

# 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.

## FoodBank at Applegate

March 11 the FoodBank will be at the Applegate Community Building from 10:30 - 11:30. The Food Assistance program will be held 11:30 - 12:30, and Shop for Free and Food Tasting from 5pm - 7pm.

**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 • email: hello@shireshousing.org

### Follow us online!

www.shireshousing.org

 Shires Housing

 @shireshousing

For up-to-date information and community events.

Shires Housing is always available to receive rent payments, correspondence or any other important document that you need to submit. Our **overnight drop box** is located just around the corner, to the right of our front door. This is a safe and secure box, checked daily. Miss our regular hours – no worries, drop in the box!!



# Newsletter

  
Vol. 7, No. 1  
Winter 2020

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

## Latest Developments

Shires Housing is constantly striving to create more top quality housing in our region. There is always some new building construction or renovation of existing units in the works. Some of our most exciting and productive projects are being worked on right now. Here's an update on our progress so far:



### Lake Paran Village

Construction is well-underway with all four buildings of the 22-apartment development framed, roofed, sided and gearing up for insulation. Our construction crews are taking advantage of the mild winter to get these apartments quickly up and ready for the first occupants, perhaps as early as this summer.

qualifying buyers we are able to offer \$60,000 in down-payment assistance. We are looking forward to construction being completed late this spring and still have two condos yet to be sold.

### Manchester Knoll and Depot Street Renovations

We are looking forward to giving the Manchester Knoll apartments in Bennington a face-lift. Our Renovation & Relocation team will be reaching out to work with all households affected by upcoming renovations. By doing so, they will make sure all your needs and concerns are addressed and you can get back to enjoying your newly-renovated home. Stay tuned!

### East Branch Farms

Phase I came and went last year with the sale of Shires' development of (four) for-sale homes at the East Branch Farms condo development in Manchester. We are now well into Phase II, building the last four condos to complete the development. These 3-bedroom homes are not just Energy Star 2.0 certified and built with high quality materials, but for income

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(above) Construction at Lake Paran Village – (top) work at East Branch Farms

# Meet The New Faces of Shires Housing



Madison has been with the Shires Housing team for over a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, but recently started on our full-time staff as development assistant and communications specialist. While you may not cross paths with her too much compared to our property managers, you may catch her out "in the wild" photographing units on a sunny day or, virtually, posting Shires' updates to social media. To contact Madison: **(802) 442-8139 ex. 1002**



Cynthia Veazie is the new property manager at our Applegate Housing Development. Cynthia has a wealth of property management experience and has been diligently utilizing those skills in her new position. To contact Cynthia: **(802) 442-8818**



Please welcome Deborah Towslee as our newest Property Manager at Shires! Deb has an extensive background in management, having spent many years in the field of medical management. As a resident of Bennington (and married to a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation "Benningtonian") Deb and her husband enjoy spending time outdoors. One of Deb's passions is her love of dogs, especially the three very large ones that share her home! Deb's enthusiasm, wit and compassion make her a perfect compliment to Team Shires. To contact Deborah: **(802) 442-8139 ex. 1006**



## Free Tax Filing Aide

Each year at income tax time AARP offers free tax preparation. This nation-wide program serves millions of tax-payers. Although special emphasis is on low and middle incomes and older taxpayers, there is no income level or age limit. There are however some limits on complexity. If you plan on making a reservation, do so soon, as time slots are filling quickly

**St. John The Baptist Church**  
North Bennington  
February 5-April 8  
Wednesday 1-3:30p,  
**Walk in. First come, first serve.**

**Manchester Rec Center, Park House**  
February 7-April 10  
Friday 9-11:30,  
**Walk in. First come, first serve.**



**Sacred Heart St. Francis Church Hall**  
238 Main St., Bennington  
February 4-April 9  
Tuesday and Thursday 1-4  
Feb. 3 - April. 6  
Mondays 9-12  
**By appointment only - Call 447-1546**

## Get The Most From Your Tax Refund

The smartest, most economical way to spend your tax refund is to prepay your rent! Not only will you have a jump on your upcoming month's rent, but you can rest easy knowing that your bill has been paid! No headache or worries about your rent account, it'll be all set. Sure, who wouldn't want a new smart television, the latest and greatest cell phone update or even a quick get away. But, the confidence in knowing your rent is paid? That's a calm that good ol' Uncle Sam can provide! On the other hand, if you're behind in your rent, this is the way to go - pay from your refund and bring your account up-to-date!



## Crockpot Chili Mac

Here's an easy recipe for cold winter nights. Prepare in the morning, let it cook all day and it'll be ready to enjoy at dinnertime!! A fan favorite - easy clean-up, too. **NOTE: If your kids don't like chili, they'll like the mac!**

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 cans tomato paste
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onions
- 1 gloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup bell pepper
- 1/8 cup chili powder
- 1 beef bullion cube
- 2 cups water
- 1 can pinto beans (optional)

## Cornbread

The perfect compliment to chili!

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1 cup of cornmeal
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees - grease

- 1 can kidney beans (optional)
- 16 oz. macaroni
- Sour cream
- Cheddar cheese



### Instructions

1. In a skillet, heat ground beef until cooked through. Drain excess grease and set aside.
2. In a crockpot, combine all ingredients. Stir and set on low for 8 hours until ready to eat.
3. Cook macaroni according to package directions. Drain and top with chili.
4. Serve with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.

- an 8 inch square pan .
2. Melt butter in a large skillet - remove from heat and stir in sugar.
3. Quickly add eggs and beat until well blended. Combine buttermilk with baking soda and stir into mixture in pan.
4. Stir in cornmeal, flour and salt until well blended and a few lumps remain.
5. Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

## Need a Healthy Dessert?

### Baked Nut Butter Apples

Core an apple, plug the hole with oatmeal, spoon in your favorite nut or seed butter (peanut butter, almond butter, nutella, etc.) Place on a sprayed baking sheet at 350 degrees until tender (30 - 40 minutes).

### Nutella Stuffed Strawberries

Stuff cored strawberries with Nutella, peanut butter, or yogurt!! This is a healthy and fun dessert to get your kids involved with. Have your kids scoop and fill them up!



## Humor

- What's a snowman's favorite breakfast?  
**Frosted Flakes!**
- Where does a polar bear keep his money?  
**In a snowbank!**
- What do you call a cold ghost?  
**Casp-burr!**
- What do you call a snowman in the desert?  
**A puddle!**

## Winter Reminders

**Windows** - All windows must remain closed when your heat is on, from now until spring. If needed, hanging heavier curtains will also keep heat in and the cold out.

**Don't Break the Thermostat** - The thermostats are designed to be turned up to a maximum of 70 degrees. **Whatever you do, don't tamper with the thermostat!** If you tamper with the thermostat and it breaks, there will be no heat in your apartment. Even worse, we will be forced to charge you labor and materials to repair the thermostat and get heat back to your apartment.

**Snow Plows** - Remember to move your car when it snows! If you see the plow or can be proactive, move your car so our snow plowing company can plow your parking area.

**Put Away Outside Toys and Furniture** - 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.

**Draft Dodgers** - You can limit the impact a cold breeze has on your space by blocking it with draft dodgers. They're easy to make, but not expensive to buy either. Use them to stop cold air flows around windows and doors.

**More "Cool" Tips** - Turn your ceiling fans on low in reverse (clockwise when looking up) to circulate warm air. Keep the cabinet under the kitchen sink open so warm air can flow around the pipes.

