

Center Director Thoughts:

*We have the land! We have the plan! We all know we now need the dough!
There has been much time, energy, ideas, AND confusion over where we are as a community in the plan for a new Senior Center. In my short tenure as the present Director of the Senior Center housed at Dewey Hall, I certainly recognize the building's limitations, although it is grand, historical, and contributes a wonderful visual appeal to our town center. (Now if we could only get rid of those wires and poles!). We have started to use space for programs at the Library, and at the High School. This summer there are plans to use the Town Hall for exercise class while the Art League is using Dewey Hall. It has been good for this "Virtual Senior Center" to work with folks from other organizations in other venues, thus building community and recognizing more and more that Sheffield would benefit with a central "home away from home" for its older citizens. I urge all Sheffield citizens to attend Town Meeting on May 7th with an open mind, a spirit of community, and with a willingness to listen, learn and to reach a consensus on how the community will accomplish the building of the Sheffield Senior Center. Let's make it standing room only at Town Meeting this year to come together for consideration of this and many other important articles for our town's future!*

J-A

Center News

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Senior Center

May 10th we invite all people for a catered lunch in order to honor all Volunteers who have given of their time and talents to Sheffield Seniors this year. Although trying to remember every person and what they have done is futile, we hope that this invitation to a tasty meal prepared by the Mt. Everett culinary arts students will be thanks to all – even the shy ones who do things behind the scenes that they don't want people to know about! There will also be a special presentation by Linda Gray Kelley which should be enlightening as well as entertaining.

Welcome and congrats to

Pat Sadera, who has a new grandson. John-Michael Francis Sadera Harden was born April 10th at Bay State Hospital. He is the son of Pat's daughter, Dawn, and son-in-law, Nicholas, of Pittsfield. They'll have their hands full for a few years!

Carl Schumann, who has set a wonderful example for all in taking a **big** step. Many older folks are very good drivers. Many are also nervous and ask themselves, "When is the time right to limit my driving?" Carl, in his early 90's, has done something about it! He voluntarily got re-examined and re-tested by the professionals in Pittsfield. And now he feels good about himself, and, by the way, is still driving. Ask him about his experience. He might help you to take that **big** step! Great job, Carl.

New experience at the Senior Center!

Everyone talks about the weather and still does nothing about it. We don't, 'cause we can't, so we won't! But we still can talk about it, and many other things, (weather permitting), at our new Outdoor Café! Come on down for coffee and conversation, bring your newspaper with you, and check out who is getting their mail next door! Our attractive spot will also allow seating in light rain, provided spring temperatures stay warm and skeeters have not arrived yet. We open May 13 – drop on by!

Gracious Living Day a great success!

Friday, April 13th was no unlucky day around Sheffield. About 60 people of all ages worked at several venues in the morning, washing fire trucks, cleaning windows, pruning bushes, raking and shoveling winter leftovers in order to spruce up. Sheffield Seniors and Berkshire School Students worked at the Firehouse, Sheffield Historical Society, Bushnell-Sage Library, and Dewey Hall as part of Berkshire School's third annual *Gracious Living Day*. After morning work, all reassembled at the Senior Center for pizza and salad lunch to share stories, conversation, and future plans. This was a wonderful cooperative effort among generations and organizations, with leaders involved from faculty, to historians, to firemen, to librarians! If you missed it, I'm sure it will be an opportunity for you next year at the fourth annual *Gracious Living Day*! Thanks to all who participated in this great event.

Future Dates and Plans

June 22 – **Concert and Dinner at American Legion** – A money raiser for the new Senior Center featuring *The Wood's Tea Company* - American folk music group based in Burlington, Vermont - sea shanties, folk songs, Irish drinking songs, and Celtic music. The group is known for their energy, musical talent, and their dry sense of humor between songs. There will be a chicken BBQ on the lawn, weather permitting. Lots of opportunities to help. Talk to our wonderful, hard working Chairman of the COA, Pauline Schumann, who is heading up this project.

May/June - The six class session of **Ballroom Dancing** is drawing to a close this month. The **good news** is that Bob Weber, instructor, is considering another session picking up soon and ending the latter part of June. Some interest has already been expressed, so don't delay! Call Barbara Fletcher at the Center to register. Don't be left out without a dance card!

Fall – There are plans to again have a **Computer Class** taught by Chris Thompson. Depending upon interest he would have another beginners group, an intermediate group, a specialty class(i.e. surfing the internet, or working with eBay), or all three!! Give it some thought and call J-A at the Center if interested.

ATTEND TOWN MEETING ON MAY 7th

VOTE ON MAY 14th

Please choose my favorite actor for June "Lawn Chair Movie Tuesday":

Specific Movie choices are:

___ check here if any movie with my **star** in it will do

cut here and snail mail or hand-deliver to Senior Center
(you can also email info to shfldsrs@bcn.net)