

Helb Spring!

From The Staff

Place
Refrigerator
Magnet
HERE

at Shires Housing

IMPORTANT DATES:

A "Mother's Day Family Event" will be held on April 30th, at the Bradford Firehouse, from 12:00 - 2:00, with lunch being served. More details to come in a memo!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Shires Housing Office: 802-442-8139

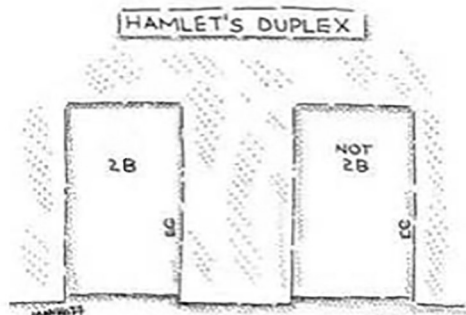
Regular Maintenance Requests: 802-442-8139 ext. 4

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE ONLY - 1-844-256-4706

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

Keep It Simple.

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. Thank you!



We Want Your Thoughts & Feedback!

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@shireshousing.org



Newsletter

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
Vol. 3, No. 2
Spring 2016



Tell Your Friends!

New Apartments Available Downtown

As part of our ongoing effort to keep our housing in tip top shape, we are nearing completion of our latest round of improvements, this time at our historic building just off Main Street.

While some of these units are already filled, we do have some units available for May move-in. Rents range as follows:

- 2 BR Apartment - rent range: \$680-\$850*
 - 3 BR Apartment - rent range: \$777-\$900*
 - 4 BR Apartment - rent range: \$858-\$950*
- *Income Restrictions Apply

Do you have a friend or relative that needs a top quality apartment at a rent that fits their budget? Let them know about how great Shires Housing is and we are happy to reward you with a credit on your rent.

So tell your friends, tell your relatives! Once your referral results in a signed lease with Shires Housing, we will credit you \$100. Simple as that!

Refer a Friend
and Earn \$100!

Keeping Up With The Times... And Your Contact Information!

It seems like every time we turn around, there is a new phone being offered. Sure, it's great to keep up with the times, but when you do, make sure to let us know! We are finding more and more that folks have changed phone numbers or have simply disconnected a line.

Please remember that phone numbers

are needed! Please contact the Shires office when your phone number has changed or if you have had it disconnected. It is imperative that we are able to call you in an emergency! While you are at it, if you have a new phone, make sure to spend a few minutes to set up the voice mail feature. That way vital information can get to you when

The Sneaky Leaky Toilet

Is your toilet leaking? Seems obvious, right? You might be surprised to learn that the most serious toilet leak does not seem to be a leak at all!

For example, when most folks think of a leak, they look for water. No water, so there must not be a leak! Not so when it comes to toilets. Most leaks in toilets are happening INSIDE the water tank. That means that water is continuing to flow into the tank to replace the water that is being lost. This can be a serious problem over time, wasting huge amounts of water and lots of extra expense.

The trick with toilets is not to look for water, but instead LISTEN for the sound of water running. If you hear water continuing to run long after flushing, you have a leak.

If you discover that your toilet IS leak-



ing, no problem. Give us a call and we will schedule a technician to come fix the problem FOR FREE. Another awesome benefit of Shires Housing. So don't wait, get it fixed and do your part to save the world!



INSIDE: Weird and Fun Facts!

Do You Have A Green Thumb?

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 blocking any walkways, sidewalks or mowing machine areas.

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, you can contact Tara at 442-2553 or email her at ericandtara@myfairpoint.net

See Something? Say Something!

This neighborhood has E.Y.E.S.



Bennington Crime Tip Line
802-445-EYES (3937)
EYES@benningtonvt.org

be the catalyst.

Getting a Tax Refund?

Put your refund to work for you!

Tax refunds can make it feel like Christmas in springtime. With a sudden boost to your bank account, you can look forward to going on a shopping spree, catching up on debt or squirreling the refund away in savings. You can even use it to pay ahead on your rent!

If you’re expecting a tax refund this year, you need a good plan for your money.

Maybe you already have the funds earmarked for some spending, but before you let your tax refund burn a hole in your pocket, think about your personal financial situation and figure out your needs.



If you find yourself frequently trying to catch up on your rent payments and paying late payment charges, perhaps you may want to put that money toward your rent and get ahead a little.

Give the money a purpose. Don’t just let it sit in your checking account. If you do, it

will quickly vanish after you use it for dining out here, shopping for clothes there, and getting coffee every day. Before you know it, you’ll have nothing to show for the refund.

This year, put that refund to work for you and enjoy the peace of mind and savings on fees that will benefit you all year long.

Check Writing 101

Helpful Tips to Ensure Your Rent is Paid!

We love getting rent paid by check. It is quick and easy... but there are a few things to keep in mind when you do.

One thing you should know is that we can’t “hold” a check for you... in other words, as soon as we get a check, we will deposit it at the bank. You must have the funds in your bank account at the time you write the check to cover the amount of your rent! We are very sorry, but it is simply impossible for us to “hold” your check until a certain date.

Another important thing to remember is

We cannot “hold” a check until a certain date.

that you should be very careful to write as neatly as possible when paying by check or money order. In particular, make sure we can easily read your name, the address, and the amount. You REALLY don’t want us to have to guess whose rent is being paid!

As always, if you have questions or problems, contact our office and we will be happy to assist you. Providing you with top quality housing is our mission!

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!

Taco Dip Recipe

Just in time for Cinco De Mayo

INGREDIENTS (serves 20-25):

- 2 (16 ounce) cans refried beans
- 1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
- 1 package shredded taco cheese
- 1 (1 ½ ounce) package taco seasoning
- 2 tomatoes (optional)
- green onion (optional)
- chopped black olives (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix package of taco seasoning and sour cream.
2. Layer beans on bottom of cake dish, then sour cream mixture, add shredded cheese and any other toppings.
3. Chill for 30 minutes.
4. Serve with nacho chips, Doritos, Tostitos, etc.

Stop Ants

With this quick and easy recipe!

This is a recipe for getting rid of those pesky ants that come every spring and summer. Mix up the solution, pack cotton balls in a jar cover, put the solution on and they will be gone.

Ingredients:

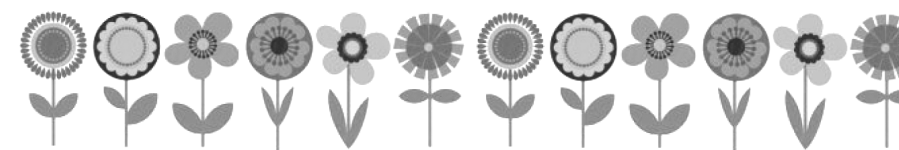
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons boric acid
- 3 cups warm water

Directions:

1. Mix the sugar and boric acid well.
2. Add the warm water slowly; mixing all the while so it won’t be too lumpy.
3. Store in a jar until ready to use.

When ready to use, put cotton into the top of a jar lid to fill it and then saturate the cotton to the top. Place it in the location where it is needed.

Note: this solution will keep for a long while. A good technique is to drip a drop or two over the edge of the lid to rest on the counter so the ants will find the solution sooner. It sometimes takes a little while for them to find it, but find it they will. When they do, do not disturb them as they drink. They will hang over the edge of the lid and drink for a while and then take it back to the nest killing the colony. Almost overnight they will be gone.



Fun & Weird Facts!

Otters sleep holding hands.

Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

You are shorter in the evening than in the morning.

It would take **1,000 years** to watch every video on YouTube.

Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the **book most often stolen** from public libraries.

Men are 6 times more **likely to be struck by lightning** than women.

Dr. Suess wrote, “Green Eggs and Ham” **to win a bet** against his publisher who thought that he could not complete a book with only 50 words.

Two thirds of the people on earth have **never seen snow**.

If you suppress a sneeze, you can **rupture a blood vessel** in your head and die!!

The average person walks the equivalent of **three times around the world** in a lifetime.

A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

The last man to walk on the moon, Gene Cernan, **promised his daughter** he’d write her name on the moon. He did and her initials, “TDC,” will probably be on the moon for tens of thousands of years.

In 2000, **Pope John II** was named an “Honorary Harlem Globetrotter.”

Frozen lobsters can **come back to life** when thawed.

The Bulletin Board

Time to open the windows!

Now that spring has arrived, you can fling open those windows and enjoy the fresh air!

First, turn your thermostat all the way down. Then, 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.

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!

Free Landscaping - Watch for the Mower Muncher!

Your free landscaping 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.

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!



FOR EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CALL: 1-844-256-4706

For all other maintenance & repairs call: 442-8139 ext. 4