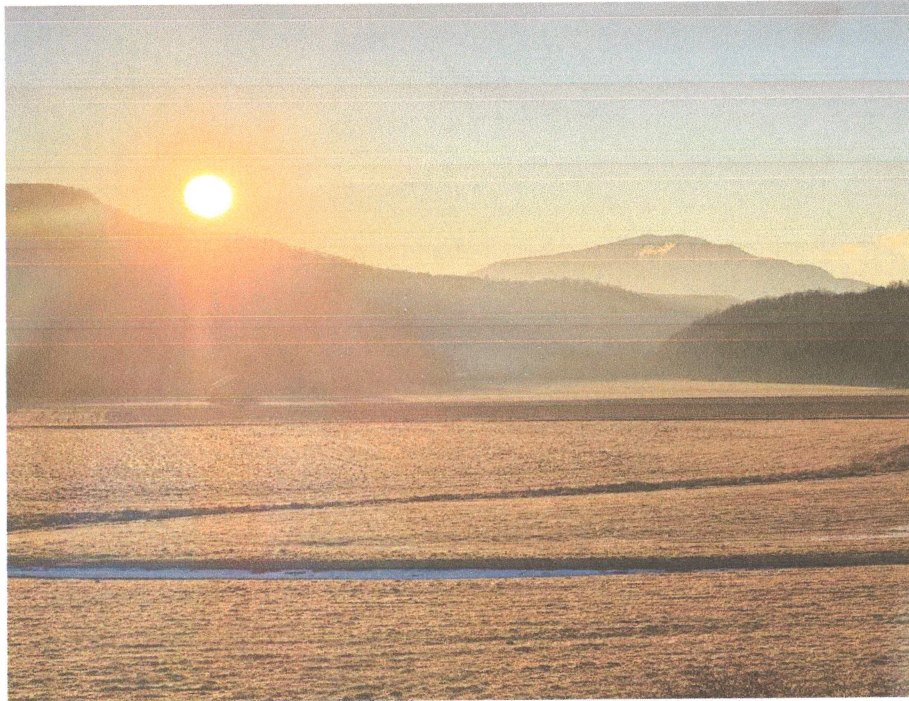


**Annual Report
of the
Board of Officers**



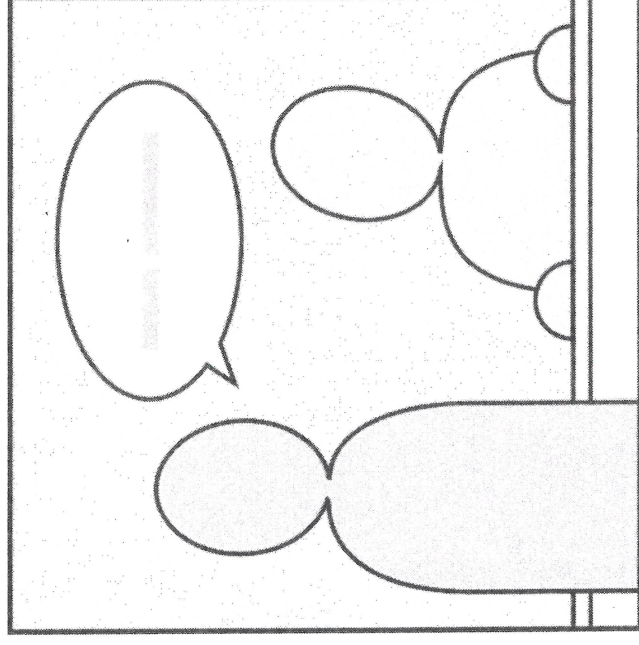
**Town of
Rupert, Vermont**

**Fiscal Year
July 1st, 2022 - June 30th, 2023**

Notice to Vermont Voters

You must declare which ballot you want to vote in the Presidential Primary.

Choose
Democratic Ballot
Or
Republican Ballot



Why? Vermont law requires you to ask for a party ballot and for your choice to be recorded by the election official. 17 V.S.A. §2704.

DEDICATION

In 2023, Rupert mourned the loss of two of its most esteemed members, Eugene Higgins and Axel Blomberg, whose contributions we honor in this year's Annual Report. Gene and Axel dedicated countless years to serving the town of Rupert, leaving an indelible mark through their multifaceted endeavors. Indeed, the legacy of these remarkable individuals could fill volumes with the richness of their stories and achievements.



Gene, born in Granville in 1937, spent his formative years in Rupert, where he attended elementary school before pursuing his high school education in Salem, New York, ultimately graduating as the Class Valedictorian in 1955. Subsequently, Gene embarked on his academic journey at the University of Vermont, laying the foundation for a lifelong career in education. A revered figure, Gene wore many hats throughout his life—teacher, photographer, historian, and biographer. In recognition of his significant contributions, the town of Rupert celebrated Gene's impact by declaring "Gene

Higgins Day" in January 2023. Beyond his role as an educator, Gene actively served the community in various capacities, including Justice of the Peace, an Auditor, and a member of the Board of Civil Authority. Gene's commitment to preserving local history is evident in his role as a founding member and President of the Rupert Historical Society since its inception. His involvement extended to the Rupert Congregational Church, where he was an active and dedicated member. Gene's multifaceted contributions to both education and community service have left an enduring legacy in Rupert.



Axel, a lifelong resident of West Rupert born in 1939, remained deeply rooted in his hometown. Educated in Rupert's schools, he completed his high school education in Salem, New York. Axel's dedication to his country led him to serve in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Renowned for his versatility, Axel embraced many roles throughout his lifetime. Following a distinguished career at Telescope Casual Furniture in Granville, he transitioned into retirement by embarking on various entrepreneurial ventures. Axel's entrepreneurial spirit knew no bounds, from producing and selling maple syrup to managing an oil business, supplying firewood, and selling potatoes for the Atwater farm. In addition to his business pursuits, Axel dedicated himself to serving his community. He took on responsibilities ranging from caretaking the Rupert Cemetery to serving on the Selectboard,

acting as a Justice of the Peace, and holding positions as a Trustee at Merck Forest and a Rupert Volunteer Fire Department member. Axel's commitment extended to organizing the Rupert Old Home Days parade. Throughout his life, Axel exemplified a spirit of generosity, always ready to extend a helping hand to his neighbors and the Rupert community.

Vermont Absentee Ballot Request

Use this form to request absentee ballots for elections in 1 calendar year. All absentee voters must submit a new request each year.

Save time. Request a ballot online at mvp.vermont.gov.

Your name

If your name has changed, provide your former name.

1

Last name _____ First name _____
Middle name _____ Former name _____

Residential address

This is where you currently live and are registered to vote.

2

Address (not P.O. Box) _____
City or Town _____ State VT Zip _____

Mailing address

Provide the address where you receive mail. This is where we will send your ballot.

3

☐ Same as residential address in section 2

Address or P.O. Box _____
City or Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Election

Choose the elections that you want to vote by mail in.

You can choose each election **or** you can choose the period that you want to receive absentee ballots for.

You can choose elections for 1 calendar year.

4

☐ I want to vote by mail in the following elections:

- ☐ Annual Town Meeting
☐ All local elections
☐ General Election
☐ Primary Election
☐ Presidential Primary Election (Choose a party)
☐ Democratic ☐ Republican

Or

☐ I want to vote by mail during the following period (within 1 calendar year):

Start sending me ballots on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____
Stop sending me ballots on (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Military, overseas civilian, ill or with disability voters
If applicable

5

My voter type (check 1): ☐ Military (active in U.S. or overseas) ☐ Overseas voter ☐ Ill or with disability

I want my ballot delivered by (check 1):

- ☐ Email (ballots cannot be returned electronically) _____
☐ Fax _____
☐ Mail _____
☐ Two Justices of the Peace (only if you are ill or with a disability). Phone _____

Contact information

This is helpful if we have a question. *Confidential.*

6

Phone _____ Email _____

Requesting a ballot for someone else?

If yes, the requester must complete and sign this section.

7

Requester's name _____ Relationship to voter
☐ Family member
Organization name (if applicable) _____ ☐ Health care provider
Requester's address _____ ☐ Person authorized by voter
Requester's phone _____

Signature
Required

8

Voter or requester, sign and date here (Required)

X _____

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Return your completed and signed form to your Town Clerk. You can:

- Mail it or drop it off in person
- Email it

Find your Town Clerk's mailing address and email address at tinyurl.com/vtclerks.

Track this request and your ballot at mvp.vermont.gov.

2022.01

Official use only

☐ Voted in office
☐ Ballot picked up at clerk's office

Date of request _____ Ballot mailed date _____ Ballot returned date _____

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RUPERT TOWN OFFICERS

ELECTED POSITIONS:

<u>SELECTBOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Deborah Baker, Co-Chair.....	2025
Charles Rockwell, Co-Chair.....	2026
Thomas Wilson.....	2024
Linda Montague.....	2024
Philip E. Mazzucco.....	2024

LISTERS

Jed Rubin, Chairman.....	2023
Richard Ventrella(resigned 8/22/2023)....	2024
Carl Yackel appointed by Selectboard 10/24/2023	
Ruthanne Hunter (resigned 7/27/2023)....	2025

RUPERT SCHOOL DIRECTORS – Mettawee School District Board

Anthony Garcia.....	2024
Jena Beecher.....	2025

AUDITORS

Eugene Higgins (resigned 2/20/2023).....	2025
Jeremy Russo appointed by Selectboard 5/9/2023	
Kelly Lewis.....	2026
Chris Porter.....	2024

TOWN CLERK

Andrea Lenhardt.....	2026
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TOWN TREASURER

Andrea Lenhardt.....	2026
----------------------	------

TOWN MODERATOR

Mark Lourie.....	2024
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ROAD COMMISSIONER

Philip E. Mazzucco - appointed by Rupert Selectboard March 22, 2022

TOWN AGENT (position now eliminated per H.143, Act 84)

FIRST CONSTABLE

Jason Norton.....	2024
-------------------	------

SECOND CONSTABLE

Brett Lourie..... 2024

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Mark Lourie..... 2024

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

TERM EXPIRES

Judy Zinn.	2025
Jean Nardi.....	2025
Sarah Porter.....	2024
Arlene Horn	2025
Anniken Davenport.....	2024
Carey Braidt.....	2026
Erica Shott.....	2026

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: John LaVecchia Jr. (appointed 3 year term ends March 28, 2026)
TOWN SERVICE AGENT: Rupert Selectboard
TOWN FIRE WARDEN: Mark Lourie (appointed Nov. 10, 2022 term ends June 30, 2027)
TOWN HEALTH OFFICER: Kelli Raymond (Re-appointed 3 year term, term ends Jan. 31, 2026)
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER: Kelli Raymond
TREE WARDEN: Mark Lourie
WEIGHER OF COAL & FENCE VIEWERS: David Tooley, Donald Lewis, Jed Rubin
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, & WOOD: Rupert Selectboard
CLERK OF THE BOARD - Linda Montague

OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION - Berkshire Bank
OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION FOR HEALTH REIMBRUSEMENT ACCT. - TD Bank
OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICATIONS - Rutland Herald & The Vermont News Guide

DISTRICT RUTLAND-BEN REPRESENTATIVE (Elected Nov. 8, 2022):
Robin Chestnut-Tangerman

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE : (Elected Nov. 3, 2022) –2 year term begins Feb. 1, 2023
Kate Canning, Mark Lourie, Jeremy Russo,
Patrick Wilson, Kelli Raymond

PLANNING COMMISSION **Jed Rubin - Chairman, Charles Rockwell,**
Jean Ceglowski (resigned 3/28/2023), Philip E.
Mazzucco, Peter Pelton, Greg Vail (appointed
5/9/2023)

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD: **Charles Rockwell, Chairman, Jed**
Rubin, Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter
Pelton, Val Almosnino, Rima
Georgeson

BCRC REPRESENTATIVES: **John Lavecchia Jr., Commissioner, Charles**
Rockwell Co-Commissioner
Appointed by the Selectboard Dec. 13, 2022

AUDITOR'S REPORT TOWN FUNDS JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

ASSETS:

Cash on hand as of June 30, 2023	
General Fund Account - Berkshire Bank	\$ 508,971.45
Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 11,862.31
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 497,109.14
Health Reimbursement Account - TD Banknorth	\$ 11,909.16
Reappraisal Fund Money Market – Berkshire Bank	\$ 21,922.60

RECEIVABLES:

Delinquent Taxes	\$ 10,955.32
------------------	--------------

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Lewis, Chris Porter, Jeremy Russo Rupert Board of Auditors

**Statement of Delinquent Taxes
as of 1/11/2024**

2022/2023	Gary A. Gardner	\$	1,475.64
	Jason Kerson	\$	947.54
	Sarah & Chris Porter	\$	104.04
	Kurt & Carrie Braidt	\$	863.33
	Grace E. Bowen	\$	<u>466.21</u>
January 11, 2024 Total Outstanding		\$	3,856.76

I will accept tax payments at any time at my home office located at
585 State Rt. 153, West Rupert or by mail to the Rupert Town Office,
PO Box 140, West Rupert, VT 05776.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Lourie
Rupert Delinquent Tax Collector

Delinquent Taxes

Balance uncollected June 30, 2023	
2021/2022	\$ 1,032.30
2022/2023	\$ 9,923.02
TOTAL	<u>\$ 10,955.32</u>

New amount received from Rupert Town Treasurer 2/22/2023 (principal only)	\$ 87,583.57
--	---------------------

Amounts Paid to Rupert Town Treasurer – Tax, Interest & Fees

February	2023	\$ -
March	2023	\$ 54,061.04
April	2023	\$ 22,365.05
May	2023	\$ 8,411.68
June	2023	\$ 5,120.78
July	2023	\$ 806.23
August	2023	\$ 700.00
September	2023	\$ 2,260.96
October	2023	\$ 715.38
November	2023	\$ 3,441.73
December	2023	\$ 1,924.89
January	2024	<u>\$ -</u>
	TOTAL:	\$ 99,807.74

SUMMARY

Delinquent Tax to Town	\$ 88,775.44
Fees paid to Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 7,206.33
Interest to Town	\$ 3,824.05
Balance uncollected January 11, 2024	\$ 3,856.76

TOWN FUNDS

HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT (TD Bank)

Balance as of 06/20/22	\$ 14,404.12
Deposits 07/21/22 - 06/20/23	\$ 8,264.70
Electronic Payments withdrawn	(\$ 10,759.66)
Balance as of 06/20/23	\$ 11,909.16

GENERAL FUND CHECKING - (Berkshire Bank)

Cash on Hand 07/01/22	\$ 837,564.63
Receipts	\$3,065,977.90
Disbursements	(\$3,406,433.39)
Cash on Hand 06/30/23	\$ 497,109.14

REAPPRAISAL FUND MONEY MARKET (Berkshire Bank)

Opened 08/31/2020 – Transferred from General Fund	\$ 17,015.19
Balance 06/30/2023	\$ 21,911.48
Interest Earned	\$ 11.12
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Balance 06/30/2023	\$ 21,922.60

LINE OF CREDIT LOAN (Berkshire Bank)

Loan date 07/01/15 @4.25%	\$ 100,000.00
Borrowed from loan to purchase Tractor/Mower 06/23/16	(\$ 50,000.00)
Loan paid back 08/31/16, with interest (via electronic transfer)	\$ 50,199.69
No activity FY 2017/2018 - FY 2022/2023	
Balance 06/30/2023	0.00

NEW TOWN GARAGE – 5 YEAR LOAN (Bank of Bennington)

Amount of loan not to exceed \$290,000 @ 3.5% as of July 2014	
Balance July 1, 2022	\$ 68,945.46
Principal paid Sept. 15, 2022	(\$33,724.35)
Interest paid Sept. 15, 2022	(\$ 1,203.97)
Balance 06/30/2023	\$ 34,017.14

2019 INTERNATIONAL HX620 TRUCK FINANCING (KS BANK)

Original Balance	\$ 169,980.00
Transaction Rate 3.990%	
Deposit at closing	(\$ 34,980.00)
Balance Due	\$ 136,089.89
(4 payments of \$37,129.82 will be due each August)	
Payment Aug. 25, 2022 (\$35,725.80 plus interest \$1,404.02)	\$ 37,129.82
Balance as of 06/30/2023	\$ 0.00

2023 INTERNATIONAL HX520 TRUCK FINANCING (Bank of Bennington)

Principal Balance	\$ 165,000.00
Interest Rate 4.35%	
Monthly Payments (\$2,262.52) plus interest \$819.91)	\$ 3,082.43
Payments made 12/13/2022 – 06/08/2023	\$ 21,577.01

REVENUE REPORT - RUPERT GENERAL FUND
FY JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Current Taxes (including interest)	2,371,394.71
Property Tax Adjustment via State	19,256.00
	<u>Town Clerk Fees</u>
Dog Licenses via Town Clerk	845.00
Photocopies via Town Clerk	750.42
Record Restoration Fees via Town Clerk	2,178.00
Record Restoration Fees via State	657.00
Record Restoration Fees via IRS	15.00
Truck Permit Fees	100.00
2 nd Class License – Sherman's Store	70.00
TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES	4,615.42
	<u>Zoning Fees</u>
Zoning Et al. Permits	3,390.00
TOTAL ZONING FEES	3,390.00
	<u>Interest</u>
Checking Account Interest	209.75
Delinquent Tax Interest	4,997.32
Treasurer Del. Tax Interest	1,972.87
TOTAL INTEREST	7,179.94
	<u>Delinquent Taxes</u>
Tax to Town	103,773.65
Delinquent Tax Warrants	0.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	8,325.71
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES	112,099.36
	<u>Federal & State Aid, Grants & Fines</u>
FEMA	0.00
Bridge Reimbursement	0.00
Highway State Aid (Roads)	103,751.89
Paving Grant	110,751.89
Sidwalk Grant	18,205.43
Rupert Village Trust Grant	9,387.00
Hazard Mitigation	7,612.50
Better Back Roads Grants	19,700.00
Current Use	116,803.00
Current Use Withdrawal	0.00
Reappraisal funds via State Treasurer	4,870.50
Lister Education	118.75
Grant in Aid	14,800.00
Municipal Planning Grant	0.00
Sheriff / Trooper Fines	0.00
TOTAL STATE AID & FINES	405,649.07
	<u>Payment In Lieu Of Taxes</u>
Merck Forest	0.00
US Government - Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008	529.00
PILOT - Vermont Natural Resources - State Land	1,907.09
TOTAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	2,436.09
	<u>Reimbursements</u>
Library Salaries	10,151.69
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co. Insurance	7,112.00
VLCT Refund on audit	263.00
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS	17,526.69
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Grange Lot Sale	2,500.00
Guard Rail Claim	2,800.00
Furnace Sale	600.00
State Payment	18.00
Fidelity Charitable Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	6,500.00
Town Green Rental	600.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	13,018.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,956,565.28

TAXES BILLED AND COLLECTED FROM JULY 1, 2022 – FEB. 25, 2023

Total Billing (including interest & penalties)	\$2,712,035.43
*Adjustments to taxes billed	<u>\$ 1,761.13</u>
TOTAL BILLED	\$2,713,796.56

Direct Deposits (including interest & penalties)	(\$2,354,407.06)
Electronic Deposits via Vermont State Treasurer Prebates	<u>(\$ 263,418.88)</u>
	(\$2,617,825.94)
Delinquent list as of Feb. 25, 2023(includes interest & penalties)	\$ 95,970.62

*Treasurer's Note: Adjustments made after the August 2022 /2023 billing were due to credits, current use changes, errors, and omissions.

TOTAL WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM SELECTBOARD

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Net payroll	-	\$ 223,963.87
*Accounts payable	-	\$3,180,876.69

*Treasurer's Note: Accounts Payable figure includes Residential / Non-Residential municipal tax payments for Education as follows:

Mettawee School District	-	\$ 1,401,062.00
Vermont State Treasurer	-	\$ 362,346.78

CAPITAL ASSETS - TOWN OF RUPERT

2022 International HX 520	\$200,000.00
2019 International HX Tandem Dump Truck (Stainless Steel Body)	\$150,000.00
2014 Case IH Maxxum 130 CVT Tractor	\$ 45,000.00
2014 Landpride RPC 3060 – 03 Ditch Mower	\$ 2,000.00
2020 Dodge 5500 Truck	\$ 40,000.00
2013 John Deere 524 Payloader	\$ 50,000.00
2009 Air Flow Sander	\$ 1,000.00
2020 Fisher 10 Ft. Snow Plow	\$ 5,000.00
2009 Zwack Stainless Hopper Sander	\$ 4,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (White)	\$ 18,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (Green)	\$ 18,000.00
2004 John Deere 772CH Motor Grader	\$ 48,000.00
2004 Woods Ditchbank Mower	\$ 500.00
1999 Zwack Stainless Steel Sander	\$ 2,000.00
1999 Everest Plow & Wing	\$ 1,500.00
1993 Eager Beaver Model 290 Brush Chipper	\$ 3,000.00
1988 York Stone Rake	\$ 2,000.00
Town Office Building	\$200,000.00
Rupert Library/Historical Society Building	\$193,400.00
Municipal Tools at Town Barn	\$ 15,000.00
Town Highway Garage (including the Creamery Lot)	\$568,500.00
Town Green	\$ 44,700.00
Salt Shed	\$105,000.00
Old Dump on Hebron Rd	\$ 42,500.00

TOWN OF RUPERT PAYROLL - 2022/2023 FULL & PART TIME EMPLOYEES TOTAL - 16

*Gross Wages	\$281,324.58
FICA Withholdings	17,442.17
Medicare Withholdings	4,079.16
Federal Withholdings	16,234.25
Vermont State Withholdings	7,111.40
Retirement Withholdings	<u>13,822.64</u>
TOTAL	\$340,014.20

*Treasurer's Note:

Includes \$10,151.69 for Library Salaries which were reimbursed to the Town.

Statement of Expenditures – Town of Rupert
Budget and Actual – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2023

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/22-6/30/23</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
School Tax Payments		
Rupert School District Homestead		\$583,823.30
Rupert School Non Resident		\$817,238.70
School Education Payment		<u>\$362,346.78</u>
Total School Tax Payments		\$1,763,408.78
TOWN BUDGET		
<u>Salaries</u>		
Town Clerk	\$16,000.00	\$15,999.96
Library Employee Salary	\$10,000.00	\$9,541.75
Treasurer	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.04
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$1,500.00	\$937.52
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$8,000.00	\$8,375.33
Overpayment of Current Taxes		\$871.15
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$8,000.00	\$7,999.98
Board of Civil Authority	\$800.00	\$365.00
Fica/Medi	\$10,000.00	\$12,578.61
Town Officers Expense	\$200.00	\$76.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,500.00	\$2,844.58
Zoning and Planning	\$1,000.00	\$159.45
Elections	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,678.85</u>
Total Salaries	\$85,400.00	\$88,328.22
<u>Supplies & Maintenance</u>		
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$2,242.07
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$966.96
Town Report	\$2,000.00	\$2,155.81
Office Equipment Repair	\$500.00	\$0.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$869.79
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$5,435.25
NEMRC – Annual	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Schooling	\$700.00	\$3,046.18
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,898.00</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$17,200.00	\$23,614.06
<u>Utilities</u>		
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$764.09
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,000.00	\$1,344.45
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,000.00	\$2,326.25
Electric – Street Lights	\$6,300.00	\$6,180.64
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,000.00	\$1,948.47
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$1,321.42
Benn. Co. Solid Waste Alliance	\$3,500.00	\$6,000.50
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$3,819.77
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,500.00	\$2,941.68
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$4,642.88
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Utilities	\$27,880.00	\$31,290.15

Outside Services

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$5,600.00
General Town Insurance	\$20,000.00	\$38,919.75
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$2,000.00	\$1,956.00
Property Mapping	\$1,800.00	\$1,312.50
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$10,500.00	\$10,995.74
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$586.74
Fire Alarm Maint	\$550.00	\$0.00
State Permits/Fees	\$1,000.00	\$2,040.00
Town Website	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Radio Communication	\$1,800.00	\$1,728.00
Total Outside Services	\$58,350.00	\$69,638.73

Appropriations

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00
Front Porch Forum	\$200.00	\$200.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Rural Fire Protection		\$100.00
Vermont Family Network		\$250.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$300.00	\$300.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Bennington County Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Appropriations	\$5,970.00	\$6,320.00

Total Town Budget	\$194,800.00	\$219,191.16
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HIGHWAY BUDGET**Salaries/Wages**

Highway Crew	\$200,000.00	\$212,635.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$118.75
Fica/Medi	\$17,000.00	\$8,942.92
Health Insurance	\$60,000.00	\$40,399.36
Retirement	\$13,500.00	\$13,822.64
Unemployment Insurance	\$500.00	\$371.00
Workers Compensation	\$18,000.00	\$3,255.50
Total Salaries/Wages	\$309,000.00	\$279,545.17

Supplies and Maintenance

Parts and Supplies	\$14,500.00	\$23,330.64
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$2,051.51
Diesel	\$28,000.00	\$50,629.30
Equipment Repair	\$30,000.00	\$2,303.30
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$0.00

Town Barn Heating Oil	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$4,130.76</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$84,000.00	\$87,445.51
<u>Outside Services</u>		
Dead Tree Removal	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>
Total Outside Services	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
<u>Road Maintenance Material</u>		
Gravel	\$60,000.00	\$63,984.07
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$24,960.26
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$71,727.25
Calcium Chloride	\$9,000.00	\$15,563.07
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,308.06</u>
Total Road Maintenance Material	\$159,000.00	\$179,542.71
<u>Projects</u>		
Paving	\$85,000.00	\$290,290.74
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$79,293.20
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$6,364.70
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$11,981.27
Town Office Maintenance		\$253,486.64
Rupert Village Trust Grant		\$9,387.09
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,928.32</u>
Total Projects	\$153,000.00	\$685,650.96
<u>Equipment Costs</u>		
Vehicles and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$114,940.83
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$3,313.20
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$852.80
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,463.38</u>
Total Equipment Costs	\$63,300.00	\$120,570.21
Total Highway Budget	\$771,300.00	\$1,356,254.56
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$966,100.00	\$1,575,445.72
<u>Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants</u>		
Establish Town Lines	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Better Back Roads	<u>\$14,225.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Grants:	\$14,225.00	0.00
<u>Voted Appropriations</u>		
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Rural Fire Protection	\$100.00	\$100.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R.K. Kittay Library	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Town Office Restoration	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
Total Voted Appropriations	\$75,100.00	\$75,100.00
Total Expenditures	\$1,055,425.00	\$1,650,545.72

SELECTBOARD REPORT - ANTICIPATED INCOME

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

State of Vermont - Highway Aid	\$105,000.00
Current Use - Hold Harmless	\$116,000.00
Reimbursement Library Salaries	\$ 10,000.00
Merck Forest in lieu of taxes	\$ 10,000.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 7,000.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	\$ 10,000.00
Government PILOT	\$ 2,500.00
Interest - Bank Accounts	\$ 500.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 5,000.00
Licenses & Zoning Permits	\$ 2,000.00
Speed Control Fines	\$ 200.00
Misc.	\$ 5,000.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$273,200.00

Budget July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
General Government	\$ 221,550.00
Highway Expense	<u>\$ 883,900.00</u>
<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	\$ 1,105,450.00
Less anticipated income	<u>(\$ 273,200.00)</u>

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES \$ 832,250.00

FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE

Cash On Hand	June 30, 2023	\$ 497,109.14
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COMMITTED FUNDS

Town Lines	\$ 250.00
Town Building Restoration	\$ 6,500.00
Land Records Restoration	\$ 18,485.51
Rupert Town Green Fund	\$ 26,635.17
Town Office Improvement Fund	\$125,000.00
Sidewalks	\$ 9,617.13
Sale of Town Green 2 Acres	\$ 25,000.00
Sale of Grange Building	\$ 2,000.00
Sale of Grange Building Lot	\$ 2,500.00
ARPA	\$204,346.51
Total Committed Funds	<u>\$420,334.32</u>
Cash on Hand June 30, 2023	<u>(\$497,109.14)</u>
Actual '22/23 FY Balance	\$ 76,774.82

Uncollected Delinquent Taxes (6/30/23) \$ 4,957.02

Statement of Expenditures - Town of Rupert
Budget, Actual and Proposed – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2025

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/2023-6/30/24</u>	<u>(6-MONTH) ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>7/1/24-6/30/25</u>
<u>School Tax Payments</u>			
Rupert School District Homestead		\$330,940.23	
Rupert School Non Resident		\$529,941.27	
State Education Payment		\$100,728.00	
Total School Tax Payments		\$961,609.50	
TOWN BUDGET			
<u>Salaries</u>			
Town Clerk	\$16,000.00	\$7,999.98	\$16,000.00
Library Employee Salary	\$10,000.00	\$5,268.13	\$10,000.00
Treasurer	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.02	\$20,000.00
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$1,500.00	\$ 403.13	\$1,500.00
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$8,000.00	\$1,362.19	\$8,000.00
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.01	\$14,000.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$ 700.00	\$240.00	\$700.00
Fica/Medi	\$15,000.00	\$7,081.90	\$15,000.00
Town Officers Expense	\$ 200.00	\$285.00	\$300.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Zoning and Planning	\$1,000.00	\$390.20	\$1,000.00
Elections	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Total Salaries	\$97,300.00	\$51,030.56	\$98,400.00
<u>Supplies & Maintenance</u>			
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,371.58	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$381.36	\$1,000.00
Town Report	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Office Equipment Repair	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$555.67	\$500.00
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$95.26	\$2,000.00
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$5,000.00	\$5,425.00	\$5,500.00
Computer Schooling	\$700.00	\$356.25	\$700.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,500.00	\$1,572.70	\$2,500.00
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$17,700.00	\$9,757.82	\$18,200.00
<u>Utilities</u>			
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$500.83	\$1,000.00
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,200.00	\$603.28	\$1,200.00
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,500.00	\$1,297.04	\$2,500.00
Electric – Street Lights	\$6,600.00	\$3,428.17	\$6,600.00
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,000.00	\$1,055.84	\$2,000.00
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$653.73	\$1,000.00
Benn. Co. Waste Alliance	\$3,500.00	\$1,117.27	\$3,500.00
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$4,000.00	\$1,288.75	\$4,000.00
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,500.00	\$720.71	\$2,500.00
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$2,601.92	\$6,000.00

Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
Total Utilities	\$30,380.00	\$13,267.54	\$30,380.00
<u>Outside Services</u>			
Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$1,417.50	\$5,000.00
General Town Insurance	\$24,000.00	\$14,072.25	\$28,000.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$2,000.00	\$2,016.00	\$2,100.00
Property Mapping	\$1,800.00	\$1,412.50	\$2,000.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$11,000.00	\$10,621.82	\$11,000.00
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
State Permits/Fees	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Town Website	\$1,000.00	\$283.20	\$1,000.00
Radio Communications	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,965.80</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Outside Services	\$62,850.00	\$35,789.07	\$67,350.00
<u>Appropriations</u>			
VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Front Porch Forum	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Rural Fire Protection	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Vermont Family Network			\$250.00
Neighbor to Neighbor			\$500.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. County Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Appropriations	\$6,470.00	\$6,470.00	\$7,220.00
Total Town Budget	\$214,700.00	\$116,314.99	\$221,550.00
HIGHWAY BUDGET			
<u>Salaries/Wages</u>			
Highway Crew	\$220,000.00	\$106,416.00	\$240,000.00
Fica/Medi	\$17,000.00	\$4,361.02	\$17,000.00
Health Insurance	\$40,000.00	\$16,246.15	\$46,000.00
Retirement	\$14,000.00	\$7,183.14	\$16,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$500.00	\$245.00	\$600.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$18,000.00</u>	<u>\$11,215.50</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
Total Salaries/Wages	\$305,500.00	\$145,666.81	\$333,600.00
<u>Supplies and Maintenance</u>			
Parts and Supplies	\$16,000.00	\$10,822.27	\$20,000.00
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$5,300.00	\$4,000.00
Oil & Lube	\$3,000.00	\$1,966.95	\$4,000.00

Diesel	\$40,000.00	\$25,130.68	\$50,000.00
Equipment Repair	\$30,000.00	\$5,370.31	\$30,000.00
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Clothing Allowance			\$1,000.00
Town Barn Heating Propane	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$148.02</u>	<u>\$4,500.00</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	\$98,500.00	\$43,752.82	\$114,500.00
<u>Outside Services</u>			
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	<u>\$4,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,700.00</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
Total Outside Services	\$4,000.00	\$1,700.00	\$4,000.00
<u>Road Maintenance Material</u>			
Gravel	\$80,000.00	\$28,380.05	\$80,000.00
Sand	\$25,000.00	\$15,270.25	\$25,000.00
Salt	\$70,000.00	\$21,423.40	\$70,000.00
Calcium Chloride	\$9,000.00	\$5,461.99	\$10,000.00
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$651.29</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total Road Maintenance Material	\$194,000.00	\$71,186.98	\$195,000.00
<u>Projects</u>			
Paving	\$100,000.00	\$237,198.90	\$120,000.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$35,278.13</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Projects	\$176,000.00	\$272,477.03	\$161,000.00
<u>Equipment Costs</u>			
Vehicles and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$18,494.58	\$60,000.00
Blades	\$5,000.00	\$2,280.60	\$5,000.00
Tires	\$9,000.00	\$8,009.46	\$9,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,020.27</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
Total Equipment Costs	\$65,800.00	\$29,804.91	\$75,800.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET	\$843,800.00	\$569,573.96	\$883,900.00
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$1,058,500.00	\$685,888.95	\$1,105,450.00
<u>Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants</u>			
Establish Town Lines	\$250.00	\$0.00	
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Main	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Better Back Roads	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$6,016.80</u>	
Total Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants	\$250.00	\$6,016.80	
<u>Voted Appropriations</u>			
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R K Kittay Library	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Street Cemetery	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Rupert Town Green Development			\$25,000.00
Town Office Restoration	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Voted Appropriations	\$115,500.00	\$45,500.00	\$80,500.00
Total Expenditures	\$1,174,250.00	\$737,405.75	\$1,185,950.00

TOWN OF RUPERT

DOG LICENSES ISSUED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

CASH ON HAND JAN. 1, 2023	\$ 0.00
216 DOGS LICENSED	\$ 2,282.00
(includes 2 Farm Dog Licenses)	
1 BREEDER LICENSES @ \$35.00	\$ 35.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,317.00
Fees to Vermont State Treasurer	(\$ 1044.00)
\$2.00 per license fee retained by T.C.	(\$ 432.00)
TOTAL	(\$ 1,476.00)
Net revenue for Town of Rupert for the 2023 calendar year	\$ 841.00

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

New dog licenses for 2024 are now at the Town Office. Registration due date is April 1, 2024. The rabies vaccination law reads that all dogs over the age of three months shall be vaccinated against rabies and this initial vaccination is good for 12 months. Within 9 - 12 months of that initial vaccination the animal must receive a booster vaccination. After that, all rabies vaccinations will be valid for 3 years. One dollar of every license goes towards the State of Vermont Rabies Control Program. If you have any questions as to whether or not your pet needs to be vaccinated, in order to be registered, please call the town office.

The State of Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program is ongoing. Four dollars of every license goes towards support of this program. It is designed to enable income eligible caretakers of cats and dogs to receive financial assistance in which to spay, neuter and vaccinate the animals for which they provide care. Applications and a list of participating veterinarians are available at the town office.

2024 Dog License Fees are as follows:

BEFORE APRIL 1 st .	\$10.00 - neutered/spayed	\$14.00 - unaltered
AFTER APRIL 1 st .	\$14.00 - neutered/spayed	\$18.00 - unaltered

Rupert Animal Control Ordinance has been in effect since Jan. 9, 1999. Copies are available at the town office.

How much is that doggie in the window, the one with the waggly tail or how about that adorable cute fluffy kitten? Yes, puppies and kittens are cute but think before you buy or think before someone offers you one for free. Canines and felines do grow and need to be fed, exercised, given medical care and plenty of attention. Provide this to your animal and you will be rewarded with a true loving lasting companion.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS – CALENDAR YEAR 2023

2023 BIRTHS

Greyson Neil Ferguson
Born to Bryan N. & Nevaeh R. Ferguson

June 30, 2023

2023 CIVIL MARRIAGES

Kenneth R. Hill	to	Margaret M. Tooley	May 20, 2023
Savannah Lynn Lewis	to	Ellsworth Allen Reed II	October 07, 2023

2023 DEATHS

Linda P. Eliason	January	2023	76
Edward John Parzych Sr.	February	05, 2023	81
Jared Chapman Burnham	February	23, 2023	84
Louise Rose Daly	March	31, 2023	82
Sergine Dixon	April	15, 2023	97
Jonathan David Rolnick	June	06, 2023	67
Axel Emil Blomberg	June	18, 2023	84
Ryan Michael Lourie	August	03, 2023	44
Francia Jane Plunkett	August	14, 2023	87
Marjorie F. McKeighan	August	15, 2023	84
Julian Dixon	September	13, 2023	97
Eugene (Gene) H. Higgins	November	10, 2023	86
Thomas Willard Lourie	December	23, 2023	96
Susan DeRege	December	30, 2023	77

These are the vital records for 2023. If a birth, civil marriage or death does not occur in the town and you would like to have the event recorded at the town office, please file a certified copy of the record with the town clerk. If I have missed some event, I do apologize.

Respectfully submitted: Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

Zoning Administrator's Report 2023

The Rupert Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at the Town Office at 6:30 p.m. The Rupert Development Review Board meets similarly on an as-needed basis.

For the year 2023, the Town received a total of 17 applications. The breakdown is as follows:

Residence Addition/Renovation....	5
Accessory Structure.....	10
New/Replace Existing Residence..	1
Home-Based Business.....	1

The Town would like to remind everyone that zoning permits are required for all land development projects. Work on these projects may begin after receiving all necessary approvals and allowing for their associated appeal periods. The Town recently updated its Land Use Regulations. Copies of the application forms, instructions and fee schedule, Land Use Regulations, and Land Use Plan Map are available at the Town Office. The regulations and map are also available on the town's website. Please feel free to contact me at the office with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

John La Vecchia, Jr.
Administrative Officer

RUPERT LISTERS REPORT

There have been 11 arms length sales of real estate since April 1, 2023. Most properties sold for well over the assessed value. This has been happening for several years now so that our current CLA, Common Level of Appraisal, is now 74.59% and our COD, Coefficient of Dispersion, is now 22.59%. The CLA no longer affects reappraisal orders but is applied to the state wide education and Current Use land values. Our COD is higher than allowed by the State which means we will be getting an order for a town wide reappraisal some time in the future.

By April 1, 2024 we will inspecting any new construction or major renovations that have occurred since April 2, 2023. If there is a change in your appraisal you will receive a change of appraisal notice by June 4 or sooner. This will explain the change and spell out the grievance process.

REMINDER

Form HS-122 must be filed by all resident property owners every year whether or not you have to file for income taxes.

If you have any questions at any time about your assessment or Homestead Declaration please address them to the Listers or Town Clerk.

We try to keep regular office hours on Monday's and Thursday's from 10:00-2:00 or by appointment. Please stop in or call, 802-394-7728.

Respectfully submitted,

Jed Rubin

Carl Yackel

RUPERT STREET CEMETERY INC.
PO BOX 82
WEST RUPERT, VT 05776

The Rupert Street Cemetery Incorporation meets at the Rupert Historical Building which is part of the Rupert Library twice a year, in April and October.

Officers are as follows:

President – Don Lewis

Co-President/Treasurer – Debbie Baker

Vice President – Phil Mazzucco Sr.

Secretary – Kelli Lewis

Trustee: Tracy Lourie.

This year the RSC Inc., gained another cemetery. The North Rupert Cemetery located on Route 30.

The mowing of the cemeteries was done by Randy White, Richard White and Lourie's Caretaking. This continues to be the biggest expense of the committee.

In 2023 the following were buried:	6/10 Ray & Betty McKeighan, Caroline Sweeney McKeighan Conservation Section, Lot 20B Plot 4 C 6/23 Dodie Daly – Carver Section Lot 2 A Plot 7 – C 6/28 Axel Blomberg Sr-Carver Lot 8A Plot 2 C 7/01 Frances Campbell Carver Section, Lot 41A2, Plot 2 C 8/08 Ryan Lourie, Sheldon Section Lot 3, Plot 7 S 8/10 John McKeighan & Fluffy Carver Section Lot 12A Plot 1 C 8/18 Jane Plunkett, Carver Section Lot 35A Plot 6 S 8/24 Marjorie McKeighan, Carver Section Lot 38A Plot 6 10/23 Gilbert King Carver Section, Lot 46A Plot 3 S Military
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This year we also lost long time member Gene Higgins. As a group we would like to acknowledge his immense contributions to the RSC with his knowledge of older graves and their families, his sense of humor and his love of history for our town. He will be greatly missed.

If anyone is looking to serve on the Rupert Street Cemetery Committee please contact one of the above committee members. We would love to have you join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelli Lewis, Secretary
Rupert Street Cemetery Inc.

RUPERT STREET CEMETERY

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Berkshire Bank Checking Account Beginning 4/1/2022 \$10,836.47

Income

John Sheldon Trust Fund.	\$7,860.91
Donations	\$ 150.00
Burials/Cremations	\$2,100.00
Town of Rupert Voted in	\$5,000.00
<u>Annual donation from Town</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Total	\$17,610.91

Expenses

Salem Hardware Paint for shed.	\$ 135.96
Michael Ryan painting	\$ 500.00
Order checks	\$ 99.90
Paper	\$ 31.79
Sign at Cemetery	\$ 71.12
VT sign works (Rising Cemetery).	\$ 142.00
Post Office Box	\$ 74.00
CBH	\$ 300.00
Jeffrey Lourie grave digger	\$1,850.00
Earl Connors mowing Rupert Street	\$7,200.00
<u>Lourie's caretaking</u>	<u>\$2,572.00</u>
Total	\$12,976.77

Berkshire Bank Balance as of 3/31/2023 \$15,470.61

Respectably Submitted,
Deborah Baker Treasurer/clerk

METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of Mettawee School District, consisting of the towns of Pawlet and Rupert, are hereby notified and warned to meet for at the Mettawee Community School at 5788 VT Route 153 West Pawlet, Vermont on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM to consider and act upon the following articles.

To be acted upon on Wednesday, February 28, 2024:

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Article 2: To elect a School District Clerk to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Article 3: To elect a School District Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- Article 4: To determine the date and time on which the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Mettawee School District shall be held.
- Article 5: To hear and act upon the reports of the School District Directors and Officers.
- Article 6: To discuss articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot.
- Article 7: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024:

- Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025?
- Article 9: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend six million, seven hundred ninety-three thousand, two hundred thirty-five dollars, \$6,793,235, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
- Article 10: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer any unassigned General Fund surplus existing on June 30, 2024, an amount estimated to be \$22,507, to the Building and Grounds Maintenance Reserve Fund?
- Article 11: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the Building and Grounds Maintenance Reserve Fund?
- Article 12: To elect the following positions:
 - Pawlet – Two Directors for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2027
 - Pawlet – One Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2027

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

Pawlet voters will vote at the Town Clerk's Office in Pawlet. The Polls will open on Tuesday March 5, 2024 at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Rupert voters will vote at the Rupert Town Office in West Rupert. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The legal voters of Mettawee School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 8th day of January 2024.

On behalf of the Mettawee School Directors:
Julie Mach, Chair

Received for the record and recorded this 9th day of January 2024 by:
Deb Hawkins, Clerk of the District

Town of Rupert Constables

2023 – Annual Report

The Town of Rupert Constables have had an active year for 2023. As constables, we serve the community as public safety officials, focusing on law and ordinance enforcement. We work together and assist other local officials and agencies to include the Vermont State Police, Vermont Game Wardens, Rupert Town Officials, Bennington County District Attorney's Office, neighboring state & local law enforcement agencies, as well as local fire & ems agencies. We have handled several emergencies and complaints, throughout the year. Below, is a breakdown of the calls handled throughout 2023.

Agency Assists:

5 – Vermont State Police	4 – Vermont Game Wardens	58 – EMS
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Motor Vehicle Collisions:

4 – Property Damage	3 – Injury
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Animal Complaints:

25 – Dog	17 – Wildlife	13 – Livestock/Farm
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Warrants:

14 – Animal	7 – Criminal/Civil Process	
35 – Vehicle & Traffic	1 – Harassment	3 – Domestic Violence
15 – Welfare Checks	13 – Residential/Property Checks	15 – Suspicious Activity
9 – Vandalism/Theft	149 – Patrol	3 – Training
7 – Follow-Ups	3 – Search/Lost Person	55 – Administrative
25 – Community Assist/Details		

As crime across the area is on the rise, Rupert has a low volume compared to relative areas. Naturally, we would like to see these numbers as low as possible in order to keep a safe place to live and visit. Regardless, we encourage individuals to report anything they believe to be a crime or suspicious as soon as possible. This year, dog issues were on the rise to the point that we had to testify in court proceedings in order to get control of some issues. As a reminder, all dogs in the Town of Rupert are required to be licensed yearly by April 1st and must have proof of current rabies vaccine. Anyone who has any concerns, and would like to speak to us on any public safety or enforcement issue, please reach out to us.

We look forward to serving the residents and visitors of the Town of Rupert.

Jason D. Norton
1st Constable
802-779-6608 (cell)
802-394-2360 (home)

Brett Lourie
2nd Constable
518-338-5661 (cell)
802-394-7898 (home)

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

For the most part 2023 was a year remembered for excessive moisture with numerous rainfall events that measured over two inches. However, there was a period in the spring with 43 days of “high” or “very high” fire danger ratings. In 2023 there were 63 fires reported in 34 Vermont towns which burned 59 acres. These numbers were below the 10 year average for the state. Rupert had one forest fire this year on April 11th in Kent Hollow that burned 6.5 acres. It was caused by downed power line on a very windy dry day. A special thanks to the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company and to Fire Departments from surrounding towns for their assistance in putting this fire out and for their quick response to all fire calls throughout the year.

Please remember that burning household trash is illegal in Vermont and violators are subject to fines and possible loss of license. A permit is required for any outdoor burning when there is no snow on the ground. Please call anytime you have questions regarding outdoor burning. Always think about weather conditions before you start any fire. Thank you. Below are the 2023 fire statistics for the state of Vermont.

2023 FIRE STATISTICS - STATE OF VERMONT

Number of human caused fires	53
Number of undetermined fires (natural or human)	10
Number of acres burned caused by humans	52
Number of acres burned caused by lightning	0
Total number of fires	63
Total number of acres burned	59
10-year total average number of fires	77
10-year total average number of acres burned	156

To obtain a burning permit please call 802-394-2494.

To report a fire call 1-518-747-3325 or 911.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Lourie
Rupert Fire Warden

RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 – Annual Report

The Rupert Volunteer Fire Department is a professional group of residents, trained in various aspects of the fire service. All members volunteer their time to protect life, property, and the environment for the residents and visitors of the Town of Rupert. The members are trained through the State of Vermont Fire Academy, National Fire Academy, FEMA, and other regional agencies. We work together through mutual aid pre-plans with departments and agencies in Bennington & Rutland Counties, as well as Washington County, NY. The members of the department volunteered 4,192.50 hours for emergency incidents, training, meetings, and fundraising efforts.

The Rupert Volunteer Fire Department responded to 49 incidents in 2023.

Rupert: 28

1 – Chimney Fire	3 - Fire Alarms	5 - Carbon Monoxide Alarms
6 - MVA	1 - Electrical Fires	3 - Hazardous Conditions
1 – ATV Accident	1 - Smoke in Residence	1 – Grass/Brush/Wildland Fire
5 - EMS Assists	1 – Controlled Burn	

Mutual Aid Responses: 21

12 - Dorset	4 - Salem	2 -West Pawlet
2 – Arlington	1 – Hebron	

Operations & Executive Officers:

Chief:	Jason D. Norton	President:	Jeremy Casey
1 st Asst Chief:	Jeremy Casey	Vice President:	Paul Mychack
2 nd Asst Chief:	Nichol McKeighan	Secretary:	Savannah Lewis
		Treasurer:	Nichol McKeighan

Trustees:

Jonathan Fisher Jimmy Joe Lewis Kelly Lewis Melinda Lewis Malachi Schnaderbeck

I would like to thank the following members for their previous years of service in the positions they held; George Fisher – 1st Asst Chief, Al Reed – 2nd Asst Chief, Savannah Reed – Vice President, Jeremy Casey – Trustee. These members will continue to be an asset to the department.

Currently, we are working on additional projects to better the department and increase the service that the public expects. The department is in the beginning stages of training members who wish to become Vermont Emergency First Responders. This program will facilitate a quicker initial response for individuals who are having medical emergencies while awaiting an ambulance. The department has also acquired additional extrication tools at no cost from the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport Fire Department. They upgraded equipment and donated the previously lightly used equipment for use at motor vehicle collisions. Members continue to train Tuesday nights, all year to prepare for the unexpected.

We would like to thank the community for their continued support, and the families of our members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please stop by any Tuesday night at 7pm and speak with us.

In case of emergency: Call 911 or 518-747-3325.

Jason D. Norton
Chief
Rupert Volunteer Fire Department

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply stems, design installations, and finds financial resources to support the cost of construction. During the **26+ years** of the program, over **1200 grants** totaling almost **\$2.7 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have grant awards up to \$10,000 per project/system...\$20,000 if the project and other criteria are met. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing systems, and drafting site development, are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2023 was **\$199,158** of which **\$82,374** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **17 rural fire protection projects** throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program reserves support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2022, we received over **\$9,000** in town appropriations from **over 90 towns**. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

235 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department
Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone
Walter Bothfield, Jr., Cabot Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety
Christine Kaiser, Stowe, VT
Haley Pero, Senator Bernie Sanders Office

Troy Dare
Manager & Engineering Technician
Rural Fire Protection Task Force
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292
802-828-4582 – www.vacd.org

Rupert Volunteer Fire Company

Treasurer's Report for the year 2023

Receipts

Bingo	\$13,804.67	
Carnival	\$41,292.69	
Game Supper	\$4,420.00	
General Donations	\$25,500.00	
Gun Raffle	\$5,005.00	
Hall/Table/Chair Rental	\$1,180.00	
Interest Deposits (both accounts)	\$53.33	
Memorial Donations	\$4,500.00	
Misc. Donations/Refunds	\$1,923.17	
Town	\$30,000.00	
Turkey Raffle	\$1,313.00	
<u>Total</u>		\$128,991.86

Expenses

Building	\$1,611.63	
Carnival	\$13,642.26	
County/State Dues	\$706.00	
Dispatching	\$2,450.00	
Donations	\$857.00	
Electric	\$3,940.45	
Equipment (gear & tools)	\$10,732.92	
Fuel/Propane	\$4,603.21	
Fundraising	\$1,845.35	
Insurance	\$6,948.00	
Misc.	\$7,423.09	
Office Supplies	\$1,040.62	
Phone/Internet	\$932.36	
Training	\$1,055.00	
Truck's Maintenance	\$6,904.96	
<u>Total</u>		\$64,692.85

Balance of General Checking for 12/31/2023	\$72,253.25
Balance of Equipment Fund/Money Market for 12/31/2023	\$189,595.22

Nichol McKeighan, Treasurer

THE RUPERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 was a difficult year for the Rupert Historical Society with illness, decline and subsequent death of our president, Eugene Higgins.

In addition, another charter member of the Society and long -serving Trustee, Axel Blomberg, passed away.

The countless ways in which both of these men contributed to and enriched our lives regarding the preservation of the town's history is immeasurable.

One of our goals for 2024 is to build a shed/barn behind the Cobbler Shop House where our wagon and a variety of tools can be stored and exhibited. The hope is to have the museum upstairs and the house with shed/barn open to the public more frequently.

An invitation to any and all who are interested in history is to join with us and help us grow while preserving the past.

A notice will go out in the near future as an election for a new President and Vice President will be held along with discussion and ideas for future projects.

Officers:

Anne Lourie – Secretary

Tracy Lourie – Treasurer

Board of Trustees:

Claude Barden

Leesa Bradley

Ruthanne Hunter

John LaVecchia

Nan Leach

Donald Lewis

Diane Lourie

2023 Rupert Food Pantry

The Rupert Food Pantry continues to meet the needs of not only our community but the surrounding communities as well. The Food Pantry meet those needs through the generosity of people who donate through the churches and the library as well as the monetary donations given by other community members and the \$500 from our town. This year we also received a variety of donations from the family of Julia Rolnik. These donations were used by our community, the Manchester Food Pantry and the Fair Haven Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-10am for anyone who has a need. Groceries are also delivered as needed. The Food Pantry is also the delivery spot for the Community Share Baskets that are handed out in our community around Christmas. This year, the Food Pantry either delivered or arranged a pickup time for 6 baskets.

If you would like any other information regarding the Food Pantry, please call 394-2491.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelli Lewis
Rupert Food Pantry Chair

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2023

R.K. Kittay Library
2827 State Route 153
Rupert, Vermont 05768

Mailing Address:

PO Box 53
West Rupert, Vermont 05776
Phone: 802-394-2444

E-Mail: rupertkittaylibrary@gmail.com

Website: rupertkittaylibrary.org/

Facebook: facebook.com/rkkittaylibrary/

Instagram: instagram.com/rkkittaylibrary/

The R.K. Kittay Library has had a busy year. You will notice that the collection has been maintained to the highest standards. Old and unused books have been removed, and those who remain received new stickers and labels, making it much easier to locate items on the shelves. All of this hard work by Stephen, our Director, and the Library volunteers was leading to Library World. Library World is our new online catalog, which means with the click of a button, we can tell you if we have a book in stock, and where it is!

Kelli Lewis hosted our two-week summer reading program again this year. The theme for 2023 was “All Together Now”. We held our annual programs with success; the return of our Easter Egg Hunt which saw over 75 kids with their families, the spring plant sale, the golf tournament and our autumnal mum and pie sale. Scary Stories was a success in its second year, with stories read by our own Stephen and guest story teller, Erica. Not to mention the delicious treats made by Sarah Porter. The Library also held their annual No Strings Marionette Show, “Scrooge” at the Rupert Fire House in December.

We were able to continue hosting artists in 2023, complete with artist receptions. New to our roster was having an open house and photo opportunities (with our Where the Wild Things Are backdrop) at the Old Home Days parade. A new recurring program for this year was our Crafter’s Night. Community members are welcome to join us 2 Thursday evenings a month with your craft of choice. Knitters and crocheters, painters, Lego enthusiasts, and anyone with easily transportable crafts are welcome to join in the creativity and camaraderie. We invite you to keep an eye out for new and exciting programs coming to the R.K. Kittay Library in 2024!

The Library continues to offer its many services to the community: free internet access, which includes a large radius around the library to accommodate access outside of normal library hours, Universal Classes where you can learn about hundreds of topics, Heritage Quest for genealogy, and Vermont Online Library for research on many topics. The Library also has free passes available for patrons: Vermont State Parks, Vermont Historical Museum, Historical Sites, The Clark Museum,

Hildene. The Library participates in the Able Library; the Vermont State Library provides a free, rotating selection of large print materials, which helps us stay within our budget and provides a more comprehensive selection.

The trustees and staff of the R.K. Kittay Library express gratitude to the Rupert Community for the continued support of our free public library. We also are beyond grateful for dedicated volunteers who keep the doors of the library open, and maintain and organize our materials, as well as share their knowledge and compassion for reading with our visitors.

Respectfully submitted:

President: Judy Zinn	Treasurer: Erica Shott	Secretary: Anniken Davenport
Arlene Horn	Sarah Porter	Carey Braidt

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Income

4100 – Investment Income	\$	1,553.95
4150 – Endowment Transfers	\$	0.00
4185 - Grant	\$	300.00
4000 - Revenue		
4020 - Art Sale Income	\$	0.00
4030 – Book Sales	\$	0.00
4040 – Conscience Fund	\$	0.00
4050 – Donations	\$	5,930.00
4055 – Town Appropriations	\$	1,500.00
4085 – Fundraisers	\$	9,907.00
Restricted Income	\$	5,500.00
Total 4000 – Revenue	\$	22,837.00
Total Income	\$	24,690.95

Expenses

6000 – Administration

5800 – Investment Mgt Fees	\$	1,230.40
5020 – Gift	\$	0.00
6005 – Hospitality	\$	272.03
6035 – Scholarship	\$	300.00
6030 – Office Expense	\$	150.89
0000 – Fundraising Expenses	\$	4,746.55
Total 6000 – Administration	\$	6,699.87

6500 Personnel

6560 – Payroll Taxes	\$	629.30
6570 – Hourly Wages Director	\$	7,240.49
6590 – Hourly Wages Assistant	\$	713.96
6580 – Hourly Wages Cleaner	\$	600.00
Total 6500 – Personnel	\$	9,183.75

6600 – Library Materials

6610 – Books/Audios/DVD/Passes/Mags	\$	3,642.86
6630 – Dues & Subscriptions	\$	139.00
6650 – Library Supplies	\$	1,530.79
6670 – Postage	\$	407.30
6680 – Program Exp	\$	1,416.35
6690 – Technology	\$	938.33
Total 6600 – Library Materials	\$	8,074.63

6700 – Building and Grounds

6755 – Internet Service	\$	1,103.10
6720 – Building Repairs & Needs	\$	859.09
6780 – Maintenance -Lawn	\$	19.99
6792 – Telephone	\$	858.87
6794 – Trash Removal	\$	355.00
Total 6700 – Building and Grounds	\$	3,196.05
Total Expenses	\$	27,154.30

RK Kittay Endowment Fund as of 09/30/23	\$	168,105.39
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Respectfully Submitted by Erica Shott, Treasurer

AMERICAN RED CROSS NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION

As we look ahead to the new year, we take a moment to reflect on our profound gratitude to the municipal partners who help us deliver our lifesaving mission in our community. With your support, we were able to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness of our friends and neighbors throughout northern New England.

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the Northern New England region:

- We made **700 homes safer** by installing **2,177** smoke detectors and educating **897** families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained **42,950 people** in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills, (training data for county level)
- We collected over **133,000 units of blood**. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over **3,400** service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Rupert. *This year, we respectfully request a municipal appropriation of \$250.00.* These funds will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region, who benefit from our unique services at no cost.

For more information about the work we've been doing in your area, please refer to the attached Service delivery sheet for Bennington County. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-464-6692 or supportnne@redcross.org.

Warmly,

Lauren Jordan
Development Coordinator

32 N Prospect St
Burlington, VT 05401

2 Maitland St
Concord, NH 03301

2401 Congress St
Portland, ME 04101

www.redcross.org/nne
American Red Cross of Northern New England

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless
PO Box 4736 Bennington, VT 05201
802-440-2487 <http://www.bcchvt.org>

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) continues to operate 24/7, 365 days a year, to serve the needs of those in Bennington County experiencing homelessness. BCCH is grateful for the town of Shaftsbury's support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The winter months are upon us and both locations are most often full, with a waiting list for families. In addition to providing shelter, we serve many others experiencing homelessness through drop-in services for those in need. Our services range from the use of our kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to providing a safe, warm space for those in need during the day or providing someone in need with toiletries, blankets, clothing, and takeout meals. Those who come in to warm up are also given the opportunity to meet with a case manager, apply for services, and receive housing and employment assistance.

In 2023, we provided shelter and services to almost 250 people between our two locations. In addition, we have served well over 100 adults and children through our day services, donation rooms, and community outreach services.

In the past year we have further strengthened relationships with our community partners, including but not limited to: Shires Housing, Turning Point, Greater Bennington Community Services, Economic Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Sunrise, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Bennington Police Department, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and United Counseling Services. We were able to enhance safety measures at our congregate shelter location with additional support staff and have three full-time case managers assisting our individuals and families staying at our two locations. These positions are supported by an increased HOP grant through OEO. Furthermore, this grant has afforded us to hire an additional full-time Community Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager for those not sheltered by BCCH. These milestones enable us to increase the success rate of guests' employment, housing, and so much more.

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Shires Housing. We began filling nine beautiful new family units at Norton House in January 2023. Together with other community partners we have found permanent housing for six of those families and three other families since then.

Revenue from Municipalities:

Shaftsbury - \$5,000
Bennington - \$25,000
Arlington - \$500
Peru - \$500
Dorset - \$1,000
Rupert - \$500

While so much good has been happening at BCCH, we need your continued support due to the many costs not covered under our HOP grant. While BCCH also pursues and obtains other grants and donations, they are just not enough to cover all BCCH's expenses. Your ongoing support is necessary with all the continued rising costs of food, necessities.... everything!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide anything else.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Roxanne M Carelli
Interim Executive Director

Salem Rescue Squad, Inc.
152 East Broadway, PO Box 360
Salem, NY 12865
Telephone: 518.854.7199
E-mail: salem44ems@hotmail.com

The members of the Salem Rescue Squad are proud to have served the communities of Salem, Hebron, Jackson, East Greenwich and Rupert for more than 50 years.

The Salem Rescue Squads three ambulance traveled more than 32,000 miles responding to 568 emergency calls in 2023. The following is a breakdown of ambulance calls by area:

Salem	371
Hebron	133
Rupert:	51
Greenwich	4
Argyle	3

Salem Rescue Squad is a volunteer membership advanced life support agency that provides emergency medical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Volunteers are supported by one full time Paramedic and part time EMT's as needed.

As is the case with most volunteer organizations, Salem Rescue Squad is seeking community members interested in joining our team. Current members come from a variety of occupations. Some have day jobs, some are retired. Members can help in a variety of ways including, but not limited to:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Ambulance Drivers
- Attendants

If you can provide some time and the willingness to help, the Salem Rescue Squad will provide the training and uniforms. Just contact us at the telephone number or email above or stop by the Rescue Squad building weekdays.

We would also like to remind you to make sure that your 9-1-1 street address is clearly visible from the road so that we can locate you quickly during an emergency. Keep an up to date list of your medical history, medications and dosages, and any allergies for yourself and family members.

Granville Rescue Squad, Inc.
East Potter Avenue, P.O. Box 153
Granville, NY 12832
Telephone (518) 642-1830
www.granvillerescue.com
granvillerescue@yahoo.com

To the Citizens of Towns Served:

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you over the past year.

Granville Rescue responded to 2,074 calls in 2023, traveling over 88,000 miles. The breakdown by area is as follows:

Granville Village:	755	Wells:	130
Granville Town:	645	Rupert:	14
Pawlet/W. Pawlet:	129	Danby:	26
Hebron:	44	Mutual Aid:	331

We routinely respond to calls for mutual assistance outside of our area. Other neighboring ambulances also assist our agency when the system is overwhelmed with calls and our resources are depleted.

Our service is licensed in New York and Vermont as an advanced life support agency. Volunteer members are supplemented by employees to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week emergency medical coverage. Our roster has over 40 members and staff, ranging from drivers to paramedics. In 2023, members participated in over 12,000 hours of emergency call time and in excess of 2500 hours of training. We do offer community CPR and first aid training, depending on instructor availability, as well as the “Stop the Bleed” program.

The trend of EMS locally, statewide and nationally is increase in call volumes with fewer people entering or remaining in the field. Several ambulance services in the State of Vermont and New York have gone out of business in the last year. We remain strong agency, but continue to look for new people to assist in the mission of providing emergency medical care to the community. If you think you have an interest, please come and see us.

Our agency took delivery of a new ambulance in 2023. This vehicle was designed similar to others in the fleet. A large federal grant also was awarded to our agency to add “power load” systems to some of our ambulances. These are designed to help load the stretcher into the ambulance, increasing safety of the patient and decreasing risk of back injury of the providers.

Granville Rescue would like to thank the citizens, businesses, local governments, fire, police, and neighboring EMS agencies, as well as highway departments for their continued support and assistance. Anyone with questions, concerns, or interest can stop by our building on Potter Avenue in Granville or visit our website at www.granvillerescue.com.

The members and staff of Granville Rescue wish everyone a healthy 2024!

VNA & HOSPICE of the Southwest Region
Main Office: 7 Albert Cree Drive
Rutland, VT 05701
802.775.0568
www.vermontvisitingnurses.org
Locations in Rutland, Bennington, Dorset and Manchester

TOWN REPORT

TO THE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF RUPERT:

In 2022, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) provided Rupert residents with exceptional home care, hospice, and community health services. From children with more intensive medical needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring quality health care wherever it is needed, **regardless** of the location of residence, or complexity of health issue.

In the face of shrinking federal and state reimbursements, along with rising healthcare costs, the VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services Rupert's most vulnerable individuals.

Last year VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 127,393 home visits to 3,043 patients. **In Rupert, we provided 828 visits to 18 individuals.**

Thank you for your continued support! With your vote of confidence, we will continue to fulfill our promise to your community to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Sara C. King, CEO
VNA & Hospice of the
Southwest Region

Dan DiBattista, President
Board of Directors

Bennington County Regional Commission

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests. The organization is governed by local appointees from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials, the BCRC is a regional center for programs in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, public health, solid waste management, and emergency management. BCRC staff is available to provide direct assistance in these areas and to serve as a liaison with state and federal agencies.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning at the BCRC is conducted by dedicated staff and supported by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation. The goal of this BCRC program is to support workforce development and business retention, growth, and recruitment. Related BCRC planning and community development initiatives support redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers, grant assistance for local businesses, and have produced reuse planning studies for key properties such as the former SVC campus and the recently idled Energizer complex. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property from damage. Other important activities have included: an assessment of land use regulations affecting housing in each town and village, expanded staff capacity to assist with implementation of local energy plans, village center and neighborhood development area designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan and the development of a new permanent hazardous waste facility in the region, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, and public transportation improvements.

In the coming year, the BCRC will continue to provide information and resources to assist business and local governments to take advantage of opportunities created through the federal American Rescue Plan and other programs. We expect to see continued focus on infrastructure (including broadband) improvement projects, housing creation, business support services, and measures to support implementation of the Vermont Climate Action Plan.

While our downtown Bennington offices, located at 210 South Street, have reopened, staff still work remotely at times, so it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrcvt.org). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work with little interruption in progress on any projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Colvin, Director

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg
Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) represents a partnership of 13 towns working together to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills through recycling, reuse, repair and other means of resource conservation. Since 2015, BCSWA has followed a solid waste implementation plan to assist residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations meet the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

In July of 2023 BCSWA opened a new household hazardous waste collection facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility was open one day per week throughout the fall and collected paint, pesticides, cleaning products, flammable liquids, and other landfill banned items from 225 families and small businesses in the area. The facility was built under budget at a cost of \$106,739.74. A grant from Vermont DEC financed 60% of the cost with the member towns of the Alliance funding the remainder. The Alliance projects that the facility will reduce annual operations costs when compared to the previous model of hosting disposal events, and that the savings will pay for construction costs in approximately 3 years.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and is present on social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. Outreach on these channels provide resources information to residents about:

- Scheduling a household hazardous waste drop off appointment
- Battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- Disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and select transfer stations
- Recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- Prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- Recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- Disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- Disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, Staples, and retail establishments
- Diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- Waste reduction resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2023 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at local libraries, produced regular content for public access television stations, and hosted tables at several farmers markets.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance is funded by thirteen member towns of the alliance proportional to their population, along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont
110 Marble Street, West Rutland, VT 05777
(802) 438-2303 | nwwvt.org | info@nwwvt.org

On behalf of our board of directors, staff and customers at NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, we want to sincerely thank you for your continued support!

While it was once again a challenging year for so many, we are pleased to report that with continued generous funding from our incredible partners, the State of Vermont, and Rupert, we were once again able to assist many Vermonters with affordable housing services including homebuyer education and counseling, downpayment assistance, home repair and energy loans and grants, home energy audits and energy efficiency projects. Below is a summary of the specific services we were able to provide throughout our service area.

In the last fiscal year (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023), our services comprised of:

- 192 Low-cost, Comprehensive HEAT Squad Energy Audits and 60 Home Energy Improvement Projects were completed for which homeowners received a rebate from Efficiency Vermont.
- 35 Energy Loans, totaling \$666,861 were made to help homeowners make energy improvements to their home.
- 13 rental units rehabilitated.
- 16 Down Payment Assistance Loans totaling \$324,294 were made to assist homebuyers make it over the 20% down payment barrier.
- 8 Home Repair Loans totaling \$110,482 and 49 Home Repair Grants totaling \$181,461 were made to homeowners to make health and safety upgrades.
- 1 first mortgage loan in partnership with Habitat for Humanity was made in the amount of \$157,900 to a first-time home buyer.
- 4 loans totaling \$233,250 were made to homebuyers who utilized the state of Vermont's Share Equity Program.
- 95 families attended Homebuyer Education and of those 32 became homeowners.
- 67 households participated in homeownership or financial coaching.

Again, thank you for your support as we wouldn't otherwise be able to provide these services.

Sincerely,

Melanie Paskevich

Interim Executive Director

mpaskevich@nwwvt.org 802-797-8610

THE TUTORIAL CENTER, INC.

The Tutorial Center respectfully requests to be on the Rupert Town ballot again for March 2024, for the FY'25 year in the amount of \$300.

The Tutorial Center's mission is to assist individuals and organizations interested in meeting their educational and vocational needs for both youth and adults. The Center is committed to a philosophy which respects student goals, builds on students' strengths, and seeks educational approaches most appropriate for each student.

The Tutorial Center continues to instruct and acclimate a group of new refugees, focusing on workforce skills and improving English communication. We continue to focus on increasing our adult education student body, maintaining and forming new community partnerships.

The Tutorial Center works closely with the social service agencies in the area, such as the Dept of Labor, Economic Services, DCF, CRJ, and UCS. Though our main mission is education, we know there are many barriers to education for our students. We work closely with our students to help minimize these obstacles. We have a transition counselor to help students overcome these barriers, as well as direct them to the specific services they may need.

Our education services include tutoring for all ages; Adult Education and Literacy (which includes an alternate pathway to a high school diploma-the High School Completion program); English language classes for non-English speakers (ESL); GED preparation and testing; job readiness training; basic technology training for individuals and businesses. We offer any Vermonter 16 or older, without a high school credential, a free path to a high school diploma in Manchester and in Bennington.

Rupert's town appropriation funds support our tutoring work, enabling us to offer scholarships to students who need assistance. In addition, we work closely with the area schools to be a resource for them.

The Tutorial Center is happy to answer the community's questions about how we may be able to help you or someone you know earn a high school diploma or receive help in reading or math. Thank you for your previous support, and we look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean-Marie Oller, Executive Director
seanmarie.o@tutorialcenter.org

www.tutorialcenter.org

In Manchester: PO Box 1434 • 3511 Richville Rd • Manchester Center, VT 05255 • 802-362-0222 • 802-362-0707 fax
In Bennington: 208 Pleasant Street • Bennington, VT 05201 • 802-447-0111 • 802-447-7607 fax

BENNINGTON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, which has helped more than 40 million people achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance through safe, decent, and affordable housing. Our local Habitat affiliate has had the honor of providing affordable homeownership opportunities for 34 families to date, with two more families currently in the homeownership program.

We work in partnership with Bennington County residents who cannot otherwise become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. Applicants must have a need for better housing, the ability to pay, and the willingness to partner with us as we build and work *with* individuals and families, not *for* them. Once accepted into the homeownership program, each adult family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity, half of which must be completed on the construction site(s). Homebuyers who become homeowners pay an affordable mortgage through monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments do not exceed more than 30% of their income.

Bennington County Habitat is locally run and funded. With the exception of some contract services such as roofing, electrical, and plumbing, volunteers build Habitat houses. Businesses, subcontractors, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our construction programs. With the costs of building a home continuing to rise, support from local towns and governments is more important than ever.

In Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023), Bennington County Habitat welcomed home the Metcalf family in Pownal. So far this Fiscal Year, two more families have moved home. This is **12 more** individual people now in safe, adequate housing. Additionally, we absorbed another Habitat affiliate this fiscal year. 5 homeowner partner families from West River Habitat are now part of our organization, and we will be servicing their mortgages.

After **135** homebuyer applications were sent out in March, two new families were accepted into our homebuyer program. In October of this year we broke ground on our **35th** home, which is in Bennington on Greenview Drive, and will be building our **36th** home on the same street this coming year as well.

In addition to our homeownership program, our home repair program has been growing as well. In Fiscal Year 2023 we completed three repair projects, while so far in Fiscal Year 2024 we completed one already, have two more starting soon, and plan to do even more before the end of June. Our home repair program continues to accept applications from local income-qualified homeowners who need minor home repairs, including ramps, to safely stay in or return to their home from health care facilities.

Our Resale Store in Manchester has been rebranded as an official Habitat ReStore this year. Through this we sell, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, art, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. Not only does the store provide people with quality furnishings they can afford, it also keeps items out of the landfill. The proceeds from the Store provide direct financial support for our construction programs.

The eighth home we built is located in Rupert and the ninth home we built is in West Rupert, providing safe, affordable housing for two Rupert families. Many Rupert residents helped build these and other local Habitat homes. We encourage residents of Rupert to apply for homes and home repair projects. We are grateful for the Town of Rupert's continued support and hope we can count on your assistance in the future.

None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from the local community. Together, we make a difference in the lives of hard-working people in Bennington County. For more information please visit our website at www.BenningtonCountyHabitat.org.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Luce, Executive Director, Bennington County Habitat for Humanity

PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

Mailing: P.O. Box 227 Bennington, VT 05201
Physical: 102 Dewey St. Bennington, VT 05201
Office: 802-442-2370 | Hotline: 802-442-2111
www.pavebennington.org

PAVE believes that everyone deserves to experience healthy love. It is a core part of our mission to strive to promote a community and a world, where we all can experience the joy of healthy love.

With over 10 Million Americans affected by Domestic Violence a year, striving for a community where non-violent love is the norm, can be daunting. But we persist, because we believe our goal is not only possible but necessary.

Over the last year, PAVE has been able to help survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence reclaim their lives after fleeing abuse. We have been there at the moment of crisis; **fielding over 500 hotline calls and providing 4221 nights of emergency shelter**. We have been there as survivors start to stabilize and heal; helping to obtain **16 housing assistance vouchers**, and over **50 Protection Orders**.

PAVE also has been present before violence takes place, with the hope that through education we can promote healthy forms of love and stop the cycle of Domestic Violence before it even starts. PAVE has provided over **900 youth in Bennington County** with preventative education and helped train over **200 community partners on topics** related to Domestic & Sexual Violence. Our advocates have dedicated themselves tirelessly to spreading the message of non-violent love at community events and in their day to day work with survivors.

We are requesting level funding for the coming year in the amount of \$100.00.

PAVE expresses their gratitude for the support and dedication the Town of Rupert has shown to survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence.

With appreciation,

Lindsay Brillon, M.E.d. LSW
Executive Director
Project Against Violent Encounters

PAVE is a 501©(3) not for profit organization and your donation is fully tax deductible, less the value of any goods or services received. PAVE does not appraise the value of gifts. Our tax ID number is 03-0285583.

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF RUPERT
SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$120.00

For the past 44 years, 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.

In FY '23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of 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 **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** 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 in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY '23, **1** resident of **Rupert** received services from the following programs:

- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
(\$**600.00** spent on meals for resident)
- Information, Referral and Assistance (I, R&A)

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**.

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Report to the Citizens of Rupert

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older residents in Rupert during SVCOA's most recent annual period of 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2023.

Nutrition Support:

The Council helped provide 423 meals that were delivered to the homes of 2 older Vermonters in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". In addition, 1 older Rupert resident attended a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 55 meals were provided.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 3.75 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 2 residents of Rupert.

Case Management Assistance:

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 3 older residents in your community for a total of 17.25 hours. Case managers meet with an older resident privately in their home or at another agreed upon location and assess their individual situation. They will work with the older resident to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the older resident desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older residents connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older Vermonters facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support:

- "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide.
- telephone support to older Vermonters and others who need information on available programs and community resources.
- Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program.
- Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project
- Information about issues and opportunities directly affecting older Vermonters via various agency articles and publications.
- Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician.
- Senior Companion support for frail, homebound older Vermonters
- Outreach services to older Vermonters dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland Mental Health.
- Transportation assistance.
- Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to older Vermonters in need of assistance.
- Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to older Vermonters and younger disabled individuals

Rutland Office: 802-786-5990

Bennington Office: 802-442-5436

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2023 Annual Report

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) in Bennington community justice agency helping both young people as well as adults to take an active role to repair the harm they caused, give back to their community and learn new ways to be a positive, contributing community member. With your town's support, this past year, over 1,400 individuals went through one of CRJ's many programs. A few specific examples include:

- 163 young people and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Program and had their charges expunged after taking responsibility for their actions and repairing harms caused
- 91 individuals were assisted to get their driver's license reinstated and legally back on the road
- 379 youth were served through one of CRJ's Juvenile Restorative Programs such as our in-school Restorative Alternative Program, Pre-Charge Program, The Lounge (afterschool program), life skills groups, Summer Youth Empowerment Program and mentoring
- 62 individuals returning to the community from incarceration were served through one of CRJ's many Community Reentry Programs
- 36 individuals were assisted to file court petitions to get their records expunged
- 204 adults participated in CRJ's adult restorative programs and support services
- 416 teens accessed Threads, CRJs free clothing boutique exclusively for teens
- 56 individuals were supported in CRJ's Pretrial Services Program connecting them with substance use, mental health and other community support services while awaiting court case resolution

CRJ's programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime; it emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities.

Your support is greatly appreciated and is invaluable in helping CRJ continue to expand its programming and to reach as many people as possible. Your continued support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen our communities.

Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director
Center for Restorative Justice

BROC – COMMUNITY ACTION

To the Citizens of the Towns of Rupert,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action assisted 8 residents of the Town of Rupert. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming fiscal year remains \$400.00.

We truly value our collaboration with Rupert as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO
tdonahue@broc.org

Southern Vermont Communications Union District
www.sovtcud.net

Southern Vermont Communications Union District
2023: Our Fourth Year

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fourth year.

In September 2022, SoVT CUD and its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) were awarded a \$9,009,085 Act 71 Construction Grant to fund Phase 2 of fiber network construction in SoVT CUD territory. After Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2022, construction of Phase 2 began in early 2023 and was consistently ahead of schedule. To date, the Construction Grant has funded the passing of over 6,000 homes with fiber, including 1,300 that were unserved. Dozens of fiber distribution hubs (FDH) across all 14 member towns have been released for customer sales.

Phase 2 remained on track to be completed before the end of 2023, providing over 95% of homes in Bennington County with access to fiber optic internet service. With the wrap up of Phase 2, SoVT CUD has focused its efforts on providing service to the hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3 of network construction.

In August 2023, SoVT CUD and CCI held a ribbon cutting event at Bromley Mountain in Peru to celebrate the near completion of the fiber network in Bennington County. The event was attended by Senator Peter Welch, and other local and state officials. There has been significant media coverage of SoVT CUD's success, including a segment from Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT) and NBC Channel 5.

SoVT CUD is now focused on the approximately 20 hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. The CUD has begun initial outreach to these property owners to assess the status of their internet service and build a finalized list of Phase 3 addresses to be covered under the CUD's universal service plan.

The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Specialist Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

More information can be found on the website: sovtcud.net.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor's mission is to assist our neighbors to live independently by providing no-cost, non-medical volunteer services that nurture relationships.

Since 2004, Neighbor to Neighbor and our dedicated team of volunteers has provided vital services to older disabled and other housebound residents of the Northshire, including those in Manchester, Arlington, Sunderland, Dorset, Pawlet, Rupert, Wells, & Danby. Our services include transportation to appointments and errands, friendly visits and phone calls, friendly handwritten notes, help with home and yard projects, and monthly social events, including our monthly luncheon held at the Rupert firehouse which is open to the entire community. We continue to promote our services to potential recipients and volunteers, as well as develop new programs and collaborations that will provide our elder community with more social opportunities.

Currently there are 10 residents in Rupert who are official Neighbor to Neighbor recipients or volunteers. This number does not include the many additional residents who enjoy our monthly luncheons as guests. Our caseload and demand for services continues to expand across all townships. To meet this demand, we have hired an additional part time staffer. To be expected, helping more people to do more things naturally drives up administrative and programming costs. Thankfully, Neighbor to Neighbor receives funding through local towns as well as through private, corporate, and foundation donors.

If you haven't already, please visit our website <https://neighbortoneighborvt.org/> and watch our promotional video on the homepage. It is a great glimpse into the many ways that Neighbor to Neighbor helps this community, and features many current and former volunteers and care recipients!

On behalf of the Steering Committee, our amazing volunteers, and most importantly the neighbors we serve, Neighbor to Neighbor is most grateful for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Eisinger
Program Director

Revenue (Fiscal Year ending 6-30-23)		Expenses	
Grants	\$ 12,500	Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 26,909
Foundations/Corporations	\$ 46,661	Worker's Comp	\$ 606
Ind. Cont./Fundraising	\$ 29,218	Event Exps/Meals	\$ 3,745
Support from Towns	\$ 3,000	Phone/Internet	\$ 2,028
Houses of worship	\$ 1,250	Office Supplies/Tech Support	\$ 2,716
Interest Income	\$ 968	Printing/Publicity/Advertising/Newsletter	\$ 2,045
		Postage	\$ 1,496
		Fund Raising	\$ 20
		Bank/Credit Card Charges	\$ 84
		Insurance: Liability	\$ 2,401
		Food Cards/Volunteer Gifts	\$ 7,919
		Recruitment	\$ 704
		Donations to Church	\$ 1,200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 93,597	TOAL EXPENSES	\$ 51,872

CERTIFICATE OF VOTES
RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING ELECTION
MARCH 7, 2023
TOTAL VOTES CAST - 192

<u>POSITION</u>		<u>WINNER</u>	
Selectboard for 3 years	-	Charles Rockwell.....	171
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Linda Montague.....	119
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Philip E. Mazzucco.....	124
Lister for 3 years	-	Jed Rubin.....	165
Auditor for 3 years	-	Kelly Jo Lewis.....	172
Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie	177
Town Moderator for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie.....	177
Town Clerk for 3 years	-	Andrea Lenhardt.....	183
Town Treasurer	-	Andrea Lenhardt.....	178
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Erica Shott.....	163
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Carey Lynn Braidt.....	147
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Anniken Davenport.....	151

RUPERT TOWN WARNING

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Article 2 (to borrow money).....	176.....	15
Article 3 (to authorize Selectboard to spend surplus, if any)	168	23
Article 4 (to approve collection of taxes in two installments)	184.....	6
Article 5 (\$2,000 for Salem Rescue Squad).....	184.....	6
Article 6 (\$6,500 Dorset Nursing Assoc.).....	165.....	26
Article 7 (\$30,000 for Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.).....	175.....	16
Article 8 (\$25,000 for Town Office Improvements)	161	28
Article 9 (\$ 1,500 for Rosalind Kittay Library).....	164.....	24
Article 10 (to approve \$5,000 for Rupert St. Cemetery)....	163.....	25
Article 11 (\$500 for Neighbor to Neighbor).....	164.....	25
Article 12 (\$10,000 for Rupert Village Sidewalks).....	146.....	44
Article 13 (to adopt a budget of \$1,058,750) for FY 2023/2024)	168.....	22

RESULTS OF METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOTAL COMMINGLED RUPERT & PAWLET VOTES CAST - 470

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Article 8 (to borrow money).....	334.....	131
Article 9 (to approve budget of \$6,442,338).....	277.....	189
Article 7 (approve \$40,0000 for Building & Main.Res.Funds).....	319.....	147

True and correct copy of the certificate of votes for the town and town school district offers elected and town articles elected and voted by Australian ballot on March 7, 2023

ANNUAL METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING – MARCH 1, 2023
VOTED FROM THE FLOOR

Mettawee School Moderator for 1 year -	John Thrasher
Mettawee School District Clerk for 1 year -	Debra Hawkins
Mettawee School District Treasurer for 1 year -	Judy Zinn

TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Rupert, Vermont are hereby warned and notified that on **MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** a Pre-Town Informational Meeting will be in person at the **RUPERT FIRE HOUSE** and on **TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 from 10:00 A.M TO 7:00 P.M.** at the **RUPERT TOWN OFFICE** to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town officers and to vote on the following articles, all by the Australian Ballot. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 **AT THE RUPERT TOWN OFFICE.** The polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M.
- ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year?
- ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend any budget surplus funds (if there are any) in the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to approve the collection of the Town and School taxes in two installments; the first installment to be due on or before September 10, 2024 and the second to be due on or before February 10, 2025. Each installment, if not paid when due, to bear interest at the rate provided by the law, from the due date of that installment.
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town vote \$2,000 by taxes for the Salem Rescue Squad?
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote \$6,500 by taxes for the VNR & Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly called the Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.)?
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$30,000 for the support of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company to provide services to residents of the Town?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$ 25,000 to add to the Rupert Town Green Development?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend \$2,000 to support the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library?
- ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$5,000 for the support of the Rupert Street Cemetery Inc.?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Rupert enter into a long-term Management Agreement for the care and maintenance of the Mettowee Community Park?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Rupert Selectboard be empowered to enter into a mutually acceptable joint management agreement with the towns of Dorset and/or Pawlet for long-term maintenance, financial responsibility and governance of the Mettowee Community Park?
- ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$ 10,000 to be spent for improvements and / or replacement of the Rupert Village sidewalks?
- ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town vote to adopt a budget of \$ 1,105,450 to defray expenses of the Town for the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025?

Deborah Baker, Co-Chair Charles Rockwell, Co-Chair
Thomas Wilson, Philip Mazzucco, Linda Montague

Received this 30th day of January, 2024
Andrea Lenhardt, Rupert Town Clerk

Rupert Town Office
187 East Street/PO Box 140
West Rupert, VT 05776
Phone: 802-394-7728
Email: rupert187@myfairpoint.net

Town Office Hours **Mon: 11:00am - 7:00 pm**
Tues: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Wed: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thurs: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Lister Office Hours **Mon: 10:00am – 2:00pm**
Thurs: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Road Department Phone: 802-394-2926

Mettawee Community School: 802-645-9009

Salem High School: 518-854-7600

Long Trail School: 802-867-5717

Granville High School: 518-642-1051

Burr & Burton Academy: 802-362-1775

**Town of Rupert
P.O. Box 140
West Rupert, Vermont 05776**

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REMEMBER!!

PRE-TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Monday, March 4, 2024
7:00 PM, will be held at the
RUPERT FIREHOUSE

VOTING

Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Polls open 10am – 7pm
Will be held at the
RUPERT TOWN OFFICE
East Street, West Rupert