

SHARON *Connecticut*



Greetings!

The Board of Selectmen's Report follows up on topics we shared with you last month and things we've been working on and discussing since then. If you have a specific topic that you want to know more about, feel free to call 860-364-5789 or email me at brent_c@sharon-ct.org.

What's Happened Since Our Last Newsletter-

We've had a high temperature of 65 and a low of 10!

We're currently in the 10 to 20 degree weather phase, but that could change tomorrow. Looking to the positive, this warm, cold, warm, cold weather pattern has forced us to realize this is the new "norm" and focus on the road problems that need to be fixed... i.e. roads that turn into swamps and/or "brownie mix" when the temperatures rise and roads that become "hockey rinks" when the temperatures plummet. In next month's newsletter we will provide more details on what is currently being discussed & considered.

Town Meeting Date Set

Friday, January 31st at 6:30pm is the Town Meeting to vote on Park & Recreation's request to repair the tennis courts at Veterans' Field and the election of a new Region One Representative from Sharon.

Community Center Walk Through

Sharon Park & Recreation invited us to walk through the Community Center at 99 North Main Street to see the current condition of the building and talk about the future of the building. The video of our walk through is available via [Robinhood RadioTV](#). Thank you to Brent Prindle and Marshall Miles for providing residents the opportunity to take a "virtual tour" of the building and hear the ideas and discussions from the comforts of home.

Road Crew Work & Tree Work

In December, we consulted with other regional towns (in the tri-state region) that have gravel roads, on how to plow without gouging/destroying gravel roads with the weather

switching back and forth from cold to warm and via those discussions have created a new plow attachment based on the feedback we received. Hat tip and thank you to the Cornwall road crew for the plow, Road Foreman Jamie Reid and Mark Anderson for the welding work.

It has been our goal since 2014 to use less salt on all our town managed roads for environmental and budgetary reasons. Via employee training, new sand/salt ratios and new vehicles that control the amount of materials spread, we have been successful. Salt usage has been cut 40% since 2014, and we are trying some new procedures/materials as the winter of 2020 rolls on to cut that usage down even more. Thank you to the [Sharon Energy & Environment Commission](#) and the [Cary Institute](#) for their support and assistance in this salt reduction effort.



Please remember/consider that we have 84 miles of roads to plow (28 of them gravel) and seven guys. When driveways get plowed into town roads(see above), we are the ones circling back to clean them up. For everyone's safety we ask that homeowners and contractors keep this in mind. Thank you.

Email the road crew at: highway1@sharon-ct.org for work requests, road issues, tree issues, stolen signs, wash-outs, etc... or call direct at 860-364-5127.

For real-time information and updates on projects and road conditions, follow: [Sharon CT Public Works on Facebook](#).

Thank you Bob Whalen for your time and service to the Region One Board The Region 1 Board of Education oversees and develops the budget for three regional activities: Housatonic Valley Regional High School, shared administrative services supplied by the Central Office staff including the Superintendent and Business Office, and Pupil Services or special education and related services. Bob Whalen has served us well in his role as our representative on this board, and we deeply appreciate the time and effort he has put into it. Bob, we thank you and wish you the best.

Christmas, Hanukah, & Santa's Elves Thank you to all that helped make this past holiday season special. AB Landscaping for donating and decorating the "temporary" Christmas Tree (and also un-decorating it and taking it down and away) at the War

Memorial; Carl Chalet for providing his custom menorah and leading the lighting of the menorah; The Sharon American Legion for hosting and helping us with site prep, electricity, and audio; David Heacox and friends for providing the crèche.



Thank you to the Sharon Post Office for allowing Social Service Agent, Miriam Jones, to collect "Letters to Santa" at the Post Office and thank you to all Santa's Elves for making the wishes collected here come true.

Things To Be Aware Of-

Sharon Connect Task Force: Bringing High-Speed Internet and Cell Service to Your Home

One of the biggest complaints we hear these days is that in many areas of Sharon there is not reliable Internet or cell phone coverage. We hear you. Now you will soon be hearing from us.

Several residents have banded together to form a task force, called Sharon Connect, that is committed to exploring options and making recommendations to provide and/or improve Internet connectivity and cell service for Sharon residents. The task force will be surveying all property owners in town about their Internet and cell phone needs. Sharon Connect will use that information to make recommendations to the Selectmen about cost-effective ways to provide or improve service, including installing fiber-optic cable to every home in town.

Robust and reliable Internet and cell connections are not a luxury. They are essential for our town to thrive in many ways. To name a few:

- business growth
- increase in home values
- student access to high-quality education resources
- safety at home and on the road

Please participate in the survey, which will be posted online and also distributed door-to-door to reach those who don't have online access. The results of the survey will be an important step in making a concrete plan for how to provide and/or improve service to all residents in the most cost-effective manner.

Sharon Connect is also preparing a Fact Sheet that will list how residents are currently getting high-speed Internet and cell service, in case you are looking for immediate ways to improve slow or limited connectivity at your home. These aren't long-term solutions, but they may help some people improve their service while we work on the bigger plan. We will post the Fact Sheet on the Town website. Sharon Connect will also make it available to anyone who requests it. Please email sharonctconnect@gmail.com or call 860-364-0362 for more information or if you would like to join the task force.

From the Assessor's Office- Property Tax Credits

The filing period for property tax credits is February 1, 2020 through May 15, 2020. Applications for property tax credit are available at the Assessor's Office. Office hours are Monday, 9:00am to 12:00 Noon, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 Noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm. 860-364-0205.

To qualify, a homeowner must meet the following criteria:

- Homeowner must live in the house for which the credit is being sought and have owned the home on or before October 1, 2019.
- Homeowner must have reached the age of 65 by the end of 2019, although totally disabled homeowners are eligible regardless of age.
- Income limits are: single \$37,000 married 45,100

Proof of all income received for 2019 must be provided. If you file an Income Tax Return, a copy must be provided. If you receive Social Security benefits, a copy of your SSA 1099 must be provided.

The New Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station

The new transfer station on Route 44 in Salisbury is almost complete and should be open in May or June of 2020.

Water Bottle fill Station @ Town Hall

Thanks to the efforts of Stan MacMillan, Jamie Casey and Tina Pitcher, we have a water bottle filling station on the second floor of Town Hall. William Perotti & Sons installed it last week, and everyone at Town Hall is loving it. I mean, just look at Donna... is that a happy face or what?



Keeping the Tax Collector happy... check.

Town Garage Roof

The Town Garage's roof is due for an upgrade. With the help of the Sharon Energy & Environment Commission and their infrared thermometer we uncovered the major sources of heat loss in the building- the roof and garage doors. Bid requests were put out to local contractors last summer(only one bid came in), so we'll do so again in the next two months and hopefully get this project completed over the Summer. The secondary idea with the new roof is a solar array to a). go Green and b). provide solar power to the Town Garage, Dog Pound, and Veterans' Field.

Regional Snowshoeing/Cross-Country Trail Map

Our region has 500+ miles of trails to explore and Sharon has over 40 miles with more on the way via the efforts of Sharon Land Trust and the Conservation Commission. [Click here to view all trails](#) in our area.

Sharon Parks & Recreation

Swimming at the Hotchkiss School:

Mondays - Wednesdays - Fridays
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Ice Skating at Hotchkiss School:

Sunday's
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Promoting The Town & Town Events

In an effort to keep people informed and promote the town and its events, we've created the following social media accounts for the Town of Sharon.

[Town Website](#)

[Town Facebook page \(events/alerts\)](#)

[Town Crew Facebook page \(weather/roads/projects\)](#)

[Sharon Park & Rec Facebook page](#)

[Sharon Instagram page](#)

[NorthwestConneCT Facebook page](#)

Selectman's meetings on [Robin Hood Radio TV](#)

Popular hashtags: #SharonCt; #MudgePond; #SilverLake; #Sharon06069

Regional Events & Programs can be found at [Discover Litchfield Hills](#). This is a regional calendar that makes it easy to know what's happening every day in every Town.



Help! Volunteers Needed-

Boards/Commissions/Committees-

We REALLY need two volunteers for Sharon Housing Authority, a very important board that oversees/works with Connecticut Real Estate Management (CREM) who manages our affordable housing complex, Sharon Ridge and Sharon Ridge Expansion. It meets once a month, the third Tuesday at 5:00pm, and has some great members. Please contact our office for the requirements to serve. Other openings are available in local tourism, transportation, Parks & Rec.

If you'd like to get more active in town, [please reach out to us](#) and we'll tell you about the position you are interested in.

Also, consider coming to our monthly meetings. The Board of Selectmen meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 3 PM and the fourth Tuesday at 5:30 PM.

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