

# Thank You Summer!

From The Staff

Place  
Refrigerator  
Magnet  
HERE

at Shires Housing

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Shires Housing Office: 802-442-8139

MAINTENANCE DURING BUSINESS HOURS - 802-442-8139 ext. 0

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE ONLY - 1-844-256-4706

(stoves, refrigerators, and cable hookups are not considered emergencies)



## Clean Laundry

Please keep the laundry areas clean! After you dry your clothes, clean the lint out of the vent. This will allow for quicker, more thorough drying the next time the machine is used. A full lint vent can also be a fire hazard!

Use the garbage cans for empty detergent bottles, old fabric sheets, and all that lint pulled from the vent.

The laundry is available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you put a load in the dryer after 7:00 pm it won't be dry before 8:00, so stay aware of the time.

## 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. 4, No. 2  
Summer 2017

## Inside:

Netflix vs. Cable

Summer Recipe

Kids Safety

Maintenance

### PLUS:

Recycling  
Grilling  
Bike Racks  
Laundry Reminders

**Refer a Friend**  
to Shires Housing  
and get  
**\$100.00 OFF**  
Your Next Month's  
Rent!\*

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

## Tick Tock It's Tick Season!

It's that time of year - TICKS! This year, across New England, unusually high numbers of ticks have been reported. Researchers believe this has to do with the large amount of rain fall and short dry periods in between. These tiny blood suckers are linked with Lyme Disease and a number of other illnesses, and are bad news for two and four-legged family members alike.

So, what does this mean for you? For starters, it means that if you're going outside you need to be prepared. Wear long pants when hiking or spending time outdoors in areas with long grass. It's harder for them if they have to fight through denim to get to you. Any time you are outside, use bug repellent. Repellent will keep ticks and other insects away. (Deep Woods OFF is really good.) And do a thorough check of yourself and your children afterwards, they will hitchhike anywhere they can.

Because the ticks are so small, sometimes the way to notice them is by your body's reaction to the bite... a red itchy area for example. If you see one, look carefully for a tiny black dot in the center that could be a baby tick called a nymph.

Keep in mind that a tick needs to be attached to you for 24 hours before it can transmit Lyme disease. Removing a tick right after it bites you should prevent any



The deer tick is very small. An adult is shown here next to a dime for scale. The nymph stage is much smaller, not much bigger than a dot.

risk of infection from Lyme disease. Best way to remove ticks is using a scooper or twist style tick remover. If you use a tweezer, grasp the tick by the head and try to avoid squeezing the body of the tick in the process.

Also, during your checks, make it a habit to watch for a bullseye. This refers to a skin rash caused by the tick bites, a ring of red surrounded by a line of almost normal skin tone and surrounded again by another ring of red. This is an early sign of Lyme Disease! If caught early the effects can be minor. If left alone, or missed, the results can be deadly. So if you see a bullseye, call your doctor immediately!

Don't take any chances - protect yourself and your loved ones.

## None Shall Pass! ...why is my repair delayed?

When calling in a maintenance request, please let us know if it's okay for us to enter your unit if you're not home. Giving us this permission may speed up the maintenance personnel's visit.

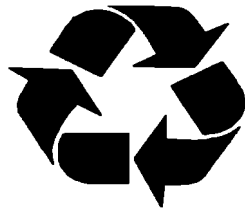
If we don't have this verbal "okay", we have to send our "Intent to Enter" letter, which delays our staff from coming due to the Post Office delivering that letter. So

**Get help faster by giving us permission to enter!**

please, when calling to notify us of a needed repair, please let us know that we have your permission to enter.

We respect your privacy so make sure to give us permission to enter.

The office maintenance line - option#4 - is no longer in service. Please call the main office directly to report any maintenance concerns. **802- 442-8139 ext. 0**



## Recycle Do's and Do Not's

Do breakdown all boxes and packages that can be broken down. This will allow more room for more recycling!

Don't throw regular garbage in with the recycling. How is that going to help our planet?

Do pick up anything that falls on the ground.

Don't put anything in the dumpster that doesn't belong; like mattresses, furniture, computers, or hazardous waste.

## It's Grilling Time!

Shires Housing would like to remind all Grill Masters that charcoal grills are NOT allowed. All gas grills should be at least 10 feet away from any buildings when in use. So pull them out from under the awnings and fire them up!

## Bike Racks

Please lock your bikes and keep them in the racks. Shires Housing is not responsible for lost or stolen bicycles. And always wear your helmet when you ride!

## Consider Cutting the Cord:

### Netflix vs. Cable

More and more people are choosing to "cut the cord", the cable TV cord. With all the options online to live stream TV and access a wide array of digital content it's not hard to see why cable is being rapidly replaced. No yearly contract, no equipment rentals, no customer service. And, it costs a lot less!

Take Netflix for example, arguably the most well known streaming service. A subscription can be as low as \$7 a month. You can get 4 "spots"

for \$14 a month, that means that each member of a family of four can be streaming something different on their own devices at the same time. They don't even have to be at home in order to access one of these

## Zucchini Boats

Here's a great way to use some of the crops of the season - very health, too!

### Ingredients:

Zucchini  
Green Pepper, Onions, Garlic, Tomatoes  
Basil  
Cheese - parmesan, cheddar, etc.

### Directions:

1. Slice the zucchini in half and hollow out - remove the seeds only - creating a "pool" to fill with the vegetables.

spots. Compare that to a \$65 per month bill from the cable company.

Worried about missing out on your favorite shows? It's true, different streaming services have different content. However, channels and shows that used to be on cable only can now be found online. For \$9 a month you can sign up for Amazon Instant Video, which has exclusive rights to HBO shows. A \$20 a month subscription to Sling TV will get you content from ESPN, HGTV, TNT, Food Network and more.

So maybe it's time to take an inventory of the entertainment you most like to have and see if it's easier, and more cost effective, to find it online.

**A Netflix subscription can be as low as \$7 a month.**

## Use Your Property Managers!

### ATTENTION: Arlington, Manchester Knoll, and Manchester Commons Tenants!

Here's a test: Who's your property manager?

Arlington: Chip Andrew - 375-4917 & Leslie: 375-4028  
Manchester: Mark Wade - 688-3542

Please make their number your first call when you have a maintenance issue. They are experienced property managers who can usually assist you with your maintenance concerns. If it's a little more involved, they will let us know. Plus, they're "right in your backyard" to assist you!



## Welcome Aboard!

Please join us in welcoming our new "Operations Coordinator", Joanne Rogers. Joanne comes to Shires with a maintenance background after working at Scarfoni Associates in Massachusetts. Joanne will be assisting with daily operational issues, maintenance concerns and other responsibilities at the office. Please feel free to stop by and say hello to Joanne!

## Keep The Kids Safe!



The years of early childhood are often referred to as the "Wonder Years." It's a time of discovery as kids grow and experience the world. It is also the time when children most need the guidance and supervision from adults to help them learn the behaviors and expectations that will serve them well as they grow.

Now that the weather is warm, it might be a temptation to simply open the door and send the kids off to explore and play. Simply put, this is a bad idea.

### Adult Supervision is Required

Children under the age of 11 need to be under adult supervision at all times both for your kids and for any visiting children. Not because they are bad, not because you don't trust them... rather it is because they need you as their guide to how best to experience the world.

Most of the time, this does not mean you have to hover over them, dictating everything they do. On the contrary, stepping back (but being close and available) allows them the space to explore while at the same time having you on hand to smooth out the inevitable conflicts, or to soothe an angry outburst, or to bandage a scraped knee from a first experience on a bike.

If you are not available, make sure you have a babysitter or responsible adult to keep a watchful eye out.

**A good rule of thumb is any child under the age of 11 must be under direct adult supervision**

**What About Older Kids?**  
Responsible kids over the age of 11 obviously can have more freedom. In those cases, a responsible adult just needs to be nearby, and aware of where the children are and what they are doing.

**Teaching Respect**  
Ultimately, the goal for every parent is to raise healthy, well adjusted children. Key to this is the most basic lesson of teaching respect. Respect for you as the parent, for other adults, for other children, and for the house and grounds where they live. This life lesson is the most important gift you will bestow on your children and the one that will be the most useful for your children in life.

**Bikes, Trikes, and Skateboards Oh My!**  
Make sure your children know they cannot ride their bikes, trikes, skateboards, long boards, scooters, rollerblades, or the like on community roadways, driveways, or parking lots. Being hit by cars backing out or driving through is a real danger, and is not allowed - for their safety and your peace of mind.

**You Are Responsible!**  
Kids are kids, and sometimes things happen. When it does, you are responsible for your children's behavior, and if any damage occurs, you are responsible for paying for the damage. It's common sense, and we look forward to a safe and happy summer!

## The Bulletin Board

Now that the days of summer are upon us, we wanted to remind you of some of the basic rules to remember.

### Why All The Rules?

Frankly, we don't love rules, but when it comes to your safety and peaceful enjoyment of your housing, we will do everything in our power to make your housing a great place to live!

**No Dogs Allowed** - This one is tough for us dog lovers! Sadly, no dogs are allowed in Shires Housing, not even to visit. Sorry fido!

**Gardens** - Digging is prohibited on lawns. No vegetable gardens are allowed.

**Potted Flowers** - All plants must be located neatly in their area. Walkways sidewalks, etc. will not be allowed to be blocked with any plants or flowerpots.

**Hoses** - Hoses are NOT permitted!

**Water** - Please be conscious of excessive water usage.

**BBQ's/Grills** - must be in the backyard. BBQ's/grills cannot be within 10 ft of the building.

**No clothes lines.**

**Vehicles** must be parked in provided parking areas, off all grassy locations.

**No tag sales.**

**Remove toys and clutter.** Any flowers mowed over will not be the responsibility of Shires Housing.

