SHERMAN THIS WEEK

Town Tribune (203) 746-4669
Editorial@TheTownTribune.com

Sherman Community Calendar

Nov. 25: MTH Closes at 12:00 noon in Observance of Holiday
Nov. 26-27: MTH Closed in Observance of Holiday
Dec. 2: 7:00pm, Board of Education Monthly Mtg.
Dec. 3: 7:00pm, Planning & Zoning Commission Monthly Mtg., MTH
Dec. 8: 7:00pm, Senior Center Bldg. Committee Monthly Mtg., MTH
Dec. 9: 7:00pm, Conservation Commission Monthly Mtg., Cancelled
Visit the Town of Sherman website at www.shermanct.gov for more information.

LINK to Social Services

Lynne Gomez, Director
Sherman Social Services

The Giving Tree will be going up at Sherman Social Services office on *Friday, November 20*, signaling the beginning of the Sherman Holiday Gift Drive. Stop by Sherman Social Services during office hours and consider donating a gift for a neighbor in need.



Wish lists will be posted on the Giving Tree and generous donors may decide if they want to give to a senior, child or family. We are requesting only gift cards to local stores this year and not doing wrapped gifts. The gift drive is anonymous and confidential…no one knows who they are giving to and recipients don't know the shoppers. But a bit of holiday cheer is shared. Deadline for returning gift cards to social services is December 8.

Sherman Social Services office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9am-3pm, and Thursday and Friday, 10am-2pm. Call with questions 860-354-2414, ext. 2.

Medicare Open Enrollment Runs Thru Mon., Dec. 7

It's worth sitting with someone and going through your specific coverage, line by line. That's what our free Medicare counseling sessions are for. Appointments are available to suit your schedule and started Oct. 15 at Sherman Social Services. The free appts. are with Lynne Gomez, Director of Sherman Social Services and a Medicare CHOICES counselor.

At the appointment we will review your Part D prescription drug plan and see whether it's still your best option for 2027. We will go through your actual prescriptions, dosages, and pharmacy, and compare that against what's available for the coming year. It's not a general conversation about Medicare. It's specific to you.

Last year, reviewing plans helped Sherman residents save thousands in projected prescription costs for 2026. There's no pressure to switch plans, and no pressure to stay. The goal is simply making sure your plan actually fits your prescriptions and your budget.

What to bring to the appointment:
•Your medicare.gov username and password
•Your Medicare card
•A full list of your prescriptions, including doses and quantities

We can also set up an account at medicare.gov when you come in, if you haven't already. Setting up an account with your own username and password allows you to keep track of your Medicare plans throughout the year. For appointments, call Sherman Social Services at 860-354-2414, ext. 2.

Homeowners in Sherman Assistance from the Rural Development 504 Loan and Grant Home Repair Prgm

Homeowners in Sherman may be eligible for assistance from the Rural Development 504 Loan and Grant Home Repair Program, which assists very low-income households to repair, improve or modernize their homes via loans. The program also has a very low-income elderly homeowners grant program to remove health and safety hazards as well.

Sherman is a designated rural area and falls within the scope of the 504 Loan and Grant Home Repair program.

Here are some of the rules:
•The applicant must own & occupy the property.
•You must not exceed the income limit to be eligible. Income for the senior grants is $78,400 for the entire household. Income limits for the loans is $117,500.
•The maximum amount of the grant will not exceed $10,000 and can only be awarded once per lifetime. The maximum of the loan is $40,000. Loans are 20 years with a fixed interest rate of 1 %.
•Home must be of modest value, which for Sherman cannot exceed $586,500.
•For grant eligibility, you must be age 62 or older.
•The application will require estimates by a licensed & insured contractor for each repair.
•Average processing time after receiving a full complete application is 4+ months.
•Loans require applicants to be credit worthy.

The loan and grant programs have waiting lists and therefore are not designed to help in emergencies. The types of repairs allowed in the program are roofs, ramps, oil burners, flooring, etc. Anyone interested in learning more may contact Sherman Social Services at 860-354-2414, ext. 2.

HOLIDAY GREETING

SEE FORM IN
CLASSIFIED SECTION
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.TheTownTribune.com
and click on the holiday banner.



Help Continue to Support Local Journalism
in New Fairfield and Sherman.

Music & More at the JCC in Sherman!

Sat., Nov. 28, 12-8pm &
Sun. Nov. 29, 10am-3pm:
Holiday Pop-Up Shop with Oliver Tobin of Homorganized
Free Entry

Join us for a weekend pop up flea market with Oliver Tobin, owner of Homorganized just in time for the Holiday Season! The market includes decor, artwork, fabrics, and more! Grab your loved ones that are in town for the holidays and come seek out an unbelievable treasure!

Sun., Nov. 29, 2pm:
Discover the Wonder of the Tale: Storytelling Performance & Workshop with Jane Gangi & Laconia Therrio

Laconia Therrio performs stories (and, maybe, Jane will, too)
Free Event | Donations Welcome

In the workshop, participants will learn to tell their own stories through art, pantomime, and movement. We promise not to embarrass anybody. *Grades 4+ & adults welcome!*

Laconia Therrio is a professional storyteller who hails originally from New Orleans, born in 1954 at Charity Hospital on the "Colored Ward." He has served as a minister in Allentown (PA), Newark (DE), and Stamford(CT). He also serves as a chaplain on the Spiritual Care staff at Stamford Hospital.

Laconia grew up loving words, often at five years old pestering his mother to find the most difficult words to spell in the dictionary. Today, those words come together in the form of Story; mostly folktale, literature, and personal. He believes in Story's capacity to unite, build, and connect.

Jane M. Gangi has been a professor of education and is currently an adjunct at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York, where she teaches courses in English/History Honors Genocide in Literature and Art and Children's and Young Adult Literature. During lockdown, to reach out to housebound children, she and her graduate students recorded folkloric stories that were watched thousands of times:https://www.msmc.edu/about/centers-institutes/the-collaborative-for-equity-in-literacy-learning/stories-for-children/. She's written three books: *Encountering Children's Literature: An Arts Approach; Genocide in Contemporary Children's and Young Adult Literature: Cambodia to Darfur;* and, with Mary Ann Reilly and Rob Cohen, *Deepening Literacy Learning: Art and Literature Engagements, K-8.* With Jen Cullerton Johson, she has written a middle school biography: *Unstoppable: Katalin Karikó's Nobel Prize-Winning mRNA Discoveries*, and her memoir, *Breaking the Threads: A Southern Childhood in Racism and Mental Illness, and a Life in Books and Dreams*

Both Laconia and Jane have received the Connecticut Storytelling Center Barbara Reed Award for distinguished and outstanding service to the Connecticut Storytelling Community. They have performed and coached together for over thirty years, and taught a semester-long courses in Storytelling at both Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, and Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. They have also presented together at dozens of national conferences.



FROM THE DESK OF FIRST SELECTMAN DON LOWE

I hope you have enjoyed last week's nice summer weather as we move into Thanksgiving and our holiday season. On Sunday, December 13 is the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department's "Pancake Breakfast with Santa" at Charter Hall from 8:30am to 11:30 am. I just worry about Santa getting down here on his sleigh if the weather stays in the high 60s! In any case, this breakfast is a Sherman holiday staple, and I recommend putting it on your calendar. When you're there don't forget to get your picture taken with Santa.

Speaking of the SVFD, their Christmas trees go on sale this coming Saturday in front of the fire station. Trees sell for $60 apiece and the dollars go to our emergency services. In addition, the Sherman Scouts are selling their Holiday wreaths right alongside the trees. These wreaths are handmade and high quality and are a bargain at $30 per wreath.

On the continuing subject of capital projects, let me mention the firehouse/Charter Hall. Through the last nine years that building has received a great deal of capital attention including a new vent system to better remove exhaust in the bays, new flooring, several heating/AC repairs and improvements, new radios, repaired water pump and tank system, many vehicle repairs, and, of course, a new tanker which we split the costs 80/20 for. (80% from the Town.) One last significant capital item was digging a new well for that building which was a huge improvement in both water quality and supply of water.

This new year will start the state General Assembly sessions, and the General Assembly has changed to an even larger majority of Democrat representatives and senators. This majority may make it easier for agendas and new laws to be pushed through. I have already spoken with state officials and will speak more to them about this issue. Yes, the general assembly will be able to more easily affect changes, but I ask them to make changes that are helpful to our Towns as opposed to making changes that simply push ideologies. This is extremely important. As an example, take the idea of affordable housing. I hope that the state makes legislation that doesn't simply push this issue onto the Towns and instead creates measures that the State can do. In other words, don't give us towns impossible (and expensive) mandates that support ideology, but don't create a solution. Also, I want them t consider that all Connecticut municipalities are not the same.

Happy Thanksgiving! I could fill this column up with things for which I am grateful. And I am especially grateful to live in this amazing Town!

Hometown News
is what we're all about!
Email us your news to: editorial@thetowntribune.com

What's Happening At The Sherman JCC



• **Sat., Nov. 28, 12:00pm-8:00pm & Sun., Nov. 29, 10:00am-3:00pm** - Holiday Pop-Up Shop with Oliver Tobin of Homorganized
• **Sun., Nov. 29, 2:00pm** - Discover the Wonder of the Tale: Storytelling Performance & Workshop with Jane Gangi & Laconia Therrio
• **Sat., Dec. 12, 4:00pm** - Hanukkah Party with Temple Sholom
• **Sun., Dec. 13, 3:00pm** - 4 Horsemen Holiday Show & Fundraiser
Open Mic Night - Thursdays, 7:00pm *NO Open Mic the Week of Thanksgiving
MahJongg - Fridays at noon
Song Swap - last Friday of the month, 7:00pm
Yoga with Paul - Saturdays, 9:30am
Yoga with Oliver - Fridays, 8:00am *NO Class this Week
All Levels Yoga with Megan - Wednesdays, 11:00am
Canasta- Wednesdays, 12:30pm

Please visit our website & sign up for our newsletter to stay updated on all of our events & to purchase your tickets ~ www.JCCinSherman.org

