

Town of Bridgewater



Bridgewater Community Center & Childcare

Vermont

**2023 Annual Report
Town & School District
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023**

**Town Meeting Day - March 5, 2024
Location: Fire Station
28 Southgate Loop
9:00 A.M.**

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Bridgewater Vermont Information

Chartered	1761
Settled	1779
Area	1785
• Total	49.5 sq miles
• Land	49.4 sq miles
• Water	0.2 sq miles
Elevation	1,040 ft
Population	(2020)
• Total	903

2024 Dedication



Brian Bontrager

Brian moved his young family to 7126 US Route 4, Bridgewater in 1985. Soon after he became involved with the town serving on the Planning Commission from 1992 to 1999 and then again from 2015 – 2019. In 1996 Brian served on the Bridgewater School Board and continued to do so until 2005. He transitioned easily from Bridgewater school board to Windsor Central Supervisory Union School board in 2005 and served there until 2017. Brian also served on the Selectboard from 2019-2022.

In 2017 together with a handful of other like-minded community members started a group to save the old Bridgewater School from demolition. In 2018 the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation – BACF- was formed where Brian served as Vice Chair of the nonprofit set out to revitalize the school building into a community center along with a Childcare facility. After the untimely passing of Hank Smith, he became the president of the BACF and is currently holding that position.

Over the many years of volunteering for the greater community Brian has seen progress in many areas and probably most successfully the restoration of the Bridgewater School into a functioning Childcare facility and soon the opening of the Community Center.

The Town of Bridgewater is thankful for all the time and energy Brian has expended on our great town and the new life given to the old school building.

Town Reminders:

Fast Trash at the Town Garage – Saturday mornings - 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

7093 US RT 4 - Wednesday's 2 P.M.-5 P.M.

Direct questions to: ABLE Waste Management 672-3569

- ❖ **January 01, 2024 - April 1, 2024** - Remember to License your Dog/Wolf Hybrid
Call the Town Clerk if you have questions.
- ❖ **February 29, 2024 - WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
a.k.a. MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING**
INFORMATIONAL HEARING will be held at the Woodstock Union Middle and High School library, located in the Town of Woodstock, Vermont, on Thursday February 29, 2024, commencing at 6:30PM to discuss the Australian ballot articles of the 2024 Annual Unified Union District Meeting Warning. Additionally, the Public Informational Hearing will be accessible through electronic means (online meeting). (See page #60 & #61 for more information).
- ❖ **March 02, 2023 - Rabies Clinic**
DRIVE UP & POKE RABIES CLINIC at the Woodstock High School parking lot.
Saturday, March 02, 2024 NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE 😊
1:00-2:30 p.m., - \$13.00 per shot. Cash Only
Everyone stays in the car. Cats in carriers. Bring proof of prior vaccination records.
Thanks to Dr. Philippa Richards, Kedron Valley Vet Clinic.
Hosted by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society 802-672-5302
- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - Town Meeting Day – Fire Station @ 9 a.m. – In Person**
- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - School Australian Ballot Voting – Town Office 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - Presidential Primary - Town Office 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **April 1, 2024** Property Assessment Date – Property is assessed each year as of this date.
Dog License Renewals due on or before April 1, 2024
- ❖ **April 15, 2024** File State Form - HS 122 for residency declaration.
- ❖ **May 1, 2024** Liquor License Renewal Date.
- ❖ **June 2024** Lister Grievances
- ❖ **August 1, 2024** Tax Bills mailed.
- ❖ **November 6, 2024** Property Taxes Due – Please remember that taxes paid after
this date is considered late, and subject to interest & penalty charges.

Town Permits required:

PERMIT FEES:

Permit and application fees shall be established by the Selectboard of the Town of Bridgewater, and shall be assessed by the Selectboard or their representative.

ACCESS / CURB CUT AND RIGHT OF WAY EXCAVATION

(Creating a driveway or road or altering existing driveway or road which accesses on to a town road)

A. Permit Application and Inspection Fee	\$105.00
B. Modification of existing driveway	20.00
C. Culvert replacement/addition	20.00
D. Installation of water/power lines	20.00

*** SEPTIC**

As of July 1, 2007 – State Permits required- Call 802-885-8855 with any questions.

GUVSWD LANDFILL STICKER / COUPON

A. Windshield Sticker	30.00
B. Windshield Sticker (2 nd vehicle)	15.00
C. Coupon	50.00

PERMIT TO BURN BRUSH

Edwin Earle, Warden

Cell - 802-353-2620

*** FLOOD ZONE** - You must apply to build or alter an existing structure in a flood plain area. NO building in Flood Way Area.

Contact Town Office for Application & Permit Fee information.

*** Reminder**-Please keep your E-911 signs clean and visible. If your sign is missing, contact Justin Wardwell, our 911 Coordinator.

Town of Bridgewater Annual Town Meeting

March 8, 2023

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Bill Berry. First order of business under Article 1, is to elect a Moderator. Bill Berry was nominated by William O. Young and 2nd by Phil Winsor. Bill was elected by voice vote.

Bill made the following announcements:

- * Location of exits and bathroom facilities. Refreshments provided by the Women's Auxiliary.
- * Town Meeting procedure and reminded the audience that in order to vote, they must be checked off the checklist and stamped at the entrance. Bill reviewed rules and regulations that he would be following.
- * Australian Ballot vote at the Town Office for Windsor Central Modified Unified Union School District Budget. Polls are open from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

A rabies clinic will be held on April 1, 2023, at the Woodstock High School Parking Lot.

The pledge of allegiance was said, and a moment of silence was held for those that have passed.

Thank you to the Fire Department for use of new fire station building for today's meeting and assisting with the set up. Also to the Auxiliary for providing refreshments.

Representative Heather Surprenant, spoke to the assembly regarding current happenings in the legislature: childcare, school construction needs, universal school meals, property appraisals, budgets, and appropriations. Invited everyone to contact her with questions or concerns.

Article 2: Phil Winsor moved and Steve Tarleton Sr. 2nd to see if the town will vote the sum of \$24,250.00 to the following social service agencies:

- a. Visiting Nurse and Hospice of VT & NH \$4,900.00
- b. Spectrum Teen Center 750.00
- c. Woodstock Area Council on Aging 6,600.00
- d. Southeastern VT Community Action (SEVCA) 1,000.00
- e. Norman Williams Library 5,000.00
- f. Woodstock Recreation Dept. 3,000.00
- g. Senior Solutions 1,100.00
- h. Ottauquechee Health Foundation 1,500.00
- i. WISE 400.00

Discussion regarding Library funding considering news reports of Libraries closing. Overview of Thompson Senior Center was given by Center Director. Motion carried by voice vote.

Article 3: William O. Young moved and Heather Kennedy 2nd to vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$250,000.00 to purchase a new truck for the Highway Department to replace the 2017 Western Star, to be paid from the equipment reserve fund. Motion carried by voice vote. Questions were fielded regarding the practice of trading every 5-7 years to get trade in value and warranty. Motion carried by voice vote.

Article 4: William O. Young moved and Phil Winsor 2nd to see if the town will vote a budget of \$1,537,175.00 of which \$1,311,315.00 shall be raised by taxes. Discussion of Sheriff's Department revenue and expenses. Accounts have been in a deficit for the past few years. Ticket revenue has decreased during the past couple of years, partly due to COVID restraints. Expense & Revenue have been balanced budgeted and revenues have not been matching expenses. Only \$10,000 was budgeted for revenue for the 2024 budget. Expenses have also increased in the salary and benefit lines in order to get and keep qualified help. Budget shows 40.03% increase but estimated tax rate is only increasing by approx. 12%. Grand List is expected to go up which will decrease the tax rate. Ellen Quinn moved to amend the budget by 20%, Mary Oldenburg 2nd this motion bringing the budget to \$1,229,740.00. This motion was defeated by voice vote.

Ellen asked for a paper ballot, 7 people stood up to sustain this request. Paper ballot results to reduce budget by 20% were Yes 62 No-63. Motion to reduce was defeated. Back to the original budget of \$1,537,175.00.

Further discussion ensued related to the need of clerk and treasurer assistants, purchase of roadside mower, voters were reminded to file their homestead sensitivity when filing income taxes. Ellen Quinn then moved to reduce the budget by 15%. Steve Tarleton 2nd the motion bringing the budget to \$1,306,598.75. Paper ballot was taken, Yes-57 No-69. Motion was defeated. At this time Moderator Bill Berry gave the body the option of passing over at this time, moving on to the next articles, and allowing the selectboard time to review and bring new budget to voters at a time forward. Meeting would not be adjourned, only recessed. A motion was made and then withdrawn to pass over the budget. Greg Jenne then moved to reduce the budget level funding at 10%, bringing the amount of the budget to \$1,383,457.00. Ellen Quinn 2nd this motion. Vote by paper ballot was declined. Vote was taken by voice, Yea's carried.

Meeting was suspended at this time to allow Senator Alison Clarkson to address the body. The legislature is working on 4 main items this session: childcare, housing, climate change and a workforce development bill.

Invited constituents to contact her with any questions and concerns.

Article 5: William O. Young moved and Robert Kancir 2nd to see if the Town will vote to place its taxes or any part thereof in the hands of the Collector of Current Taxes for collection on August 2, 2023, to be paid on or before November 1, 2023 (1st. Wednesday). Motion carried by voice vote.

Article 6: William O. Young moved and Ellen Quinn 2nd to see if the Town will elect its officers by Australian ballot. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of this move. Town Clerk, Nancy Robinson explained the Australian ballot process of getting name on ballot, ballot and/or tabulator preparation and costs borne by the town and mailing of ballots. Australian ballot voting does allow for larger number of participants but does not allow for making changes to warned articles. Clerk, Nancy Robinson asked the body to consider voting the same way for all three (3) Australian Ballot questions i.e. officers, budget, and public questions. Rules were suspended after approval of voters to vote on all questions as one (1) vote. Vote by voice was to close call. A paper ballot was taken to include all 3 articles. 121 votes were cast, Yes-37 No-84. Articles 6,7 & 8 were defeated.

Article: 7 & 8 Move to change to Australian ballot for Budget and Public Questions was voted within article 6.

Article 9: The following Town Officers were elected as required by law.

a. Selectboard (3 yrs.) Nominations: Bruce Page (incumbent) was nominated by Linda Howe

Steve Tarleton Jr. was nominated by Bruce Putnam. Vote was taken by paper ballot.

107 votes were cast, Bruce Page 38 and Steve Tarleton Jr. 69. Steve Tarleton Jr. was elected.

b. Lister (3 yrs.) Phil Winsor nominated Vicky Young. Being no other nominations, the clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Vicky Young. Motion carried.

c. Cemetery Commissioner (3 yrs.) Mary Oldenburg nominated Greg Jenne. Being no other nominations, the clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for Greg Jenne. Motion carried.

d. Town Constable (1 yr.) Wanda Reifenberger nominated David Adams. Ed Earle and Greg Jenne were both nominated but declined. Being no other nominations, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for David Adams. Motion carried.

Article 10: Other business (Advisory only)

Joan Wideman asked the board to consider the 1% Options tax on Meals & Rooms to help bring in revenue.

Kim Jackson asked if future meetings could be attended by Zoom. Not sure that this is possible, will check it out.

Geoff Eckler praised Road Foreman for his job performance but felt that this year's Foreman's report was harsh.

William O. Young thanked Joni Kennedy for her 20+ years as the Delinquent Tax Collector. Joni is resigning effective in April. Also thanked current elected and appointed officials. Encouraged people to get involved.

Bill Berry reported that this will be his last year as Town Moderator. Was given a standing ovation.

Being no further discussion, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting at 12:26 pm. Motion carried.

Approved by:

William Berry, Moderator

Greg Jenne, Justice of Peace

133 legal voters were in attendance.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator:

William Berry	2023-2024
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Town Clerk:

Nancy Robinson	2022-2025
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Town-School Treasurer:

Melissa Spear	2022-2025
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Selectboard:

George Spear	2021-2024
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William O. Young	2022-2025
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Stephen S. Tarleton	2023-2026
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Woodstock Unified School District

Lara Ely-Bowers	2023-2025
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Ryan Townsend	2023-2024
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Listers:

Kaleb McIntire	2022-2024
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Anna Spaulding	2022-2025 *
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Marsha Fraser	2023-2024 **
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Victoria Young	2023-2026
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Cemetery Commissions:

Owen Astbury	2021-2024
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Roy (Butch) Wardwell	2022-2025
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Gregory Jenne	2022-2026
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Delinquent Tax Collector:

Joni Kennedy	2021-2024*
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Mary Oldenburg	2023-2024 **
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Town Constable:

David Adams	2023-2024
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Trustee of Public Funds:

Mary Oldenburg	2022-2025
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*Resigned

**Appointed/Replacement

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Health Officer:

Corey Solitaire 2025

Road Commissioner:

Steve Tarleton 2024

Fence Viewers:

Clifford Geno 2024

Andy Bird 2024

Owen Astbury 2024

Tree Warden:

David Dibenedetto 2025

Poundkeeper:

Forest Fire Warden:

Ed Earle 2027

Planning Commission: (4-year terms)

Bruce Maxham 2024

Nancy Robinson 2026

Roy Wardwell 2026

Owen Astbury 2027

David Dibenedetto 2027

E 9-1-1 Coordinator:

Justin Wardwell 2024

Emergency Management Coordinator:

Josh Maxham 2024

Representative to TROPIC:

Lynne Bertram 2024

Representative to GUVSWMD:

Lynne Bertram 2024

Board of Civil Authority/Justice of the Peace: (Terms Expire 2/01/25)

Gregory Jenne

Gloria Martin

Jerry Oppenheimer

Justin Wardwell

Donna Williamson

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Bridgewater, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Bridgewater Fire Rescue Station located at 28 Southgate Loop, in said town on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business:

1. To elect a Moderator for the term of one year pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2646.
2. Shall the voters appropriate the total of **\$25,550.00** to the following social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2691?
 - a. Visiting Nurse and Hospice of VT & NH \$4,900.00
 - b. Spectrum Teen Center \$750.00
 - c. Woodstock Area Council on Aging (Thompson Senior Center) \$7,000.00
 - d. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) \$1,000.00
 - e. Norman Williams Public Library \$5,000.00
 - f. Woodstock Recreation Department \$3,000.00
 - g. Senior Solutions \$1,400.00
 - h. Ottauquechee Health Foundation \$2,500.00
3. Shall the voters grant tax exempt status to the Bridgewater Grange #284 for a period of 5 years pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 3840?
4. Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,793,624.78 of which \$248,164.14 shall be raised by non-tax revenues and the amount of \$1,545,460.64 to be raised by taxes?
5. Shall the voters vote to place its taxes or any part thereof in the hands of the Collector of Current Taxes for collection on or before August 1, 2024, and to be paid on or before November 6, 2024 (1st. Wednesday)?
6. To elect all Town Officers as required by law pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2646.
 - a. Selectperson – three years
 - b. Lister – three years
 - c. Lister – 1 year of an unexpired three-year term
 - d. Cemetery Commissioner – three years
 - e. Delinquent Tax Collector- three years
 - e. Town Constable – one year
7. To do any other business that may legally come before this meeting (advisory or discussion only).

Dated at Bridgewater, VT this 30th. day of January 2024

Bridgewater Selectboard:

William Young, Chair
George Spear
Steve Tarleton

Selectboard Report 2023

The Selectboard welcomed newly elected board member Stephen S. Tarleton for a 3-year term. The first task for this board was to decrease the proposed budget by 10% as voted through by the registered voters at the town meeting. Articles 6 through 8 to see if the town will elect town officers, adopt all budget articles, and vote all public questions by Australian ballot were not approved at town meeting. The board strongly encourages registered voters to attend the annual Town Meeting if they want to voice their opinions on town business and vote for articles.

The board was required by VT. Statute title 24 § 1523 to include the general fund deficit of prior years that resulted in an increase of \$.2185 to the tax rate. The total municipal tax rate for the grand list of 2023 to \$0.8182.

The board continues to hold in-person and zoom meetings the Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The highway department started working on cleaning culverts, grading roads, roadside mowing, and general maintenance until the Flood of July 2023. Then highway crew, road foreman and road commissioner began the task of getting roads opened. The process was not an easy one nor did it happen as swiftly as residents and board members would have liked. The biggest hurdle to overcome was and remains to be the requirements mandated by the Federal Emergency Management - F.E.M.A. – of procuring bids, securing contracts, site visits and the fact that the surrounding towns were also scrambling to open roads. Thank you to Randy Kennedy, Road Foreman, for his many hours of dedication and hard work to the towns infrastructure and for assisting with the FEMA processes.

The cost of the repairs to our infrastructure was estimated to be around 2.5 million dollars, however by mid-year the expense totals over 4.1 million dollars. The board borrowed a FEMA anticipation note in July 2023 for 2.5 million dollars and then in January 2024 borrowed another 2 million. The town has applied for a VT Bond loan of 4 million to help pay off the Mascoma loans. We are also applying to the FEMA Community Disaster Loan program for assistance covering the loans while we continue to submit FEMA documentation for reimbursement.

The Recreation field was hit by the flooding in July as well causing damage to the playground area and the picnic area. While the town received donations in FY2023, it was considerably under budgeted amounts. Soon the board will need to address the recreation field and how to cover maintenance costs and best utilize the facility overall.

The Wastewater treatment facility Improvement continued throughout FY2023 with an anticipated completion date in FY2024. The cost of repairs to the RBC wheel and related expenses like sludge removal have caused a deficit in the sewer fund of \$56,646.01. The Board voted to take on \$40,765.68 of the deficit to alleviate the burden of placing the entire deficit on Sewer users. The remaining operating deficit of \$15,646.01 (The deficit amount prior to the FY23 audit) remained in the Sewer Fund which resulted in an increase to per unit annual charge of \$550.00 to \$667.00 to cover the deficit and keep up with the rising costs of labor, testing and maintenance.

The current selectboard assumed the responsibility of two ongoing projects, The Wastewater Reconstruction project, and the New Fire Station construction and then the Flood of July 2023 reconstruction of infrastructure and FEMA reimbursement process. Throughout the year we have seen neighbors help neighbors and words of encouragement and gratitude. To those of you we extend a heartfelt thanks! We would also like to thank our town officers Nancy Robinson, Melissa Spear, Vicky Young and Cindy Ansardy, for their dedication and hard work in keeping our town running and supporting us through processes. Thank you to George Spear for his 3 years of service on the Selectboard.

Together working as a team, we can accomplish much.

Respectfully submitted,

William O. Young, Chair

George Spear, Vice Chair

Stephen S. Tarleton

Bridgewater Road Foreman's Report 2023

Hello from the Bridgewater Highway department.

2023 started off well and then turned into one heck of a year. Winter plowing went smoothly, mud season arrived, and things generally got off to a good start.

Town meeting came last March, and I received some compliments and some unkind personal criticism about my comprehensive 2022 report. Ironically, I received more compliments than I have ever received as a result. I will try to keep this year's report brief.

After mud season, we graded all the roads, started back on cleaning out culverts and ditching. We also did a lot of roadside mowing. We continue to work on equipment repairs and this past year the grader has had a great deal of issues. The grader is a 1992 model, and it is getting tired. We started looking for a newer model and continue to do so.

Then the flood on July 10th hit and the hard rain and water damage just kept coming. Basically, it made a royal mess of everything. Two Bridges were completely condemned and closed by the State of Vermont. The state now requires that significant repairs be built, like stone walls, in order to receive government assistance. This reconstruction work takes a lot of time and money. We were able to get most of the bad spots done before winter hit but we still have a few projects to finish. Pearson road will have a new box culvert coming, there is still a bank slide on Bridgewater Hollow Road that needs repair, culverts to replace and ditching in the summer.

The new Holiday Farm Bridge is open, and the Jenne Road bridge replacement project is ongoing. A large rebuild on Daily Hollow Road has been constructed and that road is now open again.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the new highway staff: Shawn Davis & Martin Machain, the contractors and truckers that helped us recover from the July flood and also the flood we got a week before Christmas.

Flooding like we have seen makes mountains of mess and mountains of paperwork. Thanks to the Selectboard and staff for working on this so Bridgewater can get reimbursed for all the repairs.

There is someone special I would like to thank this year: Gene Westney! Gene has always been there when we needed him.

Please remember to be kind and courteous to your Highway Department. There is a lot more hard work to their job that most of you do not see... and much of it like 2023, is not fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Kennedy

Road Foreman

Town Clerk's Report 2023

The Town Office continues to be open to researchers (by appointment) and residents to do dog and marriage licenses, notary services, genealogy inquiries and daily calls seeking general information about the town. The recording of land records has also seen another year of increase due to the number of property transfers (117), mortgages, discharges and wastewater permits totaling over 650 recorded documents.

I have continued with the scanning and digitizing of the land records and am happy to report that the land records are available through the town's website going back to the early 1930's to 2023. As of this writing 10 more books are being scanned and will make records available back to the mid 1860's. Since the digitized records have gone online there has been a decline in the clerk revenue for copies. While this does impact the annual clerk revenue, the actual records are being protected from potential damage and keeping them safe for future generations.

The 2023 Town Meeting was held in person at the new Fire Station and was attended by 133 legal voters. This was one of the largest attended town meetings in the past 10 years. The budget increase and final reduced amount took over an hour to discuss with several motions and amendments. Another article that took some time for discussion and subsequent vote was on changing from the traditional "floor" town meeting or to the Australian Ballot system. The article was defeated by a paper ballot 84 to 37. The above items depict true democracy at work. Town meeting for 2024 will again be held at the Fire Station.

Reminder: 2024 dog tags are available, please license your dog(s) before April 1st. Please be sure that the rabies shots are current and that I have a copy on file.

Looking toward 2024, the town office will have a busy election year, with the March and August primaries and General Election in November. Voting will be in person at the town office as well as by absentee ballot (by request for the March and August elections). Absentee ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters by the Sec. of States office for the November General Election.

I would like to thank Cindy Ansardy (Assistant) who has been helping me this past year. We continue to work on organizing the vault contents, updating the survey map index, annual updates for the parcel mapping project as well as the E-9-1-1 maps.

The Town Office posted hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. I am in the office most days by 7:30 am and generally until after 4 and can be reached at 802-672-3334 x1 or by email at clerk@bridgewatervt.org.

Sincerely,

Nancy Robinson,
Town Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

Report on General fund:

The Town Audits from previous year reflect a deficit \$423,283.00 (Combined deficits from all funds)

By Vermont State Statutes the Selectboard must raise the deficit amounts through taxes.

The Selectboard voted to raise the deficit in the FY 2024 taxes. The combined deficit and the voter approved budget of \$1,157,480. Plus, the local agreement Tax of \$4,117.

Bringing the amount to be raised to \$1,584,882.

Actual Property taxes Received \$1,381,758

FY23 is currently showing a deficit of \$162,100 in the general fund. To be raised in FY2025

Overstated revenue for FY2023:

Traffic fines Budgeted \$85,000. Received \$12,577. Difference of \$72,423.

Previous year Surplus \$30,397. Actual \$0 difference of \$30,397

FY 23 Understated Wages & Benefits in the general fund:

Wages - Budgeted \$ 124,140. Actual \$152,57 Difference of \$ 28,134.

Benefits – Budgeted \$31,625. Actual \$61,948. Difference of \$30,323

FY23 Understated office expenses.

Budgeted \$ 41,160. Actual \$ 61,860. Difference of \$20,700.

Other Budget line items not using budgeted amounts.

Sewer Fund:

The combined deficit of previous years is \$33,463.86. The Restricted Sewer Reserve funds had a balance of \$44, 226.95 and the Selectboard voted in January of 2024 to use \$33,463.86 to offset the deficit leaving a balance in the Restricted fund \$10,763.09 in FY2024.

The Sewer Fund had an operating deficit of \$15,646.01 in FY 23 to be raised in FY2025 before the FY2023 audit report. (see selectboard letter for explanation of how the town will cover the deficit).

The Wastewater reconstruction costs for FY 2023

In August of 2021 there was a catastrophic event at the Wastewater treatment facility that resulted in a reconstruction project. In FY 2023 the town secured two USDA bonds and a USDA Grant to help cover some of the costs associated with the reconstruction costs. The projected amounts were higher than anticipated for various expenses surrounding the Rotating Biological Contractors (RBC) System. The RBC attached growth process consists of a large disc with radial and concentric passages rotating in a concrete or steel tank. 40% of the media surface area provided for biological growth is submerged in the wastewater. The 12-foot diameter

unit rotates every 40 seconds. The frequent rotation into the wastewater and subsequent exposure to atmospheric oxygen delivers the food, oxygen and mixing needed for attached growth organisms to multiply and thrive. This large, active population causes the biological degradation of organic pollutants. Excess biomass shears off at a steady rate and is carried through the system for removal in a clarifier.

In FY 2023 I began my 2nd year in office and found myself finishing up the audit of FY22 and getting a better understanding of town's financial status and reviewing current town policies and looking at auditor suggested town policies. After the July flood I found myself gathering information on FEMA and VT hazard mitigation. The process of documentation and working with our FEMA representative has consumed much of my time. Our town is one of the hardest hits financially in the state (According to our FEMA rep.) The Selectboard agreed to hire Lori Scott, retired Town Clerk & Treasurer from Stockbridge, on a part-time basis (one day a week) to assist with the documentation organization. Philip "Diger" Winsor volunteered and was helpful with the beginning of the damage inventory process and scanning pictures. Thank you to both Lori & Diger!

Vicky as assistant treasurer pitched in above her 8 hours designated per week to help. She was very instrumental in the organization and information gathering for the annual town report and FY 2025 budget. Thank you, Vicky!

I would also like to thank our town clerk Nancy Robinson for her dedication to our town along with Cindy Ansardy. I look forward to another year together in the office.

The Selectboard appointed Mary Oldenburg as delinquent tax collector in April 2023, and I would like to extend a thank you to Mary for the continued communication and support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Spear

Bridgewater Town Treasurer

2023 REPORT OF THE LISTERS TO THE TOWN

2023 was another busy year for the Listers. Many changes to the Grand List. There were 89 properties with changes. In March 2023, Anna Spaulding resigned as Lister, and Marsha Fraser was appointed until March to fill the remaining two years of a 3-year term. Kaleb McIntire's two-year term is up this year –So there will be two Lister's positions to be voted on this year.

The total of changes to the Grand List of 2023 - **\$9,358,505.00** was added to the Grand List from new homes and other changes to properties. We had a loss of Personal Property of \$1,768,882.00 due to personal property being removed from town. And a loss of \$104,446.00 of Current Use Exemptions. Leaving a net \$7,459,764.00 increase over 2022's Grand List.

In July 2022, the Town received an Order to Reappraise from the State of Vermont based on the 2021 Equalization Study results. Because of all the sales of the past three years, with many properties selling for more than our 2019 reappraisal values – our CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) fell to 86.82% and our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) increased to 23%. Our COD is what has caused the Notice to Reappraise.

The 2023 Equalization Study results are CLA -74.31% And COD – 31.12% which shows the continued decline of our values.

As of this date - we have been approved by the State to have a Statistical Market Update instead of a full townwide reappraisal based on the findings of the Data Quality Study done in July 2023. The Market update will begin in Spring 2024 and be completed for our June 2024 Grand List.

The Lister's will still be doing our work of any new and/or changes to properties as usual – that will be included as part of the Market Update.

Since ACT 68 (Also known as H480) was enacted last year- in the future the State will be more involved with the reappraisal process. This is still evolving. We are waiting to see how it will affect us in the future.

Reminder to file your HS 122 Homestead Declarations if you are a Vermont resident as of April 1, 2024. If you own and occupy - then you must file this form every year by April 15th. If you file late there is a penalty - even if you get an extension to your taxes- this form does not fall under the extension. It can be filed online at: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Respectfully Submitted:

Victoria Young, Marsha Fraser & Kaleb McIntire

Bridgewater Board of Listers

DOG LICENSES

07/01/2022-06/30/2023

89 @ \$ 9.00 (Neutered)	\$ 801.00
44 @ 11.00 (Late Neutered)	484.00
22 @ 13.00 (Un-Neutered)	286.00
9 @ 17.00 (Late Un-Neutered)	153.00

Totals:

164	\$ 1,724.00
Sent to State:	820.00
Town Share	\$ 904.00

All dog and wolf-hybrids, six months of age or older, must be licensed each year on or before April 1st. Proof of rabies vaccination, (a current rabies certificate), is required for licensing.

Cats and Ferrets are also required to have a rabies vaccination. Even though we do not license them, we do request a copy of the rabies certificate to be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

LIQUOR LICENSES

3 @ \$ 70.00	\$ 210.00
2 @ 115.00	230.00

Totals:

5	\$ 440.00
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Vital Statistics

DEATHS

NAME	AGE	DATE
Shon Powell	51	07/05/2022
Paul Hutt	81	08/24/2022
Richard Jozefiak	71	09/00/2022
Ronald Greenough	79	12/00/2022
Clyde K. Hershey	89	01/09/2023
Michael Perry	77	02/26/2023
Mae Lewis	74	04/11/2023

BIRTHS

2 Town Births (Names not listed due to confidentiality)

CIVIL MARRIAGES

NAME	NAME	DATE	PLACE
Chelsea Austin	Kris Sexton Jr.	07/02/2022	Plymouth
Elizabeth Fish	Joshua Maxham	09/17/2022	Bridgewater
George Maguire III	Sijan Shrestha	10/28/2022	Bridgewater
Robert Schaffner	Caroline Fehre	04/22/2023	Rutland

*Please note the new Vital Records Law (Act 46) goes into effect on July 1, 2019. This information will assist you in obtaining certified copies of birth and death records.

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

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

For text of Act 46, go to

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

Budget Summary	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	%
	FY 2023	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Change
General Fund Expenses:	657,328.00	702,808.40	735,125.00	885,589.78	20.47%
Warned Articles:	22,150.00	22,150.00	24,250.00	25,550.00	5.36%
Total Expenses:	679,478.00	724,958.40	759,375.00	911,139.78	19.99%
Non-Tax Revenue:	(206,070.00)	133,217.38	(128,860.00)	(142,760.00)	10.79%
Sub-Total:	473,408.00	591,741.02	630,515.00	768,379.78	21.87%
Previous Year Surplus/Deficit	(30,397.73)	(161,980.27)	-	162,000.00	
Amount to be raised in taxes:	443,010.27	429,760.75	630,515.00	930,379.78	47.56%
Highway Expenses:	576,225.00	582,196.09	623,965.00	720,485.00	15.47%
Previous Year Surplus	10,301.50	7,404.14	-	7,404.14	
Non-Tax Revenue:	(95,000.00)	(98,073.73)	(97,000.00)	98,000.00	
Amount to be raised in taxes:	491,526.50	491,526.50	526,965.00	615,080.86	16.72%
Total General & Highway Expenses:	1,487,364.78	1,307,154.49	1,383,340.00	1,631,624.78	17.95%
Non-Tax Revenue:	(301,070.00)	231,291.11	<u>(225,860.00)</u>	(240,760.00)	6.60%
Total General & Highway Expenses:			1,157,480.00	1,793,624.78	54.96%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(20,096.23)	(154,576.13)	423,283.73	154,595.86	
Town Taxes to be raised:	934,536.77	921,287.25	1,580,763.73	1,545,460.64	-2.23%
Schools:					
Payments to Schools:	1,847,513.00	1,847,513.00			
Net to State:	1,057,761.43	1,057,761.43			
Town Retains:	6,701.59	6,701.59			
Total Schools:	2,911,976.02	2,911,976.02			
Tax Rates:	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Change	
			Estimated		
School Tax Rate:	1.7456	1.8759	2.1507	.27	14.65%
Town Municipal Rate:	<u>0.5032</u>	<u>0.8182</u>	<u>0.7980</u>	(.02)	
Combined Tax Rate:	\$2.2488	\$2.6941	\$2.9487	.25	

Account	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	FY - 24/25
General Fund	FY 2023	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	% Change
Current Taxes	443,010.27	429,760.75	630,515.00	930,379.78	47.56
Current Use Reimb.	72,000.00	77,819.00	75,000.00	95,000.00	26.67
Current Use LUCT Reimb.	-	988.50	-	-	
Delinquent Taxes	-	-	-	-	
Interest on Taxes	12,000.00	10,589.10	10,000.00	8,000.00	-20
Federal & State PILOT Pym	13,000.00	14,197.92	13,000.00	14,000.00	7.69
Clerk Fees	15,000.00	8,227.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Traffic Fines	85,000.00	12,577.16	10,000.00	5,000.00	-50
Dog Licenses	1,000.00	904.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Liquor Licenses	700.00	440.00	700.00	700.00	
Interest on Investments	1,000.00	466.34	500.00	200.00	-60
Box Rent	70.00	50.00	60.00	60.00	
Act 68 -Town Retains	6,300.00	6,701.59	6,600.00	6,800.00	3.03
Prev.Year Surplus	30,397.73	-	-	-	
Misc.	-	256.77	-	-	
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Total Revenue:	679,478.00	562,978.13	759,375.00	1,073,139.78	41.32%
General Account Expenses					
WAGES					
Clerk Wages	49,140.00	49,140.00	49,140.00	49,140.00	
Treasurer Wages	26,000.00	39,229.65	44,928.00	44,928.00	
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Listers	28,000.00	26,174.25	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Constable	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
ASST Clerk/Treasurer	15,000.00	22,279.50	23,000.00	23,000.00	
Admin Assistant	-	9,990.00	11,648.00	11,648.00	
Health Officer Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Fire Warden Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
9-1-1 Coordinator	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Misc. Wages	500.00	400.00	600.00	700.00	16.67
Travel Reimbursement	500.00	360.70	500.00	500.00	
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Sub Total:	124,140.00	152,574.10	162,816.00	162,916.00	0.06%
BENEFITS					
FICA-Medi	9,000.00	13,312.33	13,500.00	13,500.00	
Insurance	20,000.00	42,628.67	41,000.00	44,000.00	7.32
VMERS	1,625.00	5,432.11	6,200.00	6,400.00	3.23
Training/Seminars	500.00	168.00	500.00	500.00	
Work. Comp. Ins.	500.00	407.00	500.00	1,100.00	120

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
Sub Total:	31,625.00	61,948.11	61,700.00	65,500.00	6.16%
OFFICE EXPENSE					
Gen. Office Supplies	2,600.00	7,395.42	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Clerk Supplies	2,000.00	1,679.11	1,800.00	1,500.00	-16.67
Treasurer Supplies	2,000.00	2,816.39	2,250.00	2,250.00	
Lister Supplies	750.00	1,778.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Election Exp.	1,000.00	396.78	500.00	1,000.00	100
Del. Collector Supplies	-	206.87	-	-	
Computer/Copier Contracts	15,000.00	23,233.92	15,000.00	20,000.00	33.33
Tax Mapping	3,400.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	
Telephone/Internet	2,200.00	4,838.67	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Electricity	7,000.00	7,661.91	8,500.00	8,500.00	
Heat	3,500.00	7,003.61	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Sewer Fee	1,710.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,725.00	4.55
Sub Total:	41,160.00	61,860.68	45,900.00	51,175.00	11.49%
OPERATING EXPENSE					
Advertising	300.00	-	300.00	300.00	
Printing/Town Report Exp.	2,200.00	2,568.70	2,200.00	2,750.00	25
VLCT Dues & Fees	2,400.00	180.00	2,400.00	2,500.00	4.17
Legal Services	3,500.00	3,445.92	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Professional Services	-	3,447.50	-	-	
Audit Services	9,000.00	7,425.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	
Dog Pound	300.00	-	300.00	300.00	
Property & Liability Insu	6,500.00	3,775.00	6,500.00	7,500.00	15.38
Southgate House Maint.	7,000.00	13,899.32	6,500.00	7,500.00	15.38
Southgate House Repairs	2,000.00	2,265.23	2,500.00	2,500.00	
County Taxes	13,500.00	-	14,250.00	12,000.00	-15.79
GUVSWD Assessment	9,030.00	9,030.00	9,000.00	8,127.00	-9.7
Recycling Program	10,816.00	-	12,000.00	-	-100
Southgate Hse Reserved Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Memorial Day Flags	250.00	-	200.00	200.00	
Two-Rivers Regional Plan.	1,427.00	1,427.00	1,472.00	1,517.00	3.06
Cemetery Fund Appropriation	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	
Planning Comm.	-	-	-	-	
Office Capitol Reserve	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Landfill Appropriation	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Green Up VT	50.00	-	50.00	50.00	
Bank Fees	600.00	573.95	600.00	600.00	
Reappraisal/Maint. Reserve	30,000.00	30,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00	-33.33

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
E-911 - Signs Reserves	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Fire Station Bond Pymt	110,000.00	98,578.16	102,000.00	102,570.00	0.56
FS Bond Interest	-	4,429.03	-	-	
Wastewater Bond	-	-	27,000.00	27,074.00	0.27
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Sub Total:	255,373.00	227,544.81	270,272.00	253,488.00	-6.21%
Grants Expenses					
USDA Reserve - WW Approp.	-	-	-	5,500.00	100
VEPA / VT Bond	-	-	-	3,540.00	100
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Sub Total:	-----	-----	-----	9,040.00	-----
Int. on Bank Loans & Deficit					
Mascoma Deficit Interest	-	-	-	19,736.61	100
FEMA Note #1 Interest	-	-	-	91,089.86	100
FEMA Note #2 Interest	-	-	-	33,961.63	100
Previous Year Deficit	-	-	-	162,000.00	100
WW Deficit/RBC	-	-	-	40,765.68	100
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Sub Total:	-	-	-	347,553.78	100.00%
Emergency Services					
SHERIFF & CONSTABLE					
Constable Exp./Travel	150.00	-	150.00	150.00	
Sheriff's Dept.	85,000.00	84,425.00	70,000.00	32,000.00	-54.29
Police Liab. & Work. Comp.	300.00	298.00	300.00	350.00	16.67
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Sub Total:	85,450.00	84,723.00	70,450.00	32,500.00	-53.87%
FAST SQUAD					
Fast Squad Appropriation	-	-	-	-	
Fast Squad Liab.&Work Comp	1,000.00	250.00	1,000.00	500.00	-50
Woodstock Ambulance Asses	65,520.00	65,520.00	65,520.00	65,520.00	
Ambulance Bills Uncollected	5,000.00	-	9,000.00	8,433.00	-6.3
Dispatch Services	3,160.00	3,160.50	3,612.00	4,064.00	12.51
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Sub Total:	74,680.00	68,930.50	79,132.00	78,517.00	-0.78%
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
Fire Dept. Appropriation	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Fire Dept. Ins.	12,000.00	12,983.00	12,500.00	13,000.00	4
Fire Dept. Work. Comp.	1,300.00	1,219.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Fire Station Maint.	-	345.00	-	2,500.00	100
Fire Truck Improvements	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
Dry Hydrant Program	100.00	300.00	100.00	100.00	
Fire Warden Supplies	1,500.00	380.20	1,000.00	-	-100
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Sub Total:	44,900.00	45,227.20	44,900.00	46,900.00	4.45%
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Total Emergency Services:	205,030.00	198,880.70	194,482.00	157,917.00	-18.80%
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Total General Fund Exp:	657,328.00	702,808.40	735,170.00	1,047,589.78	42.50%
WARNED APPROPRIATIONS					
Woodstock VNA	4,900.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	
Woodstock Council on Aging	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	7,000.00	6.06
Woodstock Recreation Dept	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Woodstock Job Bank	-	-	-	-	
Spectrum Teen Center	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	
SEVCA	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Norman Williams Public Li	3,500.00	3,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Ottauquechee Health Found	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,500.00	66.67
Senior Solutions	500.00	500.00	1,100.00	1,400.00	27.27
WISE	400.00	400.00	400.00	-	-100
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Total Warned Appropriations:	22,150.00	22,150.00	24,250.00	25,550.00	5.36%
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Total General Fund:	679,478.00	724,958.40	759,420.00	1,073,139.78	41.31%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	(161,980.27)		-	
HIGHWAY REVENUE	-	-	-	-	
Current Taxes (Highway)	491,526.50	491,526.50	526,965.00	615,080.86	16.72
St. of VT -Highways	95,000.00	97,633.73	97,000.00	98,000.00	1.03
Grants-Paving & Ditching	-	-	-	-	
Permit Fees	-	440.00	-	-	
Prior Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,301.50)	-	-	7,404.14	100
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
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Total Revenue:	576,225.00	589,600.23	623,965.00	720,485.00	15.47%
Highway Fund					
Payroll & Benefits					
Highway Salaries	170,000.00	190,239.00	198,000.00	213,760.00	7.96
FICA /Medi.	13,000.00	13,798.94	15,300.00	16,352.00	6.88
Benefits	67,000.00	45,988.44	57,000.00	62,430.00	9.53
Work. Comp. Ins.	16,000.00	11,640.00	12,000.00	13,000.00	8.33

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
Unemployment	300.00	390.00	500.00	580.00	16
VMERS	10,625.00	11,994.33	13,365.00	14,963.00	11.96
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Sub Total:	276,925.00	274,050.71	296,165.00	321,085.00	8.41%
GARAGE					
Phone/Internet	2,000.00	3,883.84	2,400.00	4,500.00	87.5
Electricity	1,000.00	1,284.08	1,800.00	1,800.00	
Heat	5,200.00	5,635.53	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Bldg. & Liab. Ins.	5,000.00	3,657.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	-20
Equipment Ins.	6,000.00	5,553.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Prof. Liab. Ins.	1,200.00	1,383.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	
Milage Reimb/Med Test	300.00	-	200.00	200.00	
Highway Supplies	-	122.75	-	-	
Misc./Advertising	-	525.17	-	500.00	100
MISC	-	221.36	-	-	
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Sub Total:	20,700.00	22,265.73	22,800.00	24,400.00	7.02%
MAINTENENCE					
Equipment Hired	18,000.00	8,071.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Sub-Contractors	-	-	-	-	
Equipment Fuel	25,000.00	43,098.26	30,000.00	43,000.00	43.33
Equipment Repairs	12,000.00	30,273.56	12,000.00	40,000.00	233.33
Materials	100,000.00	110,224.54	125,000.00	125,000.00	
Equipment Maint.	15,000.00	27,490.63	15,000.00	25,000.00	66.67
Class 4 Road Maint.	5,000.00	2,316.66	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Storm Water Regs/Fees	1,600.00	2,405.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Grant Projects	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Capitol Equipment	-	-	-	-	
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Sub Total:	191,600.00	223,879.65	213,000.00	264,000.00	23.94%
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
Yearly Projects	25,000.00	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub Total:	25,000.00	-	-	-	0.00%
CAPITOL SINKING					
Building Improv. Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	1900
Equipment Fund Reserves	60,000.00	60,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	
Bridge Fund Reserves	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
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Sub Total:	62,000.00	62,000.00	92,000.00	111,000.00	20.65%
Transfer Out	-	-	-	-	

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
Total Highway Expenses:	576,225.00	582,196.09	623,965.00	720,485.00	15.47%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	7,404.14	-	-	
SEWER DEPT. REVENUE	-	-	-	-	
Quarterly Fees	84,443.38	82,162.35	90,067.82	114,596.01	27.23
Delinquent Sewer Revenue	-	6,016.11	-	-	
Delinquent Interest	1,000.00	844.87	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Sewer Permits	-	400.00	-	-	
Previous Year Surplus	6,476.62	-	2,432.18	-	-100
ARPA Funds	-	144,000.76	-	-	
Misc.	-	5.73	-	-	
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Total Sewer Revenue:	91,920.00	233,429.82	93,500.00	115,596.01	23.63%
SEWER DEPT. EXPENSES					
Plant Labor	65,220.00	77,207.50	65,000.00	71,000.00	9.23
Supplies	1,500.00	1,852.30	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Electricity	4,000.00	4,253.72	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Heat	1,000.00	4,153.02	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Phone	500.00	175.59	300.00	-	-100
Administrative Fees	500.00	(240.00)	500.00	200.00	-60
Outside Testing	5,000.00	2,400.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Outside Labor	-	902.80	-	1,000.00	100
Chemicals	1,500.00	1,291.88	2,000.00	2,300.00	15
Maintenance	4,500.00	6,265.26	4,500.00	5,050.00	12.22
Sludge Disposal	5,000.00	2,940.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	20
RBC Repairs	-	187,406.44	-	-	
Property & Liab. Ins.	1,200.00	1,233.00	1,200.00	1,400.00	16.67
Previous Year Deficit	-	-	-	15,646.01	100
Sinking Fund Appr.	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	-	-100
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Sewer Fund Expenses:	91,920.00	289,841.51	93,500.00	115,596.01	23.63%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	(56,411.69)	-	-	
Recreation Committee Fund Revenue					
Donations	3,300.00	-	6,800.00	6,350.00	-18.59
Change in Investment Value	-	-	-	-	
Interest, dividends on Fi	-	2,508.03	-	-	
Interest on Investments	1,000.00	127.59	1,000.00	-	-100

	Budget FY 2023	Actual FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	Budget FY 2025	FY - 24/25 % Change
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
Reimb. from Fidelity Acct	-	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	4,300.00	2,635.62	7,800.00	6,350.00	-27.84%
Recreation Committee Exp.					
Rec. Field Electricity	250.00	286.34	250.00	300.00	20
Insurance	50.00	37.00	50.00	50.00	
Rec. Grounds Maint.	4,000.00	5,485.22	7,500.00	6,000.00	-20
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Recreation Fund:	4,300.00	5,808.56	7,800.00	6,350.00	-18.59%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	(3,172.94)	-	-	
Cemetery Fund Revenues					
Appropriations	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	
Sale of Lots	-	1,500.00	-	-	
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Revenues:	36,000.00	37,500.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00%
Cemetery Fund Expenses					
Mowing / Cleanup	30,000.00	36,466.68	30,000.00	30,000.00	
Corner Stones	-	-	-	-	
Repairs / Maintenance	6,000.00	7,429.41	6,000.00	6,000.00	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	36,000.00	43,896.09	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00%
Donations/voted	-	250.00	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Expenses:	36,000.00	44,146.09	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00%
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	(6,646.09)	-	-	

Account- School	Budget FY - 2023	Actual FY-2023 Pd:12	Budget FY - 2024	Budget FY 2025
School Revenue				
Homestead Education Tax	728,247.43	728,247.43	758,399.84	
Non-Residential Education	1,119,265.57	1,119,265.57	1,319,048.16	
Non-Resident Ed Liab to State	1,057,761.43	1,057,761.43	1,118,681.84	
Retained by Municipality	6,701.59	-	7,207.32	
	-----	-----	-----	
Total Revenues:	2,911,976.02	2,905,274.43	3,203,337.16	
School Expenses				
Payments to Schools	1,847,513.00	1,847,513.00	2,077,448.00	
ACT 68 - Net Pymt to Stat	1,057,761.43	1,057,761.43	1,118,681.84	
ACT 68 - Town Retains	6,701.59	-	7,207.32	
	-----	-----	-----	
Total Expenses:	2,911,976.02	2,905,274.43	3,203,337.16	

Designated Fund Balances:

Fund	General Fund	Bal. 7/01/22	Appropriations	Income	Expenses	Balance 06/30/23
A	Planning Commission	6,363.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,363.63
B	Road Signs /911	3,485.70	500.00		5.73	3,979.97
C	Listers/Reappraisal	8,616.32	30,000.00	7,134.50	3,217.00	42,533.82
D	Landfill Reserve	2,449.46	4,500.00		-	6,949.46
E	Southgate House Reserve	43,573.35	5,000.00		48,699.76	(126.41)
f	Office Capitol	1,047.49	500.00		1,305.00	242.49
G	Fire Truck Improvement Fund	193,767.96	15,000.00	154.30	-	208,922.26
H	TC Records Retention	9,007.72		2,672.00	292.00	11,387.72
I	Veterans Monument	1,431.88	-	-	-	1,431.88
N	WW Reconstruction	(164,287.94)		812,929.91	634,063.82	14,578.15
O	Fire Station Construction	(10,639.40)	-	45,797.00	98,436.70	(63,279.10)
Highway Funds:						
K	Equipment Reserve	-	60,000.00		41,933.63	18,066.37
L	Highway Bldg./Salt Shed	40,770.04	1,000.00		7,872.21	33,897.83
M	Bridge Reserve	56,677.57	1,000.00	-	-	57,677.57
Totals:		192,263.78	117,500.00	868,687.71	835,825.85	342,625.64

Town Long-Term Debt:

Fire Station Bond	\$1,737,931.00
WW Improvements Bond	\$448,000.00
WW Improvements Bond	\$197,000.00
Note Payable – Wastewater Infrastructure	\$35,402.00
2020 Western Star Truck	<u>\$60,711.00</u>
Total:	\$2,479,044.00

Paid off:

November 2050
March 2053
March 2053
September 2025
October 2024

**BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2023
GENERAL FUND**

ASSETS:	
Checking Account	55,986.14
Due to other funds:	-432,714.91
Sweep Transit	30,535.00
Health Equity	83.79
Landfill Coupons	332.00
Landfill Stickers	-30.00
Petty Cash - Clerk	100.00
Petty Cash -Treasurer	<u>100.00</u>
Total Assets	-345,607.98
LIABILITIES:	
Bank Reconciliation Issue	-294.82
Federal Withholdings	-460.50
FICA/Medi Taxes	-1028.91
State Withholdings	2,640.60
AFLAC Deductions	71.53
VMERS-Retirement	-387.04
Child Support	85.16
Pre-paid Taxes	.03
Overpaid Property Tax	-955.06
Delinquent Tax Collector	<u>533.26</u>
Total Liability	324.25
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	
Fund Balance Prior Year	-163,971.82
Assigned to Subsequent Year	<u>-19,980.14</u>
Total Prior Years Fund Balance:	-183,951.96
Total Fund Balance Current Year	<u>-161,980.27</u>
Total Fund Balance	-345,932.23
Total Liability, Fund Balance	-345,607.98

HIGHWAY FUND

Assets:	
Due from General Account	<u>99,468.47</u>
Total Assets	99,468.47
Liabilities:	
Encumbered Project Funds	<u>336.92</u>
Total Liabilities	336.92
Fund Balance Prior Year:	88,921.40
Undesignated Fund Balance	<u>2,806.01</u>
Total Prior Year Fund Balance	91,727.41
Fund Balance Current Year	7,404.14
Total Fund Balance	99,131.55
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	99,468.47

SEWER FUND

Assets:	
Due from General Account	-47,648.60
Capital Assets-Infrastructure	<u>241,868.00</u>
Total Assets	194,219.40
Liabilities:	
A/D Infrastructure	<u>241,868.00</u>
Total Liabilities	241,868.00
Fund Balance:	
Fund Balance Prior Year	-35,463.86
Fund Balance Restricted	<u>44,226.95</u>
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	8,763.09
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>-56,411.69</u>
Total Fund Balance	-47,648.60
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	194,219.40

RECREATION COMMITTEE FUND

Assets:	
Due from General Fund	114.60
Fidelity Invest.	49,561.11
Recreation Committee CD	<u>33,006.76</u>
Total Assets	82,682.47
Liabilities:	
None	<u>0.00</u>
Fund Balance:	
Fund Balance Prior Year	83,857.38
Fund Balance- Donations	1,998.03
Total Prior Year Fund Balance:	85,855.41
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>-3,172.94</u>
Total Fund Balance	82,682.47
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	82,682.47

CEMETERY FUND

Assets:	
Due from General Fund	38,152.80
Total Assets	38,152.80
Liabilities:	
Cemetery Reserved-Corner Stone's	<u>790.00</u>
Fund Balance:	
Fund Balance Prior Year	44,008.89
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>-6,646.09</u>
Total Fund Balance	37,362.80
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	38,152.80

***The numbers presented in this report of FY 2023 have been audited by Pace & Hawley CPA, the Town's contracted audit firm. The complete audit report will be available for inspection at the Treasurer's Office.**

**Explanation of 2022 Grand List
Town Fiscal Year 2022/2023**

Fair Market and Listed Value of
Real Estate and Personal Property **Municipal Grand List: 1,862,135.86**
Taxable Parcels: 766 **Education Grand Lists: 1,835,186.52**
Acres: 29,394.48

	Municipal	Homestead	Non-Homestead	Total Education Listed Value:
Real Property	202,818,400	56,913,508.	145,904,892	202,818,400
PP & Cable	3,065,932.		336,200.	336,200.
(-) Vet Exempt.	30,000	30,000		30,000
(-) Vet Exempt >10K	30,000			
Total Veterans	60,000	30,000		30,000
(-) Land Use Exempt.	19,216,046.	2,580,521.	16,635,525.	19,216,046.
(-) Non-Approved Contracts	207,400.			
(-) Special Exemptions (2)	187,300.		187,300.	187,300.
<hr/>				
Total Municipal Grand List: 1,862,135.86				
Total Education Grand List:		543,029.87	1,292,156.65	1,835,186.52

STATEMENT OF CURRENT TAXES

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

Homestead Tax Rate: \$2.2488

Non-Homestead Tax Rate: \$2.1918

Amounts to be Raised in Taxes:

Taxes Billed:

<u>R.E. & P.P.</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>		<u>Grand List</u>	<u>Taxes Raised</u>
Local Agreement	.0022	+ / -	1,862,135.86	4,096.70
Municipal	.5010	+ / -	1,862,135.86	932,930.09
Homestead Ed.	1.7456	+ / -	542,729.87	947,389.24
Non-Residential	<u>1.6886</u>	+ / -	1,290,082.65	<u>2,178,433.62</u>
				4,067,685.47

State Penalty's- Late Filed HS-122

Includes: 4,835.82 Late Filed Penalty's

Total Taxes Raised:

4,067,685.47

Reconciliation of Taxes Paid:

School Taxes:	2,911,976.02
Highway Taxes:	491,526.50
Town Taxes:	<u>443,010.27</u>
Total Taxes Paid Out:	3,846,512.79
Municipal Portion of Credits:	-7,554.00
State Tax Credits	<u>+225,276.98</u>
Adjustments – HS122-Late Filed	+4,474.40
Net Change in taxes raised	-1,024.70
Net Taxes after adjustments:	4,067,685.47

* Note: Due to ACT 68 - Amounts Billed and Amounts received change over the course of the year – Late filed HS 122's change the totals of the Grand List – thus changing the amounts due causing either a shortfall or collecting more than anticipated.

Delinquent Tax Collectors Report

January 2024

Dear Bridgewater Residents,

As many of you may know, Joni Kennedy resigned as Delinquent Tax Collector in April. We would like to thank her for her many years of service to the Town. I was appointed shortly after to take over the position until town meeting.

Some of the taxpayers have set up payment plans to pay their back taxes and we continue to work with them. Some properties will be heading to tax sales this spring as the owners have not made an attempt to pay off their back taxes, and some are many years in arrears.

The reports following show the taxes that are still outstanding as of June 30, 2023.

Please give me a call if I can help you with questions or setting up a plan to pay off back taxes.

Sincerely,
Mary Oldenburg
802-770-2007

Delinquent Sewer Tax Report

<u>Delinquent Sewer List:</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>PP/*</u>
Blanchard, Brian	23	*
Boisvert, Gerard	22,23	*
Bruck, Gina	23	*
Caizzi, Lawrence	22,23	
Ferguson, Chas.	23	
Gibson, Daniel	23	*
Helms, Alyssa -02-042	23	*
Helms, J & A - 99-007	23	*
Herdegen, Gillian 99-002	23	*
Herdegen, Gillian99002.001	22	*
Mattsson, Claes	15-23	
McElwain Family Tr.	23	*
Reifenberger, Wanda	22,23	
Saul, Lukas	23	*
Sharpe, Mary	23	*
Siri. John	23	*
<u>Testa, Glen</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>pp</u>
Total Due for FY 2015:		1,951.97
Total Due for FY 2016:		618.75
Total Due for FY 2017:		625.00
Total Due for FY 2018:		2,025.00
Total Due for FY 2019:		2,650.00
Total Due for FY 2020:		2,650.00
Total Due for FY 2021:		2,650.00
Total Due for FY 2022:		3,486.98
Total Due for FY 2023:		<u>8,379.73</u>
Total Amount Due as of June 30, 2023		25,037.43

Total Does Not Include Interest & Penalty Charges.

* = Paid in full after June 30, 2023

pp=partial payment

Delinquent Tax Report

<u>Parcel #</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Tax Year:</u>	<u>*/PP</u>
07-050.	Alexander, Keith	2022	
02-059.001	Bivens, Colleen	2017-2019	
06-022	Bixler, Parker, McGonagle	2015-2021	
02-031	Blanchard, Brian	2022	*
03-033	Burton, Bonita	2022	pp
01-111.001	Buteux, Julia	2021	*
02-068	Caizzi, Lawrence	2021,2022	pp
07-013.001	Carbino, Theodore Estate	2015,2017 - 2021	
05-013.001	Dodge, Benjamin	2021,2022	*
06-017	Fowler, Nicholas	2022	*
04-060	Gavin, Casey	2022	*
05-092	Joyce, Michael B.	2022	
04-043	Kelly, William	2020-2022	
01-113	Lewis, Daniel	2020-2022	
01-113.002	Lewis, Daniel	2022	
02-094	Manning, Michael	2022	*
02-037	Mattsson, Claes Arne	2014-2022	
07-056	McLeod, Andrew	2022	*
03-045	Prior, David	2015-2022	
02-050	Reifenberger, Wanda	2021-2022	
06-031	Sturgeon, Timothy	2022	*
07-001.001	Townsend, Ryan & Jessica	2021,2022	
03-034	Williamson, Patricia	2022	*

2014 - \$ 3,403.65
2015 - \$ 9,996.99
2016 - \$10,310.45
2017 - \$10,834.41
2018 - \$10,750.03
2019 - \$ 6,072.43
2020 - \$ 7,117.49
2021 - \$17,302.45
2022 - \$39,934.05

Total Delinquent Taxes as of: June 30, 2023 - \$115,721.95

Total Does Not Include Interest & Penalty Charges.

* = Paid in full after June 30, 2023

pp = partial payment



Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department 2023 Report

The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 81 incidents in 2023. They consisted of 25 fire alarm activations, 4 carbon monoxide alarms, 2 smoke investigations, 2 structure fires, 1 grass/brush fire, 1 controlled burn, 1 power line/pole down, 1 structure collapse, 1 gain entry to house, 1 vehicle fire, 1 ATV accident, 6 car accidents with NO injuries, 5 car accidents with injuries, 2 good intent calls, 1 elevator alarm, 3 search and rescue, 2 traffic details, the remaining 21 calls all dealt with this springs flooding – 4 “natural disaster” (ND) calls, 1 ND medical, 4 ND pump water from basement, 1 ND swift water rescue, 1 ND mudslide, and 10 ND assist Woodstock Ambulance & BFS with a total of 668 hours spent on scene, 434 of those hours resulting from the spring flooding. We spent a total of 462 hours on training.

The BVFD responded to 9 mutual aid calls including 5 in Plymouth, 1 smoke removal, 2 structure fires, and 2 medical calls totaling 72 hours. 1 to Woodstock, cancelled enroute. 1 to Pomfret for a grass fire for 10 hours. 2 to Killington for 1 grass fire and 1 cancelled enroute, total of 13 hours. We received mutual aid from Hartford Fire Department for swift water rescue and from Woodstock Fire Department for calls to the Mill Mall. We had three new people join the Department, one of which is currently enrolled in the VT State Firefighter 1&2 course in Bethel. Several of our members were certified as Vermont Emergency First Responders and are now teamed up with the Bridgewater FAST Squad to assist with medical calls. The Fire Department and FAST squad are always looking for new members, anyone interested can stop by the new fire station any Monday night after 6:00pm to talk with us about it.

Please make sure that your 911 numbers at the end of your driveway are easily visible year-round, if we can't find you, we can't help you! Remember to check your smoke and CO (carbon dioxide) detectors, change the batteries twice a year or replace the whole device if needed. Having working alarms is one of the easiest things you can do to keep your family safe.

The BVFD would like to thank our community for their continued support of us so that we may continue to help support all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Zach Bowley President/Captain

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department 2023

RECEIPTS:

General Donations/Misc	\$ 4,256.00
Fund Drives	\$ 19,271.00
Fundraisers.	\$ 17,690.85
Interest income	\$ 1,928.97
Fire extinguishers sales/service	\$ 326.74
Town Appropriation	\$ 15,000.00
New Building Fund- Equip	\$ 5,170.00
	\$ 63,643.56

DISBURSEMENTS:

Communications	\$ 308.00
Memberships	\$ 553.00
New Building Equip	\$ 24,011.97
Training classes	\$ 675.00
Trash pick-up.	\$ 1,828.40

Fire Equipment/gear	\$ 5,591.03
Fire extinguishers sales/service	\$ 663.39
Auxiliary	\$ 2,665.58
Fund raiser expenses	\$ 6,236.47
Insurance	\$ 351.00
Fire Warden supplies	\$ -380.20
Office expense/postage	\$ 3,034.52
Repairs/Maint.-Equip	\$ 2,220.78
Supplies	\$ 221.45
Telephone	\$ 3,901.68
Truck Expenses- Fuel, repairs	\$ 19,658.78
Electric	\$ 5,075.93
Fuel oil/propane	\$ 4,638.39
Sewer usage	\$ 1,100.00
Total Disbursements:	\$ 82,355.17

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. 2023

BANK ACCOUNTS:

CHECKING- GENERAL:

Jan 1, 2023 Beg Balance	\$ 57,912.65
Receipts	\$ 63,643.56
Disbursements	\$ 82,355.17
Dec 31, 2023 End Balance	\$ 38,550.52

SCBA RESERVE FUND: \$ 4,000.00

BUNKER GEAR RESERVE FUND:

Jan 1, 2023 beginning balance	\$ 21,281.52
Receipts- Interest	\$ 2.13
Dec 31, 2023 ending balance	\$ 21,283.65

BUILDING FUND RESERVE:

Jan 1, 2023 beginning balance	\$ 481.63
Reserve f/ pending projects	\$108,000.00
Receipts- Interest	\$ 1,920.97
Dec 31, 2023, ending balance	\$110,402.60

AUXILIARY ACCOUNT:

Jan 1, 2023, beginning balance	\$ 10,383.21
Receipts	\$ 3,716.00
Disbursements	\$ 4,988.58
Dec 31, 2023, ending balance	\$ 9,110.63

BRIDGEWATER CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Bridgewater Town Cemeteries were active places again this past year with upkeep, maintenance, lot sales and special projects. The season started with commissioners making inspections of grounds and identifying project goals for the year.

The Commissioners once again welcomed representatives from Vermont Old Cemetery Association, VOCA, to Bridgewater. On a soggy day in early June VOCA members and local volunteers met in the oldest part of MT Pleasant Cemetery to repair and straighten gravestones. The rain hampered some of the stone repairs, but good progress was made straightening and lifting stones. We were very pleased with the turnout of helping hands on a dreary day and the work that was accomplished.

The Baker Hill Cemetery received some much-needed improvements in June as well. The road that loops through the cemetery was reconstructed and redefined and material added for better access. Drainage was improved as well. A large tree was removed from the upper entrance and brush cutting and chipping was also completed.

Plans for spring 2024 include setting cornerstones for lots sold in the last few years and brush cutting and tree trimming at Topliff Cemetery. Signs for some cemeteries are in need of repair or replacement as well.

The Commissioners thank Olmstead Property Services for keeping our cemeteries groomed to perfection and Bridgewater residents for their continued support of our efforts. Please take the time to visit and enjoy the history and beauty.

Commissioners:
Roy (Butch) Wardwell
Owen Astbury
Greg Jenne

AMERICAN LEGION GENO-ROBINSON POST 11, BRIDGEWATER, VT



Our purpose: to provide patriotic services for the Town of Bridgewater

Our history: Chartered August 1, 1919, one of Vermont's oldest Posts.

Named in honor of: William Geno of WWI and Clyde Robinson of WWII

Our membership includes Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans of Bridgewater.

Also, we continue our service of placing flags on graves of over 200 veterans in Bridgewater's 13 cemeteries in May and remove them in November. Over 10% of Bridgewater's graves are occupied by veterans. It is our privilege and honor to perform Military Remembrance Burial Services for all Veterans with prayers by our chaplain, our rifle salute and presentation of a folded United States Flag to the next of kin.

Our ranks are thinning due to age, and we would welcome new members in Post 11 to help us be of service to our town and its citizens.

Richard Brackett, Commander



This 13th year of the Historical Society has shown that we continue to bring Bridgewater the best in exhibits, public programs, and newsletters. We opened the season on Memorial Day weekend with the new exhibit “The Message Gets Through”, highlighting the role of the Vermont Southern Telephone Company and W.A. Perkins during the inaugural of Calvin Coolidge. Our Board curated the exhibit of the telephone switchboards, photographs, memorabilia, and articles pertaining to August 2, 1923. It was an especially nice way to honor Jeannette Sawyer, our founder, as she provided most of the material from her Perkins family ancestors.

Public programs relating to this theme were given at the Grange by Howard Coffin on ‘Coolidge the Man I Thought I Knew’, and Cynthia Bittering on “Grace Coolidge”.

Work has begun on updating our web site, as many people do their initial research and cemetery records are in high demand. It will be nice to have our collection and information available to all electronically. Our presence on Facebook is being led by Chris Stevens and from the feedback we receive, it has been fun for everyone to see our photos.

The summer of 2023 was tough on the Town. July brought over 30 inches of rain, with major flooding on July 10 and 14. There was damage to the Mill and surrounding properties, in addition to washouts on all the roads. Luckily the brick school is above the flood zone, but some of our members suffered damage to their businesses and homes. We are thankful to have so many hard-working people in the town who helped to bring everything back to some sense of normalcy very soon.

Our bi-annual newsletters reflect two major themes this year. Coolidge’s Inauguration and Asa Jones, the first settler in Bridgewater. The upcoming 2024 calendar will feature the 50th anniversary of the Bridgewater Raft Race.

The Bridgewater Cemetery Commission did repair and cleanup on the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, assisted by board members Chris Stevens and Sondra Stevens. Tom Giffin, from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, led the restoration efforts. Rain aside, the group enjoyed helping and learning restoration techniques.

Membership is strong with 100 families. Many of you visited our tent at the annual Bridgewater Fire Department’s BBQ. It was a pleasure to be out again and celebrating in front of the new firehouse.

We like to thank our members and our board for all their work and support over the past year as we continue to care for Bridgewater’s history and the old Brick Schoolhouse.



Bridgewater Area Community Foundation

January 25, 2024

The Bridgewater Area Community Foundation Inc, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors established in 2018 to preserve, rescue and enhance the former Bridgewater Village School, a cultural and historical landmark located in the Ottauquechee valley, into a community center and childcare center.

In 2023 BACF:

- Phase II construction by Jaynes & Berge Inc. (including two classrooms, bathroom remodel and creation of ADA compliant bathroom)
- Finish installation of new elevator
- Finish restoring windows in 1914 and 1948 areas by Talis Historical Restoration
- Plumbing and heating updates by Ottauquechee Plumbing & Heating
- Electrical updates by Schaal Electric
- Finish new sprinkler system by FireTech
- Update fire alarm system by Royal Fire Alarm
- Second floor painting by Vern Doyle II, LLC.
- Second floor sanding and refinishing using Vermont Coatings by Vern Doyle II, LLC.
- BCC playground additions and planning for 2024 playground remodeling
- April 2023 BCC/BVFD Auxiliary Easter egg hunt
- September 2023 grand opening of new classrooms
- October 2023 BCC Halloween parade
- December 2023 BCC Parent-Teacher conferences
- December 2023 BCC Holiday party

The Bridgewater Area Community Foundation, Inc's cornerstone programing, the Bridgewater Community Childcare overseen by Executive Director, Kristiana Birmingham and Administrative Assistant, Owen Putnam expanded this year tripling in size. Licensed by the State of Vermont, BCC now serves 45 children daily ages 6-weeks through Preschool (5 years old), along with an Afterschool Care program for school aged children. BCC now employs 10 full-time teachers and 4 part-time staff

between their three classrooms. BCC's vision is for every child to have access to early childhood education regardless of their family's ability to pay and that would not be possible without the Vermont Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) with 33% of families utilizing the program and additional families on center tuition relief. Under the direction of Mrs. Birmingham, BCC secured \$150,000 in grants from Make Way for Kids and Woodstock EDC to expand, staff, and furnish the childcare's two additional classrooms this year, which opened in late August. Along with two additional bathrooms that opened in September and December. BCC also received the Vermont Act 76 Readiness award from the State of Vermont Department for Children and Families Child Development Division to aid in the license expansion.

The Bridgewater community is a vital part of the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation Inc. mission to provide a vibrant center where the people of Bridgewater and the surrounding towns can gather as part of a caring, diverse community of people from all ages and walks of life. The BACF fosters education, artistry, commerce, health and wellness, personal growth and connection. We strive to meet the basic needs of all citizens in a resilient space that will continue to serve and function when it is needed most. We look forward to 2024 and all that it has in store for the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation, Inc.

Kristiana Birmingham - Bridgewater Community Childcare Executive Director
Owen Putnam - Bridgewater Community Childcare Admin Assistant

Brian Bontrager - BACF Board President
Charlie Shackleton - BACF Board Vice President
Dalene Washburn - BACF Board Secretary
Jeremy Bhatia - BACF Board Treasurer
BACF Board Members - Brian Bontrager, Charlie Shackleton, Dalene Washburn, Jeremy Bhatia, Michael Caduto, & Collen Doyle

TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects.

TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds.

TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process and have done so most recently with the July floods.

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Bridgewater this past year, TRORC assisted the town with updating its Local Emergency Management Plan. TRORC has also been working as the project manager for the Sand Shed project. Staff assisted in the Better Roads grant application for 2024 to stabilize a section of streambank on Stevens Road. Staff assisted the town with applying for and receiving energy assessment grants for the Southgate House and the Highway Garage.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

Woodstock Recreation Center, INC.

The Woodstock Recreation Center (WRC) is 77 years old in 2024. There have been many positive changes over the years; I will give a brief timeline below:

- In August of 1958 the first “small” pool was built, with funding from the Woodstock Rotary club.
- In June 1968 the “big pool” was built
- In February 2007 a major renovation project was completed removing the bowling alley and adding a Fitness Center and dance studio where many fitness classes, dance classes, and other programs are taught today.
- Included in this renovation is a new teen center (This used to be the old gym)
- In April 2008 the construction of a new “big pool” began.
- The small pool is still used today.
- In June 2009 the new “big pool” was ready for use.
- In 2010 the lower level of WRC was fully renovated with new bathrooms, showers, floors, walls, electrical, and plumbing.
- In August 2011 Tropical Storm Irene came through with flood waters filling the small pool with silt, entering the lower level of WRC and rising to 5ft. In the theater.
- This amounted to over 250,000.00 in damages.
- The lower level of WRC had to have all the recently completed renovations ripped out from 4ft and below due to water damage. This was all repaired within two months.
- The Theater had so much water and silt, all of the electrical, plumbing, and heat was ruined, the entire lower level had to be gutted from the ceiling down, there was no heat, or electricity in the building.
- In October 2012 all repairs to the theater were complete. The theater was again habitable and rainbow preschool moved back in and all classes resumed upstairs.
- In 2015 The original wood floors in the theater were refinished and the exterior side doors replaced.
- In 2016 the Carpet in the front office was replaced with wood, and we replaced two treadmills as well as two pieces of weightlifting equipment in the gym.
- In 2017 we replaced the lift station and sewer pumps in the theater, we also added two more treadmills to the gym, and two new spin bikes to the studio.
- In 2018 we added a step mill to the gym, we replaced the pump and several lines for the small pool, and we did some much-needed tree removal of dead trees.
- In 2019 We had the slate roof repaired and parts replaced, the steps to the pool and the front of the main building completely redone and upgraded all florescent bulbs to LED.
- In 2020 we removed the wall between the studio and the gym to better accommodate spacing needed for the equipment during Covid 19.
- In 2021 we had the floors in the lower level redone, and we removed the carpet from the upper level and installed commercial vinyl laminate flooring. We also made several accommodations to help with keeping staff and patrons more separated during the ever-changing times of the pandemic.
- In 2022 we added new basketball hoops to the Rec Courts and along with the baseball group we have made many upgrades to the baseball field @Vail Field. We have also added pickle ball which is very popular.
- In 2023 we were unfortunately hit by another flood and have had about 85 thousand in damage to the lower level of the theater. Through Grant funds we have completed most of the repairs and the building was reopened fully within 8 weeks. We also rebuilt the retaining wall at the basketball court at WRC and had several large trees that were causing court damage removed.

The WRC is home of the Options program. The options program is an alternative education program for Woodstock high school students where 12 to 15 students are taught daily. This gives students who have a difficult time learning in the school environment an incredible opportunity to learn in an environment that will enable them to do well and earn their diploma.

The Bridgewater community is a vital part of what we offer here at the Woodstock Rec Center, with a total of 6 Bridgewater resident children signed up for our summer camp program over 9 weeks, (In 2024 we will give Bridgewater and Woodstock residents only first chance at signing up for our day camp program since it fills so fast.) in basketball, soccer, baseball, & lacrosse we have 43! total, and numerous families in our swim lesson, swim team, and pool membership program. For adults and teens, we have an average of 30 Bridgewater residents using our fitness center and many participating in Pickle Ball.

Your continued community support and input is invaluable to us; we hope you continue to see the benefit in your partnership with the WRC. Please contact Gail Devine Executive Director, for further details or to offer your support, contribution, or expertise.

Current WRC Staff:
Gail Devine – Executive Director

Joel Carey – Assistant Director
Marissa Merrill– Office Administrator

The staff and board of the WRC are committed to the goals that have been set forth and continue to strive toward improvements that will benefit the entire community.

Sincerely,
Gail Devine
Executive Director

Current Board members: Chair, –Emma Schmell Vice, Barry Mangan, Secretary, Dave Doubleday, Treasurer, Jim Giller, board members at large, Denel McIntire, Tom Emery

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in 2023 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 7.25 tons of tires, 7 tons of electronics, and approximately 10 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- As of November 1, members of the district recycled 1.7 tons of batteries. Batteries may be recycled at A.B.L.E. Waste Fast Trash or Woodstock Ace Hardware.
- Vermonters saved over 103,166 gallons of paint from the landfill in **2022**. Paint may be dropped off at Woodstock Ace Hardware or Britton’s in Taftsville.
- 408 GUV residents (6 from Bridgewater) participated in two household hazardous waste events.
- 148 GUV residents participated in two Styrofoam collection events sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon and Lebanon Rotary.
- 2024 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list serves, and in local newspapers.
- In FY2023, GUV regretted not having an active representative to our Board of Supervisors.
- For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvswmd.org.

GREEN UP VERMONT
Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont).
greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

Windsor County Update

Date: December 2023

The County has experienced some changes this year, the first one is the bond that the county taxpayers had approved for the Court House renovation has been paid off as of November 01, 2023. Thank you to all the taxpayers for supporting this renovation.

Assistant Judge Ellen Terie decided not to run for re-election last year and retired as of January 31, 2023. Assistant Judge Terie was a valued member of the county, and we certainly thank her for the 8 years she served Windsor County residents.

We also thank Assistant Judge Michael Ricci, who was also a valued member of the county and served the Windsor County residents for almost 2 years after being appointed by Governor Scott.

Our Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bumps decided to retire from her county position in May of 2023. We thank Dianne for her dedication during her 5 years with Windsor County.

The County Building Superintendent, Bruce Page, who has taken care of both county buildings since July of 2017 decided to retire from his county position at the end of November 2023. We thank Bruce for all his dedication and hard work.

We thank Mike Chamberlain for the many years he served Windsor County as Sheriff. We wish him well and hope he is enjoying himself.

We wish them all well in their new adventures!

Windsor County residents elected Ryan Palmer as the County Sheriff. Sheriff Palmer has been approaching his new responsibility with a lot of enthusiasm.

Windsor County residents elected two (2) new Assistant Judges, Alison Johannensen and David Singer who assumed office as of February 01, 2023. We welcome both of the assistant judges.

The Assistant Judges are working hard on securing an energy efficiency grant to be used to replace the old boiler in the county building. If the county is successful in securing the grant, we hope the boiler can be replaced within the next year.

The Windsor County Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024, at the County Building in Woodstock, Vermont at 5:00 P.M.

Vermont League of Cities and Towns *Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government*

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org.** Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire
Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, VNH made 393 in-home visits.

- **Home Health Care**: 21 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services**: 1 resident who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Long-Term Care**: 1 resident with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- **Skilled Pediatric Care**: 1 resident for well-baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

VNH serves many of Bridgewater's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Bridgewater's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Anthony Knox

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager



January 10, 2024

The Spectrum Teen Center
70 Amsden Way
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Dear Members of the Town of Bridgewater,

The Spectrum Teen Center would like to once again thank the town of Bridgewater for their generous support that we received last year. We are very grateful for the continued support we have received from you over the years.

The Spectrum Teen Center has been serving teens for 29 years in grades 7-12. Our program serves teens from the six sending towns that make up the Mountain Views Supervisory Union. We are under the umbrella of the MVSU.

In 2023, we provided over 15 FREE events for teens! We hosted outdoor pizza nights, art events at Artistree, mini golfing, movie nights at Pentangle and some local hikes. Thank you again for your support!

The Spectrum Teen Center Director
Heather Vonada



The Woodstock Area Council on Aging

What an awesome phase of growth we are in! Each month new faces come through our doors for many different reasons: for medical equipment after surgery, help with insurance or taxes, a referral for a caregiver, something fun to do, or they've heard about our delicious meals. The Thompson serves 1,700 older adults annually and reaches more than 50% of the older adults age 65 and older in our area. It is rewarding and it keeps things interesting to be the go-to place for aging well in our area.

A few highlights of the year include expanding our Aging at Home support program by offering handyman services for small, odd jobs, successfully completing our Homeshare pilot project, and partnering with HomeShare Vermont to continue to grow that program. Our team's response to the area flooding in July was recognized by Governor Scott. Work was completed on Phase 1 of our building expansion project and preparation continues for the next phases.

We served 22,115 meals (including 12,461 home-delivered Meals on Wheels), provided 1,612 rides, made 4 homeshare matches, spent 85 staff handyman hours on 42 unique odd jobs, and had 28,833 check-ins for classes, foot clinics, games, social events, and caregiver support, vaccine clinics, tax appointments, and more.

With the significant growth we have experienced over the past 10 years and the anticipated growth of our older population expected to more than double in the 70 – 85 age group over the next 10 years, it is more important than ever to be successful and creative in supporting our community members to age well. What an exciting time in the history of the Thompson!

Thank you to each of our Bridgewater supporters and volunteers for ensuring that The Thompson remains a vibrant resource for all of us.

Please contact us at info@thompsonseneiorcenter.org or 457-3277 with any questions or needs. You can also see the menu and program calendar online at www.thompsonseneiorcenter.org or find us on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Jones, Executive Director
The Woodstock Area Council on Aging, (d.b.a. The Thompson Center)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (S.E.V.C.A.) is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Our mission is to *empower and partner with individuals and communities to alleviate the hardships of poverty; provide opportunities to thrive; and eliminate root causes of poverty*. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Family Services (crisis resolution, fuel, utility, housing, and food assistance), Micro-Business Development, Vermont Matched Savings (asset building & financial literacy), Ready-for-Work (workforce development), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Thrift Stores, and a Community Solar program.

In the community of Bridgewater, we provided the following services during FY2023:

Weatherization: 2 households (2 people) received weatherization services.

Emergency Heating Replacement: 1 household (1 person) received an emergency repair or replacement of their home's failed heating system.

Tax Preparation: 1 household (1 person) received tax preparation services.

Family Services: 7 households (17 people) received 20 services, (crisis resolution, financial counseling, nutrition information, forms assistance, referral to & assistance with accessing needed services)

Fuel & Utility Assistance: 4 households (13 people) received 4 assists for emergency fuel or assistance with utility disconnects.

The combined value of services provided for Bridgewater residents during 22-23 exceeded \$16,129.

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of state, federal, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but to increase and improve service. We thank the residents of Bridgewater for their support.

Kathleen Devlin
Interim Executive Director

91 Buck Drive
Westminster, Vermont 05158
802-722-4575 or 800-464-9951
Email: sevca@sevca.org
Website: www.sevca.org



Annual Report to the Town of Bridgewater - January 2024

Norman Williams Public Library has been at the heart of our community since 1883. The NWPL Trustees, staff and volunteers are part of a long line of stewards proudly contributing to the literary health of our community. Working together with community members and local officials and organizations, we strive to serve our community and preserve the library for generations to come.

The Norman Williams Public Library is a non-profit corporation. It relies on funding from the Towns of Bridgewater and Woodstock (less than 36% of the library's budget) and the generosity of many donors. We also hold fundraising programs throughout the year. We have been forced to cancel our largest and most important annual fundraising event, the Ex Libris-Gala for 4 consecutive years. However, backed by the loyal generosity of our donors and the taxpayers of Woodstock and Bridgewater, the library has weathered the challenges of the past years, emerging as strong as ever.

We continually assess the condition of our historic building and have developed a capital budget for maintenance and improvements needed in coming years. Always with an eye toward safety and efficiency, in the past year, we have repaired the access ramp at the front of the building, updated our sprinkler system, worked with the Village Trustees to clarify use of the Library Lawn and continued our efforts in improving our energy efficiency. As we have done for many years, we continue to partner with the Town and Village of Woodstock to make our property available for portable restrooms during busy times and our parking lot available to help with the parking shortage. We continue to make our space available free of charge for meetings, gatherings and tutoring.

All library programs are offered free of charge. We installed a new Wi-Fi antenna to broadcast our free internet access outside the building. Our library signal is now accessible on the library lawn, parking lot and on the Village Green. This service has proven invaluable to patrons with slower or less consistent home internet connectivity. In addition to our printed resources, we have significantly expanded our online services, including e-learning courses, digital apps, audiobooks, eBooks, and a movie-streaming service. The number of people coming through our doors is greater than ever as is the number of items borrowed.

Our children's librarians provide weekly story-times for preschoolers, and they continue to hold monthly book discussion groups for older children. We are back to offering programs and services at the same rate as we were prior to the pandemic and attendance is very strong. Our biweekly newsletter and website now include both information on our in-person programs as well as wonderful online resources and include links for our recorded programming for those who are not able to attend in person.

We continue to serve our community and learn to adapt and become more creative librarians in our determined efforts to keep our patrons engaged and informed. We thank the Town of Bridgewater for your long standing support of the library and look forward to continuing to serve the community in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare McFarland, Library Director



Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont

SENIOR SOLUTIONS

Detailed Report to the Town of Bridgewater

Senior Solutions, Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has served the residents of Bridgewater and Southeastern Vermont since 1973. We have offices in Springfield (main office), Windsor and Brattleboro. Our mission is to promote the well-being and dignity of older adults. Our vision is that every person will age in the place of their choice, with the support they need and the opportunity for meaningful relationships and active engagement in their community.

This is a summary of services provided to Bridgewater residents in the time period of 10/1/2022-9/30/2023.

Information & Assistance: 18 Calls or Office Visits. Our HelpLine (1-802-885-2669 or 1-866-673-8376 toll-free) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, and access resources. We assist with health insurance problems, long-term care applications, fuel assistance, applying for benefits, and many other needs. Extensive resources are also on our website: www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org

Medicare Assistance: 9 Calls or Office Visits. Bridgewater residents received assistance with Medicare issues through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and help enrolling in Part D and choosing a drug plan.

In-Home Care Coordination Services: We provided 10 residents with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 78 hours) to enable them to remain living safely at home. A Senior Solutions' case manager meets clients at home to create and monitor a person-centered plan of care. Based on this plan, case managers work to secure the services needed to support the client in the community. We also support clients with self-neglect behaviors, and help those who experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Nutrition services and programs: 13 residents received 1,768 Home-Delivered Meals provided by The Thompson Center. We also supported community meal gatherings at The Thompson Center and other meal sites in our region.

Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds to local organizations to help them operate these meal programs. However, the funds we provide do not cover the full cost, so local meal sites must seek additional funding. Senior Solutions does not use our town funding to support these meals and does not benefit from any funds that towns provide directly to local meal sites. Senior Solutions also offers the services of a registered dietician to older adults and to local meal sites.

Volunteer Visitors: Our volunteers provided home visits, telephone reassurance, and help with shopping or other errands. Our Vet-to-Vet program matched Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

Other Services: Senior Solutions provides many other services, including caregiver respite, grants for special needs, transportation, wellness and fall prevention programs, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, and home-based mental health services.

*Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Bridgewater.
Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director*



The Ottawaquechee Health Foundation (OHF) Supports the Health and Wellness Needs of Bridgewater

Who We Are:

The Ottawaquechee Health Foundation strives to improve the health and well-being of people who live in our core towns through grants, community partnerships, educational opportunities, and the support of wellness initiatives. We believe accessible health and wellness care is a vital part of any community.

We assist in the health and wellness needs of these core towns of Barnard, **Bridgewater**, Hartland, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Quechee, Reading, and Woodstock.

OHF's backbone programs, Good Neighbor and Homecare Grants continue to be utilized extensively by those in need. These programs accommodate the increased and diverse needs of the communities OHF serves. Year-to-date, the foundation has received 274 grant inquiries totaling over \$309,000 in funding requests from residents of its nine core towns.

As of the end of October, OHF provided 40 grants to Bridgewater residents in 2023 totaling nearly \$27,000. This equates to approximately 12% of our overall granting budget. Your support is invaluable to us and allows us to serve the Bridgewater Community better. Thank you!

About OHF's Good Neighbor Grant (GNG) program

Our GNG program makes grants on behalf of individuals who are unable to pay for their health and wellness needs that are not covered by health insurance, such as dental care, physical therapy, counseling, hearing aids, eyeglasses, and more. Assistance is based on financial need, and applicants must live in the OHF catchment area.

Additionally, OHF will continue to provide services from our Homecare Grants Program, as well as other wellness offerings, to the Bridgewater Community. These programs are all part of our commitment to providing access to health and wellness services while supporting overall community health. Together we can indeed create stronger and healthier communities.

Our Funding Sources:

Our funding comes through bi-annual appeal donations, town appropriations, grants, donor cultivation, and a modest draw from our investments.

How to Contact OHF:

Ottawaquechee Health Foundation (OHF)
802-457-4188 | www.ohfvt.org | director@ohfvt.org
PO Box 784 | 30 Pleasant Street | Woodstock, VT 05091

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

**White River Junction Local Health Office | 118 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT
802-295-8820 | AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange counties. Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction



Collaboration with Partners

The White River Junction (WRJ) staff works with over 30 diverse health care and social service organizations in the Greater Upper Valley Integrated Services Team (GUVIST). GUVIST is making services and support for community members of all ages more efficient, effective, responsive and appropriate to the desires of those in need. To learn more about this initiative, visit uvpublichealth.org/guvist/



Addressing Health Equity

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps pregnant people and families with children under age 5. We provide healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources. Our office understands that not having transportation can make it difficult to get services. Our office has the most access points in the state with our nutritionists hosting clinics at seven satellite sites. If you would like to learn more visit www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction



Planning For and Responding to Emergencies

Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Immunization Nurse, Epidemiologist and other staff have worked with the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help our communities. They have spent hundreds of hours conducting COVID testing, administering COVID and Mpox vaccinations, investigating over 210 infectious disease cases and collecting kits for water testing during flood recovery. Learn more about the MRC at uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/



TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont, and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The “mom” cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. “Farm” cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring them and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside of a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not ‘save’ one, it ‘enables’ those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard “Snook” Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are!

Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!

800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA

JOAN JENNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Balance July 1, 2022		\$	450.79
Interest Earned	\$	0.19	
CD Interest	\$	262.50	
Donations	\$	-	
Withdrawal from CD	\$	-	
Total Receipts	\$	262.62	\$ 262.69
			\$ 713.48
Disbursements			
22/23 Scholarships	\$	600.00	
Balance Jun 30, 2023		\$	113.48
Assets:			
Certificate of Deposit	\$	25,000.00	
1.05% Int.			
Joan Jenne Memorial Scholarship Committee Members			
Greg Jenne			
Nancy Robinson			
Justin Wardwell			

**WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
a.k.a. MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING
WARNING, NOTICE, and AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, a.k.a. Mountain Views School District, comprising the voters of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock, are hereby **WARNED** and **NOTIFIED** that an **INFORMATIONAL HEARING** will be held at the **Woodstock Union Middle and High School library, located in the Town of Woodstock, Vermont, on Thursday February 29, 2024, commencing at 6:30PM** to discuss the Australian ballot articles of the 2024 Annual Unified Union District Meeting Warning. Additionally, the Public Informational Hearing will be accessible through electronic means (online meeting).

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

Topic: WCUUSD/MVSD Informational Hearing

Time: February 29, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 893 0245 0476

Passcode: 525685

➤ **By computer: Join Zoom meeting at**

<https://wcsu-net.zoom.us/j/89302450476?pwd=ZHJoY2QvTDhHZ3g0dTQxckNLdjc2UT09>

You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID if prompted: **893 0245 0476** and passcode: **525685** if prompted.

➤ **By smartphone, tablet, or other device:** Download and open the Zoom app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID: **893 0245 0476** and passcode: **525685** if prompted.

➤ **By telephone:** Dial: **+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) or +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**
Enter the meeting ID: **893 0245 0476** and passcode: **525685** if prompted.

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

- 6:30PM: Call to Order
- 6:35PM: Additions or deletions to the agenda
 - Public comment
- 6:40PM: To hear the reports of the School District Board of Directors
 - Public comment
- 6:45PM Review and Discuss: **Article 4:** To fix the salary for District Treasurer in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 2024-2025.
 - Public comment
- 6:50PM: Review and discuss **Article 6:** Shall the voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, a.k.a. Mountain Views School District, approve the school board to expend Twenty-Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$29,756,674.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,552.00 per Long Term Weighted (LTW) equalized pupil.
 - Public comment

- 7:10PM: Review and discuss **Article 7: The Mountain Views School District proposes to incur bonded indebtedness for the purpose of construction of a new Union Middle/High School and to install athletic fields and related outbuildings and structures, and to demolish, remove and dispose of the existing Woodstock Union Middle/High School in Woodstock, Vermont, in an amount not to exceed \$99,000,000.**

The Vermont school construction aid program has been suspended since 2007. Accordingly, State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing by the District for the Project in anticipation of State school construction aid. To meet this responsibility while limiting impacts to district taxpayers, the district intends to use other funding sources such as Inflation Reduction Act funding for renewable energy projects and amounts raised through private fundraising.

Shall the bonds of the Mountain Views School District in an amount not to exceed \$99,000,000 be issued for the purpose of construction of a new Union Middle/High School and to install athletic fields and related outbuildings and structures, and to demolish, remove and dispose of the existing Woodstock Union Middle/High School?

- Public comment

- 7:30PM: Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)
- 7:35PM: Entertain motion to adjourn hearing.

**WARNING FOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
a.k.a. MOUNTAIN VIEWS SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, a.k.a. Mountain Views School District, comprising the voters of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock, are hereby **WARNED** and **NOTIFIED** to **VOTE**, in accordance with H.42 of the 2023 Legislative Session and signed by the Governor on January, 25, 2023, by **AUSTRALIAN BALLOT** either via mail as provided by their respective Town Clerk or at their respective Town polling places hereinafter named for the above-referenced towns on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**, during the polling hours noted below.

The voters residing in each member district will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their town as follows:

Barnard Town Hall located at 115 North Road, Barnard, VT 10:00AM- 7:00PM
Bridgewater Town Clerk's Office located at 45 Southgate Loop, Bridgewater, VT 8:00AM-7:00PM
Killington Town Hall located at 2706 River Road, Killington, VT 7:00AM-7:00PM
Plymouth Municipal Building located at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, VT 10:00AM-7:00PM
Pomfret Town Office located at 5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret, VT 8:00AM-7:00PM
Reading Town Hall located at 799 VT-106, Reading, VT 7:00AM-7:00PM
Woodstock Town Hall located at 31 the Green, Woodstock VT 7:00AM- 7:00PM

ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT- MARCH 5, 2024

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator who shall assume office upon election and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk who shall enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer who shall enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

ARTICLE 4: To fix the salary for District Treasurer in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 2024-2025.

ARTICLE 5: The legal voters of the specified towns designated within this itemized Article shall elect only their director(s) as follows:

- Barnard: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Bridgewater: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified

- Killington: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Pomfret: one school director to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified
- Woodstock: two school directors to assume office upon election and serve a term of three years or until their successor is elected and qualified

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, a.k.a. Mountain Views School District, approve the school board to expend Twenty-Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$29,756,674.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,552.00 per Long Term Weighted (LTW) equalized pupil.

ARTICLE 7: **The Mountain Views School District proposes to incur bonded indebtedness for the purpose of construction of a new Union Middle/High School and to install athletic fields and related outbuildings and structures, and to demolish, remove and dispose of the existing Woodstock Union Middle/High School in Woodstock, Vermont, in an amount not to exceed \$99,000,000.**

The Vermont school construction aid program has been suspended since 2007. Accordingly, State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive State school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing by the District for the Project in anticipation of State school construction aid. To meet this responsibility while limiting impacts to district taxpayers, the district intends to use other funding sources such as Inflation Reduction Act funding for renewable energy projects and amounts raised through private fundraising.

Shall the bonds of the Mountain Views School District in an amount not to exceed \$99,000,000 be issued for the purpose of construction of a new Union Middle/High School and to install athletic fields and related outbuildings and structures, and to demolish, remove and dispose of the existing Woodstock Union Middle/High School?

Upon closing of the polls, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §741(b)(2), the ballots will be counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock.

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said 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 2nd day of February 2024 in Woodstock, Vermont.

Windsor Central Unified Union School District
(a.k.a. Mountain Views School District)
<https://mtnviews.org>

FY25 BUDGET:

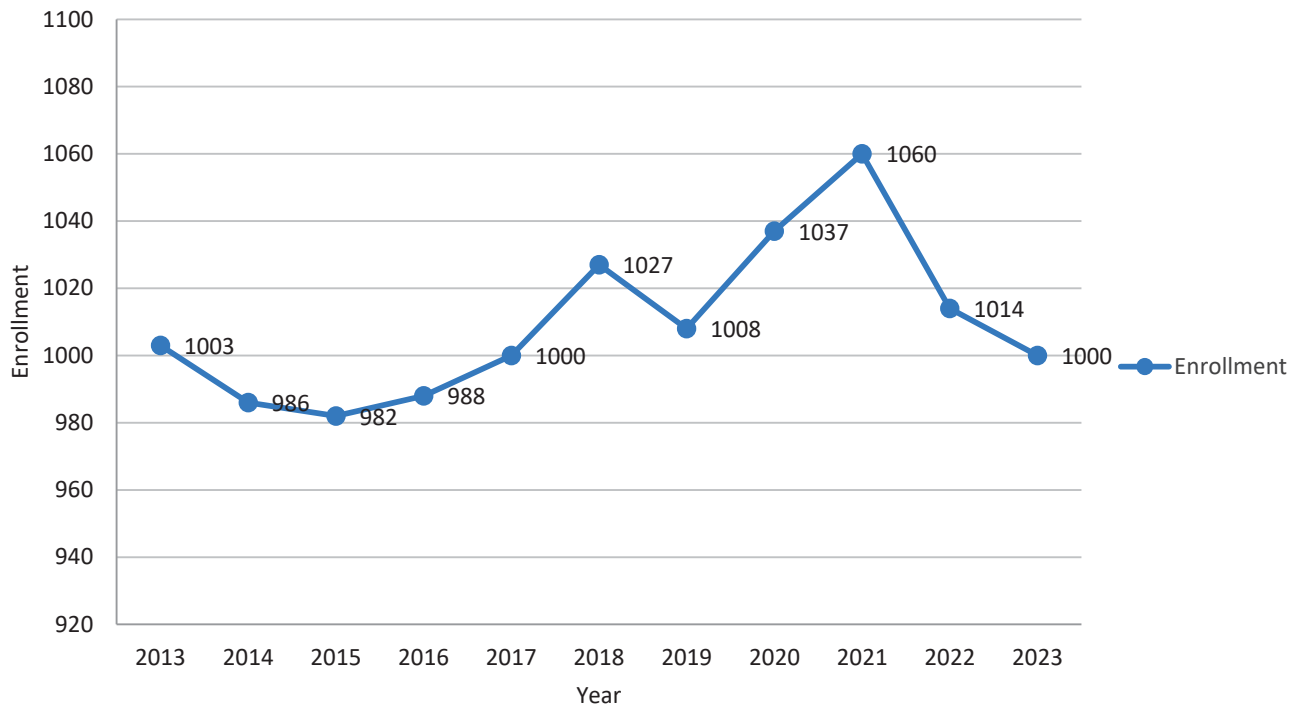
Budget financial details will be posted on our website as documents become available. Visit: MVSU website > About > Budget

AUDIT STATEMENT:

The financial records are being audited by RHR Smith & Company for the year ending June 30, 2023. Copies of the completed audit, when available, may be requested by calling the Director of Finance & Operations at 802-457-1213, ext. 1089, or visit: MVSU website > About > District Finances

Windsor Central Supervisory Union													
Enrollment Report as of October 31, 2023													
Elementary School Enrollment	On-Site PreK	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total PreK-6				
Barnard Academy	11	10	8	4	8	15	5	10	71				
Killington Elementary School	22	13	10	15	8	20	13	11	112				
Reading Elementary School	8	4	7	4	5	6			34				
The Prosper Valley School							34	42	76				
Woodstock Elementary School	43	54	24	38	48	46			253				
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	84	81	49	61	69	87	52	63	546				
Secondary School Enrollment -WUHSMS													
Grade 7	65	MS TOTAL 130		WCUUSD resident students = 905 Tuition students from sending towns = 89 Act 129 VT High School Choice = 6									
Grade 8	65												
Grade 9	84	HS TOTAL 324											
Grade 10	80												
Grade 11	75												
Grade 12	85												
TOTAL SECONDARY	454	TOTAL ENROLLMENT 1000											

WCSU Enrollment: 10 year comparison PreK -12th grade



Final FY24 Tax Rates Calculation

Final FY 24 Tax Rates Calculation	Barnard	Bridgewater	Killington	Plymouth	Pomfret	Reading	Woodstock
FY 23 Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.5122	\$1.5122	\$1.5122	\$1.5122	\$1.5122	\$1.5122	\$1.5122
CLA	0.7637	0.8115	0.6160	0.7702	0.8215	0.8262	0.7537
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$1.9933	\$1.8759	\$2.4713	\$1.9765	\$1.4632	\$1.8425	\$2.0198
FY 23 Homestead Prop Tax Rate	\$1.7043	\$1.7456	\$2.0020	\$1.7340	\$1.5571	\$1.5205	\$1.8671
Increase (Decrease) From FY 23	\$0.2890	\$0.1303	\$0.4693	\$0.2425	-\$0.0939	\$0.3220	\$0.1527
Percentage C change from FY 23	16.96%	7.46%	23.44%	13.99%	-6.03%	21.18%	8.18%
Projected FY 25 Tax Rates Calculati	Barnard	Bridgewater	Killington	Plymouth	Pomfret	Reading	Woodstock
FY 24 Est Equalized Tax Rate	\$1.5984	\$1.5984	\$1.5984	\$1.5984	\$1.5984	\$1.5984	\$1.5984
CLA	0.6436	0.7432	0.5235	0.6225	1.0053	0.7643	0.6365
Homestead Property Tax Rate	\$2.4835	\$2.1507	\$3.0533	\$2.5677	\$1.5900	\$2.0913	\$2.5112
FY 24 Homestead Prop Tax Rate	\$1.9933	\$1.8759	\$2.4713	\$1.9765	\$1.4632	\$1.8425	\$2.0198
Increase (Decrease) From FY 24	\$0.4902	\$0.2748	\$0.5820	\$0.5912	\$0.1268	\$0.2488	\$0.4914
Percentage Change from FY 24	24.59%	14.65%	23.55%	29.91%	8.66%	13.50%	24.33%

School Board Report

In 2023, the work of the Mountain Views School District Board was focused on several key steps to enhance teaching and learning in our schools.

Continuing to leverage pandemic-era ESSR funds to overcome learning loss, the district made key investments in math and reading education this year. Following intensive professional development, our math teachers created foundational agreements to advance teaching practices, engagement, high-quality instructional resources, and learning assessments. Similar investments in student literacy based on the science of reading culminated in a new 90% reading proficiency standard for the district. With historical measures around 65%, this represents an ambitious goal, but one our educators have eagerly taken on with new methods and exciting early results.

Following a district-wide assessment, the Board also approved additional administrative and educational resources at our elementary schools to address socio-emotional behavioral concerns using restorative approaches.

With voter approval of three ballot measures last spring, the Board was able to make significant progress on improving the conditions of our school buildings. A \$1.75M project was completed to replace the roof at Killington Elementary. A \$1.2M upgrade project was required to extend the service life of the heating system at Woodstock Union High School after losing the use of 6 classrooms last winter.

As the maintenance team worked steadily to keep up the MS/HS building, district voters also approved \$1.65M for architectural services needed to complete the detailed design of the new Middle and High School Building. PC Construction was hired in October as the construction management firm for the project. Soon after, PCI Project Consulting were retained as owners' representatives to help complete project costing and value engineering. In December, their work resulted in \$16.5M in cost reductions to achieve a final construction cost of \$90M for the new building. With permitting, site work, and furnishings, voters will be asked to approve a \$99M total project cost in March of 2024. At a square foot price of \$569/square foot, this is among the most efficient school projects currently planned for construction in the state, with 5 other Vermont school buildings ranging from \$633 to \$726/square foot.

We are thankful for the commitment of fellow Board members, and of our exceptional administrators, educators, and school staff. Through all of our collective dedication to the students of our district, we have made real progress in overcoming the challenges presented by the pandemic, as well as tackling infrastructure issues long in the making. We look forward to continuing our important work together in the year to come.

Keri Bristow, Chair, Mountain Views School District Board
Ben Ford, Vice Chair, Mountain Views School District Board

Superintendent Report

While we continue to feel the impact of the Covid years, we strive to return to the rituals, routines, and rhythms of previous years. Our students and their families require a level of care and compassion that previously was not needed, but now our teachers, Social Emotional Coaches, staff, administrators, and district leaders work hard to listen to their needs and address their concerns. This culture of empathy and belonging is pervasive in our school communities.

Five years ago, a District Strategic Plan was crafted by parents, community members, Board representatives, students, teachers, and administrators. This year we have begun the process of creating our next five-year MVSU Strategic Plan. The current Design Team, that includes all of these stakeholders, reviewed the current Portrait of a Graduate and provided feedback to make the wording more accessible and inclusive of current work and policies. The Design Team has also provided school leaders with guidance on Priority Areas and Goals. By February 2024, a draft will be presented to the Board of the Priority Areas, Goals, and Strategies for the next five years with a finalized document to share in May.

Professional growth has always been a priority for the District. Educators in the Elementary, Middle and High Schools are continuing to develop the skills necessary to meet the Literacy and Math goals for proficiency. The Unified Arts Team is looking to create integrated learning experiences that link their coursework with those of content area teachers. A group of secondary teachers created rubrics and scaffolding to embed greater creativity in assessments. Principals and Directors have attended national conferences as participants and presenters.

On World Teachers Day, each teacher and staff member who has served 10, 20, or 30 years in this district received a marble or brass apple. Inscribed on the apple was a recognition of their years of work, and in the case of 20-plus year employees, the award also included their name and years of service. We have six team members who have been with us for more than 30 years. They are Jamie Gidney (BA), Jenny Hewitt (BA), Sharon Groblicki (BA), Lisa Kaija (RES), Tim Brennan (WUHS) and William Chamberlain (WUHS/MS). It was great to celebrate with the students these amazing teachers and staff members, and to finally formally recognize their contributions.

Mary Beth Banios, Supertendant

The Prosper Valley School
Principal's Report

The 2023-2024 school year ushered in continued energy and growth at The Prosper Valley School. We enthusiastically welcomed our incoming 5th grade class, bringing our total student enrollment in grades 5 and 6 to 76 students.

This year multiple new place-based learning initiatives were introduced, enabled by a generous anonymous grant received. A challenge course was constructed, presenting immersive opportunities for team building and personal growth activities. Students also benefited from a hands-on maple sugaring unit utilizing our new and improved on-campus sugaring pan, arch and stack.

Sincere gratitude is due to both The Prosper Valley School Trust and the WES/TPVS PTO for their stalwart financial assistance and community volunteer efforts, allowing our cherished learning programs to thrive. Their stalwart support for experiential learning deeply aligns with our school's vision.

In addition, the annual Harvest Supper was resurrected in 2023 after being called off due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was a huge success! It is always the first Saturday of October so mark your calendars now.

Finally, we are thankful for the anonymous donation of telescopes and telescope parts to our Horizons Observatory which considerably increased astronomy education access. Such a wonderful investment in the Horizons Observatory enables meaningful learning experiences for not only our students but for families, and the larger community.

Moving forward, our students and faculty will continue harnessing our unique campus resources – the observatory, greenhouse and garden, sugar shack, the challenge course and trail system – to sustain interdisciplinary education programs that engage learners in our curriculum through the local environment. We remain committed to leveraging our extraordinary human and environmental assets for the enrichment of current and future students. Go Dragons!

Killington Elementary School
Principal's Report

The 2022-2023 school year was filled with joy in teaching and learning. Current enrollment for grades Prekindergarten through grade six is 117 with students coming from within the school district and from Pittsfield.

Parents and Educators Aligned for Killington Students (PEAKS) celebrated the culmination of their mission to support the playground expansion project with the installation of the donor-recognition brick walkway from the bridge to the playground. The Grand Opening of the playground took place during an ice cream social prior to the first day of school on August 28, 2023. A final opportunity to purchase a brick for the walkway was extended through the fall of 2023. Thank you to all of the contributors who participated in this fundraising event and to PEAKS for their tireless efforts in supporting a safe play place for all students at KES.

KES Faculty are committed to strengthening capacity in teaching mathematics and reading. KES Teachers in grades K-5 engaged in over 40 hours of intensive training in best practices in literacy instruction based on the science of reading. Likewise, KES math teachers in grades 5 & 6 joined the Woodstock middle and high school teachers to create essential agreements in teaching mathematics consistently across the district.

KES continues to support educational opportunities for learning including: Instrumental Music Lessons and Band, Four Winds Nature Program, Student Leadership, Starbase, Trailblazers Ski Program, writing and art contests, and PEAKS annually sponsored One School One Book. KES partners with the Town of Killington to offer a state-licensed afterschool program available to PreK - 6 students Monday through Friday, 3 PM - 5:30 PM, allowing qualifying families to apply for subsidized payments for the program.

KES is extremely grateful to the entire Killington community for the dedication and support of our students. Please visit our website at www.kesvt.org to find photos and newsletters to learn more about our school community.

Woodstock Elementary School
Principal's Report

During the 2022-2023 school year, there were 251 PreK-4 students enrolled at Woodstock Elementary School. We were thrilled to expand our PreK program yet again to include five classrooms for a total of 66 PreK students enrolled in our school. The 2023-2024 school year opened with an enrollment of 253 students in grades PreK-4. We are happy to serve the children of Bridgewater, Pomfret, Plymouth, and Woodstock as well as those attending via school choice from Barnard and Reading. Our teacher retention over the past year has been very strong, and our staff remains dedicated to our mission to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging.

Here are some programmatic highlights for the 2022-2023 school year:

- In the fall of 2022, many teachers at WES began piloting new literacy programs with the goal of identifying a district-wide literacy program that will better meet all students' learning needs. In addition, many WES teachers engaged in a year of intensive training in best practices in literacy instruction through the LETRS program.
- All students in grade K-4 resumed taking Spanish two or three times a week. The student response to learning about Spanish language and culture has been enthusiastic
- In October, we reintroduced the tradition of a WES Halloween Parade around the Green and were accompanied by parent musicians for a jazz/blues/funk parade.
- Our students participated in fall and winter Walk and Roll to School events sponsored by Local Motion.
- Our school librarian, Joyce Yoo Babbitt, launched a wildly popular weekly 3-minute podcast that featured student voices promoting great books.
- In December, all students in grades 1-4 were able to travel to Dartmouth College for education day at the basketball arena and attend a women's basketball game.
- In the new year, students, staff, and families participated in a Winter Wishes kindness and empathy challenge, where people were encouraged to send positive notes to one another through an inter-school mail program.
- In March, our PTO helped launch an effort to reinvigorate parent and caregiver volunteerism in the school to great results, and the PTO pulled off a successful new tradition, a spring carnival, "The Spring Fling."
- Spring also saw the renewal of our traditional in-person talent show, "Show Your Stuff," which featured the talents of students and staff on stage at the Town Hall Theater.
- Our fourth-grade students rounded out their time at WES shining as members of a Shakespeare company performing *Hamlet* through Northern Stage's BridgeUP: Theater in the Schools program.

We are grateful for community partners such as Artistree, Billings Farm, Yoh Theater, and Pentangle Arts who graciously invite us to their programming, and more broadly we are thankful for our community's ongoing engagement with and support of our school. We are proud to be a part of this community.

WUHSMS
Principal's Report

I am privileged to present a glimpse of the achievements of the students, faculty, and staff at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School. During the 2022-23 academic year, we endeavored to provide personalized, authentic, and student-driven learning experiences for 450 students in grades 7-12. Our student body comes from the seven communities within our district—Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock—and fourteen other communities across the region. We were proud to receive recognition for our college preparation program. Our school received AP Honor Roll Silver from the College Board (one of only two Vermont schools to earn this recognition), acknowledging commitment to equitable access to advanced coursework. The Advanced Placement program includes sixteen classes across seven subject areas. GreatSchools.org honored the high school with a College Success Award for dedication to guiding students through successful college enrollment and transition.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Public Schools completed a comprehensive review of our program, including a multi-day visit as part of the decennial accreditation process. The Commission commended many aspects of our school, including "the variety of learning opportunities that are personalized, authentic, and student-driven," "the professional culture that demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement," and "the safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive culture in the school." In addition to engaging in the accreditation process, teachers worked collaboratively to map the curriculum by subject area or program across grade levels while considering Portrait of a Graduate connections and reviewing curriculum with an equity lens.

We continued our commitment to flexible pathways and community collaboration through many partnerships, including with Artistree, AVA Art Gallery, the Green Mountain Club, Hall Art Foundation, Kiss the Cow Farm, League of Women Voters, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, NuVu Innovation School, Pentangle Arts, Thompson Senior Center, the United States Forest Service, and many, many more. These partnerships supported numerous programs, including career exploration, job shadowing, CRAFT and C3, and arts and civics education. Vermont Senate Majority Leader Alison Clarkson, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger '88, and elected officials from both parties from our sending towns met with social studies classes. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who offered their time and resources to enrich our students' experiences.

More than eighty percent of our students participated in athletics and other extracurricular activities, showcasing excellence on and off the field. Several athletic teams, including a unified sports team, competed in state championships, securing four championship titles. The math and scholar's bowl teams won regional and state competitions. The Yoh Theater delivered multiple remarkable performances, enriching our school community with artistic talent. The Social Action Club organized its third Leadership Summit for Social Justice, underscoring the importance of student voice and leadership. Our international travel and exchange programs returned after a three-year pandemic-induced hiatus, with twenty students traveling to Spain and France. Seventeen seniors earned the state-endorsed Seal of Biliteracy, acknowledging global competency and the ability to communicate across cultures.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the community, and we eagerly anticipate another year of achievements at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School.

Garon Smail, Principal, WUHSMS

~ Phone Numbers ~

Town Office (802) 672-3334
Town Clerk Ext. 1
Town Treasurer Ext. 2
Administrative Assistant/Lister Ext. 3
Highway Ext. 4

Town Office Fax (802) 672-5395

Town Highway Garage (802) 672-5379

Health Officer-Corey Solitaire (210) 243-9573

Bridgewater Corners Post Office (802) 672-5345

Bridgewater Village Post Office (802) 672-5166

Town Fire Warden – Edwin Earle (802) 353-2620

Town Fire Chief – Edwin Earle (802) 672-5032

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Fire, Police, Ambulance 911

State Police (Bethel Barracks) (802) 234-9933

**Town of Bridgewater
45 Southgate Loop
Bridgewater, VT 05034**

- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - Town Meeting Day – Fire Station @ 9 a.m. – In Person**
- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - School Australian Ballot Voting – Town Office 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **March 5, 2024 - Presidential Primary - Town Office 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**