

Bingo! We've Got A Match Winner

Every Monday evening, host Shirley and her homeshare guest, Beth, are out the door and heading from their Essex home to bingo. And the hilarity ensues. Their vehicle of choice is "Petunia," Shirley's 2006 yellow VW Beetle. Quite honestly, the coolest ride ever.

Spending any time with Shirley and Beth feels like you've wandered into the real lives of Laverne and Shirley. They've got an impish charm, love each other's company and enjoy many good laughs.

"My six kids are all married and they have their own families," Shirley said. "They were taking turns staying overnight with me. So, we decided to try homesharing. We like this arrangement better. Beth and I get along well and she's my cook. She makes a good chicken in the air fryer."

Beth is quick to note that Shirley still whips up some tasty dishes in the kitchen, too. "It's great because she cooks food that reminds me of my grandma. Like Salmon Wiggle! And she's taught me how to make gravy."



Shirley, Beth and "Petunia"

Photo by Karen Pike

After dinner, the pair head to their recliners in the living room to watch Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune and all the reality shows.

Beth works in sales and does some work as a phlebotomist. She looked into being a homeshare guest three years ago. "I started homesharing for the same reason a lot of people do, because rent was outrageous and I don't mind staying with somebody. I like people and, for the most part, I get along with everybody [she does!]. But I think there's a lot of things about home-

sharing you can't feel or see before you do it. Then, you move in and you form relationships that are good and healthy for both of you."

Shirley says Beth has become her seventh child. "They all get along well with her, so it's just like having another child here."

For Beth, as part of a military family, she did her share of moving growing up. With Shirley, she feels grounded. "We've got respect for each other, and I feel like I'm home."

A Letter From Our President



Hobart

HomeShare Vermont has had an exciting year of change. That includes the addition of Mike Schell as our newest Board member. Mike is a lead financial planner at Pathway Financial Advisors, and we're honored to have him as a member of the Board's finance committee.

Despite all our changes here at HomeShare Vermont, the challenges that we were created to address remain.

The volume of applications, matches and interest we're seeing confirms that. We currently have more homeshare matches than at any point in our over 40-year history!

It's heartening for all of us to know that homesharing remains a pragmatic, efficient, and community-centered solution for so many Vermonters. Same as always.



Mike

Photo by Gillian Randall

Hobart Popick, Board President



HomeShare Happenings
February 2024

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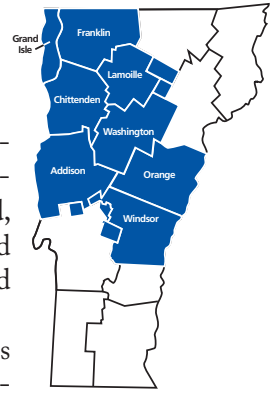
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HomeShare Vermont Open for Business in Windsor County, NEK



Expanding our service area to the entire state is a key element of HomeShare Vermont’s current Strategic Plan. We’ve moved toward reaching that goal by adding most of Windsor County, three towns in the Northeast Kingdom and two in Rutland County. This expansion has been helped by additional funding received from the State Legislature for FY24

with HomeShare Vermont, 16 towns in Windsor County will be served, as well as Killington and Pittsfield in Rutland County.

Shari Borzekowski is the Aging at Home Resource Manager at The Thompson and is working with volunteer Gail Emmerson on creating matches in this area. “There are so many people living by themselves and there are many who need an affordable place to live,” Shari observed. “Homesharing is a great option because it fits so many different needs for hosts and guests.”

In the Northeast Kingdom, HomeShare Vermont has expanded into Craftsbury, Greensboro and Hardwick.

HomeShare Vermont’s entire team is excited about serving these new areas. Executive Director Connor Timmons said, “This expansion will help even more people find housing and enjoy the benefits of homesharing. We’re thrilled to be able to do that now in Windsor County and the Northeast Kingdom.”



Shari and Gail

Photo by Ric Cengeri

through the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

We are proud to be partnering with The Thompson Center in Woodstock as part of this expansion. The Thompson, which helps older adults age well in their community, launched a homesharing program for towns around Woodstock three years ago. By uniting

Connie Kenna: Our Intrepid Addison County Volunteer

It was 2005 when the idea to expand HomeShare Vermont’s coverage area to Addison County was first launched. When the call was put out for volunteers, Connie Kenna of Brandon stepped forward.

“As a teacher, I asked a lot of questions to get people to speak,” explained Connie, who taught German for over 30 years at Middlebury College and several other schools. “So, I thought I could definitely do the interviewing part and I’d get to know the area better.”

In her time as a staff volunteer, Connie is proud of all of the matches she helped make, “But the one that stands out was a match in Lincoln. That lasted 12 years, the longest I’ve been involved with.”

Connie sees the organization’s role as critically important, especially now. “With high rents, for people who have been underemployed or who are going through life changes, homesharing is a great option,” Connie said.

Currently, Connie not only serves her clients but is mentoring our newest Addison County staff volunteers – Abi Sessions and Ellen Flight. Program Director Amy Jelen says Connie’s commitment has been exemplary. “There has NEVER been a time in my 16 years here when Connie did not call me back immediately and offer, enthusiastically, to meet new clients.”



Connie

Photo by Karen Pike

HOMESHARE VERMONT 2024



Staycation/Vacation RAFFLE!

Following last year's incredibly successful raffle, we are back this year with an even **BIGGER** and **BETTER** selection of prizes, courtesy of a host of wonderfully supportive Vermont companies.

Raffle Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100

Thanks to the Media Factory, the drawing of the winning raffle tickets will be streamed on our website on

Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m.

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE:
HomeShareVermont.org



- ★ Two nights at **The Pitcher Inn** in Warren
- ★ Two nights at the **Middlebury Inn**
- ★ Two nights at the **Woodstock Inn & Resort**
- ★ Two nights at **North Hero House**
- ★ Two nights at **Lake Champlain Cottages** on Missisquoi Bay, Swanton
- ★ An overnight stay at the **Lake Morey Resort** in Fairlee
- ★ \$250 **Amtrak** gift certificate and a **Burton** suitcase
- ★ Round for four and cart at **Burlington Country Club**
- ★ **Basin Harbor Cruise** for up to 48 people aboard The Escape
- ★ **Garden Lover's Package:** Two gardening books by master gardener **Charlie Nardozi**, a \$100 **Gardener's Supply** gift certificate, a \$250 **Run Amok Maple** gift certificate, gardener's apron and a \$30 **Element Nail Salon** gift certificate and Spa Kit
- ★ **Stay Warm Winter Package:** A Vermont-made **Stave Puzzle**, a **Johnson Woolen Mills Blanket** and a \$250 **Homeport** gift certificate
- ★ **Game Night Package:** Four tickets each to **UVM Women's and Men's Ice Hockey** and **Women's and Men's Basketball**, a **UVM Basketball Jersey** and a \$250 **Citizen Cider** gift certificate
- ★ **Pamper Me Package:** \$100 **It's My Day Spa** services gift certificate, a \$100 gift certificate for **A Single Pebble**, a **Johnson Woolen Mills** blanket and passes to **Shelburne Museum**

Special thanks to all of these businesses for their generous donations.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

Staycation/Vacation Raffle Tickets @\$25 each (or 5 for \$100) = \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to HomeShare Vermont = \$ _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Enclose check, payable to HomeShare Vermont, or pay by credit card.

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Cardholder's name (please print as listed on card) _____

Signature (required only for credit card transactions) _____

The fine print: Restrictions including blackout dates apply to overnight stays. The IRS does not consider raffle ticket purchases to be tax deductible.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

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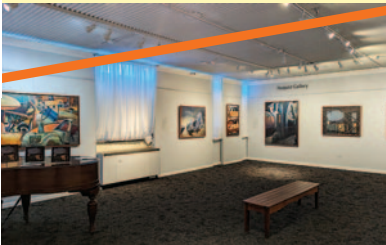
HomeShare Vermont: Improving lives and communities
by bringing Vermonters together to share homes.



412 Farrell Street, Suite 300, South Burlington, VT 05403

Come to our Central Vermont

Open House
in Montpelier



Join us at the
T.W. Wood Gallery
46 Barre Street

Thursday, March 21
from 3-6 p.m.

The Gallery is located at the Center for Arts
and Learning, just two doors down from
HomeShare Vermont's new Montpelier office

Drop in, meet the staff, volunteers and
board members and enjoy some Vermont treats.

Made possible through the generous support of AARP Vermont

