

**RESIDENTIAL  
PROPERTY OWNERS**

**FILE FORM: HS 122**

(HOMESTEAD DECLARATION)

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2019.

IF THIS FORM IS NOT FILED

YOU WILL BE CHARGED AT THE NON-RESIDENTIAL  
RATE ON YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

&

**FILE FORM: HI 144**

(HOUSEHOLD INCOME)

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2019

TO GET THE PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT ON  
YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

**WE HAVE A FEW OF THESE FORMS  
AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

AUDITORS'  
ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF  
BERKSHIRE  
&  
BERKSHIRE  
TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VERMONT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2018

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING  
**MONDAY, MARCH 04, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

VOTE AT THE BERKSHIRE TOWN OFFICE  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 05, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

# **ATTENTION**

## **TOWN OF BERKSHIRE RESIDENTS**

All residents of the Town of Berkshire are hereby reminded that they are not to plow snow across the road. It is in violation of Vermont Statutes, Title 23 vsa section 1126 and Title 19 vsa section 1105, to plow or blow snow on the town highway. Violators are subject to a fine up to \$1000.00. The violators can be held liable for the actual cost of repairing any damage and for reasonable Attorney's fees. The snow can turn to ice causing a safety hazard for all motorists. When a plow hits these ridges of ice or frozen banks, severe damage can result to the snow removal equipment. All residents and private plow operators are asked to refrain from plowing snow across the road.

## **DOG LICENSE**

**Dog License are due Monday, April 01, 2019.**

**A 50% penalty fee added thereafter. No advance notice is sent. It is the responsibility of the owner to register his or her dog.**

### **LICENSE FEES INCLUDE \$5.00 STATE FEE**

Females	\$13.00	Spayed Females	\$9.00
Males	\$13.00	Neutered Males	\$9.00

Dogs six months of age and up to one year of age must have a current rabies certificate. Dogs one year of age up to two years of age must have rabies certificate dated in the last twelve (12) months. Dogs two years of age must have rabies certificate in the last three years.

## **DOG LICENSE ACCOUNT 2018**

246 Dogs were registered in 2018

BERKSHIRE HAS A DOG ORDINANCE WHICH STATES  
ALL DOGS MUST BE CONTAINED BY SOME TYPE OF LEASH

## **RABIES CLINIC**

**Stowe Veterinary Clinic**  
will hold a rabies vaccine clinic at the  
**Berkshire Town Garage**  
in March. The date has not yet been set.

BERKSHIRE HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE  
AT THE BERKSHIRE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
FOR \$10

## NOTES OF INTEREST

EVERYONE PLEASE PUT YOUR 911 NUMBER  
WHERE IT MAY BE SEEN FROM THE ROAD

**Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are Due October 04, 2019**

**At 5:00pm. We do not accept postmarks!!!!!!**

Taxes received after this date will be subject to delinquent fees and interest. **Please Mail Early To Arrive In The Clerk's Office On Or Before The Due Date.** Partial payments may be made on property taxes before the tax notices are mailed out. Payments may be made on current taxes any time until the due date. We will give you a receipt for any payments made. No discount or interest given for early payments.

## OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY thru THURSDAY 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

**CLOSED FROM 12:00-1:00 FOR LUNCH**

**CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**

## ADDRESS

**Berkshire Town Clerk's Office**

**4454 Watertower Rd, Enosburg Falls, Vt 05450**

**Phone (802)933-2335 Fax (802)933-5913**

**Email: [townclerk@berkshirevt.com](mailto:townclerk@berkshirevt.com)**

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR BERKSHIRE

<b>Births:</b>	<b>Males 8</b>	<b>Females 10</b>
<b>Deaths:</b>	<b>Males 10</b>	<b>Females 3</b>
<b>Marriages:</b>	<b>6</b>	

### **The New Vital Records Law (Act 46) and What It Means for You**

The Vermont Legislature passed Act 46 in May 2017, which significantly changes the state laws that govern vital records –namely, birth and death certificates. The new law and rules will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates, provide better protection against misuse of these legal documents, and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the entire statewide system for creation, storage and tracking of birth and death certificates. Act 46 will impact anyone who seeks a copy of a Vermont birth or death certificate. **The changes go into effect on July 1, 2019.**

The most notable changes are:

- Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.
- An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.
- Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.
- Access to noncertified copies (previously called “informational” copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.
- Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

For text of Act 46, go to

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2018/Docs/ACTS/ACT046/ACT046%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

## TOWN OFFICERS

Loren Doe	Moderator		
Emily Fecteau	Town Clerk/Treasurer	Term Expires	2020
Todd Kinney	Selectperson	Term Expires	2019
Andy Smith	Selectperson	Term Expires	2020
Anthony Lussier	Selectperson	Term Expires	2020
Tony Archambault	Selectperson	Term Expires	2019
Vincent Hickey	Selectperson	Term Expires	2021
Virginia Messier	Lister	Term Expires	2020
Rachel Roy	Lister	Appointed	2018
	Lister		2019
Mary Larivee	Auditor	Term Expires	2020
Carol Hickey	Auditor	Appointed	2018
Linda Sweetser	Auditor	Term Expires	2019
Virginia Messier	Delinquent Tax Collector	Term Expires	2021
Douglas Weld	Town Agent		
Troy Masse	Town Grand Juror		
Vincent Hickey	Solid Waste Representative		
Todd Kinney	Health Officer		
Vincent Hickey	Deputy Health Officer		
Anthony Lussier	Inspector of Wood Shingles & Lumber		
Vincent Hickey	Service Organization of the Selectperson		
Vincent Hickey	Energy Coordinator		
Anthony Lussier	Road Commissioner		
Claude Charron	Fire Warden		
Tony Archambault	Deputy Fire Warden		
District Representatives	Charen Fegard		
State Senators	Corey Parent		
	Randy Brock		

## **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Vincent Hickey Carol Hickey Barbara Field Paul Hatch  
Jeannette Trayah-Messier Jeanne Norris Marilyn Lauffer

## **FENCE VIEWERS**

Claude Charron Orlyn Thompson William Chates

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Ann Lavery

## **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Carl Ruprecht, Chairperson Claude Charron Margo Sherwood  
Jeannette Trayah- Messier Russell Ford Jason Doe

## **PLANNING BOARD**

Karen Allen Claude Charron Jay Tremblay  
James Lariviere Margo Sherwood Chairperson  
Kristine Koch Walter Elander

## **TOWN OFFICERS' BOND**

VLCT Insurance Agency

Emily Fecteau	Town Clerk	\$50,000
Emily Fecteau	Treasurer	\$50,000
Emily Fecteau	School Treasurer	\$10,000
Virginia Messier	Asst Town Clerk	\$2,000
Virginia Messier	Del. Tax Collector	\$2,000
Tony Archambault	Selectperson	\$1,000
Vincent Hickey	Selectperson	\$1,000
Anthony Lussier	Selectperson	\$1,000
Todd Kinney	Selectperson	\$1,000
Andy Smith	Selectperson	\$1,000
Danny Kennison	Road Foreman	\$1,000



## WARNING 2019 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legally qualified Voters of the Town of Berkshire are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Berkshire Elementary School on **Monday, March 04, 2019 at 7:00 PM** to transact the following business:

Articles 2 and 4 pertaining to the election of officers, and budget will be voted on by **Australian Ballot at the Berkshire Town Clerk's Office Tuesday, March 05, 2019** at which time the polls will open at 10:00 AM in the forenoon and will close at 7:00 PM in the afternoon.

Article 1: To receive and act on the report of the Town Officers for the past year.

Article 2: (A) A Town Moderator for the ensuing year.  
(B) A Selectperson for a term of three years.  
(C) A Selectperson for a term of two years.  
(D) An Auditor for a term of three years.  
(E) An Auditor for the remainder of a three year term (2020)  
(F) An Auditor for the remainder of a three year term (2021)  
(G) A Lister for a term of three years  
(H) A Lister for a term of two years  
(I) A Town Agent for a term of one year  
(J) A Town Grand Juror for a term of one year

Article 3: Shall the Town of Berkshire authorize and empower the Selectboard to borrow money on credit for the Town for current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to meet any deficit of the Town if expenditures exceed the estimated revenues and further authorize the issuance of notes?

Article 4: Shall the Town of Berkshire approve the proposed 2019 budget in the amount of **\$977,915.68** to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing year to cover any present indebtedness of the Town and other loans, State and County taxes and other ordinary expenses with amount of **\$636,537.84** to be raised by taxes?

Article 5: Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to receive and expend for the Town purpose any additional revenue in excess of those calculated in determining the proposed budget for the year beginning January 01, 2019?

Article 6: To transact any other non-binding business properly coming before this meeting

Dated Jan. 28, 2019

Attest: Town Clerk



Selectboard



## TOWN ASSETS

Checkbook Balance December 31, 2018	\$ 86,703.25
Delinquent Taxes	<u>\$ 76,706.48</u>
Total Assets:	\$ 163,409.73

## LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

### Liabilities

Taxes Owed to School	\$ 60,000.00
Land Record Reserve	\$ 2,288.89
Planning Reserve	<u>\$ 1,878.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 64,166.89
Available Cash Forward	\$ 99,242.84

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

12/31/2018

### CURRENT ASSETS

	12/31/2017	12/31/2018
Delinquent Taxes	\$ 63,174.55	\$ 76,706.48
Checking Account	<u>\$ 93,702.49</u>	<u>\$ 86,703.25</u>
	\$ 156,877.04	\$ 163,409.73

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2017	2018
Total Assets	\$ 156,877.04	\$ 163,409.73
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 73,456.33</u>	<u>\$ 64,166.89</u>
	\$ 83,420.71	\$ 99,242.84

## General Ledger Long Term Debt

12/31/2018

Truck 2017	Interest Rate 2%	Maturity	4/7/2021
	Balance January 01, 2018	\$	96,000.00
	Principal Payment	\$	<u>24,000.00</u>
	Balance December 31, 2018	\$	72,000.00

## Restricted Funds

Reappraisal CD's	Balance	December 31, 2018	\$	67,691.67
Equipment CD	Balance	December 31, 2018	\$	36,451.04
New Garage CD	Balance	December 31, 2018	\$	101,874.24

## Cemeteries

## Collected from Florence E Gibson Estate

1/25/2018	\$518.40
4/25/2018	\$518.40
7/25/2018	\$518.40
10/31/2018	<u>\$518.40</u>
	\$2,073.60

East Berkshire Cemetery Assoc.	\$1,036.80
Berkshire Ctr. Cemetery Assoc.	\$1,036.80

## Town Report Budget 2018

	A	B	C	D
1		<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
2	<b>Taxes Revenue</b>			
3	Current taxes	\$632,644.10	\$517,251.10	\$636,537.84
4	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$83,420.71		\$99,242.84
5	Delinquent Taxes collected	\$0.00	\$75,526.12	\$0.00
6	Int. on Delinquent Taxes	\$8,000.00	\$6,467.33	\$7,000.00
7	School Tax Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$38,181.73	\$0.00
8	Hold Harmless	\$82,000.00	\$92,031.00	\$90,000.00
9	<b>Total Tax Revenue</b>	<b>\$806,064.81</b>	<b>\$729,457.28</b>	<b>\$832,780.68</b>
10				
11				
12	<b>Zoning Fees</b>			
13	Zoning Permits	\$1,500.00	\$1,429.00	\$1,500.00
14	Occupancy/Compliance Permits	\$1,000.00	\$1,088.00	\$1,000.00
15	Variances/Subdivision	\$1,000.00	\$926.00	\$1,000.00
16	Highway Permits	\$400.00	\$440.00	\$400.00
17	Driveway Permits	\$100.00	\$234.00	\$100.00
18	Conditional Use	\$0.00	\$204.00	\$0.00
19	<b>Total Zoning Fees</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,321.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
20				
21	<b>Other Revenue</b>			
22	Recording Fees	\$13,000.00	\$15,608.04	\$13,500.00
23	Dog Licenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,194.00	\$1,000.00
24	Liquor Licenses	\$70.00	\$185.00	\$185.00
25	Interest on Statements	\$300.00	\$1,387.84	\$750.00
26	Town Report Reimburse	\$900.00	\$862.47	
27	State Reappraisal Funds		\$7,077.50	\$7,000.00
28	Civil Fines	\$200.00	\$163.50	\$200.00
29	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
30	<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,970.00</b>	<b>\$26,478.35</b>	<b>\$23,135.00</b>
31				
32	<b>Total REVENUES</b>	<b>\$827,034.81</b>	<b>\$760,256.63</b>	<b>\$859,915.68</b>
33				
34	<b>Other Revenue</b>			
35	St. Aid-Roads	\$118,000.00	\$118,253.12	\$118,000.00
36	Municipal Planning Grant	\$0.00	\$3,613.00	\$0.00
37	Paving Grant	\$0.00	\$76,699.54	\$0.00
38	Equipment Grant	\$0.00	\$1,271.59	\$0.00
39	Skunk Hollow Road Grant	\$0.00	\$5,901.46	\$0.00
40	Hydroseeder Grant	\$0.00	\$4,702.41	\$0.00
41	<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$118,000.00</b>	<b>\$210,441.12</b>	<b>\$118,000.00</b>
42				
43	<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$945,034.81</b>	<b>\$970,697.75</b>	<b>\$977,915.68</b>
44				

## Town Report Budget 2018

	A	B	C	D
45		<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
46	<b>Office Payroll</b>			
47	Town Clerk Pay	\$24,700.00	\$24,700.00	\$24,947.00
48	Town Treasurer Pay	\$13,800.00	\$13,800.00	\$14,285.00
49	Assistant Pay	\$20,500.00	\$18,764.78	\$20,500.00
50	Lister Pay	\$15,000.00	\$9,405.50	\$15,000.00
51	Auditors Pay	\$600.00	\$306.00	\$600.00
52	Selectperson Pay	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
53	Health Officer Pay	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
54	BCA Pay	\$400.00	\$390.00	\$400.00
55	Planning & Zoning	\$1,000.00	\$1,260.00	\$1,300.00
56	Custodian Pay	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
57	Zoning Administrator	\$4,500.00	\$4,661.50	\$5,000.00
58	General Share FICA/MEDI	\$6,600.00	\$6,871.94	\$7,000.00
59	Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
60	Health Insurance	\$15,771.60	\$15,771.60	\$16,181.52
61	<b>Total Office Payroll</b>	<b>\$110,171.60</b>	<b>\$103,231.32</b>	<b>\$114,613.52</b>
62				
63	<b>Office Expenses</b>			
64	Postage	\$2,000.00	\$1,861.20	\$2,000.00
65	Advertising	\$500.00	\$852.95	\$500.00
66	Copier	\$2,800.00	\$2,611.42	\$2,900.00
67	Computer Expense	\$4,000.00	\$3,497.12	\$4,000.00
68	Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$1,969.20	\$2,000.00
69	Listers Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$770.48	\$1,000.00
70	Training/Seminars	\$3,000.00	\$2,734.76	\$3,000.00
71	Mileage	\$1,200.00	\$795.50	\$1,200.00
72	Office Telephone	\$2,000.00	\$1,573.95	\$2,000.00
73	Office Heat	\$2,500.00	\$2,769.44	\$2,500.00
74	Office Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,197.01	\$1,500.00
75	Lawn Mowing	\$2,500.00	\$1,006.00	\$2,500.00
76	Microfilming	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.90	\$2,000.00
77	Office Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$3,886.72	\$4,500.00
78	<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>\$31,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,526.65</b>	<b>\$31,600.00</b>
79				
80	<b>General Expenses</b>			
81	Street Lights	\$7,500.00	\$7,346.56	\$7,500.00
82	Franklin County Tax	\$10,596.35	\$10,639.52	\$10,801.56
83	Vt. League of Cities & Towns	\$2,971.00	\$2,971.00	\$3,050.00
84	NW Regional Planning	\$1,820.00	\$1,820.00	\$1,874.00
85	Legal Fees	\$5,000.00	\$7,411.26	\$5,000.00
86	Fire Department	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
87	Ambulance Enosburg	\$40,358.41	\$40,358.43	\$41,165.55
88	Dispatch Fee	\$15,600.24	\$15,912.00	\$16,100.00
89	Elections Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,003.55	\$700.00
90	Town Report Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,727.34	\$1,500.00
91	Dog Expense	\$3,500.00	\$3,144.34	\$3,500.00
92	Property/Casualty Insurance	\$42,155.00	\$42,324.00	\$42,076.00
93	Northwest Solid Waste	\$1,708.00	\$1,708.00	\$1,711.00
94	Planning Expense	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00
95	Interest /Line of Credit	\$1,500.00	\$2,155.99	\$2,000.00

## Town Report Budget 2018

	A	B	C	D
96		<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
97	Unemployment Fund	\$1,200.00	\$928.35	\$1,200.00
98	Reappraisal	\$0.00	\$7,077.54	\$7,000.00
99	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$288.40	\$1,000.00
100	<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$166,209.00</b>	<b>\$175,116.28</b>	<b>\$174,178.11</b>
101				
102	<b>Total General &amp; Office Expense</b>	<b>\$307,380.60</b>	<b>\$305,874.25</b>	<b>\$320,391.63</b>
103				
104	<b>Voted Appropriations</b>			
105	Franklin County Home Health	\$3,553.00	\$3,533.00	\$3,553.00
106	Northwest Counseling	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
107	St. Albans Family Center	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
108	Age Well (formerly CVAA)	\$850.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
109	Franklin County Ind. Develop. Corp	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
110	Green Mountain Transit Agency	\$1,319.00	\$1,319.00	\$1,319.00
111	Vt Ctr for Independent Living	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
112	Franklin County Animal Rescue	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
113	Voice Against Violence	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
114	Richford Summer Camp	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
115	Northwest Unit Investigation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
116	Berkshire Recreation Committee	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
117	Care Partners Adult Daycare	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
118	VT Rural Fire Protection Force	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
119	Green Up	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
120	<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>\$16,852.00</b>	<b>\$16,982.00</b>	<b>\$17,102.00</b>
121				
122	<b>Total Office &amp; General</b>	<b>\$324,232.60</b>	<b>\$322,856.25</b>	<b>\$337,493.63</b>
123				
124	<b>Highway Payroll</b>	<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>
125	Highway Pay	\$172,000.00	\$166,439.08	\$172,000.00
126	Highway FICA/Medi	\$14,000.00	\$12,545.07	\$14,000.00
127	Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
128	Health Insurance	\$31,543.20	\$26,286.00	\$32,363.04
129	<b>Total Highway Payroll</b>	<b>\$217,543.20</b>	<b>\$205,270.15</b>	<b>\$227,363.04</b>
130				
131	<b>Highway Utilities</b>			
132	Highway Telephone	\$1,000.00	\$1,013.38	\$1,100.00
133	Highway Heat	\$3,000.00	\$2,781.57	\$3,000.00
134	Highway Electricity	\$2,000.00	\$1,526.14	\$2,000.00
135	Highway Garbage Removal	\$1,300.00	\$1,299.00	\$1,500.00
136	<b>Total Highway Utilities</b>	<b>\$7,300.00</b>	<b>\$6,620.09</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>
137				
138	<b>Highway Outside Services</b>			
139	Hired Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$600.00	\$3,000.00
140	Rented Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$7,489.37	\$10,000.00
141	Stripping	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
142	Crushing	\$15,000.00	\$13,258.20	\$15,000.00
143	Paving/resurfacing	\$110,000.00	\$179,046.20	\$110,000.00
144	<b>Total Highway Outside Services</b>	<b>\$142,000.00</b>	<b>\$200,393.77</b>	<b>\$142,000.00</b>
145				

## Town Report Budget 2018

	A	B	C	D
146	<b>Special Projects</b>			
147		<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>
148	Tax Mapping	\$5,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$1,000.00
149	Garage Septic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
150	Municipal Planning Grant	\$0.00	\$3,613.00	\$0.00
151	New Garage Reserve	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
152	Equipment Grant	\$0.00	\$2,550.12	\$0.00
153	HydroSeeder Grant Purchase	\$0.00	\$5,878.01	\$0.00
154	Municipal General Roads Permit	\$2,000.00	\$1,990.00	\$2,000.00
155	<b>Total Special Projects</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>\$42,331.13</b>	<b>\$38,000.00</b>
156				
157	<b>Maintenance</b>			
158	Garage Maintenance	\$6,500.00	\$7,506.77	\$7,500.00
159	Truck 3 (2017)	\$6,000.00	\$4,698.64	\$6,000.00
160	Truck 1 (2007)	\$10,000.00	\$10,832.18	\$15,000.00
161	Truck 2 (2012)	\$6,000.00	\$4,122.41	\$6,000.00
162	Loader (2015)	\$3,000.00	\$617.98	\$1,500.00
163	Mower/ Tractor /Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$329.33	\$1,000.00
164	Sifter (1990)	\$2,000.00	\$653.45	\$2,000.00
165	Plows & Sanders	\$8,000.00	\$7,353.57	\$8,000.00
166	Trailer	\$1,000.00	\$590.03	\$1,000.00
167	Chipper (1984)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
168	Grader (2013)	\$4,000.00	\$1,357.59	\$4,000.00
169	Minor Equipment	\$2,000.00	\$819.99	\$2,000.00
170	General Vehicle Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$4,068.05	\$6,000.00
171	Diesel	\$30,000.00	\$36,799.05	\$35,000.00
172	Gasoline	\$2,000.00	\$1,133.00	\$2,000.00
173	Radio Repair & Testing	\$500.00	\$77.50	\$500.00
174	Equipment Fund	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
175	<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>\$118,500.00</b>	<b>\$110,959.54</b>	<b>\$128,000.00</b>
176				
177	<b>Materials</b>			
178	Salt	\$25,000.00	\$27,494.60	\$25,000.00
179	Chloride	\$30,000.00	\$22,536.28	\$30,000.00
180	Highway Materials	\$5,000.00	\$2,339.80	\$5,000.00
181	Culverts	\$9,000.00	\$8,812.40	\$5,000.00
182	Road Signs	\$4,000.00	\$925.51	\$2,000.00
183	Guard Rails	\$5,000.00	\$5,091.00	\$5,000.00
184	<b>Total Materials</b>	<b>\$78,000.00</b>	<b>\$67,199.59</b>	<b>\$72,000.00</b>
185				
186	<b>Total Highway</b>	<b>\$595,343.20</b>	<b>\$632,774.27</b>	<b>\$614,963.04</b>
187				
188	<b>Debt Services</b>			
189	Truck Payment/Interest (2017)	\$25,459.01	\$25,459.01	\$25,459.01
190	<b>Total Debt Services</b>	<b>\$25,459.01</b>	<b>\$25,459.01</b>	<b>\$25,459.01</b>
191				
192	<b>Total Expenditures debt/highway</b>	<b>\$620,802.21</b>	<b>\$658,233.28</b>	<b>\$640,422.05</b>
193	=====	=====	=====	=====
194	<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$945,034.81</b>	<b>\$981,089.53</b>	<b>\$977,915.68</b>



## TREASURER REPORT

### General

Current Taxes	\$517,251.10
Zoning Fees	\$4,321.00
Other Revenue	\$26,478.35
Interest Delinquent Taxes	\$6,467.33
Delinquent Taxes	\$75,526.12
School Tax Refund	\$38,181.73
Hold Harmless	\$92,031.00
Municipal Planning Grant	<u>\$3,613.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$763,869.63</b>

### Highway

State Aide to Roads	\$118,253.12
Paving Grant	\$76,699.54
Skunk Hollow Grant	\$5,901.46
Hydroseeder Grant	\$4,702.41
Equipment Grant	<u>\$1,271.59</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$206,828.12</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$970,697.75</b>
--------------------	---------------------

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

Salaries	\$247,026.86
FICA	\$19,417.01
Office Expense	\$27,526.65
General Expense	\$175,116.28
Health Insurance	\$42,057.60
Appropriations	\$16,982.00
Highway Utilities	\$6,620.09
Highway Outside Services	\$200,393.77
Highway Maintenance	\$110,959.54
Highway Materials	\$67,199.59
Truck 2017 Payment/Interest	\$25,459.01
Special Projects	<u>\$42,331.13</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$981,089.53</b>

## Taxes Billed 2018

	Grand List	Tax Rate	Taxes Raised
Municipal Grand List	\$1,268,647.25	0.1062	\$134,730.13
Highway Grand List	\$1,268,647.25	0.3923	\$497,690.40
Local Agreement	\$1,268,647.25	0.0023	\$2,917.94
Homestead Education	\$824,066.36	1.2657	\$1,043,020.94
Non Residential Education	\$443,799.48	1.5651	\$694,590.64
Late Homestead Penalty			<u>\$123.83</u>
		<b>Total Tax</b>	\$2,373,073.88

### Taxes as Billed

Taxes Collected as of October 06, 2018	\$2,253,902.00
Net delinquent for October 06, 2018	\$89,239.08
Taxes Collected After October 06, 2018	\$28,952.59
Total Delinquent December 31, 2018	\$76,706.48

2018 Taxes	\$2,253,902.00
School Taxes Paid by Town	\$1,396,285.39
State Paid School Tax	<u>\$340,365.51</u>
	\$517,251.10

## Statement of Delinquent Taxes

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

YEAR	TAX Balance	Collections	Abated	Balance
2012	\$2,621.44	\$2,621.44		\$0.00
2016	\$6,774.88	\$4,311.20		\$2,463.68
2017	\$53,597.20	\$39,640.89		\$13,956.31
2018	\$89,239.08	\$28,952.59		\$60,286.49
	<b>\$152,232.60</b>	<b>\$75,526.12</b>		<b>\$76,706.48</b>

### 2016

North Country Air

### 2017

Aldrich Rodney  
Bessette Anthony  
Ferland Michael & Stacey  
Johnson/Fliss  
Lahue Bryan & Jessica  
Nichols Leonard  
North Country Air  
Randall Mikeal & Abbie  
Stanhope Timothy  
Steinger Richard & Anna  
Williams Paul

### 2018

Aldrich Rodney  
Austin Debra  
Bessette Anthony  
Carr Roger  
Conger Robert & Sheila  
Conger Robert III  
Davenport James  
Donna Ryan & Bailey  
Ferland Michael & Stacey  
Friot Anita & Randy  
Hardy Jonas  
Jones Ernest

L Esperance Steven  
Lafontaine John  
Lahue Bryan & Jessie  
Larose James & Jon  
Lontine Shannon  
Martin Robert  
Martin Roland  
McNeil Samuel  
Nichols Leonard  
Paquette Tira  
Peters Robert Jr  
Randall Mikeal  
Rondeau Keith  
Roy Rachel  
Schump Sandor  
Stanhope Timothy  
Steiniger Richard & Anna  
Waterhouse Jason/ North Country Air  
Williams Paul

#### SUMMARY

#### Taxes Received for Collection

Delinquent	\$46,573.53
Current Late	\$28,952.59
total	\$75,526.12

#### Interest

Interest Received as of December 31,2018	\$6,467.33
Interest Due as of December 31, 2018	\$3,892.45

TOWN TAX RATE COMPARISON CHART  
JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST

YEAR	GRANDLIST	TOWN TAX RATE
1984	\$177,974	\$0.74
1985	\$181,709	\$0.83
1986	\$184,018	\$0.90
1987	\$189,334	\$0.94
1988	\$192,933	\$0.93
1989	\$197,991	\$0.94
1990	\$371,951	\$0.63
1991	\$377,666	\$0.63
1992	\$383,635	\$0.65
1993	\$390,825	\$0.72
1994	\$396,258	\$0.71
1995	\$403,822	\$0.71
1996	\$390,570	\$0.63
1997	\$396,920	\$0.63
1998	\$408,851	\$0.70
1999	\$559,040	\$0.48
2000	\$559,742	\$0.51
2001	\$611,090	\$0.52
2002	\$634,207	\$0.54
2003	\$644,900	\$0.60
2004	\$665,759	\$0.60
2005	\$697,484	\$0.60
2006	\$695,369	\$0.69
2007	\$702,733	\$0.66
2008	\$1,243,143	\$0.38
2009	\$1,240,085	\$0.46
2010	\$1,227,483	\$0.43
2011	\$1,229,725	\$0.44
2012	\$1,241,193	\$0.48
2013	\$1,232,426	\$0.49
2014	\$1,247,237	\$0.52
2015	\$1,250,095	\$0.48
2016	\$1,264,635	\$0.51
2017	\$1,264,437	\$0.50
2018	\$1,268,647	\$0.50

## BERKSHIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### REVENUE 2018

January 1, 2018	Balance on Hand	<b>\$142,248.17</b>
-----------------	-----------------	---------------------

#### Income 2018

Town of Berkshire	\$27,000.00	
Marcy Estate	\$658.35	
Interest on CD	\$199.59	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$27,857.94</b>	<b><u>\$27,857.94</u></b>
		<b>Total: \$170,106.11</b>

Office	\$274.09	
Electric	\$985.91	
Telephone	\$768.70	
Heat	\$4,155.48	
Equipment	\$6,229.13	
Dues & Licenses	\$426.00	
Truck Repairs	\$5,256.92	
Misc.	\$2,115.43	
Radio	<u>\$0.00</u>	
	<b>\$20,211.66</b>	<b>Total: <u>\$20,211.66</u></b>

December 31, 2018	Balance on Hand	<b>\$149,894.45</b>
-------------------	-----------------	---------------------

To anyone interested in joining the Fire Department, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station. We do have some new faces and are looking for more.

To report a fire: Dial 911. Be prepared to give the dispatcher **your name, location and a telephone number where you can be reached** for call back information if necessary. Do not assume that the Fire Department will automatically know where you are located. For this reason, we suggest that property owners give thought to what information is necessary so police, fire departments, and ambulances can arrive as quickly as possible when the need arises. Additional information that is helpful: town road names and numbers, highway route numbers, local land marks, or the name of neighbors who are well known in the community.

Respectfully submitted: Berkshire Volunteer Fire Department

#### **OFFICERS**

Tony Archambault-Chief	Jamie Archambault-Asst. Chief
Taylor Laplant-Captain	Andy Smith-Treasurer
Chris Smith-Captain	

#### **FIREFIGHTERS**

Robert Archambault	Eric Benware	David Kennison
Joey Judd	Dustin Broe	Jason Jutras
Josh Randall	Brad St.Pierre	Claude Charron
Dean Randall	Chris Dudley	Kim Donna
Jamie St.Pierre		



# *Town of Berkshire Vermont*

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

ZONING OFFICE

4454 WATER TOWER ROAD

Berkshire, Vermont 05450

Ann E. Lavery, Zoning Administrator

### 2018

This was a very interesting year for Berkshire Zoning. In total forty-eight requests were processed. That number was down from sixty-three in 2017.

A breakdown of these requests follows:

- \*Twenty-four (24) Building Permits were granted.
  - Three new single family dwellings were approved.
  - One replacement mobile home
  - Twenty (20) various accessory use structures, such as garages, sheds, additions, decks, etc. were allowed.
- \*Fourteen Certificates of Compliance were issued.
- \*One Boundary Line Adjustment was approved.
- \*Two minor (three lots or less) were granted.
- \*Three Conditional Use Applications were considered.
  - One Conditional Use Application was approved.
  - The other two were withdrawn at the request of the applicant.
- \*One Site Plan Proposal was approved.
- \*Three Findings of Facts were issued and recorded.

In August The Development Review Board was pleased to welcome a new member, Russell Ford, appointed by the Select Board. The DRB is still seeking new members. Regular DRB meetings are held at 7PM on the Second Thursday of each month.

I would like to thank Vincent Hickey for filling in for me while I was in Ireland.

As always it is a pleasure to work with the residents of Berkshire. I look forward to another productive year. If at anytime you need assistance please contact me. Regular office hours are Mondays from 9-Noon, or anytime by request.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ann E. Lavery*

**The Town of Berkshire**

is looking for interested residents to represent Berkshire on the **NRPC Transportation Advisory Committee**, (committee meets approximately 9 times a year in St.Albans) and for a resident to represent Berkshire on the **Northwest Solid Waste Management Board**, (board meets every other Month in Fairfax)

**The Town of Berkshire**

has vacant seats on the **Development Review Board**, (board meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month).

For more information contact the Berkshire Town Clerk's Office.

## A MESSEAGE FROM THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the records and accounts of the Town of Berkshire. In our opinion the financial statements referred to in the Town Report, presents fairly, in all materials respects, the financial position of the Town of Berkshire as of December 31, 2018 and the results of its operation for the year then ended.

Mary Larivee  
Carol Hickey  
Linda Sweetser

**Enosburgh Ambulance Service**  
**PO Box 465**  
**Enosburgh Falls, Vermont 05450**



## *Annual Subscription*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Cost is \$65 per household / Per Year (membership fee provides local emergency medical ambulance service to you and your listed dependents as medically needed in the Enosburgh Ambulance 911 response area )

The principal subscriber and all persons living in the household residing in our normal call area will be covered under this membership.

Enosburgh Ambulance Service reserves the right to bill any available third party insurance agency. Additional donations are tax deductible.

### **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP**

The Cost is \$65 per business and \$5 per Employee (Please list employees on a separate sheet)

## Enosburgh Ambulance Subscription Application

☐

**NEW**

☐

**RENEWAL**

Office Use Only

Date Entered \_\_\_\_\_

***Please Print***

**Subscriber** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Apt #** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT BELOW**

#### **List Current Dependents**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for Enosburgh Ambulance Service membership for myself and my dependents listed.

I understand that the \$65 per family per year membership fee provides local emergency medical ambulance service to me and my listed dependents as medically needed in the Enosburgh Ambulance 911 response area. The membership fee will cover any applicable deductible or co-payments. I understand that this membership permits Enosburgh Ambulance Service to collect directly from any third party agency whatever benefits may be available at no charge to me or my family, and that this membership is nonrefundable and is nontransferable. I request payment of authorized Medicare benefits and/or other insurance benefits be made on my behalf to Enosburgh Ambulance Service, for any ambulance services and supplies furnished to me by Enosburgh Ambulance Service whether in the past, present or in the future. I authorize any holder of medical information about me or other relevant documentation about me to be released to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and its agents and contractors, and all appropriate third party payers, whether in the past, present or in the future.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

White River Junction VA Medical Center  
215 North Main Street  
White River Junction, VT 05009  
866-687-8387 (Toll Free)  
802-295-9363 (Commercial)

In Reply Refer to: 405/00

November 29, 2018

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ - and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Laura Miraldi  
Acting Medical Center Director



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission 2018 Town Report

Northwest Regional Planning Commission is a multi-purpose governmental organization created by the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners.

## Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projects & Programs:

**Municipal plan and bylaw updates and related technical assistance:** Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education and training, bylaw modernization and plan updates.

**Brownfields:** Complete environmental site assessments and fund clean-ups so properties can be sold, developed or re-developed to benefit the economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

**Transportation planning:** Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and provide services such as intersection studies, corridor plans and traffic counts.

**Emergency planning:** Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and Vermont Emergency Management and Homeland Security on emergency planning, exercises and training.

**Energy conservation and development:** Ensure increased local and regional input in energy programs and permitting through the adoption of a regional energy plan and assistance with the development of local energy plans.

**Watershed planning and project development:** Implement water quality projects and programs to protect water resources, ensure safe water supplies, enhance recreational opportunities and address known sources of pollution.

**Regional plans:** Coordinate infrastructure, community development and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption and administration of a comprehensive regional plan.

**Geographic Information System Services:** Provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

**Special projects:** Complete special projects such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development and affordable housing projects.

**Grants:** Provide assistance identifying appropriate grant sources, defining a project scope and writing grant applications.

## 2018 Berkshire Projects:

- ☞ Provided technical assistance in planning and zoning.
- ☞ Revised the Land Development Regulations, including the development of a municipal buildout analysis and completion of a municipal survey, through Municipal Planning Grant funding.
- ☞ Compiled updates for the Local Emergency Operations Plan and ensured compliance with state standards.
- ☞ Provided regional approval of the Town Plan.
- ☞ Updated the E-911 poster map and road atlas.
- ☞ Completed a road erosion inventory.
- ☞ Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects and equipment purchase.

**Berkshire  
Regional Commissioners:**  
Claude Charron & One Seat Vacant

**Transportation Advisory  
Committee:**  
Anthony Lussier

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with municipal roads general permit compliance, water quality project implementation, local energy plans, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is greatly appreciated. NRPC is your resource -- please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, mapping or other needs.

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District  
2018 Supervisors' Report

The Northwest Solid Waste District's (NWSWD) mission is to provide for the efficient, economical, and environmentally-sound reduction, reuse, recycling, and finally disposal of solid waste. 2018 was a great year for waste reduction and recycling in the NWSWD - our efforts resulted in the District successfully diverting more waste from the landfill than any year before! Waste diverted was recycled or reused and helped conserve resources and keep toxic materials out of Vermont landfills.

The District increased our programs and services like composting, hazardous waste disposal, and reuse. We also offered more workshops and increased our ability to pass on useful information through channels like farmers' markets and fairs and the internet. These efforts helped Franklin and Grand Isle counties reduce the waste they sent to the landfill. We measure our success by looking at the weight of waste that we sent to the landfill and what we were able to divert through reuse and recycling. All of this work shows in the amount of waste we diverted from the landfill this year. Some of this year's highlights include:

- District communities collectively diverted 31% of their waste from the landfill.
- **District operations diverted 1,734 tons of waste from the landfill in 2018! This is a 25% increase from 2017!!**
- NWSWD facilities recycled 128 tons of e-waste.
- Held eight "Backyard Composting" classes for residents.
- Launched a new community and business outreach program that has already made contact with over 260 businesses in our region.
- Collected 41 tons of hazardous material from 1462 households through our Household Hazardous Waste program. That's over 18% more households served than last year!
- Our Close the Loop compost program grew 28% and we collected 308 tons of food scraps from 33 businesses and institutions and 7 residential drop-off points to be turned into compost.

#### **NWSWD by the Numbers**

In the NWSWD, five District run recycling drop-off sites in Georgia, Montgomery, Bakersfield, St. Albans and North Hero, 2 member town run sites (Alburgh and Grand Isle), and mandatory curbside recycling by registered waste haulers allows easy access to recycling for all residents. Overall in 2018, through recycling, reuse and composting, District residents were able to divert 31% of waste created from the landfill! After all of this work the average NWSWD resident sent just 3 pounds of waste to the landfill per day. Way to go!

Through our District-operated sites and programs, this year we disposed of 914 tons of trash and recycled or diverted 1,734 tons of material including 471 tons of blue-bin recyclables. This sets the diversion rate for District services at 65%.

All District staff members are available through the District office at (802)524-5986 or [info@nswd.org](mailto:info@nswd.org). For more information about the District and our services, how to reduce and recycle your waste, or how to get involved, call District staff at the above number or come visit at 158 Morse Drive in Georgia (we even give tours of our Recycling Center). You can also visit us on the web at [www.nswd.org](http://www.nswd.org), find us on Facebook, and sign-up for our e-mail updates. More information can also be found in our newsletter available at your Town Meeting.

NWSWD Board of Supervisors



# Green Mountain Transit Agency Berkshire FY18 Annual Report

## WHO WE ARE

*GMT is the public transportation provider for the northwest and central regions of Vermont, offering a variety of services to the communities in which we serve. GMT is proud to offer traditional public transportation services like commuter, deviated fixed route and demand response shuttles, while providing essential Elderly, Disabled and Medicaid services designed around special individual needs.*

## OUR SERVICES

### Elderly/Disabled/Medicaid Individual Service

GMT, in partnership with Champlain Valley Agency on Aging and CIDER, provides ongoing individual medical and non-medical transportation service to those who qualify for Medicaid, Elderly and Disabled funds and/ or both. GMT offers the scheduling and payment of rides provided through volunteer drivers, special shuttle, bus and/or cab service. GMT also provides transportation for critical care such as radiation and dialysis treatments regardless of age or disability. Individual service offers access to:

- Medical appointments
- Meal site programs
- Senior Center/Adult Day Care
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Prescription and Shopping
- Mental Health and Human Services
- Radiation and Dialysis Treatment
- Physical Therapy

*GMT provided 70 rides to residents of Berkshire*

### General Public Transportation Service

GMT offers the Town of Berkshire traditional public transportation service via the Richford/St. Albans Shuttle, providing affordable commuter transportation to key employment locations. GMT also provides connecting service to the St. Albans LINK and St. Albans Downtown Shuttle for additional work and daily needs. These services directly support economic development, daily service accessibility and environmental stewardship.

#### Richford/St. Albans Commuter

The Richford/St. Albans Commuter offers weekday commuter service from Richford to St. Albans, with service through Berkshire, for affordable transportation options to the St. Albans Industrial Park and downtown St. Albans. This route also offers connections to the St. Albans LINK Express and St. Albans Downtown Shuttle and will deviate off route up to ¼ mile for greater accessibility.

*FY18 Richford/St. Albans Commuter Ridership – 7,551*

#### St. Albans Downtown Shuttle

The Downtown Shuttle offers hourly service Monday-Saturday through St. Albans downtown and the surrounding area, providing key access to employment, education, shopping, medical and daily services. On board and deviation service options are available by request up to ¾ mile for added accessibility. Connecting service through GMT local commuter service from Enosburgh is available each weekday.

*FY18 St. Albans Downtown Shuttle Ridership – 21,165*





### **St. Albans LINK Express**

The St. Albans LINK Express offers weekday service during peak commute hours from St. Albans to Chittenden County. The LINK also offers connecting service to CCTA's transit system offering extensive access to employment, education, shopping and medical locations. Connecting service to the LINK from Enosburgh is available through the Richford/St. Albans Shuttle.

*FY18 St. Albans LINK Express Ridership – 15,940*

### **Volunteer Driver Program**

In addition to shuttle vehicles, GMT uses an extensive network of Volunteer Drivers to provide coordinated and caring rides throughout our rural service area. Volunteer Drivers are essential in providing cost effective and community driven services, and are the foundation of our special services. Drivers are reimbursed for the miles they drive and provide services under the management of GMT.

GMT would like to thank all those who volunteer their time to support the transportation needs of their friends, family and neighbors. **If you are interested in becoming a GMT Volunteer Driver, please contact us at 802-527-2181 or [info@RideGMT.com](mailto:info@RideGMT.com).**

### **Thank You**

Thank you to the residents and officials of the Town of Enosburg for your continued financial support of GMT's public transportation service and for your commitment to efficient transportation solutions.

### **Information**

Please feel free to contact Chris Loyer, Public Affairs Coordinator with questions or to request additional information on GMT services at 802.540.2451 or [cloyer@RideGMT.com](mailto:cloyer@RideGMT.com)

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
VERMONT STATE POLICE



**St. Albans Field Station**  
140 Fisher Pond Road  
St. Albans, VT 05478

January 4, 2019

On behalf of the Vermont State Police, St. Albans Field Station, we are providing our 2018 Annual Report. This report will provide you information in regards to current staffing, specialty services and statistical information.

**St. Albans Barracks Mission Statement:**

***The mission of the Vermont State Police St. Albans Field Station is to protect the citizens of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. We will strive to reduce crime and crashes with thorough criminal investigations and aggressive highway safety enforcement.***

- ***Criminal Investigation – The St. Albans Station will make every attempt to prevent crime before it makes its way into our jurisdiction. We will accomplish this goal through an extensive intelligence network that will allow us to engage problems in the communities that we serve and by sharing investigative information with our local, county, state and federal law enforcement partners. Our priority remains to pursue those that distribute drugs and cause social harms against persons and property in our communities.***
- ***Highway Safety Enforcement – Through aggressive high visibility motor vehicle enforcement programs, our Troopers will seek out and arrest those individuals that choose to drive impaired by alcohol and/or drugs on our highways. We will continue to use timely data to locate specific areas to prevent and reduce crashes. Our Troopers will use every motor vehicle contact as an educational opportunity as well as looking beyond the traffic stop in an effort to identify criminal activity as it filters into our communities. Collaborating with local, county and federal agencies is essential to any success.***

**Specialty Services provided by the St. Albans Field Station:**

In addition to their field primary responsibilities, many of the Troopers assigned to the St. Albans Station are members of special response teams that provide expert response

**"Your Safety Is Our Business"**

capabilities in a variety of areas to address critical needs throughout Vermont. The allocation of these resources is as follows:

**3 - Troopers on the Tactical Services Unit (SWAT Team)**

**1 - Troopers on the SCUBA Team**

**1 - Trooper assigned a K-9**

**3 - Troopers trained as Drug Recognition Experts**

**1 - Trooper on the Crime Scene Search Team**

**3 - Troopers on the Clandestine Laboratory Team**

**2- Troopers on the Crisis Negotiation Unit**

**1-Trooper on the EVOC Instructor**

**1-Trooper on the Honor Guard**

**3-Member's Assistance**

**2017 Total Annual Figures & Comparison:**

<b>Total cases investigated:</b>	<b>6491</b>
<b>Total arrests:</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>Total tickets issued:</b>	<b>1624</b>
<b>Total warnings issued:</b>	<b>3874</b>
<b>Fatal Accidents Investigated:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Burglaries Investigated:</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Impaired Driving Arrests</b>	<b>102</b>

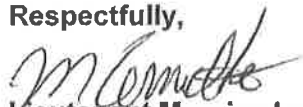
	Total Crashes	Total Burglaries	Total Thefts
Average of 2016- 2017	564	67	169
2018	487	57	173

**Local Community Report: Berkshire**

<b>Total Cases:</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total Arrests:</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Collisions w/ Damage</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Collisions w/ Injury</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Vandalisms:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Alarms</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Burglary:</b>	<b>2</b>

**We will continue to make our communities safer through enforcement, directed patrols, outreach and community programs. It is our privilege to serve the citizens of your community.**

**Respectfully,**



**Lieutenant Maurice Lamothe  
Station Commander**

**Franklin County Home Health Agency, Inc.**  
**Information Sheet**  
**Berkshire**

**What is Franklin County Home Health Agency?**

Franklin County Home Health Agency is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation that has proudly provided residents Franklin County with high quality, comprehensive home health, hospice, long term care and wellness services since 1969.

**What is the Agency's Mission and Purpose?**

We provide high quality health care services in home and community settings. We are committed to excellence. We strive to meet the needs of our clients in a professional manner that promotes health, independence, comfort, dignity and quality of life.

**What is the Agency's service area?**

The Agency serves all 15 towns in Franklin County through our two offices – one in St. Albans and one in Enosburg Falls. We serve people of all ages.

**How many patients did the Agency serve in 2018?**

The Agency made a total of 74,539 visits to 2,113 Franklin County residents.

We made a total of 605 visits to 41 residents of Berkshire:

345	Nursing
118	Physical Therapy
0	Speech Language Pathology
8	Occupational Therapy
13	Medical Social Work
19	Licensed Nursing Assistant
18	Personal Care Attendant
2	Volunteers
7	Hospice Volunteer Coordinator
75	Long Term Care Coordinator

**How many people does the Agency employ?**

The Agency currently has a staff of 180 Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Medical Social Workers, Licensed Nursing Assistants, Care Attendants, Homemakers, and Office Support Staff.

## **What are the Agency's Programs and Services?**

**Home Care:** We provide medically necessary home health services to people of all ages. Examples include individuals who need wound care, a person newly diagnosed with diabetes needing insulin administration and instruction, or a mother and newborn newly discharged from the hospital.

**Home Telemonitoring Program:** We use state of the art technology to remotely monitor our patients' weight, blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen status to help improve their health condition and avoid hospitalization.

**Hospice:** We care for people with serious illness for whom the prognosis is less than six months of life. The focus of this care is on achieving comfort and quality of life.

**Palliative Care:** This program balances advanced medical technology with the wishes of each individual client by focusing on psychological, physical, social and spiritual needs by providing a strong support system to help the client and family cope during the serious illness. This program understands that maintaining quality of life is an important aspect of care.

**Long Term Care:** We help disabled and older members of our community with personal care, housekeeping, meal preparation, errands and shopping to allow them to stay independent in their own home.

**Maternal Child Health Program:** We help to prepare pregnant women for a healthy pregnancy, labor and delivery, breastfeeding and new infant care.

In addition, we offer infusion therapy, foot clinics, grief and bereavement services and wellness services to our community.

## **How are services paid for?**

As a Medicare certified Agency, we receive reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid and other third party insurances. In 2018 we received 84 percent of our revenue from Medicare and Medicaid.

We are committed to providing medically necessary home care services to all those in need regardless of their ability to pay. Without individual town appropriations, the United Way and donor gifts, our ability to provide care could be adversely impacted.

## **Why does the Agency need money from towns?**

The Agency depends on the money received from towns to subsidize the cost of care provided to patients who are uninsured or underinsured. Last year the Agency provided more than \$415,294 in free and subsidized care.

## **Where can you call for more information about Franklin County Home Health Agency, Inc.?**

For more information about the Agency or the services we provide please call (802) 527-7531 or visit our website at [www.fchha.org](http://www.fchha.org).

**THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING  
TOWN OF BERKSHIRE  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Request Amount: \$180.00**

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

Preliminary numbers for our FY'18 (10/2017-9/2018) show VCIL responded to over **3,700** requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **315** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **11** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **149** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **83** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **87** individuals with information on assistive technology; **45** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **532** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **41** people and provided **33** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '18, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:  
**1-800-639-1522**, or, visit our web site at **[www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)**.



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

## FCIDC 2018 ANNUAL COUNTY REPORT

**The mission of Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC)** is to engage in a process of building a strong and diversified market economy that serves the interest of area enterprises, municipalities, residents and to strengthen our economy through the creation and retention of jobs and build a business environment suitable to host capital investment.

Throughout 2018 Franklin County once again made great strides in improving our communities and local economies. The unemployment rate for Franklin County still hovers around 3.1%. Some folks might wonder what does that mean in actual numbers; well it means that there are approximately 840 individuals county wide who are actively in search of employment.

As I have shared with many individuals, Franklin County is very fortunate to have the community engagement and economic development activity that we have. Here are just some of the great initiatives happening around our county:

- FCIDC worked with the Town of Fairfax to receive grants totaling \$650,000 in order to extend water and sewer infrastructure to Runamok. The project will assist them to grow and add jobs.
- FCIDC worked with Alain Morrisette at BMTM, Developer Dave Fosgate, Gordon Winters of Swanton Ace Hardware, the Village and Town of Swanton to construct a new 18,000 sq. ft. warehouse so as to relocate BMTM and allow Ace to construct a downtown store in Swanton. A big thank you to Dave Fosgate for building a new facility to make this all happen.
- FCIDC has fielded multiple business inquiries focused on the St. Albans Town, Enosburg, Georgia and Swanton Industrial Parks.
- Highgate, Montgomery, Swanton, Richford, Georgia and Enosburg continue to be energized by local volunteer committees focused on quality of life and an improved local economy. FCIDC tries to stay engaged with all communities and assist wherever possible.
- Water quality discussions continue throughout the county mainly focused on Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi. Speaking of water St. Albans Town now has a first-class marina located in the St. Albans Bay.
- Barry Callebaut, Ben & Jerry's, Peerless Clothing (property owned by FCIDC) and VELCO wrapped up their respective projects in 2018. The total amount of all of the projects was \$120 million in capital investment.
- FCIDC is a member of Healthy Roots. Their mission is to strengthen the local food system of Northwest Vermont for the health and vitality of our community.

The St. Albans Cooperative Creamery celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration included many community events; the Tractor Parade with more than 50 entries was the culminating anniversary event. The Coop continues to work hard to support their member farms and keep them in business. Over the past year traditional milk prices continued to remain low; lower than actual production costs. In 2018 a number of Franklin County farms chose to sell their cows and get out of farming.

FCIDC continues to offer small business/start up counseling through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) located within the FCIDC office on Main Street in St. Albans. The counseling is free of charge. Last year the SBDC office worked with 24 businesses and created 6 jobs and retained 62.

Respectfully  
Submitted by  
Timothy Smith  
FCIDC Executive Director





## NORTHWESTERN COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES



Our mission is to ensure that the residents of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties have access to high quality services, which promote healthy living and emotional well-being.

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As the needs of the community have changed, so have the programs offered within our three service divisions at Northwestern Counseling & Support Services. In FY2018, NCSS served 3,966 people in our offices, in the local schools, in the community, in their homes and in their places of work. NCSS offers services from birth to death within our 17 locations and also within our community partners' locations across the region. We're very proud to partner with 100% of the patient-center medical homes in our catchment area and 84% of our local schools.

Many of our staff within our community partner locations are embedded in such a way that people are unaware they work for NCSS. Counselors, behavioral interventionists, social workers, wellness counselors, and crisis workers all support members of our community where they are needed. Our agency is one you may never have heard of or maybe you're unsure about the breadth of services we provide. Do you know a young person that is depressed, struggling with anxiety or substance abuse, who has encountered bullying or cyber-bullying, or has struggled with contemplating suicide or shows signs of non-suicidal self-injury? Youth Mental Health First Aid was implemented in an effort to increase early intervention, awareness of available services, and reduction of stigma for individuals living with mental health challenges. This past year we trained 202 community members within Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Since the inception of the training in 2014 NCSS has trained 797 community members as Youth Mental Health First Aiders, creating a ratio of 1 Youth Mental Health First Aider for every 5 adolescents in Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Raising awareness of Youth Mental Health First Aid has increased NCSS' presence in the community through outreach, education, and increasing knowledge of services available to youth. The Youth Mental Health First Aid results is one example of the nearly 100 programs and services which NCSS offers, all of which we are tremendously proud to provide our community.

**In your town of Berkshire** in FY2018, we served 16 consumers from all age groups and provided a total of 801 hours of service. We are committed to improving the lives of the residents of Alburgh. A contribution from your town would mean a great deal to us, and we would most certainly not take it for granted. Our modest request of \$1800 will mean that NCSS can continue to provide specialized and personal services to residents of your town, young and old.

Sincerely,

Todd P. Bauman, Executive Director

**WARNING**  
**BERKSHIRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, March 4, 2019, and Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

The legally qualified voters of the Berkshire Town School District, Berkshire, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Berkshire Elementary School in Berkshire, Vermont, on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., to transact the following business, viz:

Articles 1, 2 and 3 pertaining to the election of officers will be voted on by Australian ballot at the Berkshire Town Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, between 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the polls will close.

- ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.
- ARTICLE 2. To elect a School Director for a term of three (3) years.
- ARTICLE 3. To elect a School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- ARTICLE 4. To transact any other nonbinding business thought proper.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of School Directors duly noticed, called, and held for that purpose on January 8, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Hango

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Hatch

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edmund Garrow

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy Lariviere

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lianne Trombley

**BERKSHIRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
JOINT REPORT OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
AND  
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
  
2018-2019**

**Enrollment as of October 1, 2018**

Grade	PK-3	PK-4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	8	20	14	20	22	17	22	17	25	17	27	209

**Enrollment as of October 1, 2017**

Grade	PK-3	PK-4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	11	13	20	22	18	19	18	22	18	27	30	218

**Blueprint for Learning**

**Mission**

The mission of the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU) Learning Community is to adopt, promote, and support high expectations for all its members. FNESU will use data and research-based best practices to make informed decisions so that all children learn and succeed in each area of development.

**Vision**

FNESU believes that working as a Professional Learning Community will lead to achievement of our mission. FNESU members will:

- Unite to achieve a common purpose and clear goals;
- Work together in collaborative teams to build capacity and promote ongoing professional learning;
- Seek and implement promising strategies for improving student achievement on a continuing basis;
- Monitor each school's progress; and
- Demonstrate a personal commitment to the academic success and general well-being of all students.

**Targets**

**Target Goal #1 Literacy (Reading and Writing)** – Improve student performance in Reading and Writing on New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Assessments as evidenced by any or all of the following:

- The number of students who reach proficient and/or higher on the Reading and Writing assessments will increase by 5% each year.

- The number of students who move up proficiency levels with the NECAP Reading and Writing assessments will increase by 5% each year.
- The number of students who demonstrate minimum of one year's growth in one teaching year's time will increase by 5%. (As measured by Scaled Scores NECAP in Reading Only)

**Target Goal #2 Mathematics** – Improve student performance in Mathematics on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Assessments as evidenced by:

- The number of students who reach proficient and/or higher on the Mathematics assessments will increase by 5% each testing year.
- The percentage of students who move up proficiency levels with the NECAP Mathematics assessments will increase by 5% each testing year.
- The number of students who demonstrate minimum of one year's growth in one teaching year's time in Mathematics as demonstrated by NECAP assessment results will increase by 5% (As measured by Scaled Scores)

**Target Goal #3 Science** – Improve student performance in Science on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Assessments. The number of students who reach proficient and/or higher on the Science assessments will increase by 5% over the previous class.

**Target Goal #4 Technology** – Increase students' ability to utilize technological skills necessary to assist them in accessing digital tools to enhance learning experiences.

**Target Goal #5** – Improve school climate, student well-being, and communication as evidenced by survey data collected from students, parents, and community members.

**Target Goal #6 – Preparing, training, recruiting, hiring, and retaining high quality and effective educators** – Increase student academic achievement by improving educator and administrator quality and increasing the instructional abilities of educators in classrooms and administrators to provide effective feedback to educators.

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### Superintendent's Report Lynn Cota, Superintendent

*“No other investment yields as great a return as the investment in education. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community and the future of every economy.”*

~ Brad Henry

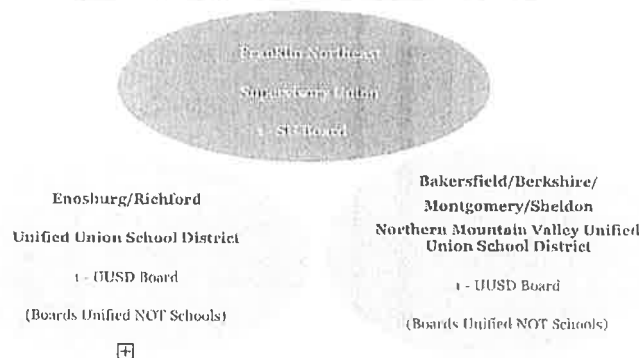
We are living in a turbulent time of complex change in education in Vermont. There have been several major education laws passed in the last few years that have required substantial attention and extensive changes to the work we do in schools, and in how schools are governed, throughout the state.

#### Act 46 - School Governance

On November 28, 2018, the State Board of Education acted on the final phase of the Act 46/49 laws, and released the final order for school district consolidation throughout the state. In this phase, many school districts who had not voluntarily merged had the opportunity to submit Alternative Governance Structure (Section 9) proposals. In Franklin Northeast Supervisory

Union (FNESU), Montgomery submitted a proposal and Richford and Enosburg submitted a joint proposal. The State Board of Education did not approve either proposal and instead ordered a forced merge in Franklin Northeast. The structure outlined in the final plan keeps Franklin Northeast as a Supervisory Union, while merging our five town school districts into two separate unified union school districts (see visual below). Our assigned structure is called a side by side. On one side, the school districts that operate schools through grade 12 (Richford and Enosburg) were ordered to merge their school governance. On the other side, districts that operate schools through grade 8 and tuition high school grades (Bakersfield, Berkshire, Montgomery and now Sheldon) were ordered to merge their school governance. Sheldon had previously been assigned to the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union; the State Board of Education exercised their authority, to assign Sheldon to Franklin Northeast. The Act 46 law requires the new Unified Union Districts to become operational on July 1, 2019.

### **FNESU School Board Structures**



Communities throughout the state have challenged the constitutionality of the Act 46 law and the authority given to the State Board of Education to forcibly merge school districts. Montgomery, Richford and Sheldon are parties in that litigation. We have, and will continue to, work to understand and follow the law and guide our school districts as we navigate this complex governance change.

At the time this report was written, five bills had been introduced in the legislature around Act 46. It is impossible to predict any changes that might occur as a result of these bills. What we know right now is based upon a scheduling agreement between parties in the lawsuit and the Attorney General's Office, we do not have the authority to warn a Unified Budget until after the third week in February. We will provide up to date information to our community members at the Annual Meeting. At that time, we hope to be able to outline what the budget process will be for our school districts and any changes to the timeline associated with unifying school governance in FNESU.

### **Act 77 – Flexible Pathways & Education Quality Standards**

In 2013, the Vermont Legislature enacted the Flexible Pathways law. The intent behind this law was to allow for greater opportunities for personalization of the learning for all students. As a result, all students in grades 7-12 are required to develop personalized learning plans (PLP's) and schools are expected to develop Flexible Pathways for students to choose from. Students can choose from school-based course offerings, virtual or blended learning

opportunities, community or work-based learning opportunities, career and technical center opportunities and post-secondary learning options among others.

The Education Quality Standards require that all students in Vermont graduate based on proficiency of content and skills connected to state and local standards. These laws and standards have required complex changes within our systems and will continue to evolve as we work to build a system that both supports and challenges all our learners.

### Student Learning

Improving learning opportunities and outcomes for the students in Franklin Northeast continues to be the primary goal of our professional work. Annually, each school analyzes data from a variety of sources to complete a Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Based upon the identified needs within each school, and in consideration of the FNESU Continuous Improvement Plan, each school develops their own annual Continuous Improvement Plan.

Standardized assessments are one way we measure student progress and school success. Overall, we have seen growth in the majority of standardized measures from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

#### FNESU

Grade	Vermont ELA	FNESU ELA	Change	Vermont Math	FNESU Math	Change
3	50%	52%	---	52%	59%	+9%
4	53%	50%	---	49%	51%	-4%
5	55%	54%	+5	43%	45%	-2%
6	53%	58%	+2	41%	45%	+3%
7	57%	64%	+13	44%	48%	-2%
8	57%	53%	+3	42%	40%	+1%
9	55%	43%	N/A	35%	26%	N/A

FNESU students scored at or above state average on 8 of 14 measures.

FNESU students scored below state average on 6 of 14 measures.

FNESU stayed the same or increased on 9 of 12 measures.

We are proud of the progress we are making, and recognize the areas we need to focus on for continued growth.

There are many other ways to measure overall school success. Later this spring, the Agency of Education will be releasing comprehensive School Report Cards that are based on many of the accountability measures required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We will make those report cards public on our website once they are available.

### Teacher Retention

We have been gathering and studying data about teacher retention in FNESU for a little over a year. Boards and leaders have analyzed exit surveys and employment trends in order to determine some of the root causes of staff turnover in our schools. As an organization, we have seen a tremendous amount of teacher turnover for many years. On average, we have between 30-40 new teachers each year. Our data indicates that many of our teachers leave within their first four years of employment. Several factors seem to impact those decisions including: geography, availability of housing, and salary. Our boards recognize the importance of

retaining high quality teachers and will continue to make supporting them in their first few years of employment and encouraging them to stay a priority.

### Community Support

On behalf of our School Boards and administrators, thank you for allowing us the privilege of educating your children. We are grateful for the community support of our students, staff and schools.

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## Curriculum

**Jody Vaillancourt/Jennifer Kennison, Co-Directors of Instruction & Learning**

The 2018-2019 school year has been another year of improvement and growth. As our teachers and administrators continue to reflect on our progress and refine our practice, we are seeing a positive impact on student learning. The continued improvement of our students' achievement on the statewide assessment of literacy and math achievement in grades 3-9 known as Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is certainly a bright spot from the past year.

FNESU students:

- scored at or above state average on 8 of 14 SBAC achievement measures.
- stayed the same or increased on 9 of 12 SBAC growth measures.
- scored above the Vermont state average score on 5 of 7 math measures.
- maintained or increased on all ELA measures.

We expect to see more growth from our testing this spring.

The Vermont State Board of Education recently adopted the C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards, and our teachers have been engaged in professional learning and action research aimed at implementing a new instructional model in grades K-12 this year. The C3 Framework is built around the Inquiry Arc, and teaches students to question, apply the disciplinary tools of geography, history, economics, and civics, evaluate sources of information, and take informed action in their communities and the wider world. Students have been very engaged in forming their own evidence-based argument to compelling questions like "Why can't we get everything we need and want?" in kindergarten, "Why can't I post that on social media?" in fifth grade, and "Am I going to vote?" in high school.

The 2018-2019 school year represents year one of implementation of changes required by the Vermont State Plan to address the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under ESSA, teachers and students in Vermont schools will take new statewide assessments. All Vermont students will participate in the Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) for grades 5, 8 and 11. This assessment is designed to measure student achievement of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students in grades 4, 7, and 9 will participate in the FitnessGram assessment. This tool is intended to help our students learn to value a physically active lifestyle. Score data for both of these new assessments will be added to our accountability measures next fall. If you have a child in one of these testing grades, look for individual student score reports this summer.

Ultimately, continuous improvement is the goal of every school in FNESU. Just as with each of our students, we recognize that each school has individual strengths and needs. FNESU strives to identify and build upon effective instructional practice through system-wide

collaboration and the development and implementation of continuous improvement plans in order to maximize student learning.

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**Continuum of Supportive Services**  
**Shirley Carlson, Director of Special Programs**

The 2018/2019 school year presented the special education department at Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU) with several staffing challenges and staffing additions. We continue to struggle in hiring qualified and experienced special education teachers. This issue is not unique to FNESU as several neighboring supervisory unions are also feeling the void in this applicant pool. Most worrisome is the lack of available speech and language pathologists in the State of Vermont. FNESU is very fortunate to have three veteran SLPs working in all of our schools. These individuals continue to go above and beyond on a daily basis to try to insure that our identified students receive important language services. If you know who these individuals are personally, please thank them for their dedication and efforts. They are educational heroes in my opinion! Fortunately, the State has listened to our significant concerns regarding the lack of available personnel. We are encouraged to learn that the University of Vermont is now offering grant-funded opportunities for individuals seeking to obtain their Early Education/Special Education license as well as licensure to become Speech and Language Pathologists. Although not immediate, we remain hopeful that we may see some movement in this field in the next few years.

On a more positive note, our special education department at FNESU has added two key personnel to assist as Behavior Specialists in our schools. The challenge that schools face with regards to students and families with mental health issues continues to grow and is changing the landscape of education. Slowly, we are equipping teachers and support staff with necessary skills to optimize learning opportunities for students who present significant risky behaviors. I am thrilled to witness first-hand, the benefits of these services and hope that we might be able to expand this program in the future. Teachers and administrators value the expertise of these highly skilled behavior specialists.

Finally, our special education mentoring program is an equally invaluable service to our new hires and veteran teachers. Robin Gagne, FNESU Assistant Director of Special Programs, continues to provide intensive supports to our staff and her expertise has helped many of our teachers be successful in their positions.

In closing, many of you may be aware that my tenure as your Director of Special Programs is coming to a close as I move into the ranks of retired personnel. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our communities and work alongside some of the most dedicated professionals and administrators that I have witnessed in my 21 years in education. I am proud of what we have accomplished and will keep a watchful eye on your continued success.



## **Technology Report**

**Dominic DeRosia, Technology Director**

In today's world, technology has become ubiquitous; both in the business world, as well as our everyday lives. In Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU), we strive to give students access to the tools they need in order to be prepared for the technological world around them. The devices we provide for students maximize their exposure to various educational opportunities, as well as providing the connectivity to become global learners.

FNESU schools offer 1:1 computing, where the majority of students are given their "own" device to use by their school. 1:1 computing is a broad term based around the idea of having one device per student. As the cost of mobile devices has continued to decrease, FNESU schools have been able to continue to grow our 1:1 programs. We regularly evaluate devices as new options become available to try to provide our students with the best learning experience possible, while at the same time keeping our budgets and local taxpayers in mind.

While we have a variety of devices available to students, including laptops, iPads and Chromebooks, it's the Chromebooks that have emerged as the main computing device within FNESU. At this point, all of our schools are either already using Chromebooks as their main student device, or are in the process of transitioning from iPads to Chromebooks. The lower price of Chromebooks compared to iPads, along with the ease of maintenance, larger screen and physical keyboard have made them a very attractive option. FNESU is far from alone in this thinking, as Chromebooks have become the most popular device in schools nationwide in recent years.

Having a large number of computing devices in schools has also become a necessity when it comes to testing. Our students are required to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments. While students would take traditional paper and pencil style tests in the past, the SBAC tests are electronic and require compatible devices for testing.

While technology provides learning tools across the curriculum, technology itself can lead to potential career paths for students as well. With the creation of many new jobs, which require Computer Science degrees being projected for the near future, it is important that our students have the opportunity to learn the skills that could lead them to one of those future opportunities. Many classrooms across FNESU have participated in the Hour of Code the past few years, which is an annual event designed to introduce and promote coding to students. We have also seen an increase in Maker (learn by creating) projects, including the use of 3D Printing in several of our schools.

Many technological tools other than student devices are used throughout FNESU as well. We use a teacher observation system called TeachPoint, which allows administrators to leave detailed real-time feedback for teachers about what they observed while visiting classrooms. Teacher-created websites and the use of classroom management tools like Google Classroom and Edmodo improve the communication between teachers and students and continue to grow in popularity. Teachers use our online curriculum database, Rubicon Atlas, to develop and map curriculum. The use of G Suite (formerly Google Apps for Education) has become commonplace for FNESU schools, enabling collaborative document creation and sharing, website design and blogging, among other useful tools. We also continue to use PowerSchool as our Student Management System. Another beneficial system is SchoolMessenger, which allows schools to make automated calls home to share information about upcoming events, or with important messages such as school closings.

As the use of technology continues to grow, safety must be kept as a focus. Both teachers and students need to be educated in safe and appropriate use of technology. The first link in the list below is a good resource for anyone looking for tips on Internet safety.

Technology Education Resources:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/> (Internet safety/digital citizenship resource)
- <https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/> (G Suite for Education)
- <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/> (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)
- <http://hourofcode.com/us> (The Hour of Code)

Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions pertaining to technology in FNESU schools at [dderosia@fnesu.net](mailto:dderosia@fnesu.net) or by phone at 848-7661 x21.

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### **LEAPS**

(Learning and Enrichment Activities that build Positive relationships and Self-esteem)  
**A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC)**  
**Heather Moore, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Project Director**

LEAPS connects afterschool programming, supplemental instruction, and skill development with the local school system and community. The mission of LEAPS is to improve student achievement in math, science, reading/language arts, self-esteem, social skills, and to reduce high-risk behaviors and attitudes. LEAPS currently offers programming to youth in grades K-8 at Bakersfield Elementary & Middle, Berkshire Elementary, and Montgomery Elementary Schools. LEAPS also offers programming to youth in grades K-4 at Enosburg Elementary School, to youth in K-6 at Richford Elementary School, and to youth in grades 5 – 12 at Enosburg Middle & High School.

Since 2004, LEAPS afterschool programs have been designed to enrich the lives of the whole child. Each site has a unique set of offerings tailored to address the needs and desires of their youth population. Classes range from traditional classroom settings to nature-based classroom instruction. Each day, the course offerings vary to ensure our youth are provided with opportunities to find connections and interests that they will carry with them as they develop relationships, add to their education, or to look for jobs.

The 2018-2019 school year is the fifth year of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant funding. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding is provided by the Federal Government, through a Vermont Agent at the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE). Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU) will have the application for another five years of funding submitted to the AOE by the due date of February 5, 2019. Award for funding approval will be announced by April 19, 2019.

In this application, FNESU is proposing to offer summer programs at the Richford and Montgomery Elementary Schools, the only two LEAPS sites that have not had summer programming in the past. Also included in this application is the addition of the Sheldon Elementary School's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program site, based on the final decision of the Vermont State Education Board.

During the 2017-2018 school year, our project served 994 students in all five sites, with 695 of these students as regular attendees defined by attending 30 or more program days. Research shows that in order for afterschool programming to positively impact student learning, they

must attend more than 30 days per year. Overall, 76% of eligible students participate in a LEAPS program. Of the 695 attendees, 70% are regular attendees. This number is higher than the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC directive that at least 50% of the school population will attend the Afterschool Program, showing how successful the LEAPS programs have been and how integral the programs are in our communities.

At Berkshire Elementary: Out of the 194 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, 194 students attended the program of which 173 were regular attendees. This means that approximately 89% of those students who attended the program were regular attendees.

Our programs would not have been as successful without the continued and growing support of our Community Partners: Arvin A. Brown Library, Local Motion, LJW Memorial Fund, Creative Habitat, Berkshire Recreational Department, Green Heron Farm, UVM Extension Service, Berkshire PTO, Snyder's Academy of TKD, Hannaford, Montgomery Recreation Department, the VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, VT Department of Fish/Wildlife, Bakersfield Historical Society, and the NOTCH Program. Thank you for all of your support.

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2 0 1 8   P R I N C I P A L ' S A N N U A L   R E P O R T
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Berkshire Elementary School (BES)  
Leonard Badeau, Principal

***“Providing every student with what they need when they need it.”***

The quote above captures the essence of education. At Berkshire, we believe it is our duty to ensure that every child gets the support they need to grow and excel. Of course, the challenge is that the needs each child has is vastly different due to factors beyond the scope of our classrooms; but Berkshire continues to develop systems and structures to ensure that we identify and respond to the needs of each student efficiently and effectively.

Our community continues to support the needs of our students with amazing programs and activities that we provide beyond the school day. The Fall Clean Up, the Haunted Forest, Trunk or Treat, Community Harvest Dinner, our Annual Food Drive, Craft Fair and Breakfast with Santa, athletic events, Jay Peak Ski Program, the Winter Concert, Field Trips and our Learning and Enrichment Activities that build Positive relationships and Self-esteem (LEAPS) afterschool program all provide students with the diverse experiences that our students need to be well-rounded citizens. These events prove how we collectively strive to grow our students physically, emotionally, and intellectually while taking advantage of the powerful resources available to our unique, rural town. The PTO continues to be instrumental in supporting our children.

Our staff continues to demonstrate their commitment to providing every student with what they need when they need it by continually engaging in professional development to improve our instruction to best meet the needs of our students. This includes developing and refining our curriculums for Reading, Writing, and Math, working directly with professional consultants

such as the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI), researching best practices for teaching children with trauma or poverty experiences, and research how to better implement highly effective instructional strategies such as feedback.

As a school, we are expanding our commitment to our students through the development and use of interventions which are designed to respond to a student's lack of sufficient progress in a timely manner with instruction and supports tailored to that child's specific needs or challenges. We have designed specific time for teachers to collaborate and problem-solve how to expand our support of students in Student Support Teams. We use Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to identify practices to research, learn, and apply to improve our instruction. We have also improved our Social-Emotional Learning Programming to include instruction and supports to better help students learn the social-emotional skills necessary to navigate the challenges of school and beyond. Collectively, these changes allow us to provide specific, high-skilled instruction as soon as we see a child needs that support.

We are continuing to develop and revise our behavioral supports with input and feedback from Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) to help our students grow socially and emotionally so that they are able to access learning, engage in challenging tasks, and become kind, safe, and responsible citizens.

At Berkshire, we have entered our second full year with our Bridges Math curriculum and the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading K-5 and the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Writing K-8 curriculum. There was a steep learning curve for both staff and students. However, we are excited about the progress we are seeing in our students. Our literacy and math instructional coaches have been working closely with teachers in order to learn about and implement these curriculum and instructional strategies effectively. This is to ensure that every student is getting appropriately challenging and engaging learning opportunities every day in every classroom.

Berkshire continues to find itself in a unique situation regarding our school enrollment numbers. Over the previous several years, we experienced a pretty steep population growth trend. This increase in student population has had a significant impact on available instructional space within our school building. It has created staffing challenges as we have had to adjust our staffing numbers for various grade levels differently as certain population bubbles move through our school and/or into high school, which has also made budgeting for high school tuition students incredibly challenging. The population growth has been nearly impossible to predict. For example, this coming year we anticipate a Kindergarten class of over 30 students, which will mean we will need two Kindergarten classrooms.

According to the United States Census, in the year 2000, 1,388 people resided in Berkshire. In the year 2010, 1,692 people resided in Berkshire. The media often refers to declining student enrollment in the state of Vermont. In Franklin County, we appear to be the exception, not the norm! All but three communities in Franklin County experienced population growth between 2000 and 2010.

In the coming years, should the need to split an additional group of students arise, the options for creating additional instructional space within the existing building is extremely limited and would include the use of the:

- Cafeteria
- Library
- Gymnasium

Each option would come at the expense of other functions within our system. None would be ideal options and all would impact students throughout the system.

Given our current school funding structure, high school tuition is one of the biggest cost drivers within our budget. High school tuition rates are set by the school districts we send our high school students to. The high student mobility rate within our community makes this a difficult expenditure to predict and ultimately budget for.

In planning for the coming years, we know the large class sizes in our middle school over the last few years will have a substantial impact on our future school budgets. In FY2020, we will be sending approximately 28 9<sup>th</sup> graders to high school. This is a substantially larger number of students than the number of students who will be graduating from high school in the previous year. This net increase in students will be felt in our budget, especially when combined with the 32 students we sent off to 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year.

This net gain or loss of tuition students can make our budget swing wildly in either direction. This issue is further compounded by the fact that our elementary school continues to grow and has in recent years seen a shift in our population, which includes more students living in poverty and more student mobility throughout the school year. During the 2015-2016 school year, more than 25% of our student population moved either in or out of our school from August to June. During the first half of the 2018-2019 school year, 14 students have moved into the school since August, while 5 have moved out of the school for a net change in our student population of plus 9. These changes make it challenging to make cuts at the elementary level, while still trying to meet the needs of all our varied learners.

The 2017-2018 school year marked the third administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) in literacy and math. This assessment matches the level of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), while the format itself is its own measure of computer literacy. We continue to strive for results that demonstrate the hard work we have put in. We analyze this data to improve our instructional practices for all students.

We were excited to see the positive growth pattern in our SBAC data. Our students are making significant individual growth, even if it doesn't rise to the level of proficiency, yet! We celebrate those measures of progress and growth.

**Berkshire Elementary School 2017-2018**

Grade	BES 2017 ELA	BES 2018 ELA	BES 2017 Math	BES 2018 Math
3	28%	39%	33%	39%
4	30%	56%	39%	56%
5	48%	38%	52%	38%
6	73%	50%	58%	39%
7	63%	73%	57%	62%
8	56%	71%	44%	52%

We know that the SBAC is important, but also recognize it as a snapshot in time. It is but one measure of school success. We believe schools must be judged by multiple measures and should certainly have a focus on continuous growth. Our approach to these results is similar to how we ask our students to approach learning, with a Growth Mindset. We aren't there yet, but we know that through continued hard work and determination we can expect growth from our students and school.

We continue to appreciate the support we receive from the Berkshire community. The learning opportunities we are able to offer our students are made possible by the support of our community. As always, thank you for allowing us the privilege to work with the children of Berkshire. They are an exceptional bunch, and we take great pride in working with each and every one of them. Berkshire continues to validate my decision to work here with your continued support and investment in our school and our children. I am looking forward to working with you to provide the best educational experience for our children.





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**Business Manager's Update**  
Morgan Daybell, Business Manager

**Education Budget**

Currently, the only body authorized to warn an FY20 budget is the board of the Northern Mountain Valley Unified Union School District, which will operate Bakersfield Elementary, Berkshire Elementary, Montgomery Elementary, and Sheldon Elementary Schools, and pay tuition for those towns' high school students. Three lawsuits have been filed against the Agency of Education and State Board of Education, with the goal of overturning the state-imposed mergers announced last year. Both Sheldon Town School District and Montgomery Town School District are parties to that suit. An interim scheduling agreement has been reached between the plaintiffs, the Agency, and the Attorney General's Office which forbid any budgets for these four schools from being warned until the third week in February. No school budget votes will take place until late March or early April at the earliest.

**Residential Tax Rates**

The equalized residential tax rate cannot be forecasted until a budget is finalized.

Households with income below \$137,500 may be eligible for a reduction in their residential property tax bill. In Tax Year 2018, 346 Berkshire property owners had their school taxes reduced based on income. All Vermont residents who own and occupy a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim (HS-122) with the VT Department of Taxes by April 15.

## **Audit**

The District was audited by RHR Smith & Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. A copy of the audit can be obtained by calling the Supervisory Union office at 802-848-7661.

Once the budget is warned, it will be made available at Town Clerks' offices, schools, the Supervisory Union office, and online at [fhesu.net](http://fhesu.net).

### Berkshire School Directors

Paul Hatch, Chair  
Edmund Garrow, Vice Chair  
Tracy Lariviere, Clerk  
Lisa Hango  
Lianne Trombley

### Administration

Lynn Cota, Superintendent  
Jody Vaillancourt/Jennifer Kennison  
Co-Directors of Instruction & Learning  
Shirley Carlson, Director of Special Programs  
Dominic DeRosia, Technology Director  
Heather Moore, 21st CCLC Project Director  
Leonard Badeau, Principal  
Morgan Daybell, Business Manager