

# Welcome Spring!

From The Staff

Place  
Refrigerator  
Magnet  
HERE

at Shires Housing

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Starting NOW:** You may open your windows weather permitting.

**Starting NOW:** Avoid the mower munchies - stow toys and chairs nightly.

**April 27th** – Shires Housing Open House at Manchester Knoll - Refer a Friend!

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Shires Housing Office: 802-442-8139**

**Maintenance Requests: 802-442-8139 ext. 4**

**EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE - Call the office, if closed call pager below:**

**EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE PAGER: 802-742-6530**

**(stoves and refrigerators not included)**

## We Want Your Thoughts & Feedback!

Our mission is simple. We provide top-quality apartments at prices that fit the budgets of regular working folks. Anything we can do as a community to improve the quiet enjoyment of your home, to keep costs low, and to improve our environment to be safe and welcoming for everyone is what we want to hear from you.

### Stop by, call, write, or e-mail us!

Our Shires Housing office is located at 302A South Street.  
Mail: Shires Housing, P.O. Box 1247 • Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone: 802-442-8139 • Fax 802-442-5125  
www.shireshousing.org • info@benningtonhousing.org



# You Deserve A Great Place To Live!



# Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 2  
Spring  
2014

## You Deserve A Great Place To Live... Tell Your Friends!

### The Shires Housing Advantage:

- Renter code of conduct ensures respectful enjoyment of your housing.
- Efficient, well insulated apartments for your comfort.
- Maintenance and repair staff on call.
- Heat included.

One thing you can always count on is our mission: to provide top quality apartments that fit the budgets of working people. Shires housing is not your average landlord. We care deeply about the people who live here, and we will do everything possible to make sure your apartment is safe, well maintained, and a place you can be proud to call your home, at a rent you can afford.

Do you have a friend or a relative who wishes they had a nicer place to live? A more affordable place to live? You should let them know about Shires Housing – and have them tell us that you referred them!

If you refer a friend or relative, and they end up signing a lease with us, we'd like to thank you by giving you \$100 off your next month's rent.\* There is no limit to the number of friends and relatives you can refer, so feel free to earn as many referral fees as you can!

Here are a few of the reasons you should tell people they should consider Shires Housing:

### Very Affordable Rents.

Our two bedroom apartments can start as low as \$700 per month! That includes heat, hot water, trash removal, snow plowing, and lawn maintenance.

### Top Quality Apartments.

We are very proud of the quality of our apartments. They are clean, well insulated and

comfortable. We check every apartment every year and will fix or replace any problems. All normal wear and tear maintenance is done at NO COST to renters. For other repairs, we have below-market rates for many common repairs.

**Refer a Friend  
to Shires Housing  
and get  
\$100 OFF  
Your Next  
Month's Rent!\***

### Quiet Enjoyment of Your Housing.

Home is your place to relax, recharge, and renew. Our tenant handbook has always included codes of conduct that are designed to ensure that you get the maximum enjoy-

ment out of your housing. Our new handbook (due out later this summer) includes the change of our name to Shires Housing, but it also gives special emphasis to that same code of conduct that ensures you of having peace and quiet at home when you want it.

### Open House – April 27th in Manchester

So if you have a friend or family member that would love an awesome apartment, let them know about our Open House that is happening on April 27th in Manchester, at Manchester Knoll (just off Richville Rd). The Open House is from noon until 2 p.m. and there will be door prizes and light refreshments offered. Remember, you can refer a friend and take \$100 off your next month's rent!\*

\*Available after your referral results in a signed lease with Shires Housing.

Welcome  
Spring!

## Inside:

To Grow or  
Not to Grow?

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Certification

What is SASH?

Is Fungus  
Among Us?

Pipe Dreams

### PLUS:

Time to open windows,  
Get ready for BBQ!  
Summer Reminders  
Avoid Mower Munchies  
Keep Off The Grass



## To Grow, or Not To Grow?

As you know, residents are not currently allowed to have vegetable gardens. Well, actually the rule is specifically “no digging” but clearly, if we can’t dig, we can’t have gardens! The no digging rule is primarily a safety issue – no holes for people to trip over. But what about people who love to garden?

First of all, if you have a green thumb, you can still garden in pots and containers. Container gardening can be a lot of fun and very productive. Just remember that they need to be neatly arranged in your area and not be blocking any walkways or sidewalks.

Do remember that hoses are also not allowed, so plan on getting a sturdy waterer to keep your plants happy. You can also look for pots and containers designed for gardening that have built in water reservoirs.

Need more room? The Morgan Spring Community Garden is located at the Bennington Recreation Center. Plots are 120 sq. ft. and cost only \$20 per season, plus four hours of volunteer work over the course of the summer.

Compost is made on site for your use. A water faucet and hose is available. You need your own tools and gloves!

For more information, contact Tara at 442-2553 or email [ericandtara@myfairpoint.net](mailto:ericandtara@myfairpoint.net)

## Clotheslines & Tag Sales

Just a friendly reminder that due to zoning ordinances, we are not allowed to use clotheslines. We also are not allowed to have Tag Sales. Good thing there is eBay!

## Crossing T's and Dotting I's

### The unsung hero's behind your low rent

It is no secret that the best apartments at the lowest rates are at Shires Housing. How do we do it?

In a nutshell, it is because the office team at Shires Housing spends thousands of hours working with the State government, banks and donors to arrange low cost loans for us to be able to offer top quality apartments at rents that fit your budget.

The idea is that regular working folks deserve a great place to live. So in order to keep our rents low, we have to show our lenders, donors,

**The Shires Housing Office works year-round to keep your rent as low as it can be.**

**Your Income Certification is the key!**

and the state, that the folks we serve are the ones that we are supposed to be serving. That means that we do have to have you fill out your annual Income Certification. This is something they are particularly insistent on, and they really hold our feet to the fire to make sure we are in compliance.

So help us keep your rents low by sending back your Income Certification as soon as you receive it! If you have any questions, or if you need any



## SASH: Support And Services at Home

As you know, Shires Housing is much more than a regular landlord. Shires Housing is a nonprofit community housing organization and part of our mission is to help improve our community. Over the years, Shires Housing's work has helped improve Bennington County in many ways. Part of Shires Housing's mission is to ensure that low and moderate income families and elders have safe and healthy lives.

Shires Housing is part of a statewide program called SASH – Support And Services at Home. The purpose of SASH is to help elderly residents of public housing and housing run by nonprofit organizations to live healthier lives as they get older, and to stay in their homes for as long as possible.

SASH started in January, 2012, at Cora B. Whitney Senior Apartments, as well as

**Elderly Residents: Live Healthier At Home Longer!**

at the Brookside and Walloom-sac apartments, which are run by the Bennington Housing Authority. Now, SASH is expanding into the Manchester and Arlington communities. As a resident of a Shires Housing building, you may be eligible to participate in this voluntary program.

If you are already receiving assistance from the Southwest Vermont Council on Aging, or a home health organization such as Manchester Health Services, nothing will change, except that you will now be considered a SASH participant. Staff of SVCOA and MHS are partners in SASH and are in regular communication with SASH staff.

If you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to call Susan Cottrell at (802)768-8729, or e-mail her at [susan.cottrell@benningtonhousing.org](mailto:susan.cottrell@benningtonhousing.org).

## Is Fungus Among Us?

Mold is a type of fungus that we can all live without. Molds thrive in warm and humid conditions, but you can find them year-round in virtually every type of environment, both indoors and outdoors. Indoors you will find them in basements, showers, and in other areas where humidity levels are high. It's worth noting that you can use the terms “mold” and “mildew” interchangeably, although mildew is often applied to growth of fungi on fabrics, window sills or bathroom tiles.

Mold can also be found growing along walls where warm moist air condenses on cooler wall surfaces, such as inside cold exterior walls, behind dressers, headboards, and in closets where articles are stored against walls. Rooms with both high water usage and humidity, such as bathrooms and kitchens, laundry rooms, and basements are often havens for mold. If you notice mold, it is time to take action to control its growth!

**Mold is part of the fungus family...  
...but need NOT be part of YOUR family!**

### Cleaning Up Mold

Start by scrubbing all affected hard surfaces. First with a mild detergent solution such as laundry detergent and warm water. Then use a solution of 1/4 cup bleach to one quart of water to clean the area. Wait twenty minutes and repeat. Wait another twenty minutes. Last, apply a borate-based detergent solution and do not rinse. This will help prevent mold from growing again. To find a borate-based detergent, read the ingredients on the package label for borates. When everything is dry, give the entire area a good cleaning and vacuum the floors.

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### Controlling Mold

You can control the growth of mold in three ways. First, try to increase air circulation within your home. Move large objects away from the inside of exterior walls just a few inches to provide good air circulation. Second, always use the exhaust fans in the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry rooms. And finally, vacuum and clean your home regularly.



## Pipe Dreams

### How flushable are flushable wipes?

Wet wipes might make your tush feel cleaner, but they can really make a mess of your plumbing. Though the manufacturers of the wipes all say they are flushable and make claims such as “sewer and septic safe” and “breaks up after flushing,” don't ditch the toilet paper. According to ShopSmart.org, in their disintegration test, using a stand mixer filled with water and a clean wipe – it took at least 10 minutes at the slowest speed to break each of the four

**Unless you LIKE using a plunger...**

**Avoid flushing wipes!**

brands of wipes tested into small pieces, which is more churning than waste pipes provide. When they let the wipes sit in water overnight, it was a different story. Cottenelle and Scott easily disintegrated. Charmin and Equate didn't break down.

Our advice: don't flush wipes. Throw them in a lined wastebasket. And if they DO end up in the toilet, be prepared to use a plunger to get things going again!

## Ahhh.... FRESH AIR!

To save energy, we ask everyone to keep their windows closed during the winter months. Now that spring has arrived, you can fling open those windows and enjoy the fresh air!

Simply make sure to place your storm windows UP, and put the screens DOWN. That way you can enjoy the fresh air without the bugs. Speaking of screens, as things heat up later in the summer, be sure to REMOVE screens before installing any AC units.

## BBQ Season: Let the Grilling Begin!

One of the best parts of summer life is eating fresh food grilled over an open flame!

Just remember that all BBQ's and/or grills must be in the back yard. Also, the Fire Marshal requires that your BBQ/Grill must be at least 10' away from the building. Good common sense; we don't want your grilled burger to set the neighborhood on fire!

## Avoid Mower Munchies!

Your free lawn mowing services will begin again very soon. Remember to make sure all toys, chairs, and other items are safely stowed away each night. Otherwise they may end up being munched by the mower!

## Save the Grass!

This might seem obvious, but just in case, we want to remind everyone to park only in designated areas, and help keep our grass beautiful.