



# Community Bulletin

January 17th, 2023

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Dear Shrewsbury Families,

Please note the following announcements and information related to various events or activities that may be of interest to you and your children. Announcements from non-school sources are passed on as a courtesy if they meet the requirements of the [School Committee policy](#).

## School District Items

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## Community Items

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### **School District Items**

#### **1. [Please Note](#) – K-12 Winter Art Exhibition **(New)****

The Visual Arts department is excited to share a [virtual art exhibition](#) of student work from the beginning of the school year. An in-person Spring Art Exhibition is planned for May.

#### **2. [Save the Date](#) – SEPAC General Meeting, January 17th **(New)****

Please join the Shrewsbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our next General Meeting on Tuesday, January 17th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Floral Street School media center. We will be joined by School Committee Chair Lynsey Heffernan and Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Meg Belsito who will share information about their roles, discuss current topics of interest in the district, and then have Q&A. This meeting, and SEPAC membership, is open to all parents and guardians of students receiving special education services as well as interested Shrewsbury residents. Please email [shrewsbury.sepac@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsbury.sepac@gmail.com) with any questions.

#### **3. [Please Note](#) – 2023-2024 Preschool Lottery Application, Deadline January 27th**

The 2023-2024 Shrewsbury Public Schools Preschool Lottery Application and Survey opened on Tuesday, January 3rd. All students who will be at least 3 years old by August 31st, 2023 are eligible to apply. We encourage all age-eligible families to complete the form even if they do not plan to send their child to preschool with Shrewsbury Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, as this is valuable information for us.

Please [click here](#) to complete the form. The application closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27th. For more information, please visit our [registration webpage](#).

#### **4. [Please Note](#) – SAT Prep Course**

The Shrewsbury High School Spring SAT Prep Course will be offered once again through Shrewsbury High School. The course will begin the week of February 6th and run through the week of March 27th. Participants may choose between Monday and Wednesday night classes. Classes will meet remotely from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a total of seven night sessions. Test-taking strategies will be emphasized in this class. Class size will be kept small, allowing for a great deal of individual attention. Enrollment is strictly on a first-come first-served basis; the course is open to juniors and seniors. Students will also take two full-length SAT exams, which provides reinforcement for skills taught during the course and test-taking experience.

The cost of the program is \$260 for Shrewsbury residents and \$300 for non-Shrewsbury residents. This class will run only if there is sufficient demand. Additional information and registration forms are located at Shrewsbury High School in Mrs. Monopoli's office on the third floor, the School Counseling office, or can be downloaded from the [SHS School Counseling webpage](#). Please contact Jen Lundsten if you have any questions at [jalundsten@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:jalundsten@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) or (508) 841-8810.

#### **5. Please Note – Employment Opportunity: Cafeteria Help Wanted**

The Shrewsbury Food Service department is looking for part-time and full-time employees and substitutes to work in the school cafeterias. Days and hours are flexible. Duties include prepping food, setting up serving lines, serving students, and breakdown and clean-up. Lunch and refreshments are provided. Please [click here](#) to obtain an employment application.

Please forward your application to the Food Service Department C/O Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or email to [hdoyle@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:hdoyle@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us). If you have any questions, please call Heidi Doyle, Tuesdays-Thursdays, at (508) 841-8855.

#### **6. Please Note – Visual Arts Department Art Exhibitions**

Shrewsbury Public Schools students are showcasing their artwork this winter at Shrewsbury Credit Union, Shrewsbury Town Hall, Anna Maria College (virtual exhibition), and through the National Art Honor Society (virtual exhibition). Please [click here](#) for more information about these exhibitions and the participating artists.

#### **7. Please Note – Seeking Nominations for the Upcoming SPS Annual Report**

An invitation from Dr. Jane Lizotte, Assistant Superintendent for Community Partnerships and Well-Being, and Ms. Karen Isaacson, Director of Extended Learning:

Shrewsbury Public Schools is seeking nominations of extraordinary people and programming in our schools to feature in the upcoming SPS Annual Report. The report will recognize individuals and celebrate accomplishments made during the 2020, 2021, and 2022 calendar years. The Annual Report celebrates faculty, staff, students, and alumni who exemplify SPS's Core Values and consistently respect, include, and empower others. Past submissions and recognitions illustrate a balance of diverse skills, experiences, contributions, and profiles.

Please consider nominating a special person and/or program! Click [here](#) to submit your nominations. Thank you for your consideration.

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### **Community Items**

#### **1. Please Note – Shrewsbury Council on Aging’s Day Break Respite Program (New)**

Shrewsbury Council on Aging is offering caregivers the opportunity to participate in our free pilot Day Break Respite Program. Are you a caregiver of an older adult (age 60 or over) family member, friend, or loved one? We know that it can be difficult for caregivers to find the time for their own personal self-care and attend to their own needs. The cost of respite services can be a major barrier to taking advantage of such services. Imagine having three hours of personal time while your loved one spends time socializing and engaging in fun activities with friends - old and new.

The Senior Center will host twice-monthly 3-hour respite sessions on the first and third Friday of each month, with the last session on June 16th. We also have available free respite at off-site locations. Each session includes lunch for recipients and activities that facilitate social connection and exercise/movement.

If you would like more information about this free program and to sign up, contact Renee at (508) 841-8647. All caregivers who would like to participate will need to fill out an intake form upon registration, as well as a brief pre- and post-survey. The deadline to sign up before a scheduled session is three days in advance by 10:00 a.m. Please [click here](#) for more information.

*This Day Break Pilot Respite Program is funded in part from a grant awarded to the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Any opinions expressed herein are solely those of the Shrewsbury Council on Aging. The Shrewsbury Pilot Respite Program will end on June 16, 2023, and is NOT affiliated with the off-site respite Day Break program in the towns of Hudson, Marlborough and Northborough.*

## **2. Save the Date – Appalachia Service Project’s Chili Fest, January 28th (New)**

Calling all chili cooks! Do you think you have what it takes to win an award for best chili? Or maybe you know an aspiring chili cook? On Saturday, January 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Saint Luke's Parish Center in Westborough, the finest chili chefs in the Shrewsbury/Boroughs area (along with their creations) will gather to compete for the honor of "best chili around." You can compete, judge, or do both. There is sure to be a wide variety of chili types and flavors to sample and vote for. Tickets can be purchased at the door: \$10/adult and \$5/child, up to a maximum of \$25/family. All are welcome.

The Chili Fest is brought to you by the Appalachia Service Project, which is a home repair ministry that serves the poorest families of central Appalachia and sends volunteers each year to provide much needed home repair and renewed hope to families in rural Appalachia. Students from Shrewsbury High School and other surrounding high schools are raising money needed for this summer’s service project. All proceeds from Chili Fest will fund the project.

For details on the competition and additional information about Chili Fest, please see the [website](#) and [event flier](#). For more information about the Appalachia Service Project, please [click here](#).

## **3. Please Note – Shrewsbury Parks & Recreation Winter Programs (New)**

Winter Online Registration - Currently accepting registration for winter programs listed below. Additional programs will be added throughout January. Pre-registration is required for all of the Parks & Recreation programs. Space is limited.

Home Safety - Ages 9 and up, Saturday, January 21st from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$37.

Home Safety - Ages 9 and up, Saturday, February 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$37.

Babysitting Course - For grades 6th-8th on March 6th and March 9th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$57.

Children's Conversation Skills Workshop - Grades 2nd-7th on Saturday, February 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$50.

Social Skills Workshop - Grades 2nd-7th on Saturday, February 11th from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$60.

Teen Interview Workshop - Grades 8th-12th on Saturday, February 11th from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$65.

Children Dining Etiquette Workshop - Grades 2nd-7th on Monday, January 30th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Oak Middle School Cafeteria. Cost is \$65.

Visit our website! [shrewsbury.ma.myrec.com](http://shrewsbury.ma.myrec.com) Create a new account if you have not done so within the past year.

#### **4. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Events (New)**

##### 50+ Job Seekers Virtual Networking Group

Come meet new job seekers to expand your network, news, and views with the Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group! If you are over 50 and unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, or re-entering the job market after a gap, this group is perfect for you.

The group meets on Zoom from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday mornings each month, with repeat sessions on the same topics offered in the evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesday evenings. Registration is required for each session ([register here](#) for morning sessions; [register here](#) for evening sessions). This group is sponsored by more than 60 Massachusetts public libraries. The January topics are:

- Create Your "Career Story" Pitch (January 18th & 25th)

Find the full list of topics and registration [here](#).

##### Spanish Conversation Club

Are you looking for a casual space in which you can practice your Spanish and learn more about the multiple cultures of those who speak that language? Join the Spanish Conversation Club every Tuesday at the Shrewsbury Public Library (6:00 p.m. in the Learning Lab on the second floor). No registration required.

¿Buscas un espacio informal en el que puedas practicar tu Español y aprender más de las múltiples culturas que hablan este idioma? Únete a nuestro club de conversación los martes en la biblioteca pública de Shrewsbury a las 6:00 p.m. en el laboratorio del segundo piso. No es necesario registrarse.

##### Read, Listen, and Watch with Hoopla!

What's all the hoopla about Hoopla?! Are you looking for an alternative to Libby? Did you know your library card lets you download and stream with the Hoopla service from the comfort of your own home? Bring your device (e.g. smartphone, tablet) to this in-person class on Thursday,

January 19th at 6:00 p.m. and learn how to borrow digital books, audio, movies, and television series using Hoopla. This program will take place at the Shrewsbury Public Library. Space is limited, so [registration](#) is required.

### Hit the Bus Concert

Join Hit the Bus on Saturday, January 21st at 2:00 p.m. for this eclectic concert that mixes a variety of popular music from the '50s through today! Hit the Bus plays the music people want to hear, dance, and party to! Dave Garden formed Hit the Bus back in 2008 and has been playing throughout New England since then. Inspired by a variety of musical influences, the group works seamlessly in a creative environment to make every show great. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. This event will take place in person at the library; please register to attend [here](#).

### Crowes Pasture Concert

Join the Shrewsbury Public Library on Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. with Crowes Pasture, a roots-infused, internationally touring, husband-wife folk duo who performs sometimes joyful and oftentimes poignant songs that reflect a mutual passion, sense of discovery, and celebration of the human connection. Monique's romantic clawhammer banjo playing and Andy's expressive guitar picking are enlivened by their personal chemistry, intimate harmonies, and unique instrumental styles that can only be described as "banjo-guitar romance." Crowes Pasture was nominated for Americana Artist of the Year (Boston Music Awards) and Roots Act of the Year (New England Music Awards) in 2019 and named Finalist for Best Group/Duo in the International Acoustic Music Awards in 2020 and 2021. Read more on the band [here](#). Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library. This concert will take place in person at the library; please [register to attend](#).

## **5. Please Note – Shrewsbury Public Library Events for Tweens & Teens**

We have some great events for tweens and teens happening in January at the Library!

- Fridays, January 20th, 27th - [Self Improvement Club](#) - 4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Grades 5-12. No registration necessary. Explore self improvement, productivity, self reflection, and happiness. You will be sure to learn something useful while also having fun! Led by Arnav N. and Harish R. of Shrewsbury High School.
- Sundays, January 22nd, 29th - [Rubik's Cube Club](#) - 2:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B. Ages 8+. No registration necessary. Are you interested in a brain teaser? A way to challenge your mind and have fun at the same time? Join our Rubik's Cube Club! Each week we'll work on new cube puzzles.
- Tuesdays, January 17th, 24th, 31st - [YMCA Youth Corps](#) - 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B. For teens 13+. The Shrewsbury Public Library is excited to partner with the YMCA for a brand new leadership training program for high school students. This 4-week program will provide participants with leadership training, job readiness skills, and CPR & first aid



training. All registrants will be required to complete a formal application that will be emailed to them. Register through the YMCA [here](#).

- Friday, January 20th - [Friday Afternoon Videogames](#) - 3:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B. Grades 5-12. No registration necessary. School is over - work off a little steam with videogames! We'll have some of the most popular multiplayer games for the Nintendo Switch, like Super Smash Bros, Mario Party, and Overcooked. Show up ready to play or just watch your friends!
- Monday, January 23rd - [Teen Advisory Meeting](#) - 8:00 p.m. in the Teen Room. Grades 5-12. [Registration](#) required. Join us to meet some new people, eat snacks, and help us make our Teen Room (and library) THE BEST! Earn volunteer hours for attending and participating.
- Friday, January 27th - [Friday Crafternoon](#) - 3:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B. Grades 5-12. No registration necessary. Try a fun craft or activity that will change each month. No crafting experience (or talent) necessary, just try it out!

Check our [online calendar](#) and [digital pdf calendar](#) for more details and registration!

## **6. Please Note – Town of Shrewsbury Scholarships**

Applications are now available for the 2023 Town of Shrewsbury scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to deserving residents of Shrewsbury who are seniors at any high school. Awards are based on financial need, character, community service, and academic achievement. The Scholarship Fund was instituted by Town Meeting vote in May 1995. In 2022, twenty-five \$500.00 scholarships were awarded to students who were furthering their education at accredited institutions of higher learning.

Students who are interested in applying for a scholarship may obtain applications at the Shrewsbury High School Guidance Office or other high school guidance offices in the surrounding area, or at the Select Board's Office. Applications can be downloaded at the [Town of Shrewsbury website](#) at [2023 Scholarship Application](#).

Completed applications must be received by the Select Board's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9th. Additional information is included in the [application](#).

## **7. Please Note – SELCO/NESN Scholarship for Shrewsbury Resident Graduating Seniors**

Applications are now available for the 2023 SELCO/NESN Scholarships. The online application and a hard copy application for download are available on our [website](#).

Class of 2023 Shrewsbury resident graduating seniors, attending public or private high school, are encouraged to apply for one of three \$1,000 scholarships offered by SELCO and New



England Sports Network (NESN). These scholarships are awarded based on community involvement, good citizenship, volunteer work inside and outside of school, a recommendation from an advisor or guidance counselor, financial need, and a statement of personal goals and aspirations.

Applications must be received by March 10th. Applications can be filled out online (preferred), mailed, or dropped off at the SELCO Main Office at 100 Maple Avenue.

## **8. Save the Date – Upcoming Holy Cross Basketball Games**

The Holy Cross Women's Basketball team wants to welcome anyone involved with Shrewsbury Public Schools discounted tickets to games on January 28th, February 11th, and February 18th. These are especially important games to Holy Cross as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX. We hope to make them some of the best games of the year!

Our jersey retirement day for five women's basketball players will take place on Saturday, January 28th. They are the first jerseys retired in the history of the program.

Our National Girls and Women in Sports Day will take place on Saturday, February 11th. We will be hosting a Women's Sports Fair with many of our women's teams holding demonstrations of their sports before the women's basketball game at 2:00 p.m. This will allow young women to have exposure to as many different sports as possible and enjoy a fun day of basketball.

Finally, our Title IX game will take place on Saturday, February 18th. We will be honoring some of the best teams in our women's program's history as a part of the 50th anniversary of co-education at College of the Holy Cross and the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

We have a [special link](#) for anyone in Shrewsbury who may want to purchase tickets to any of these games. **Tickets are just \$3!** If you have any questions, please reach out to Justin Pierce at (508) 793-2573 or [jmpierce@holycross.edu](mailto:jmpierce@holycross.edu).

## **9. Please Note – Community Locker Room: Kids Playing It Forward, Sports Gear and Equipment Collection**

Community Locker Room is a local non-profit organization started by a Shrewsbury mom that collects gently used sports gear and equipment and redistributes it to children and recreation programs in surrounding under-resourced communities.

We will be collecting gear and equipment at the Shrewsbury Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on January 28th, January 29th, February 4th, and February 5th.

Being involved in sports has so many benefits for kids and teens. Please help us get these children off the sidelines and into the games by donating your gear and equipment. Please [click here](#) for the flier with more information on the Community Locker Room.

#### **10. Save the Date – Al-Hamra Academy School Play, January 28th**

Al-Hamra Academy is excited to announce its 2nd annual school play, *The Jungle Book*, sponsored in part by Shrewsbury Cultural Council! The show will take place on Saturday, January 28th at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's High School auditorium. Tickets can be purchased [here](#). If you are interested in attending but cannot afford tickets, please contact [sanamz@alhamraacademy.org](mailto:sanamz@alhamraacademy.org).

#### **11. Save the Date – Shrewsbury Historical Society Meeting, January 25th**

Shrewsbury Historical Society presents "Cases, Cabinets and Curiosities from the Historic Collection: A Curator's Report" by Linda Davis on Wednesday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Shrewsbury Historical Society at 17 Church Road. The program will be available afterwards on Shrewsbury Media Connection. If you have any questions, please email [shrewsburyhistory@townisp.com](mailto:shrewsburyhistory@townisp.com).

Wondering about what's inside the museum's cabinets and cases? Join Curator Linda Davis as she shares the stories behind several of the most interesting artifacts and curiosities from the museum collection. Don't miss this rare opportunity for a behind the scenes look at several artifacts and their connection to Shrewsbury's historic past and the men and women who made this town their home.

Linda Davis is a lifelong resident of Shrewsbury and serves as the Curator of the Shrewsbury Historical Society. In addition to collections preservation and management, Linda conducts research, writes articles for the Society newsletter, and gives tours of the museum for school groups and local organizations. She has presented character portrayals for the "Walk Through History at Mt. View Cemetery" and prepared several programs for the Society.

#### **12. Save the Date – Chinese Spring Festival, January 22nd**

The 2023, Year of the Rabbit, Chinese New Year celebration party will be held at the Shrewsbury High School Auditorium on Sunday, January 22nd from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The organizers are Massachusetts Beijing Chinese Language School, Shrewsbury High School Mandarin classes, Oak/Sherwood Middle School Mandarin classes, St. John's High School Mandarin Classes, and Mulan Performing Arts Association. Please [click here](#) for the program flier. Free of admission up to the capacity of the auditorium.

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## **Youth Athletics and Activities**

### **1. Please Note – Shrewsbury Little League Girls Softball All Skills Clinic (New)**

Shrewsbury Little League's Girls Softball All Skills Clinic is open to ages 4-16 and all abilities. This is a great opportunity to try softball if you have never played before or to sharpen your skills before the spring season. The winter skills clinic is designed to improve overall softball skills and introduce and/or improve player skills in the areas of throwing, hitting, and fielding. Base running, bunting, and other game specific skills will also be taught. The clinic will run at Floral Street School for 7 weeks beginning in February between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. (sessions will be 1-1.5 hours long per age group). The cost is \$150. Please [click here](#) to register.

### **2. Please Note – Shrewsbury Little League Softball and Baseball Registration**

Shrewsbury Little League Softball registration is now open for ages 4 to 16 and Shrewsbury Little League baseball registration is now open for ages 5 to 16. Shrewsbury Little League is focused on ensuring a fun, positive playing experience for players at all levels while maintaining a competitive program. [Click here](#) to register. For more information about softball, please email [shrewsburygsb@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburygsb@gmail.com). For more information about baseball, please email [sllpresident2@yahoo.com](mailto:sllpresident2@yahoo.com).

### **3. Please Note – Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers**

Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers is offering a 10-week program for grades 5 and up. No experience is required to participate! Participants receive an introduction to volleyball, learn from trained coaches, develop skills, and build a passion for the game. Our inclusive club brings kids and young adults (up to age 24) with and without disabilities together, providing enriching experiences for all. Our programs provide our community with the opportunity to increase physical activity, create new friendships, develop new skills, increase independence, and experience success.

The Blazers meet on Saturdays at the Open Sky Community Services Gym (4 Mann Street, Worcester). The program begins on Saturday, February 11th. The program is a collaboration between Worcester Volleyball Club Blazers and Open Sky Community Services' Community Membership Department. Please [click here](#) for the registration form and additional information.

Ask about our volunteer and mentorship opportunities! For more information, please reach out to our program contact, Susan Dunshee, at [worcblazers@gmail.com](mailto:worcblazers@gmail.com) or (508) 277-6986 or visit [www.worcblazers.com](http://www.worcblazers.com).

#### **4. Please Note – Shrewsbury Youth Soccer Spring Season**

Registration is now open for the Spring season for all Shrewsbury Youth Soccer age groups (pre-kindergarten through grade 12). Our season is scheduled to start in early April 2023 and will run to the end of the school year. [Click here](#) to register. If you did not register for fall 2022, we have migrated our registration system to Sports Connect. Some important points for registration:

- If you do not currently have a Sports Connect account, you will have to create one and add each of the players you would like to register for the spring.
- You do not have to upload a birth certificate.
- If you are ordering a travel uniform, please be sure to select the corresponding fee buttons under “Additional Registration Information.”
- The Fan Wear Clothing Store that Sports Connect forces you into at the end of the registration process, much like an amusement park where you are dropped into the souvenir shop at the end of the ride, does not offer the travel uniforms; they have to be selected at the top of the registration form.

#### **5. Please Note – Shrewsbury Youth Lacrosse Registration**

Registration is now open for the spring 2023 season for all Shrewsbury Youth Lacrosse age groups (girls and boys in grades 1-8). The girls’ and boys’ lacrosse programs recently combined, so you can easily register your athletes in one easy location. Please reach out to Alison Smith [alison.smith@shrewsburylacrosse.org](mailto:alison.smith@shrewsburylacrosse.org) if you have questions. [Click here](#) to register. We migrated our registration system to a new platform. Some important points for registration:

- If you do not currently have a Demosphere account, you will have to create one and add each of the players you would like to register for the fall.
  - You do not have to upload a birth certificate.
  - Uniform ordering will come in a few weeks. We appreciate your patience as we manage the growing pains of switching platforms and combining programs.
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