

# Hello Summer!

From The Staff

Place  
Refrigerator  
Magnet  
HERE

at Shires Housing

## 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, refrigerators, and cable hookups are not considered emergencies)



### Welcome Rosemarie Rogers!

We'd like to welcome Rosemarie Rogers as our new Administrative Assistant! Diane Naumowicz has taken on the duties of the Operations Manager and Rosemarie has assumed the responsibilities Diane previously performed. She will accept rental payments, address maintenance issues and assist with other daily operations in the Shires Housing main office. As always, don't hesitate to contact the office with any questions or problems you may have. Please feel free to drop by the office and say hello!

Rosemarie and Diane can be reached at: 442-8139, ext. 0 for Rosemarie and ext. 1 for Diane.

## 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. 2, No. 3  
Summer  
2015

## Shires Housing Hires Interim Director

Shires Housing has had an amazing six years under the capable leadership of John Broderick. During that time, we have upgraded and built over 26 top quality apartments that fit the budgets of regular working people... apartments that we can be proud to call home. All told, we now provide a total of 249 units throughout The Shires; revitalizing neighborhoods, and putting millions of dollars of investment back into our community through our redevelopments and construction projects.

Shires Housing is in fine shape. Our fiscal house is in order, our staff well trained, and while we are sad to say goodbye to John, it is safe to say that he has left us in a strong position to continue our record of success as an organization and most important: fulfilling our mission to YOU by providing the best housing around.

### Welcome to Blair Sebastian

We are very fortunate and grateful to have Blair Sebastian to take the reins while we

conduct a comprehensive search to find a new director for Shires Housing. Blair comes to us from "The Housing Coalition," a trade organization representing about 100 groups like Shires Housing, and Blair commented "I was in a job very much like this one before I came to the coalition, so it's an opportunity to revisit my roots a little bit." Blair is a long time resident of White Creek, just over the border from Shaftsbury, so he's practically a local. "We're very pleased to find someone relatively close by that has such a wealth of affordable housing

**Amidst many changes, one thing remains 100% SOLID: Our commitment to providing top quality housing that fits your budget.**

experience," said Michael Briggs, president of Shire's Board of Directors in an article in the Bennington Banner. "He's the perfect person to keep the organization moving forward while we identify a permanent executive director."

So while much has changed as we head into the summer months... one thing has NOT changed; our commitment to providing you with the housing you deserve.

## Inside:

Refer a Friend  
And Earn \$100!

Fruit Pizza

Smoke Detectors

Summer Trivia

Bikes 'n Boards

Recycling Rocks!

PLUS:

Summer  
Reminders



### Introducing our new Maintenance Technician



We are very pleased to introduce you to Steve Rafferty. Steve has recently joined our team and brings with him several years of construction and maintenance experience. Steve is certified in renovation, repair, and painting. He also holds a EMP certification for Essential Maintenance Practices. Keeping your housing in great shape is our mission, and we are pleased to have found such an experienced professional to fill this position!

**Welcome Steve Rafferty!**

## Refer a Friend and Earn \$100!

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!

We've given out hundreds of dollars in referral rewards in the last few months alone. So what are you waiting for? Refer a friend today; your friends and relatives will thank you, and so will we... along with an nice \$100 credit off your next month's rent!

**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.

## Fruit Pizza Recipe



### You will need:

1 Package of sugar cookie mix, made according to package OR 1 tube of refrigerated sugar cookie dough  
1 Eight (8) ounce package of cream cheese, softened  
¼ Cup of sugar  
½ Teaspoon of vanilla  
Assorted fresh fruit  
1 Aluminum Pizza Pan

### Instructions:

Heat oven to 375°F. Arrange cookie dough in the aluminum pizza pan, bake for 14 minutes and cool completely.

Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended; spread onto crust Top with Fruit – ENJOY!

Suggestion: layer a can of crushed pineapple over the cream cheese mixture for your "sauce".

## Smoke Detectors Working? It's a matter of life or death!

Having a functioning smoke detector is simply a matter of life and death. According to the National Fire Protection association, you double the chance of surviving a serious fire if you have a properly functioning smoke alarm.

Notice the phrase "properly functioning"? In 23% of cases, homes had a smoke detector, but it was not functioning.

If for any reason you think your smoke detectors are not functioning properly, please contact our office right away so we can send our maintenance crew to check things out. DO NOT WAIT! The safety of you and your household depends on it!

Needless to say, you should never do anything to your smoke detector that

**Tampering with smoke detectors is dangerous and can cost you your life!**

could prevent it from doing its job of saving your life. If something has happened to your smoke detector... do not wait to let us know! Your safety is our primary concern and we need to get this taken care of right away.

You also should know that intentionally tampering with a smoke detector can also land you a fine. Annoying yes, but far better than losing your life or that of a loved one!

Occasionally we have all been annoyed by a smoke alarm going off when there is not a fire. Annoying yes, but not fatal! Remember your priorities and report any problems with your smoke detectors to the office and we'll take care of it right away.

## Recycling Rocks!

### As of July 1, Vermont Requires Recycling

We all know that recycling is a good idea, and that it is something we SHOULD be doing. As of July 1, all Vermonters will be required to recycle. The good news is that we will do our best to help make recycling as easy and conven-

ient for you as possible. Join us in doing our part to make Vermont and the world a better, cleaner place. Check out the Recycling Booklet included in this newsletter, and please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this program.

## Bikes 'n Boards are Great! But be careful and considerate

Everyone loves to ride a bike, and getting out on a skateboard can be a great way to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. But please remember: Be considerate, ride in designated areas and be careful!

What we don't want is people getting hurt, or angry and ending up complaining about the biking or skateboarding. When that happens, we have an obligation to take action to ensure that everyone can enjoy their housing in peace.

As it stands, bike riding and skateboarding is not allowed on the streets and parking lots of Shires Housing. Like many of our rules, this is good common sense and protects you and our children from accidents with vehicles which is absolutely vital. While nobody likes rules, rules that ensure the safety of our children are an exception that we all recognize is essential. In general, bikes and skateboards can be used in play areas where they are available... but it is essential in those cases that it is done

**Avoid behavior that will cause complaints and instead seek solutions.**

with respect to your neighbors. In any case where there are complaints about bike or skateboard use on walkways or parking lots, then bikes and skateboards will be banned from those properties.

So avoid a ban; take the time to talk to your neighbors. Find out what their expectation are, and what sort of riding or skateboarding WOULD be ok with them, and respect their wishes.

OK hindsight is 20/20 right? So maybe you forgot to check first and their were complaints. If you received a memorandum banning bikes 'n boards from your housing area... start a public relations campaign! Talk to your neighbors and start by apologizing for any behavior that might have been out of line. Then, ask what sort of bike 'n board activity WOULD be ok with them. With time, respect, and good will, a ban can be revoked by having people "un-complain" to the office. Be the good neighbor that you wish everyone could be!

## Summer Trivia

### Weird fact to amuse you!

Here's a fun experiment to try if you want to find out what the temperature is and don't have a thermometer. **The frequency of a cricket's chirps** fluctuates with the temperature, so if you count a cricket's chirps for 15 seconds and add 37, you will have the approximate outdoor temperature (in Fahrenheit).

France's **Eiffel Tower grows** by more than six inches in summer due to the expansion of the iron on hot days.

The higher summer temperatures make July the **most popular month for ice cream**. In July, Americans celebrate National Ice Cream Month. U.S. citizens consume about 5.5 gallons per year (on average.)



**Watermelon is the summer's favorite vegetable.** Yes, vegetable and not a fruit. It is part of the cucumber, pumpkin, and squash family. Fruit or veggie, this juicy favorite is 92 percent water and the average American eats 15 pounds of watermelon a year.

**Seventy-five degrees Fahrenheit** is the perfect temperature for pools in the summer time. Any temperature over 90 degrees Fahrenheit is too hot and any temperature under 70 Fahrenheit degrees is too cold.

The last day of summer is September 20. The first day of autumn begins on September 21. **So enjoy the summer solstice while it lasts!**

## Summer Reminders

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.

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

**Hoses** – No hoses are allowed.

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

**BBQ's/Grills** – must be in the back yard. BBQ's/grills cannot be within 10 ft of the building.

**No clothes lines.**

**Vehicles** must be parked in designated 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.