



Here's a last-minute invitation – for 7 p.m. Tuesday Aug. 3! -- to share some important community conversation – and food!

Please come join me and the staff and board of Shires Media Partnership (the non-profit owner of WBTV radio) tomorrow night (yes, Tuesday!) at the Park McCullough House in North Bennington for drinks, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and conversation about the community information needs of Bennington and the region.

You're among a group of civic and "thought" leaders we're inviting to join us for an hour or two of conversation. The evening is free because we need your help! We want to know: How can we foster collaboration among local groups to share information and entertainment that will be fun, informative and necessary – that will bring us together as citizens and residents?

Our goal is that Shires Media educate, inspire, entertain and enrich the civic roles and lives of residents of Bennington and its surrounding area through independent, participatory, sustainable services that are highly valued by the community. We intend to do so directly through both traditional radio and, increasingly, through other state-of-the-art and innovative electronic media.

Among the things we expect to introduce and discuss:

- The board of directors of Shires Media, the 501(c)3 non-profit which owns and is operating WBTV in the public interest.
- The WBTV broadcast schedule and how you can become part of it -- and help us extend it to the World Wide Web.
- The amazing team members at the station on Harwood Hill who stand ready to help you and other citizens create and contribute news, information, shows and online video, audio, comments, listings, announcements . . . and opinions.
- The Community News Corps initiative, and our new Vista-program volunteer, Brown Saracino, who'll be working with the community to launch it during the next 10 months.
- What we learned from the community-information summit held at the Bennington Free Library on Jan. 28 and some ideas for new forms of outreach and service. We'll have flipchart pages on which you can write ideas.

See: <http://dbs.hosting.crocker.com/wiki/index.php/Community-bennington-notes>

You probably remember Bob Harrington, the voice of WBTV for more than a generation. Bob's son, Michael, is among our board members and he'll join board chair Bob Howe to introduce the evening, along with John Likakis, our station executive director. The fun and discussion begin at 7 p.m. with a chance to mingle with your friends, colleagues and neighbors; the program begins shortly after 7:30 p.m.

See you tomorrow evening!

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