & Kids Play, Hotchkiss Library, HVRHS
- Grade 2: Hotchkiss Library, Laurelbrook Farm, Maritime Aquarium, HVRHS, Sharon Audubon
- Grade 3: Indian Institute, Norman Rockwell, Music Mountain
- Grade 4: Grade 4 Arts Day @ Hotchkiss, Rockwell Museum
- Grade 5: Hancock Shaker Village
- Grade 6: Ropes Course, Academic Fair, Sharon Audubon, Dek Tillet T4 Studio, SMSSH and Celebration of Learning
- Grade 7: Nature's Classroom @ Wakefield, RI, and Ukulele Museum, Celebration of Learning, Redding CT Hartford Stage

- Grade 8: Washington D.C, Redding, CT, Hartford Stage
- Back-to School Bash with Illustrator, Regional Band / Chorus & Northern Regional Band / Chorus
- Sharon Drama Production of Honk Jr.
- Read Aloud Day
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Nutmeg Readers @ HVRHS with author n
- Everybody Wins, community reading buddies
- Parent Child Book Clubs
- PTO Screen Free Week
- PTO Sponsored After School Enrichment Activities
- Geography Bee
- Ski Club
- Hotchkiss Mentoring
- Chinese Culture Class
- MakerSpace
- Career Day
- Quiz Bowl
- Winter Concerts
- Spring Concerts
- Regional Track Meet for Middle School students @ HVRHS
- Field Day
- No Summer Slide in Reading and Math Kick Off with a giant Slip'n'Slide
- Walking Tours to Hotchkiss Library
- Grades 1-8 to plant on the banks of the Salmon Creek in Salisbury, CT. Special thanks to Trout Unlimited for organizing a day of outdoor learning!

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. Congratulations Band and Chorus for winning two golds at the Fantastic Festival competition in Berlin, CT.

Our coaches: Soccer: James Smith and Marina Kotchoubey, Basketball: James Conklin and Marina Kotchoubey, Baseball: James Smith and Softball: James Conklin provided amazing opportunities for our middle school students to participate in soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

We offered congratulations to our 8th grade award winners: Autumn Beeman for the 2017 Superintendent's Award. Evelyn Roy was the recipient of the coveted 2018 Sharon Cup. We were so very proud of both Autumn's and Evelyn's many accomplishments, wish them well in future endeavors, and look forward to hearing Evelyn speak at the Sharon graduation in 2022.

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, assemblies, and added Phase Two to our amazing play scape.

The Celebration of Learning as held in late June. Sixth and seventh grade students shared their projects with peers, teachers, family members, and community members.

Grade 6: Library research projects on Hidden figures-20th century figures who made contributions but were not recognized for them, ELA digital slides: civil war, civil rights, westward expansion, and WW I.

Grade 7: computer projects, ELA visual essays (minimal words, visual impact), and Science projects displaying the history of the Earth from Precambrian times to the present.

The Celebration of Learning was an opportunity for students to publically 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, Principal Sharon Center School

Superintendent of Schools

Each year, Region One has the opportunity to share the achievements of our schools with the communities through our Annual Town Report. The schools of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Housatonic Valley Regional High School are the seven districts that comprise Region One.

The work of the Region One Board, through the Lighthouse Project, shaped the district's conversations and foci. The mission that the Board developed states: *"In order for us to prepare each child for what comes next, we must align vision, expectation, and practice among all stakeholders."*

With 275 square miles that comprise Region One, as well as the different communities, each supporting a separate school, aligning the vision and practices is ongoing. We understand that each community wants their school to be both unique and exceptional. We all strive for this. At the same time, equity in opportunities for all students is essential, so we must attend to the fact that every child at every level receives instruction according to a common curriculum, so that we can help them to reach their maximum potential. Teachers and administrators meet regularly to discuss how we achieve this and further how students learn best. We continually ask ourselves if we are providing this opportunity to all of our students. If we determine that we need to make adjustments, so that the expected academic growth continues for each student, we address this and make the changes that are needed.

Leadership Teams, assembled by the principal in each school, help with the planning of professional learning, the study of student achievement data, and lead discussion of student programs. Additionally, Regional Professional Learning Communities have been formed with representation from each school, so that teams can discuss the plans and progress of programs across the region and determine if we can accomplish excellence through collaboration. A number of teachers from each school have attended state and national conferences over the past year, in order to be more informed and then to communicate their learning with colleagues. Research based instruction is what we will continue to strive for. Mrs. Lisa Carter, as Assistant Superintendent, is the leader to schools in all of areas of Teaching and Learning, which are vast and vitally important to the success of our students.

Our special education programs are comprehensive and serve children with a wide range of abilities. Every school provides special education programming; some schools have programs that are specific to students with particular disabilities, such as autism, behavioral challenges, or more significant cognitive impairment. Mrs. Martha Schwaikert, Special Education Supervisor, and Mr. Carl Gross, Pupil Services Director, supervise these areas.

This past year, we increased professional learning time for curriculum development, discussion of instruction and quality assessments, equitable grading practices, and personalized learning. These areas continue to be our focus.

Our four major goals continue to be the following:

Goal 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 (student, teacher, content). In this goal, all of the schools are working together to formulate curriculum (what we teach) that shows an alignment between what we teach, how we assess, and the Core Standards. There is to be agreement among all teachers at each grade level that this should be uniform. The teaching strategies (how we teach) are the teacher's decision, as long as the methods we use are effective for student learning. We have also devoted time for teachers to agree upon how and what we grade. We spent an increased amount of time this past year on grading practices, so that every student in Region One knows that they are being assessed fairly and that their performance is meeting proficiency.

"To improve achievement, as evidenced by multiple data sources such as local, regional, state, and national assessments" is Goal #2. This requires us to study and understand what data tell us about student growth. It is not enough to look only at a student's grades and standardized tests. We need to look at all types of data to understand if students are making the progress, such as student learning practices, which are the attitudes and behaviors that students demonstrate as they engage in day-to-day activities in the classroom. We want high academic achievement, but we also want students who show they are responsible, who work well with others, who strive to get work done on time, and who respect one another as well as the teachers and staff in their respective schools. All of the schools have reached consensus on the qualities a student should strive to exhibit.

Goal # 3 is *"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."* We continue to refine how we evaluate teachers and leaders and have spent time this past year working with teachers to discuss what types of goals will be most effective to demonstrate improved teaching and student learning. To accomplish the precision and fidelity with which we must incorporate in the evaluation process, we have dedicated a number of days to training staff members in this area.

Promoting positive social and emotional health and well-being for all students is Goal #4. All of our K-8 schools use the Botvin curriculum to help students understand what it is to be socially and emotionally healthy. Several of our schools engage in *Red Ribbon Week* and the *Start with Hello* programs designed to support well-being and a sense of inclusion for all students. Still, we believe that we need to do more to ensure that all students place as much importance on being emotionally healthy as they do on being strong academic learners. Going into the new 2018-2019 year, we are putting more emphasis on social and emotional health through community and school discussions and implementing programs to achieve this.

In the past year, these are some of the programs that have been enacted and actions that have taken place:

- *Teacher professional development in the areas of Personalized Learning, Grading Practices, Student Led Conferences, and Assessment, as well as building specific programs*
- *Increased professional development for support staff*
- *Implemented the High School Career Experience Program started*
- *Began the High School Bridges Program for alternative education students*
- *Hired four new principals in the region*
- *Negotiated six certified (teachers) and three non-certified (support staff) contracts*
- *Conducted an audit of our regional technology systems*
- *Instituted a program that recognizes "those who contribute" at all board meetings*
- *Published quarterly newsletters with news from the region and each school*
- *Organized School-Community Partnership meetings in each school*
- *Began the discussion of the "Vision of a Graduate" with all administrators*
- *Held two board retreats*
- *Worked with the officers in Troop B to identify school safety/security concerns*
- *Developed a Region One data calendar for communication at Board meetings*
- *Gained approval for a Region One Special Olympics program through CT Special Olympics*

We will continue to refine all of the aforementioned curricular programs as it takes time to achieve full, high quality implementation.

To keep our schools safe places for learning, budget and infrastructure needs have been attended to, through the oversight of each Board of Education, Building and Grounds Committees in the schools, and Mr. Sam Herrick, Regional Shared Services Business Manager. Sam assists and provides some oversight with projects throughout the region. These projects have taken place over the past year:

Lee H. Kellogg School:

Bill Beebe, long-time Head Custodian at LHK, retired in the fall of 2018. This was Bill's last summer at the helm at Kellogg School.

Summer projects completed included:

- New propane tanks for the new heating system, including buried lines to the school building
- Parking lot lines were repainted
- Playgrounds were mulched
- Exterior painting

Cornwall Consolidated Elementary School:

Summer projects completed included:

- New asphalt shingles were installed as part of a roof project over the back “U” section of the school
- New carpeting was installed in the library computer lab
- Exterior painting

Kent Center School:

Summer projects completed included:

- Interior painting in the fourth grade classrooms, main office, Principal’s office conference room, lobby, mail room, and upstairs classroom doors
- Two basement locker rooms fixed up, cleaned, and painted
- Large section of tile floor replaced in cafeteria and throughout hallways
- All classroom carpets shampooed
- Furniture assembly for classroom
- Smart Board installed in fourth grade classroom and library
- Asphalt holes in parking lot and sidewalks were patched
- Repaired and replaced many fixtures, toilet flush valve, and assorted plumbing issues
- Classroom doors re-keyed
- Two keyless entry areas for teachers installed

North Canaan Elementary School:

Summer projects completed included:

- Interior painting included hallways, bathrooms, and some classrooms
- Principal’s office re-configured to include space for a conference area
- Gym floor stripped and re-finished by maintenance staff
- Playgrounds were mulched

Salisbury Central School:

Summer projects completed included:

- Major renovation of the upper building including CAT 6 cabling, air conditioning installed in classrooms, new casework, ceilings, lighting, tiling, and paint
- Major site renovation at the lower building including masonry work, drainage, and parking lot and walkway paving

Sharon Center School:

Summer projects completed included:

- Exterior painting on the front of the building
- Security screens installed in various areas of the building
- New faucets installed in classrooms and cafeteria

- Exterior doors on the gym and stage were installed
- Lighting in the closets was upgraded to LED
- Magnetic doors were installed throughout the building (Fire code update)

HVRHS:

Summer projects completed included:

- Major science wing renovation completed
- Major locker room (ADA Project) completed
- Boiler replacement project completed
- Upgrade of 1953 HVAC units that service the kitchen, the fitness center, and the gymnasium wing
- Exterior lighting upgraded to LED
- 10,000 Gallon underground fuel tank changed to 8,000 gallon above ground tank (per state code)
- Gymnasium painted, new floor logo, and wall mats installed
- Tennis court, backstop, and track gate fence repaired
- Field goal post painted
- Maintenance garage exterior painting and wood rot repair
- New athletic storage shed
- Central office carpeting
- Duct cleaning throughout various parts of the building
- Occupancy sensors installed
- Upgrades to the heating controls
- New walkway installed from the gym to the parking
- Crack repair on tennis courts
- Asbestos abatement and painting in teachers' lounge
- Epoxy floor inside loading dock area

The total number of students who attend Region One schools remains fairly steady. Several schools saw a small increase in enrollment and several others saw a decrease. We recognize that we need to watch the trends in enrollment in our schools and be ready to make adjustments when and if a marked change in enrollment occurs. While small class sizes may provide a wonderful opportunity to deliver very personalized, individualized instruction, small class sizes can also limit the social learning that some students require. Two of our schools have instituted multi-age classrooms in order to offer more social interaction, at the same time being able to provide individualization in academic areas.

In the 2017-2018 school year, much has been accomplished and yet we still have far to go. Our continual challenge in Region One, with distance between schools and some differences in existing practices, is to make time to communicate among our staff and work together. Our highest priority is to provide the best education possible, one that ensures our youth receive their education in a safe environment and that we prepare them for a successful life in career pathways of their choosing.

In the years ahead, we understand the challenges and necessity of two-way communication with our stakeholders, sharing the good work that has been done and that which still needs to be done.

We believe that our staff holds consistent and high expectations for the success of our students. It is our goal to develop each student through promoting rich opportunities for learning, both within and out of the classroom. We will continue to ensure that our staff is supported with the knowledge and skills they need to support excellence for our students.

We thank our parents, community members, staff, and everyone who supports our students and the programs that enhance their educational experience in Region One Schools. Our schools and our Shared Services Center will continue to build more partnerships between students, parents, and staff.

Dr. Pam Vogel

Principal, HVRHS

The 2017-2018 school year was one of change at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In addition to a new bell schedule, there was a change to grading practices at all Region 1 schools that was the result of a greater emphasis on learning than on grades. At the high school, that meant that students were required to demonstrate proficiency on all major assessments in a course in order to earn credit. To that end, any grade below a C was deemed “not yet proficient,” requiring students to keep working on the assessment until they had demonstrated competency.

This also meant a shift in mindset for the entire school community. Instead of an indelible and deleterious grade that could doom a student to failure, we allowed students to work at their own pace, completing numerous drafts of papers and working with teachers to understand their learning. This “growth mindset” holds that all students can achieve, given the right amount of time and support, and the success of our students was supported by programs such as Flex Block, a 45-minute block in the middle of the day when students can book time with any teacher in the building for extra help or enrichment.

As we implemented these new practices, we made adjustments to address feedback from all stakeholders, and our newly-formed Leadership Team, a group of 15-20 teachers from across the school, has carefully designed new policies in conjunction with school administration. The Leadership Team is the decision-making body of the school, and they convene task force groups to address issues such as grading, scheduling, and communication that typically impact the

school in profound ways. At the start of the 18-19 school year, this group is revising the School Improvement Plan to provide direction for the school in years to come.

One of the greatest influences on that document is the report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or NEASC. This is the organization that oversees accreditation of all New England high schools, and many of our staff toiled extensively to prepare for their four-day visit in the spring. We are proud to say that all of the hard work paid off, and NEASC has awarded us continued accreditation. Their feedback, provided in the form of an extensive written report, will provide the framework for our growth and development over the next five to ten years, and we are already implementing many of their suggestions in our planning and operations.

Lastly, the school year ended with significant change when Jose Martinez, Principal since 2015, retired, replaced by Assistant Principal Ian Strever. Mr. Strever has been at the school since 2011 after teaching for over thirteen years as an English teacher and department head in Danbury Public Schools. Mr. Strever conducted a comprehensive search for a new assistant principal to fill his vacancy, and a committee of over a dozen members identified Steve Schibi, the Dean of Students at Lewis Mills High School to assume that role as of July 1. This administrative change reflects change but also constancy, as Mr. Strever's familiarity with the school will allow him to continue many of the initiatives already in place.

Conservation Commission

The purpose of the commission is protection of Sharon's natural resources, including water. Decisions of the Conservation Commission are advisory.

Members of the Commission: Cicily Hajek, Chair; Paul Bacsik, Vice Chair; Claudia Cayne, Secretary; James Krissel, Carl Chalet, Howard Randall and Michael Lynch

The commission focused on the recreational easements for Sharon's discontinued roads which are available for non-motorized use. During the year, members cleared and marked some of these easements. Our goal is to increase awareness and use of these resources. We agreed to focus on Smith Road, Fairchild Road and Kings Hill Road #1.

In addition, members of the commission attended meetings of the Regional Watershed group. We hope to have a program on best practices for property owners who have a stream, pond or other watershed.

We hosted a seminar on composting by Master Composter, Barbara Bettigole. It was very interesting and well attended. We hope to offer more of the same in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Cayne

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals looks at applications of property owners which would normally be denied under Zoning Codes. There may be special circumstances which prevent a property owner from complying with Codes so this property owner comes to the ZBA to explain why the configuration of his property prevents him from complying with Sharon Codes. During the past year, the ZBA voted on an application requesting the building of a garage on the side of a house on the north end of the Sharon Green where there is not space enough to comply with the setback Codes. The Board felt that using the driveway of this house, as it is, creates an awkward driving pattern for exiting to the street and building this garage with a turn-around would improve the safety in entering street traffic. The building of this garage did not seem to create a hardship for neighboring properties so the application was approved.

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:

- Construction, expansion and repair of new and accessory buildings and other structures;
- Improvement and expansion of commercial businesses;
- Matters involving the town rights of way;
- Special Exception Applications;

- Matters concerning discontinued and abandoned town roads;
- Clarification of preexisting uses in rural residential zones

Each member of the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission volunteer their time and talent for the sole purpose of serving their town. It takes long hours, loyalty and commitment to successfully complete the enormous amount of work that this Commission accomplishes each month. Jamie Casey, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Administrator, wears so many hats that it's impossible to tag her with a single job description. She is on the front line for every question, phone call, and letter putting her infinite knowledge of every aspect land use to the test each day. Tina Pitcher, our Recording Secretary, puts all the pieces together and navigates the ship. The Commission simply could not function without her knowledge and proficiency. Jamie and Tina's commitment to the Town of Sharon is immeasurable.

It is my honor to work with such exceptional individuals who are charged with the awesome responsibility of seeking just the right balance between maintaining the sanctity of an idyllic New England town while at the same time encouraging growth and opportunities. Therefore, when you stroll along the Sharon Green, or patronize a local business, or simply appreciate a picturesque view, please remember that much of what you see, do and enjoy in Sharon is the result of the long hours and hard work of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Barclay W. Prindle, Chairman

Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission

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

Included in Sharon's wetlands and watercourses are fens, marshes, swamps, vernal pools, beaver ponds, streams, lakes and ponds. Your commission has the responsibility of protecting not only those vital resources but also run off areas and forests as an important adjunct to hydrology. Rain on forests rather than fields, agricultural lands or pavement seeps into the ground becoming groundwater and a source of drinking water.

Included in the guidelines of the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (SIWWC), are areas to be regulated include any activity to be conducted within fifty feet of a wetland soil or within two hundred feet of the bank of a stream course or open body of water.

The primary responsibility of the SIWWC is to monitor the environmental impact of activities in regulated areas, and to issue permits where appropriate. The guidelines also provide the commission with the responsibility of protecting historic sites in regulated areas.

In fiscal 2017-2018 your SIWWC evaluated a large number of applications a majority of which involved maintenance or improvement of existing structures. Permits were also issued for construction of driveways, installation of septic systems, bridge replacement, pond cleaning, stabilization of stream banks and other regulated activities. In addition the commission also dealt with the use of aquatic control chemicals in ponds. For each application SIWWC teams conducted one or more field site visits.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Kirby, Chairman

Building Official/Fire Marshal

BUILDING OFFICIAL

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

Single- family construction resulted in 5 new homes and 2 demolitions.

	Permits Issued	Value	Permit Fee
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
2013-2014	672	15,908,929	119,251

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 496 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

2017-2018 roadwork highlights:

1. Keeler Road bridge was replaced and was reopened
2. 40 drainage pipes were replaced all around town with 26 of them being on Mudge Pond Road
3. 16 miles of the Towns' 2010 pavement bond where chip sealed
4. Mudge Pond Road was repaved and all culvert pipe replaced
5. We are still removing dead and dangerous trees
6. Roadside mowing is completed
7. Drainage along numerous town roads has been done

As we move forward to the 2018/2019 budget, the work will continue on the dirt roads, chip sealing will continue on and drainage will continue throughout town also Knibloe Hill and Caray Hill will be resurfaced.

Respectfully submitted, Robert E. Carberry

Road Foreman

Social Service Agent

Inequality? It's right here: **40%** of Sharon Center School students qualify for free or reduced meals. Some people in town need occasional help, and that's why this office exists.

We have three resources for funds. Two are municipal. The **Sharon Fund** (created by the sale in the 1940's of the town "Poor Farm") helped 7 families this year. Expenditures go to a variety of essential needs, and are limited to 5% of fund assets per year. Grants from this fund impose liens on property.

We, like social service agents in most Connecticut towns, can also access **General Assistance** (GA) money which, like all our funds, is used for basic needs. No liens are placed on property. GA fund helped 10 families this year.

Total GA and Sharon Fund expenditures: \$7,684.

Our third resource is the **Sharon Community Foundation** (SCF), a private 501-c-3, created in 2012 with the assets of the former Sharon Fuel Bank. Donations from generous townspeople and organizations ensure that its work continues. No liens are placed on property. Any Sharon resident, or any agency benefiting Sharon residents, may apply for up to \$500 per year. (This grant limit, with some exceptions, applies to all three of our funds.) Grants always go to vendors, not to clients. Three SCF board members oversee the grants which, like all grants, are confidential. Eleven families received help this year with rent, mortgage payment, dental needs and fuel. SCF provided grocery vouchers, two Housatonic Youth Service Bureau internships, holiday gifts and funding for transportation for the Little Rascals Science Camp. It also sponsored our third town Dental Day when generous local dentists provided free care.

Total SCF benefits to residents: \$22,610.

State Fuel Funds: One of the largest sources of funds for Sharon residents (along with 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 \$28,000 for 35 Sharon families this past season. Operation Fuel (the "Add-a-Dollar" program on your electric bill) and the Litchfield Hills COG Fuel Bank (privately funded) helped a further 6 families.

Regional Community Foundations: The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation gives annual grants to our food closet, to the Sharon Community Foundation, and to the fuel bank mentioned above – a fuel bank saved from insolvency by a donation from the estate of generous **John Morgan**. The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Jane Lloyd Fund helped 2 cancer patients with household expenses, and their Neighbor to Neighbor Fund helped 4 families.

Yet More Resources and Donors: the Foundation for Community Health's prescription drug program (13 individuals), the Corner Food Pantry (aka OWL's Kitchen) in Lakeville, and St. Thomas's Church in Amenia Union, Salisbury Bank and Trust. 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 as well as Nascar Dave's Sunday in the Country holiday meals and gifts from Sergeant HoHo of Troop B and the Sharon Country Club! The food closet benefits from our generous churches, Sharon Healthcare, the Taghannuck Grange and the Woman's Club. I apologize if I've left someone out! *All of you* make our territory kinder and more beautiful.

We hope that, in future, our Selectmen will become interested in our work, and the part played by the Sharon Community Foundation.

Thank you ALL. --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 2018) our records show over \$102,000 past due, although many of these accounts are in payment agreements and some have property liens applied to insure payment should the property be sold. It is in the best interest of all users of the Sharon Water and Sewer services to keep accounts current in order to provide for reliable cash flow for running the plants. Up to date payment of all service charges lessens as much as possible the requirement to initiate increases for all customers to provide working capital. The loan for the building of the Water Treatment facility was paid off in May of 2017. Our current indebtedness is approximately \$309,404 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 2019 with the installation of a new aeration system. This and continued 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, Chairman

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.

Annual Report

For the Fiscal Year July 2017 through June 2018, the Commission held 9 regular monthly meetings and 2 special meetings. The Commission received and acted on twelve applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. All went to public hearing and were approved.

The Commission completed creating a revised Property Owners Guide for the District. It provides information and answers to frequently asked questions for the use of District residents and local real estate agents, as well as being posted for the general public on the Town of Sharon website.

New signs designating the Sharon Historic District were approved and placed on the east and west sides of Main Street at the clock tower intersection.

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, Sarah Day and Théo Coulombe.

Commission Clerk: Jamie Casey

Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee

Fundraising for the walking track at Veterans' Field continued this past year. A family fun day was held in the fall of 2017 which included a kickball tournament, music, silent auction and chicken BBQ dinner. Our goal is to have the track completed by the end of 2018.

The summer Music on the Green series continues to be well attended. The year round adult swimming at Hotchkiss School and adult trips are also popular. Ice skating is offered at Hotchkiss Rink during January and February on Sundays at a very affordable rate, making it a fun affordable family activity.

A basketball court was installed at Sharon Beach and we expect it to be a nice addition to the facility for 'Little Rascals' campers and all beachgoers.

If you would like information, please call the office of the Recreation Director at 860-364-1400.

Sharon Green Committee

The Sharon Green Committee has been working for several years to address major problems concerning the safety and appearance of the Green. Storm water coming off of the hill across Upper Main Street has been eroding the Green, creating depressions and uneven terrain. Manholes on the Green jut several inches above the surface. Cars have been parking on the Green causing those areas to be bare and packed down. In addition, the paving of Upper Main Street has left the road edge exposed. The edge needs to be stabilized to prevent it from crumbling/scalloping.

To solve these issues, the Green Committee is proposing to upgrade the drainage along Upper Main Street, install granite curbing, and grade and re-seed the Green. The engineering plans are being finalized and the Committee expects to go to the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and a Town Meeting to get permission to proceed. Hopefully, these approvals will be in place by the end of 2018. We anticipate the work to begin in the spring of 2019, as soon as the weather permits.

Our most positive news is that Stephen Wasley has become the Greenskeeper and is doing an outstanding job. He is following in the tradition of Ken Bartram and Karl Golden, making the Green a source of pride for all of us.

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

Registrar of Voters

The Registrars are continuing with the informative and mandated Registrar Certification classes and now have only one class left before we will be certified. . We also 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 \$1000.00 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 state and federal election, and many Sharon residents have registered to vote for the first time. 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 2017-2018: 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 31 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
	6	New Testing
	19	Replacement or Repairs to systems
	14	New reserve area testing
	1	Central Sewage connections
Subdivisions/Re-subdivision:	1	
Well Applications	11	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 issues.

The Commission assessed the various heating issues at the town garage and recommended a number of remediations to save on heat loss. These expenditures will be considered by the town selectpersons.

The state ended the clean energy communities program that was promoted by the commission and which allowed local homeowners to get a major discount on an energy efficiency assessment. Home energy assessments are still available at a higher rate through energizect.com

The Commission investigated joining the Sustainable Connecticut program, but decided against membership for the time being.

The Commission promoted an energy assessment of the town hall. The expense of installing LED lighting to replace the florescent lights was found not to be cost effective.

The Commission purchased a radon detector and a Fluke heat-leak detector for public use. These items are available for check out at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.

The Commission was instrumental in involving the town of Sharon in a co-operative bidding process for electric supply. This resulted in a three-year cost saving contract.

The Commission sponsored a roadside trash pick-up on April 21.

The Commission continues to be concerned with the use of plastic bags and containers. Various local businesses have expressed an interest in these same issues. The commission is working on developing an effective way to promote the use of reusable bags and containers.

The Commission investigated the town of Kent's way of collecting redeemable cans and bottles. There seems to be no way of duplicating that effort in Sharon, but we are installing a receptacle for redeemables outside the Sharon Center School. Redeemables deposited here will supplement the 8th Grade's in-house collection project.

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; Kathleen Fuhr, Roger Liddell, Oscar Martinez, Douglas Rick, Michael Tesoro

Sharon Housing Authority

The Sharon Housing Authority is the governing body for the Sharon Ridge Housing Complex which is comprised of Sharon Ridge and the Sharon Ridge Expansion. The twenty unit Sharon Ridge opened January of 1992 and the twelve unit Sharon Ridge Expansion opened July 2014. The Sharon Ridge Housing Complex provides a total of thirty-two units of affordable housing and includes one two and three bedroom apartments available to the Northwest corner and surrounding states.

The Sharon Housing Authority currently has five volunteer commissioners who began serving in the fall of 2017 and early 2018. The current Sharon Housing Authority Commissioners share a common goal to provide safe, clean affordable housing to individuals and families. The Complex is managed by Connecticut Real Estate Management who provide an on-site manager to support Sharon Ridge and Sharon Ridge Expansion tenants. Applications for the apartments can be obtained from the on-site manager or by calling the manager's office for a mailed or electronic application. Vacancies are advertised in local newspapers and the on-site manager welcomes calls to discuss available housing options. Sharon Ridge continues to have low turnover rates among tenants although 2018 has shown a slight increase in tenants leaving the area.

Sharon Housing Authority continues its focus on maintaining a pristine living environment, the grounds, buildings and common areas are well maintained to provide tenants a positive living experience.

Sharon Ridge-2017, 2018

SHA commissioners continue to address frequent heating/cooling equipment failures at the Ridge. Mid-summer 2018 many cooling systems failed during the extreme heat, corroded supply lines to the units were found to be the problem. It was recommended to replace the supply lines on all twenty units as they would eventually fail from corrosion also. The monies to cover the large cost of the repair was not available as SHA had depleted resources in both the operating and reserve accounts paying monthly bills, making repairs to apartments, replacing water heaters and routine maintenance. Heating/cooling issues have been on-going as mentioned in the 2016-2017 report, more problems are anticipated until funding can be secured to replace the lines and a baseline can be obtained of actual heat pump performance. With the cold weather approaching it is anticipated that heating could be impacted in some apartments because of the corroded line problems, tenants do have electric heat available in all units.

SHA commissioners continue to network with contractors to resolve heating, cooling and electrical issues at the Ridge. Commissioners are working tirelessly to explore funding sources for repairs, Connecticut Housing Finance has been contacted regarding re-finance options. Grants are also being explored with no viable options to date.

Sharon Ridge Expansion, 2017-2018

All twelve apartments at the Sharon Ridge Expansion have remained occupied for 2017-2018. Geo-Thermal systems at the Expansion have required constant monitoring and maintenance to remain functioning. SHA has been working closely with David Berto @ Housing Enterprises who conducted a lengthy evaluation of the Geo-Thermal system supported by mechanical data from CPH. Mr. Berto will be applying for grants to replace the Geo system with more reliable units. Meanwhile CPH will continue to monitor or make repairs to keep the system functioning. More information will be available spring 2019.

Sharon Housing Authority continues to explore funding sources for Sharon Ridge and Sharon Ridge Expansion that will not have an impact on tenants rent.

Sharon Housing Authority invites all Sharon residents to attend SHA monthly meetings, third Tuesday each month @ 5pm Sharon Town Hall. Check Sharon Town website for further info. All new ideas and solutions welcomed.

Respectfully Submitted;

David Hosier, Chairman

Sharon Animal Control Officer

A total of 12 dogs were impounded from July 2017 through June 2018. 10 dogs were redeemed by their owners, one was adopted, and one was sent to the Little Guild of St. Francis and subsequently adopted.

80 complaints were investigated, including missing pets, roaming dogs, two animal bites, and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

No infraction tickets were dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$185.00

Donation - \$5.00

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Sohl
Sharon Animal Control

Litchfield Hills Probate District, #24

Serving Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris,

Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston and Warren

www.litchfieldprobate.org

The Honorable Diane S. Blick, Judge

Litchfield Location

Linda F. Riiska, *Chief Clerk*

Dawn W. Pratt, *Clerk*

Tanya M. Matulis, *Asst. Clerk*

860-567-8065

Kent Location

Judge Blick – Tuesdays Mornings

860-927-3729

Canaan Location

Beth L. McGuire, *Clerk*

Heath B. Prentis, *Asst. Clerk*

860-824-7012

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, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and request this report be included in the Town's next published Annual Report.

	2017 – 2018 FY	2016 – 2017 FY
<u>Type of Matter</u>	<u>Number of Matters</u>	<u>Number of Matters</u>
Fee Waivers	105	74
Decedent's Estates	1,168	1,208
Trusts	248	174
Conservators	221	228
Name Changes	18	31
Guardian of the Person & Estate	123	139
Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	150	130
Children's Matters:		
Adoptions/Termination of Parental Rights and		
Emancipation of a Minor	14	5
Total probate matters handled	2,047	1,989
Passports processed	135	125

Overall, the number of probate matters handled by the Court increased approximately 3 1/2% over the number of matters handled the previous year.

The category Fee Waivers, which indicates an increase of over 25% this fiscal year, 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 also marked increased in the case work handled for Trusts, Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Children's Matters.

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 am.

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 is completing its 33rd year of operation. With an experienced director, head teacher, and staff, diversely skilled nine member volunteer board of directors, cooperative parents, supportive school administration and personnel, and many caring townspeople, we are experiencing another year of achievement and growth. Located in the lower campus of Sharon Center School, we offer a nurturing program of child care, tuition assistance, and CT approved curriculum learning content to area families.

The SDC has served the town and area communities as a nonprofit child care center since 1985. We are currently accredited with the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). As of August 2016 we initiated an Infant and Toddler Program using funds we had saved for that purpose for many years. Our enthusiastic energetic director, Carrie Olsen, steered us through the entire process following state guidelines, thus, allowing us to achieve our long awaited goal.

With the addition of the new program we were able to serve over 30 families throughout the year along with our regular school year program (7:30 am – 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday), our After Care program for children through grade 7 (3:00 PM – 5:30 PM). Our Summer Camp Program has evolved in to a regular daily experience for the infants, toddlers, and pre-school youngsters with fun summer time activities. Our goal is to meet the developmental needs of each child through enriching and quality experiences that enhance self-esteem while promoting success.

As part of our educational focus we implement the Creative Curriculum Gold program in all of our programs which offers our children strategically planned daily activities focusing on social, emotional, physical, cognitive and creative development. We also use TS Gold, as our website explains, “As part of our educational focus our program uses ‘Creative Curriculum’. This program is based on child directed play in a comfortable setting and caring environment where experiences are unlimited.”

Content learning in the Creative Curriculum concentrates on:

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

We have been most fortunate to receive funds to foster our arts and crafts/music programs through annual donations from the Sharon Woman's Club and grants we seek and receive.

When financial need is an issue for parents, we offer a scholarship program as we are always trying to best meet the needs of our children and their families. The state of CT Child Care Assistance Program has been drastically cut. Fortunately for us, we received a generous donation for financial assistance to families in need from a donor wishing to remain anonymous. Each year we face that challenge. . .

Parents are offered conferences, programs, and newsletters to keep them enlightened of their children's progress as well as encouragement to promote learning and growth at home. Our newsletter is currently available for viewing on our web page (sharondaycare.org), thanks to our web site manager, a volunteer whose child attends SDC. We also benefit from the services of a volunteer manager of Mail Chimp, our outreach site keeping the community abreast of our activities.

Further highlights of our year include:

- With the leadership of our director, Carrie Olsen, and the cooperation of the Board of Education and SCS, we have obtained an extra room to help accommodate the special needs for our expanding programs. We are currently having the room plumbed so that we can pass necessary state health code guidelines.
- Meeting and cooperating with area day care centers in the Northwest Collaborative for keeping all of our programs current; each center enjoyed a literacy grant this year that provided extra instruction/materials.
- Supporting our community by participating in the annual holiday gift and food collection organized by Ella Clark, offering our facility for evening meeting use by the Women's Support Service, and supporting the town's long term growth goals.
- Managing a web site that will keep the community and other area day care centers current as to our programs and events. We can also be viewed on Face Book. Our web site is managed by dedicated volunteer, Meghan Flanagan.
- Conducting our 33rd Annual Sharon Classic Road Race the first Saturday in May under the direction of long time race director Karen Dignacco; we increased the number of non-profits invited to participate charging them no entry fees to sell their goods, which further extends our effort to be supportive of the community. The 2018 race proved to be a banner year for SDC.
- Hosting our annual SCRR Donors' Reception in May in order to thank our community sponsors and businesses who have been generous loyal supporters for decades
- Applying for grants to access supplies for our playground facility as per suggestions from the NAEYC

- Our director, Carrie Olsen, wrote for and received a grant that provided for winter apparel for the children from the NW CT Community Foundation.
- Continuing our traditional Annual Appeal, Catering of the Sharon Historical Society's Cocktail Party, and several small scale profit projects shown to be very popular with the community and provided for by local vendors.
- Supporting the SCS 8th graders' efforts to provide community service
- Purchasing from local businesses as often as possible to show thanks for their annual financial support.

We are very proud of our Sharon Day Care, *A Center for Learning and Growing*, and the community that supports us. The Town of Sharon was once again generous to the funding we requested for fiscal year 2018-2019. We are about to embark on our 34th year with continued hope and enthusiasm that the 'children are our future' and that we are here to encourage and guide them.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Nickson, Sharon Day Care Board Chairman

Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad

The Sharon Fire Department, Inc. Ambulance members responded to 428 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.

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 Extra Mart, 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 261 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.

In addition to responding to calls, members are required to complete monthly training exercises in order to comply with their respective certifications. The cost to outfit each member with appropriate fire protection gear is \$2700.00 with a ten-year life span to meet OSHA requirements.

We operate and maintain the Main Station Fire House on West Main as well as the Ellsworth Sub-Station on Dunbar Road. This fiscal year the roof at the Ellsworth sub-station was in need of repair. This building expense depleted our budget by \$10,000.00.

Sharon Fire Department maintains and operates several pieces of Apparatus, each necessary depending on the call received. Fire Emergencies require Pumper trucks such as Engine 3, (1990 Ford Ranger) and Engine 5 (2017 E-One Custom Rescue), both equipped for water supply. Engine 6 (2000 Kenworth) is also utilized for water supply and is housed at our Ellsworth sub-station on Dunbar Road. Tower 1 (2007 American LaFrance) can also be used for water supply and is equipped with a 100-foot Ladder. This is used for all chimney or structure fires. Brush Fires have different equipment requirements, Utility 1 (1987 GMC 3500) 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 550) is utilized for calls with wires down, traffic control or closures, cellar pump outs, motor vehicle accidents and ambulance assists.

As each piece of Apparatus has a specialized need, it is necessary to maintain and keep each piece in good working order, ready to respond to an emergency. As you might imagine by the age of some of this equipment, we are tasked each year with expenses to keep these trucks in functional working order. Apparatus can not be out of service and emergency repairs frequently need to be completed. Every Apparatus is stocked with specialized equipment specific to its use on a fire scene. For example, the cost of "The Jaws -of -Life "used in vehicle extrication costs in excess of \$20,000.00. This equipment needs to be kept current meeting all fire standards.

The cost of operating and maintaining the two fire stations as well as maintenance to all apparatus and specialized equipment accounts for a large percentage of our operating budget. Often times we are confronted with emergency repairs to keep apparatus in service.

The Town of Sharon generously supports the Sharon Fire Department in the annual budget. This does not, however, cover our operating costs for an entire fiscal year. To offset this shortfall, the department works hard Fundraising. This fiscal year, the department held a Clam Bake, A Golf Tournament and a Wine Tasting Event to raise necessary funds.

The Sharon Fire Department are 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
Brian Weinstein, President

Sharon Historical Society

It was another exciting year at the Sharon Historical Society and Museum in 2017/18 and we are happy to report that thanks to the generosity of our members, donors, and the Town of Sharon, we were able to complete the Gay Hoyt House first floor restoration, including electrical upgrade, lighting improvements, re-plastering and repainting. The end results are bright and refreshed rooms, restored to their former elegance, which provide increased space for rotating exhibits, such as our current *Sharon Cures: Two Centuries of Medicine in One Small Town*. Additionally, we can now complete the installation of our permanent exhibit of the iron industry which was integral to the development of Sharon.

This year we introduced a new lecture series- *Sharon Historical Society's History at the Hall* at Sharon's Town Hall; Our Art Gallery at SHS continues to celebrate local artists while the accompanying mini-exhibits from our collection provide historical interests; And we continued to partner with other local non-profits and businesses- The second annual Sharon Art Walk along the Green was again a successful collaborative town effort that attracted many visitors from far and wide.

Our latest book- *A Chance for Land and Fresh Air: Russian Jewish Immigrants in Sharon and Amenia 1907-1940*, written by guest curator Carol Ascher, was awarded the Connecticut League of History Organizations' Award of Merit and Carol was honored with the Northwest Connecticut Art League's Heritage Professional CultureMAX award as well.

I thank all of our members, volunteers, staff, and board members (past & present) for the amazing work you do and have done, it is because of you that we achieved our mission, and improve upon it, year after year.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent M. Colley

President

Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association

Wellness & Blood Pressure Clinics

Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association provides a monthly free Wellness Clinic at the Sharon Pharmacy. At this clinic we serve all age groups from infants through elders. The nurse provides blood pressure, heart rate, pulse oximetry, and weight measurements for the clients. Clients' medications are reviewed to ensure understanding of purpose, proper dosage and potential side effects. Referrals to Primary Care Physicians or additional community services are identified and completed with the client's permission.

Matter of Balance

SVNA provides a free Matter of Balance Class at the Sharon Town Hall. The class is offered twice a year for a 6-week session. The movement class is designed to strengthen, improve circulation, balance and create a sense of wellbeing. The goal is to keep older adults in their homes, preventing falls and hospitalization.

Health Guidance

Health Guidance visits are for patients that require some additional help in order to maintain their health and safety at home. Patients can be seen monthly or bimonthly in their home by a SVNA nurse. The services may include the following:

- Physical assessment
- Medication review
- Chronic care/disease management
- Screenings for risk of falling, depression, skin breakdown
- Education & teaching on health, nutrition and physical activity
- Home safety evaluation
- Stress management

Flu Clinic

Flu clinics are provided at the Town Hall on Voting day to maximize the ability to reach as many as possible. When we have additional vaccine available flu clinics are provided at the Sharon Pharmacy during wellness clinics.

We look forward to our continued service to the Town of Sharon.

Donna C. DiMartino, RN, MSN
Interim Director

VNA NW, Inc.

VNA Northwest, Inc. received \$350.00 in funding from the Town of Sharon for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. We used those funds to coordinate blood pressure screenings on a monthly basis at St. Bernard's on New Street. The cost of providing a nurse and equipment to travel to Sharon for the clinics is \$40.00 per visit. We performed 12 clinics over the year and the funds given allowed us to cover the cost to our agency of 8 full months, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 9th month. We continued to host the clinic for the last 3 months without funding.

The decreased funding also limited our health guidance or well health visits to patients without insurance. We were unable to perform any of those visits in your town secondary to the lack of funding.

Thank you,

Steven S. Chenail
Interim Administrator
VNA Northwest, Inc.
860-567-6000

CMHA's Northwest Center

1. Funding Sources

CMHA received funding from a variety of sources, including its own annual fund drive, 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), United Way of Northwest CT, and the Carlton D. Fyler and Jenny R. Fyler Fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

2. 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 (TFCBT) for children, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for adults, and Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP)/Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) for adults with opioid addiction. 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 FY18, the outpatient mental health clinic served 781 people, and provided more than 717 clinical sessions every month and over 8,603 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 county-wide 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 FY18, 102 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 FY18, 234 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 FY18, 22 families received this in-home service.

Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) (for ages 7+). CMHA is also pleased to announce a new program, offering 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.

Special summer rates for this program are now in effect.

3. Collaborations

CMHA collaborates with a number of area agencies, receiving and giving referrals so that clients can obtain the appropriate level of coordinated holistic care.

The following agencies are collaborators:

Acts 4 Ministries

- All About You Home Care Services
- Catholic Charities Family Service Center
- Center for Human Development (CHD)
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
- Chrysalis Center
- Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington
- Connecticut Junior Republic, Inc.
- Department of Children and Families Region 5
- EdAdvance (local Regional Education Service Center)
- Family & Children's Aid
- Family Resource Center
- Family Strides
- FAVOR-CT, Inc.
- Friends In Service to Humanity of Northwest CT, Inc. (FISH) Emergency Shelter
- Focus Center for Autism
- Homeless shelter at Winsted Y
- Litchfield County OBGYN
- Litchfield County Pediatrics in Torrington

- Markowski, M.D. Joel A. (Torrington pediatrician)
- Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism, Inc. (MCCA)
- McCall Center for Behavioral Health
- Mental Health Connecticut - Torrington
- New Opportunities, Inc.
- Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest CT YMCA
- Operation Overflow Winter Homeless Shelter – Torrington
- Prime Time House, Inc. / with The Connection
- ProHealth Physicians of Torrington, Inc.
- Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc.
- The Connection, Inc.
- Tides of Mind Counseling
- Torrington Chamber of Commerce
- Torrington – Winsted Pediatrics, Inc.
- Visiting Nurse Services of CT
- VNA Northwest, Inc.
- Wellmore Behavioral Health
- Western CT Mental Health Network,
- Winchester Emergency Shelter
- Y House - Torrington YMCA

CMHA provided more than 8,583 hours of service to more than 781 individuals and families, with more than 719 clinical sessions every month.

These services include individual, family, and group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid addiction.

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 2018 focused on preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. Major strategies in the CEDS include expanding the fiber optic network, promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs/innovation. The COG also adopted an updated Regional Plan of Conservation and Development this year, and initiated the development of a Resiliency Vision and Toolkit for the Northwest Hills. With technical assistance from the Housatonic Valley Association, the NHCOG also prepared an on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map to enhance access to information on the public access trails in the region.

Focus Area Two: Grant writing and administration activities in 2018 focused on administering grant funds awarded for 1) a rural broadband and mobile enhancement study, 2) a water/wastewater study in West Cornwall, 3) an alignment study of a section of the HouBike trail in Kent and Cornwall in cooperation with the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, 4) the completion of a low-impact development guidebook, 5) implementation of the CEDS, 6) development of a Regional Resiliency Vision and Toolkit for the region, 7) the design of a regional animal shelter to serve the Torrington area, and 8) 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 2018 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 water supply planning, 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 2017-2018 were Mark Lyon, Chairman; Bruce Adams, Vice Chairman; Leo Paul, Secretary; and Bob Valentine, 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. 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 initiatives. Questions raised and hands-on ideas and resources cause attendees to leave the meetings with possible next steps, support, and resources.

This year the Housing Council members also learned from guest speakers and presentations on topics such as down payment assistance, State funding for affordable housing, tax assessment on affordable housing properties, and new State legislation that requires towns to have an “affordable housing plan” adopted by the town. 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 NHCOCG 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.northwesthillscog.org/housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Groody Musselman, Chair

Housatonic River Commission

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 annual dues requested from each town remain at \$350 per year.

The work of recognizing the Housatonic River through the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic designation continues with the process in its final stages at the federal level. HRC and others worked with NPS personnel in preparing their final report, including canoeing stretches of the River this fall. Anticipating the forthcoming federal approval, meetings of the Housatonic Wild and Scenic Core Coordination Committee began quarterly meetings with representatives from NPS, HVA, CT DEEP, and NHCOCG. Each group providing updates on their work including summer River Steward Program (HVA), angler surveys (CT DEEP) and low impact development programs (NHCOCG) in the region.

With active participation in Citizens Coordinating Council meetings in Massachusetts and Connecticut, 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.

With sadness this winter, HRC marked the passing of Salisbury representative George Kiefer. One of the original HRC members, George served with distinction for four decades on this commission and is greatly missed.

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 town, 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 wellbeing of Sharon's children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Laurie Collins, Executive Director

WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Each year, the *National Network to End Domestic Violence* conducts a 'Domestic Violence Count'. It is a non-invasive, unduplicated count of adults and children who seek services from domestic violence agencies throughout the country during a single 24-hour period. In the count conducted last year in Connecticut, 1,041 victims were provided support by the 18 domestic violence agencies across the state in a single day. This support ranged from counseling and support groups, to legal advocacy and emergency shelter.¹ Across the board, we have seen increases in hotline calls, victim services such as counseling and court advocacy, and shelter requests.

As devastating as these statistics are, there are several positive observations to report:

Increasing awareness regarding the pervasiveness of domestic violence and a shifting attitude toward supporting survivors of domestic violence encourages more people to come forward;

Increasing prevention efforts in schools helps establish healthy behavior patterns early in life; and

Improved collaboration among service providers (healthcare, police, social services, etc.) facilitates better intervention on behalf of victims and the provision of appropriate services.

As we highlighted in our proposal to the town, Women's Support Services has focused on promoting *coordinated community response* (CCR) across our townships. We have been making significant strides in this area and the on-going support from the town has enabled WSS to:

Foster the dialogue necessary to galvanize community support against domestic violence and abuse. Over 130 businesses are participating in our *Main Street Partners* program, an initiative designed to promote awareness raising by working with businesses and agencies along the main business thoroughfares in our towns.

Strengthen our relationships with our partners. WSS has established strong partnerships with Troop 'B' and recently opened dialogue with the Resident Trooper from Troop 'L' in Kent. We have also presented at numerous venues throughout the northwest corner, and have worked with partners to launch awareness raising among the elderly, Latinx, and LGBTQIA youth communities.

Elevate our efforts to prevent violence in the first place through our primary prevention activities with young people. We are now active in nearly all elementary and middle schools in Region One, the high school, and most private schools in the broader region, as well as local daycare centers and camps.

During the past year, Women's Support Services has:

Provided support services to 684 clients, 453 of whom were new clients. The composition of our new clients includes:

425 adults and 28 children

341 female, 109 male, and 2 transgender adult and youth clients, with 1 unreported client.

Responded to 343 hotline crisis calls.

Provided emergency shelter to 7 people.

Provided criminal court advocacy and support to 452 victims of family violence.

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

Thanks to the generosity of the town and its community members, Women's Support Services is able to provide all of our services confidentially and free of charge. Thank you for your on-going support and commitment.

Hotchkiss Library

During fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon opened its doors for a wide array of interesting programs and vital services: 12,913 patrons visited. The Internet clocked a total of 464 hours. 8,896 books, 2,819 DVDs, and 1,220 audiobooks circulated.

Our children's programming featured Summer Reading with *Roots and Wings* and *Earth Magic*. Jim the Jester helped us kick off the season with a looping machine, knives and fire. Children planted, tended and weeded the vegetable beds and did nature crafts. They learned the art of butter churning with Miss Jen at the Historical Society and used herbs from the garden for flavoring. Kids read lots of books and wrote reviews for prizes from the treasure chest. On Tuesday evenings young players got their game on with chess man Jonathan Doster.

Well-attended story hours included *Once Upon a Slice*, pizza and picture books on the Library lawn, and Saturday morning *Breakfast Club*. Fall children's programs featured *Young Matisse*, *Space Cadets* and *Fantastic Fauna with Fabric*. Winter programs included *Color My World*, a collaborative program with Sharon Center School resulting in a peace mural.

During July and August, the library featured Dennis Fritz's art show, *Atmosphere of Landscape*. In September, during the Sharon Art Walk, the lively works of Danielle Mailer danced across the Library walls as we joined hands with the Historical Society and artists on the Green for a group

show. During the winter months, the Library displayed the colorful paintings of John Carter. May and June celebrated the works of Arthur Getz of *New Yorker* fame.

Adult programs introduced Eleanor Roosevelt biographer, Blanche Wiesen Cook, Sharon resident and art historian Vicky Ross, who spoke on the artistic Emmet sisters, classical guitarist Kevin Sherwin, astronomer Roger Liddell, and Joe Baxter on the Middle East.

The Friends of the Library continue to support the library staff with programming and contributed to the success of the Annual Book Signing with their community cookbook, *Sharon Cooks*. The Friends organized a highlight of the year, the first community-wide *Reading Jubilee* held on April 14, as part of National Library Week. Readers enthusiastically represented a number of community organizations and institutions, ranging from the Ambulance Squad, Christ Church, and Town Hall to the Sharon Garden Club, American Legion, and Women Support Services.

Three book groups continue to call the library home. The Sharon Women's Club Literary Ladies, the History Book Club, and the Hotchkiss Library Book Group, who sponsored Mark Scarbrough's well-received and attended Fall Reading Series on novelist Thomas Hardy.

The Library initiated a Museum Pass Program, which allows patrons to sign out free or discounted passes to the Beardsley Zoo, the Children's Museum in West Hartford, the Hillstead Museum, the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Peabody Museum of Natural History, and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Hoopla is the latest addition to the Library's offerings of downloadable digital resources. Library patrons may download four items per month from the website's large collection of audiobooks, eBooks, music, and movies. The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon is now part of the CEN fiber optic network and offers fiber-optic internet speeds on all of our wired computers, for both staff and public use.

The Library works diligently to maintain its physical plant and this year completed repairs necessitated by last year's lightning strike. Four central balcony posts were stabilized with the installation of permanent brackets and work continued on reinforcing aging library shelving. The Library continued the documentation process for the Connecticut State Library Construction Grant to fund an accessibility project.

In December *KentPresents* awarded a \$2500 grant to enhance programming promoting diversity. The *Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut* funds our *Books for Babies Program* at Sharon Hospital, which presents the family of each new baby a packet with two board books and parent materials on the importance of early literacy.

An HVHRS sophomore worked 120 hours as a Housatonic Youth Service Board summer intern during our busiest season.

Our two major annual fundraisers drew community-wide support and funded almost 80% of our operating expenses. (The Town of Sharon funds approximately 20% of our budget.) On August 4, 32 authors and illustrators, including Min Jin Lee, Chris Whipple, Allen Blagden, Joan

Osofsky, Joseph Kanon, and Jesse Eisenberg signed copies of their acclaimed works. Our Annual Used Book Sale was popular with readers of all ages on August 5 and 6. The Annual Library Gala on October 14 at the Sharon Country Club featured a special paddle raise which provided matching funds for the accessibility project grant.

Most significantly, the Board of Trustees of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon began steps toward drafting and implementing a long-range plan. They began with a November 15, 2017 meeting on Board Governance and Self-Assessment with consultant Janet Andre Block. This discussion led the board to contracting with Danosky Associates to facilitate a day-long Strategic Planning Retreat (April 21, 2018). A subcommittee continued to meet with Sharon Danosky to draft the strategic plan to guide the library's services, programming, and growth through 2021.

The Staff and Board of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon look forward to implementing the plan to provide the best possible twenty-first century library services to all the people of Sharon.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Hachmeister, Executive Director

Robin Yuran, Head of Library Services

Chore Service

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 \$12.50 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, 2017 through June, 2018, Chore Service provided services to thirty-one Sharon residents. These thirty-one families received almost 1,500 hours of help with cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to comfortably remain in their homes. Eight Chore Workers who live in Sharon earned over \$25,000 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 in Sharon had to say about Chore Service recently:

"What would I do without this outstanding, generous service??? Chore Service has provided and continues to provide a level of comfort that I am not able to do myself. Thank you."

"This is a wonderful service to the community I don't know what we would do without it."

"She has been more than satisfactory and I think of her as a friend. She brings order out of chaos quickly and pleasantly."

"You are offering such a valuable service! Office staff, workers, everyone does a great job. Thank you very much."

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

The topic of problems recycling programs has been in the news this year. China's implementation of the "National Sword" policy coupled with an importation ban on 24 different waste streams into China certainly has recyclers "on their toes". Fortunately, our Towns were in the second of a ten-year contract with the Material innovations & Recycling Authority (MIRA). However, having clean recycling is even more important than ever.

What can we do? Please try to keep the recycling free from contaminants!

One of the largest problems is plastic bags in the recycling bin. Bags placed into the recycling bin become entangled in the processing equipment causing downtime on the processing line. Fortunately, many grocery stores accept clean grocery & dry-cleaning bags...or use your own reusable bags!

Please join me in thanking the staff at the Transfer Station for their hard work. Gary Duntz, George Silvermail, Jason Wilson, "Bullet" Sherwood, Thomas Sherwood and Matt Murtagh all help to keep the materials moving, be it during the coldest days of winter or the dog days of summer. Additional thanks to Tina Pitcher, Emily Egan, and Donna Maxwell for processing and organizing all of information from the resident's User Fee Forms!

And last, but certainly not least, a big "Thank you!" to the residents and businesses who keep our towns as two of the recycling leaders within the State of Connecticut.

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station 2017-2018 Tonnages	
Garbage (MSW)	3,198.02
Single Stream Recycling	991.90
Mattress Recycling	16.95
Scrap Metal	193.83
Tires	8.2
Electronics	36.47
Leaves	125
Batteries (auto & rechargeable)	1.8
Waste Oil	1545 gallons
Paint	13.28
Textiles	24.85
Construction Demo & Wood	801.98
Total MSW Tonnage	3,618.40
Total Recycled Tons	1,404.08
Percentage Recycled	27.96%

Town of Sharon

Budget 2017 – 2018

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

General Summary

	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Board of Selectmen Budget	\$4,311,688	\$4,459,838
Less non-tax revenues	<u>481,336</u>	<u>460,407</u>
	\$3,830,352	\$3,999,431
<hr/>		
Board of Education Budget	\$6,826,597	\$6,689,618
Less non-tax revenues	<u>140,087</u>	<u>9,960</u>
	\$6,686,510	\$6,679,658

The Board of Finance approved the following:

TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES, 2017-2018

\$10,702,276

GRAND LIST, OCTOBER 2016

742,904,118

MIL RATE

14.70

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Dignacco
Chairman, Board of Finance