

# Welcome Winter!

From The Staff

Place  
Refrigerator  
Magnet  
HERE

at Shires Housing

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Shires Housing Office: 802-442-8139 ext. 0

MAINTENANCE - 1-844-256-4706

Please be as specific as possible when relaying your maintenance request to the call center.

## REMINDER:

The Shires Housing  
main office has moved!

Our new physical address is

307 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

(near Maple Leaf Realty and the  
Vermont Veterans Home). Our  
mailing address remains the same,

PO Box 1247  
Bennington, VT 05201.

**NOTE:** The after hours drop box is still  
located at our previous location for  
your convenience. It will be moved to  
our new location in the future and you  
will be notified when that happens.

## Events

Shires Housing and Rise VT are  
steaming up to bring more events and  
activities to our residents. On February 12,  
for the first half hour of Becky Arbella's  
cooking/craft class at our Applegate  
Apartments site, Andrea Malinowski from  
Rise VT will be joining us. We would like  
to invite as many Shires Housing residents  
as possible to come and meet Andrea. We  
are also looking for suggestions on what  
kinds of activities you would like to see in  
the future. So please consider joining us,  
meeting some new friends and learning  
some new things!! The Rise VT portion  
of our evening will be held from 5:00-5:30,  
with the cooking/craft class immediately  
after, from 5:30-6:30. All events will be  
held in the Community Room at  
Applegate Apartments, 250 Applegate  
Drive, Bennington.

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

## We Want Your Thoughts & Feedback!

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

Our Shires Housing office is located at 307 North Street.  
Mail: Shires Housing, P.O. Box 1247 • Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone: 802-442-8139 • Fax 802-442-5125  
www.shireshousing.org • info@shireshousing.org



# Newsletter

EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY  
Vol. 6, No. 1  
Winter 2019

*Our mission is simple.  
We provide top-quality apart-  
ments that are affordably priced.  
Anything we can do to improve the  
enjoyment of your home, to keep  
costs low, and to be safe and wel-  
coming for everyone is what we  
want to do.*

## Winter Safety Tips

Winter can be a beautiful season in  
Vermont. However, there's no  
denying that there are also a number  
of safety concerns unique to the sea-  
son. From slipping to power outages  
and unsafe driving conditions. Many  
people spend time outdoors in the win-  
ter working, traveling, or enjoying  
winter sports. These outdoor activities  
in particular can expose you to several  
hazards. Here's a run down of some of  
the basics of Winter Safety.

### Avoid the risk of home fires.

- Do not use your stove or oven to heat your home.
- Keep batteries and battery-powered flashlight available

### Keep in touch with family and friends.

- Ask someone to check on you daily - especially if you live alone.

### Plan for your medical needs.

- Have extra medication on hand or identify a pharmacy that can deliver them to you.

### Don't forget to prepare your car!

- Get your car ready for cold weather before winter arrives.
- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze levels.
- Check tire tread or replace with snow tires.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. Include: cell phone, portable charger, extra batteries, blankets, food, water, booster cables, flares, tire pump, bag of salt/cat litter, compass, maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, first-aid kit, and plastic bags, baby items if necessary.

### Equip in advance for emergencies.

- Be prepared for weather-related emergencies such as power outages.
- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.

### Wear appropriate outdoor clothing.

- Layers of light, warm clothing.
- Windproof coat
- Mittens/gloves, hats, scarves
- Waterproof boots

### Take precautions outdoors.

- Sprinkle cat litter/sand on ice patches.
- Work slowly when doing outside chores.
- Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreations.
- Carry a fully charged cell phone.



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# IT'S TAX REFUND TIME!

What a better way to use your income tax refund than to pay up or ahead on your rent!! Sure, we all like to spend our tax refund on a new television, the lat-

est cell phone or vacation. But having your rent all paid up or paid a little ahead is a great use of this extra income! Peace of mind, ..... PRICELESS!!

## Free Tax Filing Assistance



Each year at income tax time AARP offers free tax preparation. This nationwide program serves millions of tax-payers. Although special emphasis is on low and middle incomes and older tax-payers, there is no income level or age limit. There are however some limits on complexity.

- Personal check showing routing and account numbers for direct debit or deposit
- Documentation of purchase price (cost basis) of sold assets
- Last year's returns copies, federal and state
- 2018 local property tax bill and/or landlord rental certificate (LC-142)
- Health care documents: 1095-A series

### Bring the following personal documents:

- Photo ID
- Social Security cards for yourself, spouse and all dependents
- Income statements - W-2 from each employer, social security SSA-1099, all other 1099-DIV, 1009-B, 1099-MISC, 1099-R, etc.
- Unemployment compensation statements
- Dependent care provider information (name, employer ID, Social Security number)
- Documentation for itemized deductions (receipts, cancelled checks)

### Service Sites:

- Sacred Heart St. Francis Church at 238 Main St. in Bennington, VT. By appointment only. Call Green Mountain RSVP 447-1546.
- St. John the Baptist Church in North Bennington. Available walk-ins Wednesdays 1pm-4pm Feb 6 to Apr 10.
- Manchester Town Hall. Available walk-ins Fridays 9am-12pm, Feb 8 to Apr 12.

## Car Insurance Discount?

We have three Shires Housing employees who are certified driver instructors thru AARP and hold classes throughout the community. Anyone that attends these classes will receive a discount on their insurance, if their insurance carrier accepts this AARP class discount. So check with your insurance company and if they accept, sign up!! To stay up-to-date on class times and locations, follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/RegionalAffordableHousingCorp) and check our website (shireshousing.org) regularly.



## Meet Erica

Shires Housing is growing! We have a new Assistant Property Manager, Erica Reynolds! Erica is working alongside Pat and Priscilla in our Property Management Department.

Erica comes to us with a huge passion for affordable housing. She earned her bachelor's degree at Smith College and went on to earn her law degree at Western New England University School of Law. After law school Erica served a year with AmeriCorps and her placement was with our neighboring affordable housing agency, Windham and Windsor Housing Trust in Brattleboro.

Erica grew up in Guilford, Vermont and is proud to say that she is a many generational Vermonter. She now resides with her husband in the town of Stratton, Vermont. If you find yourself out and about in the West Dover, VT area, you may find her singing with her band, the Erica Reynolds Band, or leading up a wine pairing dinner as you can add wine consultant to the long list of her interests and activities. Erica is very much looking forward to continuing the work Shires does, in particular working to promote a sense of pride in the community by upgrading existing neighborhoods through renovation and restoration of existing housing stock.

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to Erica as she begins her journey at Shires.



## Crispy Cauliflower Tots

- 2 cups cauliflower, steamed and shredded
- 8 tbsp shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 tsp onion powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 425 °F.
2. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix well.
3. With a teaspoon scoop a tater size spoon full and shape into the perfect tater.
4. Refrigerate tots for 10 minutes or until firm.
5. Bake for approx. 18 minutes, or until golden and crispy. Enjoy!

**VARIATION:** Use a lowfat ranch dressing for dipping!

## Broccoli-Cheddar Soup

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 onion, cut into medium dice
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen chopped broccoli OR 4 1/2 cups of fresh broccoli
- 1 quart vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups whole or 2% milk
- Salt to taste
- 8 ounces of shredded sharp cheddar cheese

### Instructions

1. Melt butter over medium heat in a stockpot. Cook onion in butter until softened. Add garlic and pepper; cook for 1 minute then stir in broccoli, and stir in vegetable broth. Bring to a boil and simmer until broccoli is tender, 10 to 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, whisk flour into milk until dissolved. Stir into soup, stirring frequently until thickened. Reduce heat, and stir in cheese until melted and heated through.
3. Season with salt to taste and ENJOY!!



## Snow Removal

Remember to move your car when it snows! If you see the plow or can be proactive, move your car so our snow plow company can plow your parking area. If you move after he plows, you are responsible for shoveling your car out!

## What's Cooking?

Shires Housing is starting to collect recipes for a 2019 cookbook, to be published by Morris Press. Anyone wanting to contribute recipes can go to [www.typhen-save.com](http://www.typhen-save.com). To login, the User Name for everyone is **ShiresCooking** and the Password is **roast063**. It is pretty self-explanatory, but if anyone has questions, Becky Arbella's contact information will appear if you click on Contact Chairperson. If any-

one that wants to contribute a recipe, but does not have a computer, please bring the recipe to the Shires Housing office before the deadline and it will be entered for them. Please make sure the recipe is legible and your name is on the recipe.

It is always fun to know your recipe is in print. The deadline date to collect recipes is April 30. The cookbook should be ready for sale by end of June or beginning of July.

## The Bulletin Board

**Windows** – Be sure all windows are closed and locked, sealing the winter cold out and helping to keep the heat inside your home. If needed, hanging heavier curtains will also keep heat in/cold out. **Remember — there is a fee if windows are open during this season.** So save money, and help save the environment with this common-sense rule! This rule remains in effect until spring arrives.

### Don't Break the Thermostat! –

The thermostats are designed to be turned up to a maximum of 70 degrees. This is to help us keep costs low so you can enjoy a great apartment at a fair price. Please do not attempt to tamper with the thermostat so it will go over 70 degrees as this can result in unnecessary maintenance, and the unnecessary maintenance cost that comes with that.

### Safely Store Your Things –

Any toys or outdoor furniture should be brought inside during the winter. This is so any personal possessions don't accidentally find themselves on the underside of a busy snowplow and get damaged.

