

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
&
NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VALLEY UUSD
FY2022 REPORTS
Marsha Phillips



Though a native of Enosburgh, Marsha has been part of the Montgomery Community her entire life. She formally moved to town with her two children, Kimberly and Chris, in the early 1980s, going on to meet her husband Gary and operate the Seven Bridges Bed and Breakfast on Main Street until 1989. Marsha also owned and operated the Mapled Nut Company from 1978 until the early 2000s. Marsha was a founding member of the Montgomery Business Association in 1987 (later becoming the Montgomery Town Association) and has been active for the last three decades in a host of town associations, clubs, and boards. Marsha served on the Montgomery School Board for several years during the late 80s and early 90s. She served many years as the President of the Covered Bridges Garden Club until it was disbanded in 2022 and is a founding member of the Friends of the Montgomery Library.

Marsha has also helped lead the Recreation Board for over twenty years, facilitating numerous improvements to the Rec Center and leading fundraising efforts such as the annual Art Auction and Montgomery Summer Sessions, which draws hundreds of people from around the community and region each year and raising tens of thousands of dollars for the betterment of the Community. She's known to be a voice of reason on the recreation board and loves to solve problems rather than run from them, with incredibly high standards for any project she gets involved with.

Many know Marsha as a creative problem solver, a cook, gardener, and outdoor enthusiast, and most importantly as a friend. As so many are quick to point out, Marsha loves Montgomery with her whole heart. Thank you, Marsha, for all that you do for Montgomery, and cheers to all the good things to come!

ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY VERMONT

FY 22-23

Published by Authority
BGS State Print Shop
Middlesex, Vermont 05633

***PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN & SCHOOL
MEETING***

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Montgomery Historical Society	1
Meeting Procedure/Election Notice	3
Final Officer List	5
State of the Town	8
2023 Meeting Warning	14
Proposed FY24 Budget	16
Tax Rate History	19
Auditors Report	20
Liabilities	23
Reserve Funds	24
Town Officer Salaries	27
Delinquent Property Taxes	28
Fire Department	30
Recreation Center	32
Library	34
Conservation Commission	36
Water Department	38
Board of Listers Report	39
Center/Village Cemetery	41
Hill West Cemetery/Clapp Estate	42
Vital Statistics	44
Zoning	45
Helpful Town Information	47
Available Payment Options	48
Town Office Hours of Operation	49
Dog Licensing/Rabies Clinics	50
Other Local Organizations	52
School District Reports	66



Montgomery Historical Society
P.O. Box 47/Montgomery, VT 05470

~ ~ ~

pratthall@gmail.com
montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

Did you know Montgomery has three Historic Districts?...

....Forty years ago the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation published their survey of Montgomery buildings. It was over 400 pages and identified 55 structures of potentially historic architectural significance and three areas of town as historic districts; Montgomery Village, Montgomery Center, and the West End of Montgomery Center. This was part of an effort by the State to document buildings in every town and city, a statewide inventory of potentially significant historic architecture.

These designations were meant to establish a baseline with as much information as possible. It carried no restrictions on owners. In some cases it incentivized preservation and at the very least hoped to foster an appreciation of these areas and individual structures.

The following page shows the approximate boundaries of the three Montgomery districts overlaid on Google Earth photos. The full report is now available on the MHS website at:

<https://www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org/pdf/historicsitessurvey.pdf>

Once upon a time 50 years ago...

...A "foreboding" sign was nailed to the front of St. Bartholomew's, "UNSAFE FOR VISITORS". A small group of people disagreed and with its preservation in mind met in August and September and formed the Montgomery Historical Society. The first meeting was just 5 people, Irene Scott, Margaret St. Onge, Larry Pratt, Beatrice Chaffee, and Sharon Devries according to the minutes. Just a few weeks later officers were elected. Bylaws were drafted and approved by the Board by the end of October and the first fundraising letter went out to the community in November.

In January of 1974 the Society had 124 "adult members", 2 business members, and \$502.02 in the bank. They purchased the building for one dollar. Thus began a fifty-year odyssey to restore and preserve the building, open the property to community use, begin recording the Town's history, and award small scholarships all without any direct taxpayer support. It has been, and remains, a labor of love from everyone involved, benefiting our community and State. We cannot begin to thank the countless individuals, businesses, and organizations who have helped along the way.

On this, our fiftieth anniversary, we hope to put COVID behind us and exceed our goal of 200 memberships, adults or otherwise! If you aren't a member, please consider joining us, it's an opportunity to make a local impact and no donation is too small.

<https://www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org/mhsdonor.html>

Two MHS Scholarships available every year...

...for any graduating Montgomery Senior going on to college or additional technical or professional training. Applications available for download at

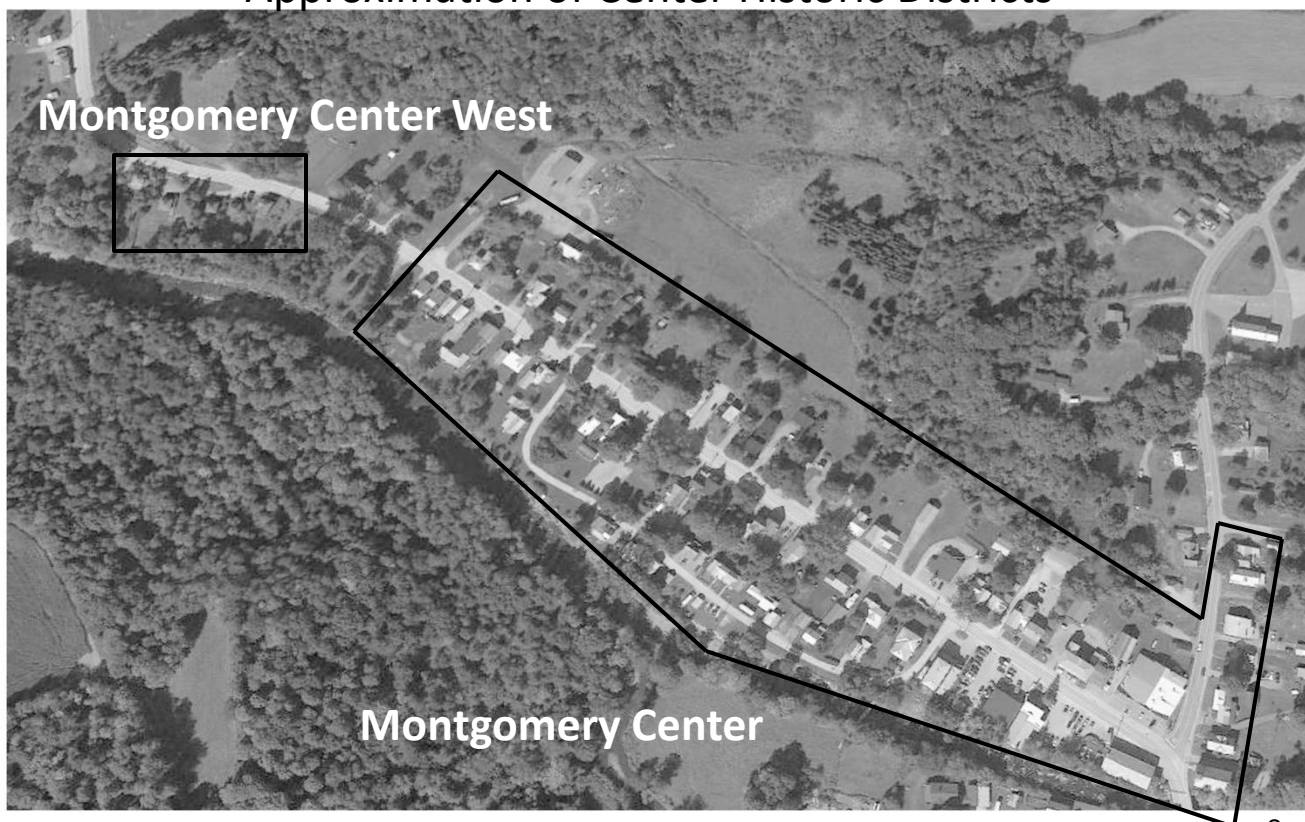
<https://www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org/pdf/mhsscholarships.pdf>

The Montgomery Historical Society Board is:
John Beaty, Patrick Calecas, Bob Cummins, Marijke Dollois, Pat Farmer, Mary Garceau
John Kuryloski, Roger Lichti, Bill McGroarty, Patty Perl, Scott Perry, Elsie Saborowski, & Sue Wilson
The MHS is a 501.c.3 member funded non-profit.

Approximation of Village Historic District



Approximation of Center Historic Districts



MEETING PROCEDURE

(Excerpt from Annual Town Report)

A distillation of 700 pages of *Robert's Rules of Order*, thousands of pages of Vermont legislation and judicial decisions, and 350 years of New England tradition- edited by Timothy Murphy.

- Any citizen on the voter's checklist has the right to speak on any debatable subject. Citizens who do not appear on the checklist may observe, but not participate, unless granted permission by 2/3 vote.
- First, be recognized by the moderator;
- Second, rise and identify yourself to the assembly and the Town Clerk for the record;
- Third, speak clearly for all to hear.

Following is a brief summary of those motions most commonly utilized to assure an orderly meeting and complete the work that needs to be done by the assembled citizens of the Town.

Main Motion: introduces an article for consideration by the assembly.

Subsidiary Motions: alters or eliminates the main motion.

- Lay on the table: postpones consideration until a later time at the same meeting.
- Call the previous question: ceases debate on an item and brings it up for a vote.
- Limit or extend debate: sets the amount of time to debate an article.
- Postpone to a certain time: delays until a specified time or order in the agenda.
- Amend: changes the main motion. An amendment may be amended.
- Passover: the colloquial term that describes two different procedures:
 - a. If moved prior to debate, it is a motion to object to the consideration of a question.
 - b. If moved after commencement of debate, it is a motion to postpone indefinitely.If passed, either motion effectively kills the item being considered.

Privileged Motions: takes precedence over main and subsidiary motions, but are not related to any pending question.

- Set the time to which the assembly shall adjourn: Vermont courts have found that a town meeting may not be adjourned while warned articles are pending unless the meeting is adjourned to a certain time.
- Recess: request for a break for a specific amount of time.
- Raise a question of privilege: addresses a matter of some urgency for the assembly.

Incidental Motions: deals with procedures pertaining to the business under consideration.

- Appeal: questions the decision of the moderator.
- Reconsider: raises again a question just voted on. Must be moved before the next article is put up for debate. Must be moved by one who voted on the prevailing side.
- Division of a question: divides a motion to consider the parts separately.
- Division of the assembly: following a vote, any individual may request a show of hands to more accurately count the votes. Any seven members may request a ballot vote.
- Point of Order: request the moderator either follow the rules or explain them.
- Suspend the rules: temporarily changes the rules of the meeting for a specific purpose ...

GENERAL RULES OF DEBATE

- The maker of a motion which has been seconded is entitled to speak first on that motion.
- No member may speak more than twice on the same question, not for longer than ten minutes.
- Members do not address each other during debate. All remarks go through the moderator.
- Debate is confined to the question before the assembly. Personal comments and questions of another's motives are out of order. Words like "fraud," "liar," or "cheat" must never be allowed, and the moderator must prohibit such comments or other inappropriate language immediately.
- In accordance with 17 V.S.A. 2659, the moderator is charged with the responsibility of preserving order at Town Meeting. This provision provides that "if a person, after notice, is persistently disorderly and refuses to withdraw from the meeting, the moderator may cause him to be removed, calling upon the constable or other person for that purpose." A \$200 fine may be levied if the person will not leave the meeting.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

For 2023 Local Australian Ballot Elections: NMVUU School District & Northwest Solid Waste District

ELECTION DAY: MARCH 7th, 2023 @ Town Hall, 57 Main Street Montgomery Ctr

WARNINGS & CHECKLIST POSTED: Town Office, Public Safety Building, Village Post Office, Sylvester's Market, & Jolley Store. Not later than: **February 5th, 2023.**

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: Register online using My Voter Page <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or in person at the Town Office prior to Election Day or register on the day of the election.

BALLOTS Available by: February 15th, 2023. *Please note this is for School and Solid Waste District ONLY {Town Meeting business will be conducted by FLOOR VOTE} *

REQUEST EARLY/ABSENTEE BALLOTS: The last day you can request ballots in person is March 6th, 2023 @ 5:00pm.



Option 1: Request your ballot be mailed to your residence.

- Request via phone, email, or using My Voter Page <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>
- Absentee ballots may be returned via USPS, our Dropbox, or you may return your ballot to an Election Official on March 7th, 2023, up until the polls close at 7:00PM



Option 2: Pickup your ballot at the Town Office

- Please Note: You can only pickup your OWN ballot you cannot by law take a ballot for anyone other than yourself--during pickup you may request a ballot for family members, and we will mail it to them.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or cannot read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten, or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633. If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office. If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

Elected	Term	Incumbent	Expires
Moderator	1 Year	Vacant	2023
Selectboard			
1	3 Years	Charlie Hancock	2025
2	3 Years	Suzanne Dollois	2023
3	3 Years	Mark Brouillette	2024
4	2 Years	Leanne Barnard	2025
5	2 Years	Emily Kimball	2023
Listers			
1	3 Years	James Walsh	2024
2	3 Years	Genevieve Lodai-Guild	2023
3	3 Years	Vacant	2025
Collector of Current Taxes	1 Year	Treasurer	2023
Delinquent Tax Collector	3 Years	Anita Woodward	2023
First Constable	2 Years	Brent Godin	2023
Cemetery Commission - Village			
1	5 Years	George Gabuzda	2024
2	5 Years	JoAnne Lanphear	2025
3	5 Years	Lois Lumbra	2026
4	5 Years	Penny Lumbra	2027
5	4 Years	Vacant	2024
Cemetery Commission - Center			
1	5 Years	Jade Dixson-Boles	2025
2	5 Years	Lynda Cluba	2023
3	5 Years	Annie Purrier	2024
4	5 Years	Charlie Purrier	2026
5	5 Years	Lyndol Elkins	2027
Library Trustees			
1	3 Years	Patty Hathaway	2025
2	3 Years	Cheryl Wisell	2025
3	3 Years	Marijke Dollois	2025
4	3 Years	Patty Perl	2024
5	3 Years	Jane Presler	2025
6	3 Years	Claire Draper	2024
7	3 Years	Rita Kalsmith	2024
8	3 Years	Jen Wirth	2025
Fire Commissioners			
1	2 Years	William Baker Sr	2024
2	2 Years	Joe Zartarian	2023
Planning Commission			
1	3 Years	Alissa Hardy	2025
2	3 Years	George 'Joe' Sherman	2023
3	3 Years	Peter Locher	2025
4	3 Years	Kenny Miller	2024
5	3 Years	Barry Kade	2024
Justices of The Peace*			
1	2 Years	Parma Jewett	Feb 2025
2	2 Years	Tosca Smith	Feb 2025
3	2 Years	Sue Wilson	Feb 2025
4	2 Years	Patty Hathaway	Feb 2025
5	2 Years	Deanna Robitaille	Feb 2025
6	2 Years	Christina Suarez-Pratt	Feb 2025
7	2 Years	Gabrielle Lumbra	Feb 2025
*JPs are Elected at the November election prior to their term expiration			
BOLD lettering denotes terms expired, appointments /or vacancies to be elected			

Appointed	Term	Incumbent	Expires
Water Commission			
1	3 Years	Suzanne Dollois	2023
2	3 Years	Charlie Hancock	2025
3	3 Years	Mark Brouillette	2024
4	2 Years	Leanne Barnard	2025
5	2 Years	Emily Kimball	2023
Development Review Board			
1	4 Years	Mary Garceau	2025
2	4 Years	Sue Wilson	2024
3	4 Years	Lynda Cluba	2025
4	4 Years	John Kuryloski	2025
5	4 Years	Parma Jewett	2023
6	4 Years	Barry Kade-A	2025
7	4 Years	Mark Brouillette-A	2023
8	4 Years	Merle Van Giesen-A	2024
Agent To Convey Real Estate	1 Year	Barry Kade	2023
Budget Committee			
1	1 Year	Scott Perry	2023
2	1 Year	Mark Brouillette	2023
3	1 Year	Sue Wilson	2023
4	1 Year	Erin Kopacz	2023
5	1 Year	Charlie Hancock	2023
Director Disaster/Ems Management	1 Year	Greg Lucas	2023
Deputy Disaster/Ems Management	1 Year	Brent Godin	2023
Fence Viewers			
1	1 Year	Listers	2023
2	1 Year	Listers	2023
3	1 Year	Listers	2023
Fire Warden	5 Years	William Baker Sr	6/30/2027
Deputy Fire Warden	5 Years	Joseph Zartarian	6/30/2027
Health Officer	3 Years	Sue Wilson	2023
NW Regional Planning Rep			
1	3 Years	Mark Brouillette	2025
2	3 Years	Leanne Barnard	2025
Animal Control Officer	1 Year	Lynda Cluba	2023
Road Commissioner	2 Years	Mark Brouillette	2024
NW Solid Waste Dist Rep	3 Years	Barry Kade	2023
Transportation Advisory Rep	1 Year	Mark Brouillette	2023
Transportation Advisory Alt	1 Year	Leanne Barnard	2023
Recreation Board			
1	3 Years	Peg Doheny	2024
2	3 Years	Nelson Mayhew	2024
3	3 Years	Lisa Perry	2024
4	3 Years	Marsha Phillips	2023
5	3 Years	Journey Johnston	2025
6	3 Years	Tiffany Jones	2025
7	3 Years	Brendan O'Shea	2025
Zoning Administrator	3 Years	Ellen Fox	2024
MRBA Wild & Scenic Rep			
1	1 Year	Carissa Stein	2023

2	1 Year	Cynthia Scott	2023
NW CUD Reps	1 Year	Everett McGinley	2023
	1 Year	Ian Scott-A	2023
	1 Year	Roger Litchi-A	2023
Community Garden Board			
1	1 Year	Remi Gratton	2023
2	1 Year	Wendy Howard	2023
3	1 Year	Genvieve Lodal-Guild	2023
4	1 Year	Parma Jewett	2023
5	1 Year	Hannah Sorenson	2023
6	1 Year	Cassie Krieger	2023
7	1 Year	Tiffany Jones	2023
Conservation Commission			
1	4 Years	Karen Stanley	2023
2	4 Years	Parma Jewett	2026
3	4 Years	Sue Wilson	2025
4	4 Years	Joan Hildreth	2024
5	4 Years	Carissa Stein	2025
6	4 Years	Lynn Locher	2026
7	4 Years	Matt Paggi	2026
8	4 Years	Sue Baker	2024
9	4 Years	John Kuryloski	2024
10	4 Years	Patrick Calecas	2025
Town Newsletter Editor	1 Year	Suzanne Dollois	2023
Financial Controls Officer	3 Years	Sue Wilson	2024
Inspector of Lumber/Shingle/Wood	1 Year	Charlie Hancock	2023
Tree Warden	1 Year	Charlie Hancock	2023
Weigher of Coal	1 Year	Jacob Racusin	2023



STATE of the TOWN 2023

With the advent of the Annual Report, the Selectboard would like to take the opportunity to offer some updates, remarks, reminders, and general thoughts regarding the business of the town. We're excited to be back in person at the Town Hall/Grange this year for Town Meeting after two years of voting by Australian Ballot due to concerns related to Covid-19. We hope the floor meeting renews our long tradition of vigorous debate and discussion. Please note that Australian Ballot voting *will* be occurring on March 7th for items concerning the Supervisory Union and Northwest Solid Waste District, but municipal business will all be back on the floor, just like old times.

FY24 Budget Summary

Montgomery remains financially sound and continues to effectively manage its accounts and debts while providing effective service and investment for future needs. As a reminder, this is our third year operating on a 12-month fiscal year budget, running July 1st to June 30th (rather than pegged to the calendar year).

The proposed FY24 Municipal Budget is \$1,399,220 (**up about 5% from FY23**). Approximately \$964,448 will need to be raised by taxes, an increase from FY23 of about \$94,185. This will bring the projected municipal tax rate to an estimated \$0.5778, **an increase from FY23 of 9%**. This increase can be attributed to inflationary pressure around goods and services procured by the town (which all of us are seeing on a daily basis in our own worlds), as well as increases in personnel costs associated with wages and increases in healthcare costs. Recall that the federal COLA (cost of living adjustment) to 2023 is pegged to 8.7%, so a tax rate increase pegged to the same amount essentially reflects what we're seeing everywhere—everything is just more expensive.

How does Montgomery stack up against other towns? Comparing last year's tax rate (FY23) against other communities across the state, 153 municipal entities (out of 261) had higher tax rates than Montgomery. Looking within Franklin County, 8 (out of 15) had higher tax rates.

Below are highlights in changes in projected Revenue and Expenses:

Revenue: We're projected to come into FY24 with a strong Unreserved Funds figure, currently estimated at \$165,045. This is attributed in part to good budgeting, but more so to unexpected revenue during FY23—namely an additional FEMA payment from the 2019 Halloween storm of \$30,598, as well as outstanding grant reimbursements close to \$100k. A strong Unreserved Funds number has a direct impact on keeping the amount to be raised by taxes as low as possible, so good news here.

Other notes from the Revenue side of the ledger:

- Folks may notice that Current Use payments dropped slightly in FY23, as this payment is based in large part off the municipal tax rate and our FY23 reimbursement rate is impacted by the lingering effects of the inflated transitional 18-month budget in FY21. We expect this rate to pick up in FY24 as the state catches up, but are level budgeting all the same.

- Note that no revenue is budgeted for FY24 associated with the 98 Main St. building (Main Street Post Office and old Town Office). The board has been in weekly communication with USPS since they moved out of the location in July 2022, and at this time we have a verbal commitment that they are intending to return to the building and resume operations there. There are still a number of outstanding questions around this (when they may move back, whether they will take over the entire structure, what improvements may be needed for the structure) and with no lease agreement firmly in place we do not want to rely on these funds as a source of revenue. The Town has also been approached about selling the building to a Trust which manages Postal Assets, which the Board is currently doing its due diligence on.
- Water Department Labor – A reminder that this was a new in line item in FY22 as the Town brought the operation of the Municipal Water System in-house. You'll note that the Water Department Fee (monies to assist with the administration of the system, paid by the Water Department to the town and shown on Ln. 25) remain level. Ln. 31 represents the payment by the Water Department (which has its own budget, found elsewhere in this book) to the Public Works Dept to cover the cost of operating the system (this would previously have been represented in Ln. 17 of the Water Dept Budget, Contracted Services, which carries forward the parallel reduction for FY24). This framework will likely not continue in FY25 as we develop a clear separation between the Water Dept and Highway Department (which is where this cost center was housed following bringing the work in-house), and as water dept wages are now fully under the Water Department budget.
- Use of Reserve Funds/Projects and Events – voters will note that in FY23 the use of Reserve Funds (Ln.32) to support Projects and Events (Ln. 49) represented money to be used from the reserve fund to support match requirements for grant funded work and the paving of the Public Service Building lot. A portion of these funds remain unexpended in the reserve account due to project delays, and will be carried forward in FY24. Going forward, rather than track expenditures from reserve accounts into the General Fund, expenditures will track in the Reserve Account summary to provide greater transparency in their use, and to avoid inflated General Fund allocations that effectively cancel each other out between revenue and expense.

Expenses: The greatest drivers of the FY24 budget come from the following areas:

- Small increases in Town Office Payroll (Ln. 35) are attributed to cost of living adjustments for FY24 at 8.7%. Similar COLA increases are reflected in Highway Payroll (Ln.45). After staffing transitions, we expect to return to a full-time three-person crew (after working on a 2 FTE/1 PTE basis through the winter). Another cost center associated with payroll is Health Insurance, with costs up close to \$65k for the Highway Dept in FY24.
- After much discussion with the Board of Listers (Ln.38), the Selectboard is proposing that the Town move to contracting with an assessor (at a cost of around \$16k) overseen by the Board of Listers. The town would retain the elected Board of Listers, however, the Lister position would no longer be a wage-earning job and would become a voting role, more like other Board positions in town. The Board of Listers would remain responsible for finalizing the Grand List, serving on the BCA, conducting grievances, and determining exemptions. The Town Clerk's office would continue to make Lister records available to the public while providing some administrative

support and serving as a consistent point of contact for citizens. This change is driven by the increasing complexity of the work, and the combination of an Assessor with voting Lister Board will couple local knowledge with professional valuation to provide assessing and grand list consistency. While these changes are structurally significant, the budget impact equates to an increase of only around \$4k.

- General Gov Ops expenditures (Ln. 40) is down for FY24. This reduction in expense is related to a reduction in insurance rates due to the FY23 shift in our personnel framework. We do expect rates to shift in FY25 as we return to a full three FTE crew.
- Road Maintenance, Materials, and Machinery Maintenance (Lns. 46-48) are up considerably for FY24, due principally to the increase in costs. The cost of gravel increasing by \$4/yard adds \$20k to this budget alone. Salt is up 20%. Culverts have doubled in price. The cost of grass seed has increased five times. Filters have doubled in price. Tires have increased by 60%. Hydraulic fluid has also more than doubled. Diesel fuel continues to climb. Things are simply more expensive, and while our crew will continue to be judicious in application and seek to increase efficiency as much as possible, these are costs which we have no choice but to absorb. Contracted Services (which factors into Ln.46) is also up in part to planned overdue culvert replacements, and a focus on ditching this summer. This budget also includes additional funds to account for the costs of road maintenance during mud season.
- Public Works Building (Ln. 53) is looking at a modest increase of around \$5k, which is attributed to a combination of factors, the largest driver of which is an increase in heating costs (fuel prices).
- Voters will notice that Street Lights (which show up in Ln. 57) in the Village and Center are being swapped out for high-efficiency LED bulbs. This work is supported by grant funding through efficiency Vermont, and is expected to save the town \$2,500/year.

A note on Debt Service: FY22 saw our last payment on the 2018 International Truck, as such Voters will again note no expenditure there in FY24. FY23 YTD actual for payment on the Water Bond is shown as \$0 because the payment is made later in this fiscal year (following the publication of this report and budget). That amount remains \$13,373 for FY24. Last year the Board came to the voters for permission to purchase a new International CV550 truck to replace Ford 550, which we took possession of this summer. That is now reflected under debt service as a new cost center.

A Note on Reserve Account Appropriations

- The reappraisal appropriation is up \$2k in advance of expected need this year or next. This issue is front and center across the state as communities deal with the impacts of the wild real estate market over the last three years. Under current law, municipal reappraisals are triggered when a town's common level of appraisal — a measure of how a town's property values differ from fair market value — drops below 85% or jumps above 115%. Two thirds of Vermont towns now expect to face reappraisal needs in the coming year or two due to this trigger—Montgomery included. The good news is that past annual appropriations to this fund leave us well positioned to absorb this cost.
- Infrastructure Replacement is back up from a lapse last year based on the need for funds to cover the last payment in the 2018 truck and a desire to keep the tax rate level. We expect draws off of

this in FY24 to support work on Black Falls and Hill West road (matching state grant funds) as well as a number of culvert replacements, while still bolstering the fund with a \$20k appropriation towards saving for a paving project on South Richford Road (likely not occurring until FY25 or later).

- All other Reserve Account appropriations are level funded. We expect to use some funds in FY24 from the Building Capital Improvement fund to support renovations to the Public Service Building (see update below). See additional information on this project later in this letter.

A note ARPA Funds : The town has received our full allotment of municipal ARPA funds in an amount just shy of \$360,000. These funds are shown in the ARPA Reserve Fund balance (created by the voters last year) balance elsewhere in the book and are not associated with the General Fund budget. Our first project utilizing ARPA funds is set for the extension of dedicated power to the Regan Road water pump station (which presently utilizes unreliable solar batteries). This upgrade will also allow us to install a communications relay there, to better assist emergency services in the community. The board has a long list of other potential uses for the funds, with the main objective being that they are used to leverage additional dollars as match to grants wherever possible. Possible uses include supporting the renovations to the Public Service Building and/or the 98 Main St office; supporting expenditures associated with Streetscape Improvements; and helping with match requirements for significant public works projects such as the armoring of the Trout River along Longley Bridge Road.

Wastewater and Streetscape Project Update for the Center and Village

Voters will no doubt have seen the survey crews this past year working in both the Center and Village. This work is associated with developing the final system design for the municipal Wastewater System, and moving towards a final engineering design for proposed Streetscape improvements.

On the Wastewater side, we've faced some significant delays due to reconciling different state permitting processes taking longer than anticipated. One area of delay here relates to state regulations for developing infrastructure in flood zones (of which much of the Center and Village fall to one degree or another). Another (and more surprising) delay relates to state requirements around archeological surveys. Much of the pipeline alignments in the Village appear to be in what has been designated as 'potentially archaeologically significant areas', requiring an additional layer of review by the state. We expect that the final design for the Village will be completed in early June, with all permitting matters put to bed by the fall, allowing us to move forward with the bid process and construction beginning Spring 2024. Construction in the Center would follow on a staggered timeline, beginning in late 2024 and extending into the summer of 2025. We also continue to work with State agencies to bring in additional funding to support the project, and hope to have a more detailed update on that end by March 7th. The board is currently waiting for a response from the Department of Environmental Conservation on affordability measures tagged to recent changes in the Mean Household Income for the Town, which would further increase state funding support.

On the Streetscape side, conceptual design revisions based on the survey work completed are expected in late February, following which the Board anticipates renewing the public engagement process to determine a final design for any potential improvements (as well as final cost estimates). Voters will recall that the initial design elements presented to the Community were based on things like aerial photography. With the survey in hand we have a much better idea of what might actually fit where when we address issues like bike and pedestrian safety, sidewalks, and parking. The town currently has a close to \$1M

award from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to support an initial phase of work, connecting the Rec Center through River Street. Additional funds will be sought through State and Federal granting agencies once the design elements are complete. Please keep an eye out for announcements regarding review meetings to public input on design as we continue to determine how best to build for the future—your input is critical as we chart a path which balances need with affordability.

PSB Renovation Project Update

Voters will recall that in 2016 the Town Office staff adapted the old spaces at the Public Safety Building into a temporary office location following the departure from 98 Main Street due to environmental concerns with the building. These adaptations included—retrofitting closets for IT setup, buying gun safes to store Land Records to provide some manner of fire protection, and utilizing an empty truck bay to set up additional desk space. It has been six years since this transition has taken place and office staff have taken a great deal of time to condense and organize operations as much as possible while trying to remain in compliance with various Statutory records retention requirements and accommodate the growing permanent collection of public records. In doing so it has become clear that the Public Safety Building is a more suitable choice for office staff, residents, attorneys, and title searchers to conduct their business, rather than returning to the 98 Main Street location. That said, the space still does not meet the full needs of the Community. However, given the square footage of the current building and, with some reconfiguring of the layout, the PSB can sustain Town Office needs for the future. It is a practical and cost-effective approach to address Fire & Safety compliance, air control/quality in the building, and the long-standing need for a proper Vault to house all the Land Records for the Town for many years to come. It will also negate the need for any new construction to house the Town Office needs (as previously considered by the community). In 2022 a Committee was formed to investigate what the needed renovations would entail, and to come up with a cost estimate to move forward.

The goals of the Committee are outlined as follows:

- Retrofit the Public Safety Building using the existing square footage of the building to accommodate Town Office needs permanently. This includes:
 - The installation of a proper Vault to house all Public Records
 - Reconfiguring walls/workspaces to incorporate old ambulance bay
 - Addressing the lack of proper air ventilation
 - Addressing safety standards to bring the building into compliance with current State and Federal codes.
- Reconfiguring the parking lot and building entrances to better accommodate Library/Town Office/Community group traffic and shifting parking further away from the Fire Dept to reduce interference with the Fire Dept responding to Emergency calls (this was partially completed with the repaving which occurred in 2022).
- Rename the building to better represent the current municipal entities operating in the building space.
- Connect the PSB to the Center by way of a sidewalk, providing better bike and pedestrian access for community members accessing Town Office and/or library services. This work will be incorporated into the previously referenced Streetscape project plans as review continues there.
- The Montgomery Town Library has also expressed a wish to expand (increasing the physical footprint) on their side of the building, and conversations continue around how that can dovetail with this project.

To date, the Committee has worked with Architect Michal Dugan (who previously worked on the original PSB) to develop a conceptual floor plan to respond to key areas of improvement and needs for the building. A Survey of the town owned parcel has been conducted by Michael Gervais and is currently in preliminary draft form. An RFP for construction management services has been drafted to move forward with obtaining cost estimates and project timeline, and will be released soon. It's anticipated that the cost of renovations can be borne by a combination of grant funding and support from the Building Capital Improvement Fund, which continues to carry a strong reserve. (It should be noted that the Library will obtain independent Grant Funding and/or use their reserves to complete the bulk of their side of the project).

Website updates

In January of 2023 the Town launched our new website. Having heard feedback from many residents about the lack of clarity and accessibility of the old town website, the decision was made to overhaul the website, update the features to allow for greater access and search functionality, and clear the digital clutter. This effort has led to a new town website that includes up to date and relevant information in a format that works on all platforms. While the bulk of this work is done, we continue to adjust to feedback and look for ways to improve our digital face for residents and visitors alike.

Don't forget that you can sign up for automated notices, warnings, and minutes from the Town by visiting the town website at www.montgomeryvt.us and selecting "Email Updates" under the Contact tab.

If you ever want to contact the Board, don't forget you can reach us at: montgomeryselectboard@gmail.com. Regular meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30pm, held in the PSB Conference Room or via Zoom. We successfully moved into a hybrid environment last year, which allows community members to join Selectboard meetings from the comfort of their home, and plan to continue to do so. You can also catch recordings of previous meetings at Northwest Access Television.

WARNING
TOWN OF MONTGOMERY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 2023

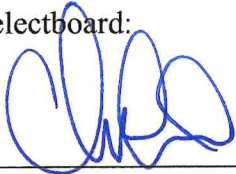
The legal voters of the town of Montgomery in the County of Franklin are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, the 7th day of March, 2023 AD, at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business to wit:

1. Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year
2. Elect the remaining Town Officers as required by law:
 - a. Selectperson- two (2) year term by ballot (Emily Kimball, expires 2025)
 - b. Selectperson- three (3) year term by ballot (Suzanne Dollois, expires 2026)
 - c. Lister- three (3) year term by ballot (Genevieve Lodal-Guild, expires 2026)
 - d. Lister- remainder three (3) year term expiring in 2024 by ballot (James Walsh, appointed)
 - e. Lister- remainder three (3) year term expiring in 2025 by ballot (Vacancy)
 - f. Delinquent Tax Collector- three (3) year term (Anita Woodward, expires 2026)
 - g. First Constable- two (2) year term (Brent Godin, expires 2025)
 - h. Village Cemetery Commissioner- remainder four (4) year term expiring in 2024 (Vacancy)
 - i. Center Cemetery Commissioner- five (5) year term (Lynda Cluba- expires 2028)
 - j. Library Trustee- remainder three (3) year term expiring in 2025 (Jen Wirth, appointed)
 - k. Fire Commissioner- two (2) year term (Joseph Zartarian, expires 2025)
 - l. Planning Commission- three (3) year term (Joseph Sherman, expires 2026)
3. Shall the voters approve the addition of one (1) Trustee seat, to increase the Board membership of Library Trustees from eight (8) to nine (9) members.
 - a. To elect a Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years (expires 2026)
4. Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 32 VSA 4791, to collect Current Taxes.
5. Shall the town vote to approve a half cent increase in the tax rate to be allotted to the Conservation Reserve Fund (established by the voters in 2018) in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804.

6. Shall the voters accept a fiscal year 2024 Budget of expenditures not to exceed \$1,399,220.00 of which an estimated \$964,448 shall be raised by taxes, and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
7. To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Dated at Montgomery, Vermont this 30th day of January, 2023 AD

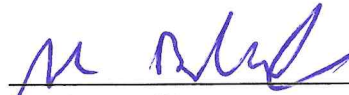
Selectboard:



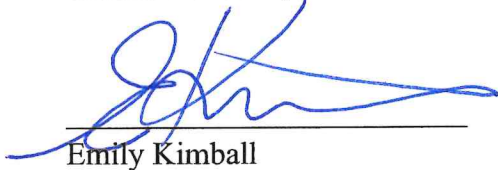
Charlie Hancock, Chairman



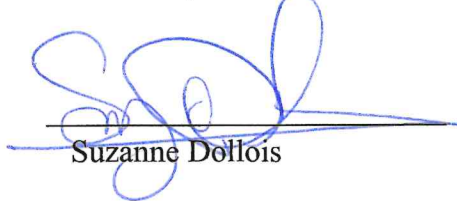
Leanne Barnard, Vice Chair



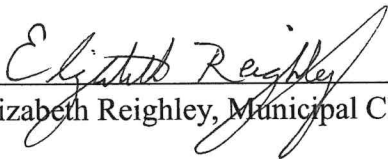
Mark Brouillette



Emily Kimball



Suzanne Dollois

Attest: 

Elizabeth Reighley, Municipal Clerk, Town of Montgomery

Date: 2/30/2023

	REVENUE	ACTUAL FY2021	BUDGET FY2022	ACTUAL FY2022	BUDGET FY2023	YTD FY2023	BUDGET FY2024
1	Unreserved Funds	\$38,508	\$38,508	\$38,508	\$409	\$409	\$165,045
2	Property Taxes	\$1,177,970	\$862,735	\$843,446	\$870,263	\$762,080	\$964,448
3	Delinquent Taxes	\$225,760	\$80,000	\$38,906	\$30,000	\$20,914	\$40,000
4	Penalty/Int on delinquent taxes	\$34,978	\$20,000	\$20,110	\$3,000	\$14,749	\$3,600
5	Taxes on State Owned Land	\$16,736	\$16,736	\$16,736	\$16,000	\$16,952	\$16,000
6	Current Use/Hold Harmless	\$80,088	\$79,000	\$118,568	\$110,000	\$88,756	\$88,750
7	PILOT (State Garage)	\$2,232	\$2,200	\$3,156	\$3,000	\$2,369	\$2,300
8	State Aid - Roads	\$147,189	\$84,000	\$93,254	\$84,000	\$43,089	\$86,178
9	Westfield Plowing	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
10	Federal Excise Tax Refund, Highway	\$6,516	\$2,975	\$0	\$2,400	\$0	\$4,000
11	Rent - US Postal Service	\$18,743	\$12,492	\$11,454	\$4,176	\$5,206	\$0
12	Rent - TD Bank ATM	\$1,405	\$1,400	\$1,433	\$1,400	\$1,461	\$0
13	Leased Land	\$2,520	\$1,260	\$0	\$1,260	\$0	\$0
14	Recording Fees	\$24,594	\$11,000	\$15,454	\$10,000	\$6,398	\$10,000
15	Office Fees	\$3,524	\$2,300	\$1,871	\$1,600	\$953	\$1,000
16	Copier/Fax	\$314	\$200	\$212	\$200	\$85	\$200
17	Interest	\$509	\$500	\$273	\$375	\$683	\$700
18	Zoning Fees	\$4,305	\$2,500	\$3,492	\$2,500	\$1,240	\$2,500
19	Other Grants	\$43,613	\$0	\$98,749	\$0	\$0	\$0
20	Licenses-Dog	\$2,915	\$2,000	\$2,057	\$2,000	\$848	\$2,000
21	Licenses-Hunting/Fishing	\$1,032	\$1,000	\$685	\$500	\$275	\$500
22	Licenses-Liquor/Tobacco	\$1,900	\$1,000	\$830	\$1,000	\$115	\$1,000
23	Licenses-Marriage	\$790	\$750	\$510	\$750	\$320	\$600
24	Vital Records	\$649	\$500	\$765	\$500	\$415	\$500
25	Water Dept Fee	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
26	Miscellaneous	\$17,679	\$2,500	\$27,449	\$2,500	\$956	\$0
27	Judicial Fines	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	DMV/Fleet Permit Fees	\$762	\$0	\$389	\$400	\$19	\$400
29	Lister / Equalization	\$969	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
30	Town Hall Revenue	\$20	\$50	\$355	\$0	\$515	\$500
31	Water Department Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,150	\$4,096	\$0
32	Use of Reserve Funds Projects & Events	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$152,000	\$92,711	\$0
33	FEMA/State Reimbursement	\$60,436	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,598	\$0
34	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,927,655	\$1,235,606	\$1,348,662	\$1,332,383	\$1,105,214	\$1,399,220

	Total Revenue (line 34)	\$1,399,220
Less	Total Proposed Tax Revenue (line 2)	\$964,448
Less	Unreserved Funds (line 1)	\$165,045
Equals	Total Budgeted Non-Tax Revenue	\$269,728

	EXPENSES	ACTUAL FY2021	BUDGET FY2022	ACTUAL FY2022	BUDGET FY2023	YTD FY2023	BUDGET FY2024
36	TOWN OFFICE PAYROLL	\$178,016	\$123,384	\$114,296	\$129,524	\$67,393	\$159,826
37	TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES	\$33,336	\$18,900	\$19,329	\$19,200	\$13,192	\$21,100
38	LISTERS	\$30,834	\$26,965	\$21,243	\$30,860	\$10,652	\$33,817
39	ZONING	\$6,613	\$5,744	\$4,404	\$5,744	\$2,153	\$7,083
40	GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXP	\$107,701	\$73,055	\$121,614	\$93,672	\$21,921	\$89,806
41	LICENSES & VITAL RECORDS	\$2,545	\$2,400	\$1,941	\$2,200	\$554	\$2,400
42	EMERGENCY SVCS	\$45,705	\$31,842	\$31,826	\$31,638	\$16,442	\$33,100
43	WATER PAYROLL				\$23,150	\$4,096	
44	HIGHWAY						
45	HIGHWAY PAYROLL	\$296,477	\$215,831	\$222,183	\$213,542	\$99,232	\$276,203
46	ROAD MAINTENANCE	\$92,176	\$34,500	\$32,895	\$33,850	\$15,455	\$56,300
47	MATERIALS	\$158,677	\$122,500	\$117,535	\$101,000	\$44,798	\$119,000
48	MACHINERY REPAIR	\$57,548	\$28,000	\$56,353	\$22,000	\$21,896	\$51,500
49	PROJECTS & EVENTS	\$242,536	\$0	\$70,370	\$152,000	\$93,811	\$10,000
50	MACHINERY FUEL	\$36,516	\$35,100	\$41,450	\$30,100	\$16,001	\$45,100
51	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS						
52	B&G PAYROLL	\$18,054	\$17,618	\$17,618	\$12,184	\$5,474	\$14,537
53	PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING	\$22,978	\$16,158	\$19,569	\$15,967	\$10,573	\$22,100
54	98 MAIN	\$7,254	\$5,760	\$6,450	\$6,250	\$1,291	\$2,100
55	TOWN HALL	\$11,315	\$7,352	\$6,854	\$6,900	\$4,472	\$8,900
56	PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING	\$19,584	\$15,810	\$17,486	\$14,110	\$8,424	\$18,110
57	PUBLIC WORKS MISC	\$30,169	\$19,875	\$32,055	\$24,500	\$19,654	\$31,500
58	DELINQUENT TAXES	\$34,501	\$98,052	\$31,015	\$45,000	\$99,822	\$55,000
59	DEBT SERVICE						
60	PWB Bond Pymt	\$37,097	\$33,000	\$32,230	\$30,000	\$28,413	\$28,400
61	Village Water Bond	\$13,737	\$13,737	\$13,737	\$13,737	\$0	\$13,737
62	2016 Int'l Highway	\$53,349	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
63	2018 Int'l Highway	\$44,191	\$40,489	\$42,951	\$40,489	\$0	\$0
64	2020 Fire Tanker	\$42,350	\$42,000	\$41,324	\$37,176	\$0	\$40,500
65	2022 CV Int'l Highway	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
66	DEPARTMENTS						
67	Fire Department	\$47,471	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
68	Recreation Department	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$22,700
69	Library	\$31,404	\$20,936	\$20,936	\$20,936	\$20,936	\$23,399
70	RESERVE ACCT APPROPRIATIONS						
71	Listers -Reappraisal \$	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$10,000
72	Restoration of Records	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
73	Infrastructure Replacemen	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
74	Machinery Replacement	\$0	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
75	Bldg Cap Improvement & Ma	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
76	Emergency Mgt Preparednes	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
77	Flood Mitigation	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
78	ASSESSMENTS						
79	NW Solid Waste Management	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,302	\$1,421
80	Vt. League Cities & Towns	\$2,561	\$2,561	\$2,561	\$2,561	\$0	\$2,561
81	NW Regional Planning Comm	\$1,369	\$1,369	\$1,369	\$1,326	\$1,326	\$1,373
82	County Tax	\$20,426	\$13,700	\$12,771	\$12,800	\$13,558	\$14,000

		EXPENSES	ACTUAL FY2021	BUDGET FY2022	ACTUAL FY2022	BUDGET FY2023	YTD FY2023	BUDGET FY2024
83		AGENCY REQUESTS						
84		Hazens Notch Association	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
85		Age Well	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
86		FCIDC	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$500
87		Franklin Cty Home Health	\$2,522	\$2,522	\$2,522	\$2,522	\$0	\$2,522
88		Green Up VT	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$100
89		Missisquoi River Basin As	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	\$600
90		Green Mtn Transit	\$596	\$596	\$596	\$596	\$0	\$626
91		Montgomery Center For The Arts	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
92		The Grateful Treads	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$0
93		Northwest Access TV	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$0	\$600
94		Northwest Unit for Special Investigations	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
95		Total Expenditures	\$1,766,004	\$1,234,706	\$1,322,436	\$1,331,483	\$792,041	\$1,399,220
96								
96			Total Budgeted Expenses (line 97)		\$1,399,220.34			
97		Less	Unreserved Funds Balance (rev line 1)		\$165,044.65			
98		Less	Total Budgeted Non-Tax Revenue (rev line 35)		<u>\$269,728.00</u>			
99		Equals	Total Property Taxes (proposed)		\$964,447.69			
100			Total Municipal Grandlist		\$1,669,263.00			
			(411 dated 1.16.23)					
101		(Property Taxes / Grandlist)	Projected Tax Rate =		\$0.5778	Does not include Local Agreement Share		
102			Previous Year Tax Rate =		\$0.5302			
103			Increase/Decrease =		\$0.0476			
104			Percent Increase/Decrease =		9%			

MONTGOMERY TAX RATE SINCE 1993					
YEAR	MUNICIPAL TAX RATE	LOCAL** AGREEMENT TAX RATE Vet. Exempt.	TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE	EDUCATION TAX RATE (Set by State)	TOTAL TAX RATE
2024 Projected					
Homestead	\$0.5778	\$0.0031	\$0.5809	\$1.5700	\$2.1509
Non-Homestead	\$0.5778	\$0.0031	\$0.5809	\$1.6400	\$2.2209
2023 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.5271	\$0.0031	\$0.5302	\$1.2896	\$1.8198
Non-Homestead	\$0.5271	\$0.0031	\$0.5302	\$1.5425	\$2.0727
2022 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.5310	\$0.0025	\$0.5335	\$1.3573	\$1.8908
Non-Homestead	\$0.5310	\$0.0025	\$0.5335	\$1.5904	\$2.1239
18 MONTH BUDGET		18 MONTH BUDGET		18 MONTH BUDGET	
2021 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.7614	\$0.0025	\$0.7639	\$1.3137	\$2.0776
Non-Homestead	\$0.7614	\$0.0025	\$0.7639	\$1.5745	\$2.3384
2019 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.5034	\$0.0025	\$0.5051	1.2816	\$1.7867
Non-Homestead	\$0.5034	\$0.0025	\$0.5051	1.5388	\$2.0439
2018 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4298	\$0.0016	\$0.4314	1.1881	\$1.6195
Non-Homestead	\$0.4298	\$0.0016	\$0.4314	1.5794	\$2.0108
2017 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4401	\$0.0014	\$0.4415	\$1.2728	\$1.7143
Non-Homestead	\$0.4401	\$0.0014	\$0.4415	\$1.5429	\$1.9844
2016 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.3792	\$0.0014	\$0.3806	\$1.2103	\$1.5909
Non-Homestead	\$0.3792	\$0.0014	\$0.3806	\$1.5349	\$1.9155
2015 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4144	\$0.0016	\$0.4160	\$1.1997	\$1.6157
Non-Homestead	\$0.4144	\$0.0016	\$0.4160	\$1.5242	\$1.9402
2014 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.3980	\$0.0019	\$0.3999	\$1.1893	\$1.5892
Non-Homestead	\$0.3980	\$0.0019	\$0.3999	\$1.4833	\$1.8832
TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL		TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL		TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL	
2013 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4610	\$0.0029	\$0.4639	\$1.4259	\$1.8898
Non-Homestead	\$0.4610	\$0.0029	\$0.4639	\$1.8564	\$2.3203
2012 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4449	\$0.0022	\$0.4471	\$1.4407	\$1.8878
Non-Homestead	\$0.4449	\$0.0022	\$0.4471	\$1.8127	\$2.2598
2011 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.3971	\$0.0025	\$0.3996	\$1.3560	\$1.7556
Non-Homestead	\$0.3971	\$0.0025	\$0.3996	\$1.7923	\$2.1919
2010 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4010	\$0.0027	\$0.4037	\$1.4300	\$1.8337
Non-Homestead	\$0.4010	\$0.0027	\$0.4037	\$1.8721	\$2.2758
2009 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4162	\$0.0030	\$0.4192	\$1.3048	\$1.7240
Non-Homestead	\$0.4162	\$0.0030	\$0.4192	\$1.8347	\$2.2539
2008 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.4177	\$0.0031	\$0.4208	\$1.2808	\$1.7016
Non-Homestead	\$0.4177	\$0.0031	\$0.4208	\$1.7233	\$2.1441
2007 Actual					
Homestead	\$0.3821	\$0.0025	\$0.3846	\$1.1643	\$1.5489
Non-Homestead	\$0.3821	\$0.0025	\$0.3846	\$1.5704	\$1.9550
	MUNICIPAL TAX RATE	MUNICIPAL SCHOOL TAX RATE	STATE SCHOOL TAX RATE	TOTAL SCHOOL TAX RATE	TOTAL TAX RATE
2006	\$0.3628	----		\$1.1907	\$1.5535
2005	\$0.3623	----		\$1.1834	\$1.5457
TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL		TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL		TOWNWIDE REAPPRAISAL	
2004	\$0.3650	----		\$1.0166	\$1.3816
ACT 68		ACT 68 +		ACT 68 +	
2003	\$0.50	\$0.36	\$1.24	\$1.6000	\$2.10
2002	\$0.49	\$0.44	\$1.20	\$1.6400	\$2.13
2001	\$0.47	\$0.41	\$1.13	\$1.5400	\$2.01
2000	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$1.11	\$1.6100	\$2.08
1999	\$0.47	\$0.29	\$1.19	\$1.4800	\$1.95
1998	\$0.46	\$0.42	\$1.14	\$1.5600	\$2.02
FLOOD DEBT +ACT 60		FLOOD DEBT +ACT 60		FLOOD DEBT +ACT 60	
1997	\$0.43	----	----	\$1.4500	\$1.88
1996	\$0.35	----	----	\$1.4200	\$1.77
1995	\$0.34	----	----	\$1.4200	\$1.76
1994	\$0.27	----	----	\$1.3500	\$1.62
1993	\$0.29	----	----	\$1.1900	\$1.48
* Based on Equalized Grand List					
** Local Agreement rate reflects 2007 Town Meeting approval of increasing the Veteran's Assessment exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000					



Kittell Branagan & Sargent

Certified Public Accountants

Vermont License #167

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Selectmen
Town of Montgomery, Vermont

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Montgomery, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Montgomery, Vermont's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Montgomery, Vermont, as of June 30, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Montgomery, Vermont, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Montgomery, Vermont's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Montgomery, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Montgomery, Vermont's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information on pages 32 – 37, the schedule of the proportionate share of the net pension liability on page 38 and the schedule of contributions on page 39, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Montgomery, Vermont's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Atwell Branson & Sargent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and date.

St. Albans, Vermont
December 16, 2022

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - LIABILITIES
As of 12/31/22

<u>Public Works Building Bond:</u>	Bank of New York – Principal \$175,000	
(Final Year – 2030)	Payment due 6/1/23 (interest only)	\$ 4,200.00
	Payment due 12/1/23	\$ 25,000.00
	Payment due 6/1/24 (interest only)	\$ 4,200.00
 <u>2021 International Fire Truck:</u>	Community Bank – Principal \$111,526.80	
(Final Year – 2025)	Payment due 5/30/23	\$ 37,175.60
	Payment due 5/30/24	\$ 37,175.60
 <u>2022 CV International Truck:</u>	Community Bank – Principal \$100,000	
(Final Year – 2025)	Payment due 8/22/23	\$ 33,333.33

Water Department

Water Project: USDA-Rural Development

Bond #1: Final Year 2041	Principal Balance - \$105,764.87	
	Payment due 5/13/23	\$ 3,758.00
	Payment due 11/13/23	\$ 3,758.00
	Payment due 5/13/24	\$ 3,758.00
 Bond #2: Final Year 2041	Principal Balance - \$269,183.84	
	Payment due 5/13/23	\$ 10,625.00
	Payment due 11/13/23	\$ 10,625.00
	Payment due 5/13/24	\$ 10,625.00
 Bond #3: Final Year 2047	Principal Balance - \$269,879.31	
	Payment due 6/10/23	\$ 8,718.00
	Payment due 12/10/23	\$ 8,718.00
	Payment due 6/10/24	\$ 8,718.00

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
YTD FY23 Report of Reserve Funds

<u>Restoration of Records</u>			<u>Machinery Replacement</u>		
Beginning Balance			Beginning Balance		
Reserve	\$ 39,180.51		Reserve	\$ 46,705.71	
		\$ 39,180.51			\$ 46,705.71
YTD FY23 Balance			YTD FY23 Balance		
Previous Balance	\$ 39,180.51		Previous Balance	\$ 46,705.71	
Revenue	\$ 11,423.00		Revenue	\$ 149,000.00	
Expenses			Expenses	\$ (130,974.00)	
		\$ 50,603.51			\$ 64,731.71
<u>Reappraisal</u>			<u>Conservation Commission</u>		
Beginning Balance			Beginning Balance		
Reserve	\$ 96,825.49		Reserve	\$ 15,883.48	
		\$ 96,825.49			\$ 15,883.48
YTD FY23 Balance			YTD FY23 Balance		
Previous Balance	\$ 96,825.49		Previous Balance	\$ 15,883.48	
Revenue	\$ 16,211.00		Revenue	\$ 1,944.25	
Expenses	\$ -		Expenses	\$ (5,984.66)	
		\$ 113,036.49	<i>* see budget for detail</i>		\$ 11,843.07
<u>Infrastructure Replacement</u>			<u>Community Gardens</u>		
Beginning Balance			Beginning Balance		
Reserve	\$ 259,940.44		Reserve	\$ 1,012.04	
		\$ 259,940.44			\$ 1,012.04
YTD FY23 Balance			YTD FY23 Balance		
Previous Balance	\$ 259,940.44		Previous Balance	\$ 1,012.04	
Revenue			Revenue	\$ 560.00	
Expenses	\$ (92,711.32)		Expenses	\$ (150.00)	
		\$ 167,229.12			\$ 1,422.04
<u>Capitol Improvement</u>			<u>Emergency Management</u>		
Beginning Balance			Beginning Balance		
Reserve	\$ 107,413.84		Reserve	\$ 2,087.56	
		\$ 107,413.84			\$ 2,087.56
YTD FY23 Balance			YTD FY23 Balance		
Previous Balance	\$ 107,413.84		Previous Balance	\$ 2,087.56	
Revenue	\$ 50,000.00		Revenue	\$ 1,200.00	
Expenses	\$ (1,800.00)		Expenses		
		\$ 155,613.84			\$ 3,287.56

YTD FY23 Report of Reserve Funds

25

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY					
YTD FY23 Report of Unreserved Funds					
<u>General Fund Checking Account</u>					
	Bank Statement Balance 12/31/22		\$1,439,675.98		
	Outstanding Deposits		\$ 290,721.20		
	Outstanding Checks		\$ (51,074.95)		
		Checking Balance:		\$1,679,322.23	
<u>Summary of All Reserve Balances</u>					
	Fire		\$ 84,906.95		
	Recreation		\$ 81,534.92		
	Library		\$ 69,937.97		
	Department Reserve Balance: * see budgets		\$ 236,379.84		
	Reserve Funds Balance:		\$ 943,401.23		
	YTD Total of all Reserve Funds:			\$1,179,761.07	
		Total YTD Unreserved Funds:	\$ 499,561.16		
	Estimated for 6/30/23 Budget Year End				
	Budgeted expenses left to spend		\$ (539,441.98)		
	Estimated revenue to be collected		\$ 204,925.47		
	Net Estimated Cash Flow		\$ (334,516.51)		
	Total Estimated Unreserved Fund Balance 6/30/23			\$ 165,044.65	

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY

Officer Salaries - 2022

<u>SELECTBOARD</u>				
	Charles Hancock			\$1,000.00
	Mark Brouillette			\$1,000.00
	Suzanne Dollois			\$1,000.00
	Leanne Barnard			\$1,000.00
	Emily Kimball			\$1,000.00
				\$5,000.00
<u>TOWN CLERK & TREASURER</u>				
	Elizabeth Reighley		Clerk (FT)	\$39,605.16
	Erin Kopacz		Treasurer (PT)	\$24,308.88
	Genevieve Lodal-Guild		Assistant (PT)	\$22,920.51
				\$86,834.55
<u>DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR</u>				
	Anita Woodward	4% of Delq Tax collected		\$7,365.12
<u>LISTERS</u>				
	Genevieve Lodal-Guild			\$6,870.81
	<i>Lynda Cluba</i>			\$4,448.31
	<i>Kate Cummings</i>			\$3,045.75
				\$14,364.87
<u>ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</u>				
	Ellen Fox			\$4,257.08
<u>HEALTH OFFICER</u>				
	Sue Wilson			\$300.00
<u>CONSTABLE</u>				
	Brent Godin			\$996.00
			Total Town Officers Wages:	\$119,117.62
<u>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</u>				
	Scott Ovitt		Road Foreman (FT)	\$58,444.81
	Dave Tanner		Deputy Foreman (FT)	\$17,274.63
	<i>Mark Guilmette</i>		<i>Former Road Foreman</i>	<i>\$22,107.60</i>
	<i>Mark Brouillette</i>		<i>Former PWD</i>	<i>\$38,909.72</i>
	<i>William Baker Sr</i>		<i>Road Crew- Backup Coverage</i>	<i>\$18,526.77</i>
	<i>Robert Baker</i>		<i>Road Crew- Backup Coverage</i>	<i>\$18,630.91</i>
	<i>Jeffrey Kittell</i>		<i>Road Crew</i>	<i>\$490.08</i>
	<i>Kenneth Miller</i>		<i>Road Crew</i>	<i>\$1,729.20</i>
			Total Public Works Wages:	\$176,113.72
	<i>*Italics denotes personnel not currently employed by the Town</i>			

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE 01/01/22 TAX DUE</u>	<u>TAX COLLECTED</u>	<u>BALANCE DUE</u>	<u>5% PENALTY COLLECTED</u>	<u>8% PENALTY COLLECTED</u>	<u>INTEREST COLLECTED</u>
2020	\$15,474.23	\$13,013.93	\$2,460.30	\$650.67		\$ 1,695.69
2021	\$65,627.79	\$57,987.67	\$7,640.12		\$ 4,638.93	\$ 3,744.42
2022	<u>\$211,146.99</u>	<u>\$121,425.89</u>	<u>\$89,721.10</u>		<u>\$ 9,714.02</u>	<u>\$ 1,631.83</u>
TOTALS	\$292,249.01	\$192,427.49	\$99,821.52	\$650.67	\$14,352.95	\$7,071.94

Taxes Collected:	\$192,427.49
5% Penalty Collected	\$650.67
8% Penalty Collected:	\$14,352.95
Interest Collected:	<u>\$7,071.94</u>
Total Paid to the Treasurer by A. Woodward:	\$214,503.05

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022			
	NAME	PARCEL ID	TAX AMOUNT
2020 TAXES			
3	Lareau, Matthew	00012.006B	\$ 1,279.64
3	Marshall, Jared	00006.026X	\$ 1,180.66
TOTAL 2020 TAXES			\$ 2,460.30
2021 TAXES			
1	Fleming, Danielle	00012.139X	\$ 215.44
	Gendron, Nicole	00011.052A	\$ 264.44
3	Lareau, Matthew	00012.006B	\$ 1,503.36
3	Manosh, Roland	00058.007X	\$ 491.63
3	Marshall, Jared	00006.026X	\$ 2,407.93
3	Mills, Leo and Diane	0N118.036X	\$ 1,778.77
	Pattullo, Christopher	00058.028X	\$ 71.84
	Robitaille, Jacques	0N118.095X	\$ 906.71
TOTAL 2021 TAXES			\$ 7,640.12
2022 TAXES			
	Anderson, Terje	00011.098X	\$ 1,532.81
	Banks, Sandra	00010.012X	\$ 1,492.34
	Boissoneault, Joshua and Christina	00020.015X	\$ 216.94
1	Bulger, Henry, Helen and Charles	00012.085X	\$ 371.01
	Camire, Alex	0N118.052A	\$ 6.22
	Cordeau, Anne	00303.003X	\$ 2,787.78
	Cota, Marty, Dana and James	00018.024X	\$ 1,665.06
	Ducolon, Stacey	00011.036X	\$ 2,835.34
1	Farabee, Lisa and Koloshey, John	00012.002X	\$ 2,592.95
2	Fleming, Danielle	00012.139X	\$ 1,888.23
	Gendron, Nicole	00011.052A	\$ 346.14
1	Gomel, Abe	00036.012X	\$ 1,444.67
	Green, Justin and Botnaru, Mark	00019.009X	\$ 2,839.60
	Green, Justin	0N118.056X	\$ 1,672.67
	Johnson, Kyle	00242.117X	\$ 1,106.12
3	Lareau, Matthew	00012.006B	\$ 1,467.47
	Leach, Nancy	00012.048Z	\$ 1,361.76
	Manchester, Stewart	00001.044X	\$ 4,249.04
3	Manosh, Roland	00058.007X	\$ 588.65
	Manosh, Roland Estate c/o Terry Carney	0S118.178X	\$ 727.52
	Marshall, Henry and Sherry	00020.046X	\$ 1,201.90
3	Marshall, Jared	00006.026X	\$ 2,350.45
3	Mills, Leo and Diane	0N 118.036X	\$ 1,656.43
	Morrell, Robert and Sandra	0S118.175A	\$ 1,901.57
	Morrison, Duncan	00036.002X	\$ 7,422.34
1	Nadeau, Evelyn	0S118.171X	\$ 152.26
	Nalette, Sean	00028.019X	\$ 1,187.65
	New England Waste	0N118.101X	\$ 207.27
2	Nichols, Jeffrey	00001.045X	\$ 818.72
1	Nolan, Christopher and Erin	0N118.184X	\$ 9,078.43
2	Orndorff, James	00020.017X	\$ 1,218.75
	Ostrowski, Marcin	00043.003X	\$ 2,611.60
1	Paldino, Patrick	00020.022X	\$ 105.89
	Pattullo, Christopher	00058.028X	\$ 947.22
	Pudvah, Kathy	00001.011X	\$ 996.89
	Robitaille, James	0N118.093X	\$ 5,574.22
1	Sutlief, Ivan	0N118.125X	\$ 375.61
	Sweet Properties	00012.108X	\$ 2,868.62
	Sylvester, Margaret	00011.050X	\$ 1,017.42
2	Toucan Hospitality	00242.109X	\$ 6,178.72
1	Triflette, John	00011.005X	\$ 1,492.34
1	Tudryn, Joseph and Keegan Francine	00A18.007X	\$ 2,955.68
1	Core Logic	00303.021X	\$ 2,351.48
1	Wilson, Peter and Michelle	00019.037X	\$ 1,724.49
1	Williams, Harold and Cheryl	00050.004X	\$ 441.17
1	Worthington, Cleve and Becky	00028.063X	\$ 139.21
1	Wynn, Ricky	00030.062X	\$ 1,552.45
TOTAL 2022 TAXES			\$ 89,721.10
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES as of DECEMBER 31, 2022			\$ 99,821.52
1 - Paid in full between January 1 and February 9, 2023			
2 - Partial paid between January 1 and February 9, 2023			
3 - Tax Sale scheduled for March 2, 2023			

Montgomery Fire Department

State of The Fire Department 2022

In 2022 Montgomery Fire and First Response teams responded to a total of 62 calls. For the first time in nine years our call volume has decreased! After seeing the call volume only increase over the years this was a welcome break for our first responders and great news for our community. We are happy to announce that we have been chosen to receive a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$74,061 to cover 95% of the purchase cost of ten new SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) Airpacks! Our current SCBA's are second hand, acquired from Hyde Park FD years ago, and have expired. These SCBA's will help us to better serve our community safely and effectively!

In October we visited Montgomery Elementary School for our National Fire Prevention week in person after being unable to visit for three years. The kids enthusiastically participated in fire prevention week and our team members couldn't be more proud to serve and educate them about fire safety. The theme for this year was "Fire won't wait-plan your escape!" with each child sent home with homework for their parents and Home Fire Escape Plan worksheets.

The 4th of July brought out the whole community for the parade and music once again. The Department sold out with 400 chicken dinners making for a very successful chicken BBQ! Thank you to everyone who loves our chicken!

Montgomery Fire and First Response still maintains a roster of seventeen members who are ready to serve our community in times of need. Community members interested in joining the Fire Dept please contact Chief Kopacz. We would like to remind everyone to keep your chimney pipes cleaned and never burn paper, trash, or cardboard. Have your heating appliances inspected and keep CO/Smoke Alarms in tip top shape!

Thank you,

Doug Kopacz, Chief Montgomery Fire Department

mfdvermont@gmail.com

Total Call Response:

Fire- 4	Motor Vehicle Fire-0
Motor Vehicle Collision-16	Wildland Fire-4
Alarms- 5	Gas Leaks- 3
Search & Rescue- 0	Medical/Agency Assist- 30

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - FY2024 BUDGET

FIRE DEPARTMENT

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget
<u>Revenue</u>	FY2021	FY2022	FY2022	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024
Town of Montgomery	47,471	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000
Town of Westfield	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Donations/Fundraisers	4,963	4,000	1,235	4,000	5,904	4,000
Grants	0	0	0			
Sale of Equipment	7500	0	0			
Insurance Proceeds	0	0	0		0	
Use of Reserve Funds	0	0	0		0	
Total Revenue	63,934	42,000	39,235	42,000	43,904	42,000
<u>Expenses</u>						
Payroll	3,900	4000	1,200	4000	0	4000
Social Security	298	300	92	300	0	300
Office supplies	0	250	35	250	0	250
Training	234	1,250	1,305	1,250	360	1,250
Telephone	577	400	382	400	186	400
Association Dues	465	500	397	500	0	500
Dispatch Fees	14,728	14,364	14,596	14,364	14,405	14,364
New Equipment	15,277	10,000	3,335	10,000	1,360	10,000
Vehicle Repairs	3,791	2,000	602	2,000	0	2,000
Vehicle Fuel	104	500	23	500	0	500
Radio Repair	438	936	0	936	0	936
Building Maintenance	561	500	371	500	744	500
Equipment Replacement	6,010	0	4,404	0	1,593	0
Miscellaneous	507	1,000	1,178	1,000	707	1,000
Fundraising Expense	1,548	2,000	1,667	2,000	1,801	2,000
Dry Hydrant Reserve	6,000	4000	4,000	4000	4,000	4000
Truck Down Payment	10,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	64,439	42,000	33,586	42,000	25,156	42,000

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance:

Reserve	52,159	
Dry Hydrant	10,000	
Capital Improvement	0	
		62,159

YTD FY23 Balance:

Beginning Reserve	52,159	
Revenue-Expenses	18,748	
Current Reserve	70,907	
Dry Hydrant	14,000	
Capital Improvement	0	
Ending Fund Balance		84,907



"Praise Recreation!" – Jim Abbott

Letter from the Rec Committee

January 30, 2023

During my 8 year rec career here in Montgomery, it has never been more obvious that the citizens of the town of Montgomery place a high value on their parks and recreation facilities and programs. They recognize the importance of these services as a major contributor to property values, mental and physical health, and to the quality of life of the community and greater Northeast Kingdom and Champlain valley regions.

In 2023, the Recreation department volunteers will continue to update the Parks & Recreation facilities and services. We intend to also help meet the needs of the current and future residents by positioning the town to build on the community's unique parks and recreation assets as well as identify new opportunities for people of all ages.

Planning is vital to the continued success of providing recreational opportunities. Our priority is to always engage people to help ensure that the right actions are taken for the right reasons at the right time. Public participation is a fundamental part of this effort and we want to encourage any and all community members to attend a meeting or share with any board members any ideas or thoughts anyone may have.

As we kickoff another year, we hope the start of 2023 offers all our residents, members, and guests plenty of opportunities for getting healthy, finding a new passion, and getting involved in this wonderful community.

Enjoy our next round of Programs, Activities, and Events.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

-B

Respectfully submitted by the voting members of the Recreation Department Board:

Nelson Mayhew

Peg Doheny

Lisa Perry

Tiffany Jones

Marsha Phillips

Journey Johnston

Brendan O'Shea

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - FY2024 BUDGET

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget
Revenue	FY2021	FY2022	FY2022	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024
Town of Montgomery	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	22,700
Projected Activities		0	0	0	0	
Donations/Fundraisers/Rentals	38,550	1,500	93	1,500	0	0
Summer Sessions	6070	8,500	12,450	8,500	1,558	8,500
Arts For the Parks	0	4,000	0	4,000	9,269	7,500
Grants	3,951	4,000	0	2,000	0	0
Use of Reserve / Misc	75	10,150	200	8,800	735	7,600
Guidebook	1010	500	1335.23	500	518.15	500
Total Revenue	79,656	38,650	24,078	45,300	32,081	46,800
Expenses						
Payroll	0	8,500	0	0	0	0
Payroll Taxes	0	650	0	0	0	0
Office & Postage	0	50	0	50	9.14	50
Telephone & Internet	1,926	950	1,140	1,200	493	1,200
Electricity	1,057	1,000	885	1,000	439	1,000
Heating Fuel	717	1,000	752	1,000	163	750
Water	540	450	374	400	90	400
Equipment	3574	350	2994.47	350	2101.84	2100
Building Maintenance	4065	5000	5364.76	2000	1565.53	2000
Port-o-lets	1,489	1,200	1,373	1,200	1,335	1,500
Rubbish Removal	894	700	675	700	300	700
Grounds Maintenance	1,331	800	13,804	1,300	5,491	3,000
Tennis Maintenance	0	600	550	600	0	1000
Lawn Care	4,915	5,000	5,840	6,000	0	6,000
Activities	0	500	250	500	0	500
Daycamp	7,118	500	325	7,600	137	7,600
Summer Sessions	2,099	8,500	5,099	8,500	4,058	8,500
Fundraising Exp	0	500	0	500	226.22	500
Capital Improvements/Ctr	0	1,000	0	8,500	0	10,000
Capital Improv/Riverwalk	4,080	1,000	277	3,500	0	0
Miscellaneous	2833	400	1097.37	400	0	0
Guidebook Reimbursement	0	0	2982.34	0	0	0
Total Expenses	36,638	38,650	43,782	45,300	16,408	46,800

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance:	Capital Improvement	23,130	
	Reserve	42,732	
	Beginning Balance		65,862
YTD FY23 Balance:			
	Beginning Reserve	42,732	
	Revenue-Expenses	15,673	
	Current Reserve	58,405	
	Capital Improvement	23,130	
	Ending Fund Balance		81,535



Montgomery Town Library

86 Mountain Road - P.O. Box 448

Montgomery Ctr., VT 05471

(802) 326-3113 montgomery.librarian@gmail.com

<https://www.montgomerytownlibrary.com>

January 30, 2023

The Montgomery Town Library is a public library – open to everyone, at no charge. The collection of books and DVDs are carefully selected and reflect the philosophy inherent in Article I of the *Library Bill of Rights*: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." A diverse collection should contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences. In other words, there is something for everyone!

The 1900 Annual Report of the Town Library lists the purchase of 32 books at a cost of \$22.59, bringing the total number of the collection to 337; the circulation for the year was ±1,200. We've come a long way from that time – our total collection stands now at 10,095 books and 1,352 DVDs; the circulation for fiscal year 2021-22 was 7,000 and for the first six months of fiscal 2022-23 it is already at 4,100 (representing 3,444 and 1,911 patron visits respectively). Every year more and more people make use of the Town Library.

However, this growing collection and meeting the requirements of increased circulation and programming necessitates an expansion of our current space. The firm of Michael Dugan Architect was contracted by the Building Renovation Committee and prepared a floor plan for the library that would double its size. This expansion will relieve the crowding of the current space and provide ADA compliant spacing of shelving, a larger area for the children's section, a bathroom, more space for computers, storage closet and Library Director's office. Funding for this expansion will be met through various grants and the Library's reserve fund. While we're still in the very initial stages of this process, we hope to actively start applying for grants this year to get the ball rolling on this exciting venture.

The Library once again held its annual Silent Auction at Phineas Swann in their expanded barn – the 22 tables held many interesting and amazing items. We cannot thank Darren and Lynne Drevik and all the donors enough for helping us out with this event, creating the opportunity for a tremendous fundraising result – all to pay for the operating expenses of the library.

The operation of the library is not a one-person job and Marlene Hambleton, the Library Director, has been very effective in establishing a supportive group of volunteers – Marlene and the volunteers are the heart of the Library. Thank you!

The Eastman Foundation has been supporting the Library with a generous grant for many years – Thank You! The Library now has two charging stations for mobile phones, thanks to an addition ARPA Grant to public libraries.

Plans are already being developed for an active summer program for the children with additional activities for adults – there is always something going on!

The Board thanks the Town, volunteers, Friends of the Library and patrons for their continued support. If you don't have a library card yet, please stop in and check out what there is available – hope to see you soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees: Marijke Dollois, Claire Draper, Patty Hathaway, Rita Kalsmith, Patty Perl, Jane Presler,
Jennifer Wirth and Cheryl Wisell.

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - FY2024 BUDGET

LIBRARY

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenue						
Town support	31,404	20,936	20,936	20,936	20,936	23,399
Book sales	0	0	7	25	50	25
Late fees	22	50	62	40	0	40
Copier/Printer	69	100	187	100	158	125
Fund raising	7,595	5,000	8,481	5,000	774	4,800
Auction	6,371	8,000	9,921	9,000	13,132	10,000
Memorial gifts	575	0	100	0	0	0
Replacement/Lost items	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc. revenue	0	0	360	200	0	0
Grants	7,740	3,000	4,000	3,000	1,888	4,000
Reserve funds	0	0	0	0	0	1,750
Total Revenue	53,775	37,086	44,054	38,301	36,938	44,139
Expenses - Personnel						
Librarian wages	22,802	19,448	19,270	19,448	8,910	21,736
Janitor	0	0	0	0	0	0
FICA, Medi	1,744	1,488	1,474	1,488	682	1,663
Total Personnel	24,547	20,936	20,744	20,936	9,592	23,399
Expenses - Operating						
Book Supplies	786	600	795	600	398	800
Office Supplies	529	500	476	500	69	350
Fundraising Expenses	1,010	1,800	760	1,800	277	1,800
Postage	525	600	211	300	225	300
Shipping/Handling	0	75	43	65	0	65
Mileage Reimbursement	0	100	57	100	0	100
Telephone	242	500	267	500	212	500
Cleaning	0	750	750	750	750	750
Website Maintenance	0	225	455	450	50	200
Equipment	653	400	0	300	0	400
Equipment repair & maintenance	210	500	464	500	0	500
Furniture	967	400	3,456	300	172	300
Building Maintenance	53	200	207	500	710	500
Programming	880	1,700	3,166	1,700	1,133	1,700
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Education	0	200	0	0	0	0
Professional membership	1,332	750	1,177	1,200	1,251	1,250
Capital improvements	0	0	0	0	1,125	1,750
Subscriptions	332	150	0	150	150	175
Replacement	46	100	123	100	49	900
Miscellaneous	1,529	200	1,021	450	300	100
Grant Related Expenses	0	0	1,962	0	0	1,000
Movie streaming	542	600	386	900	249	450
	9,634	10,350	15,778	11,165	7,121	13,890
Books: Children	440	600	542	700	631	1,000
Books: Adult	4,143	4,000	4,296	4,000	2,497	4,000
Books: Young Adult	1,283	500	1,855	1,000	731	1,250
DVD's	715	700	1,056	500	516	600
Total Books and DVD's	6,581	5,800	7,749	6,200	4,375	6,850
Total - Operating Expenses	16,215	16,150	23,526	17,365	11,496	20,740
Total Expenses - Personnel & Operating	40,762	37,086	44,271	38,301	21,088	44,139

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance:

Reserve	32,306
Capitol Improvement	21,781
Beginning Balance	54,087

YTD FY23 Balance:

Beginning Reserve	32,306
Plus Revenues	36,938
Less Expenses	-21,088
Equals Current Reserve	48,157
Capitol Improvement	21,781
Ending Fund Balance	69,938

2022 Annual Report of the Montgomery Conservation Commission (MCC)

We are all so thankful for your community engagement, perspective conversations and unwavering support! Your interest and participation has been instrumental to the collective enrichment of our community. Also, thank you for your generosity. In 2022, the MCC raised \$1015.50 from donations, memberships, and the 'Annual' "Love Your Mum Sale" – Thank you Montgomery!

Here follows a brief summary of our activities and accomplishments during 2022:

- A 2nd Pick-up location for the Conservation District's Annual Tree Sale
- A feasibility report for a new Town Forest Trail with a mitigative and ecological approach to water quality and wildlife, funded by the UMATR Community Grant
- Emerald Ash Borer presentation by the Franklin County Forester, Nancy Patch
- Two Beekeeping and honey harvesting sessions with John Little and Lutz Saborowski
- Birding 101 on the Missisquoi Rail Trail with Annette Goyne and Todd Marlow
- An Earth Day highlight with our Library Director, Marlene Hambleton
- A 'Wildlife of the Watershed' presented by Southern VT Natural History for MES
- Worked with the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) for a Flood Modelling Grant at the Trout River, Black Falls Brook, and West Hill Brook confluence
- Gifted a 2022 MES Graduating Class memorial tree and plaque

You might have spotted us at the Montgomery Farmers Market this summer. This enabled us to have face-to-face discussions about our town's natural community, grow awareness about where to get natural resource support, as well as facilitate a Montgomery Natural Resource Inventory with your direct input.

In Spring 2022, we evaluated the Jewett Property Town Land (Town Water Supply parcel) as part of a wetland restoration and community land use site. To date, we have:

- Taken soil tests to identify nutrient/pH levels and assessed the seasonal high water table.
- Developed a planting plan for a four acre community fruit/nut orchard and applied for two grants to help purchase the trees; if funded, the MCC will be providing the required matching funds.
- Applied and received a UMATR River Community Grant for mechanically controlling the J. Knotweed encroachment into the field. This will allow time for native plants to continue establishing without invasive plant competition along the riparian portion of the field.
- Held on-site potential partner informational visits with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Vermont River Conservancy, FCNRCD, and our own local intuitive nature artist Cristin Kovacs.

The following projects are underway for 2023: continued Town Forest focus, development of a Montgomery Natural Resource Inventory, co-creating an Invasive Plant Management Plan, scoping sites for reflection benches for the community, and Jewett Property plan implementation.

The MCC appreciates input regarding programs, projects, and local insight to our natural community! We will strive to serve Montgomery and promote land as a community to which we belong with love and respect. Please sign-up to receive emails for dates and details: MontgomeryConservation@gmail.com; we are also on Facebook.

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - FY2024 BUDGET

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget
Revenue	FY2021	FY2022	FY2022	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024
Town of Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fundraisers	1,328	500	766	1,200	819	1,000
Membership	455	500	250	500	0	0
Grants/Bequests	76,459	0	0	0	1,125	4,000
Use of Reserve / Misc	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	78,242	1,000	1,016	1,700	1,944	5,000

Expenses

Event Guests & Speakers	349	250	1,305	500	0	700
Event Supplies	216	0	84	300	0	0
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fundraising Costs	122	150	598	200	575	800
Miscellaneous	643	500	532	600	4,462	500
Membership Fees	0	100	0	100	0	0
Grant Related Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	3,000
Transfer to CD	75,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	76,330	1,000	2,518	1,700	5,037	5,000

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance:		15,883	
			15,883
YTD FY23 Balance:	Beginning Reserve	15,883	
	Revenue-Expenses	-4,040	
	Ending Fund Balance		11,843

CD

Beginning Balance:		75,000	
			75,000
YTD FY23 Balance:	Beginning Balance	75,000	
	Interest	129	
	Ending CD Balance		75,129

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY - FY2024 BUDGET

WATER DEPARTMENT

	Actual FY2021	Budget FY2022	Actual FY2022	Budget FY2023	YTD FY2023	Budget FY2024
1 Water User Fees	128,580	70,000	73,645	70,000	41,202	73,000
2 Water Bond Fees	52,104	33,000	32,118	33,000	20,163	33,000
3 Water Service Fees	25	50	11	50	25	50
4 Interest Earned	44	25	24	25	83	80
5 Water-Delq Pen & Int	478	250	859	250	242	250
6 Water-Town Support	13,737	13,737	13,737	13,737	0	13,737
7 Miscellaneous	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
8 Total Revenues	195,967	117,062	120,394	117,062	61,715	120,117
9 Water-Town Stipend	9,000	9,000	9,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
10 Water Operations				23,150	8,100	12,900
11 Water Office Supplies	248	500	355	500	369	500
12 Water-Tech Equip/Support	167	1,500	712	1,500	300	1,000
13 Water-Training	18	0	617	500	0	500
14 Water-Electricity	11,490	7,000	7,773	7,000	4,855	7,800
15 Water-Mowing	1,655	1,750	2,297	1,750	756	2,500
16 Water-Propane	2,741	1,500	2,076	1,500	277	2,200
17 Water-Contracted Service	69,013	45,000	32,107	7,560	2,614	6,000
18 Water-Membership Dues	235	235	475	235	245	475
19 Water-Testing	1,410	1,200	851	1,200	735	1,200
20 Water-Tools	24	500	1,262	500	0	500
21 Water-Equipment	7,418	2,000	6,290	8,000	2,902	12,000
22 Water-Building Maint	45	2,500	112	2,500	175	1,500
23 Water Treatment Supplies	641	800	537	800	238	800
24 Water-Bond Payments	69,303	46,202	46,202	46,202	23,101	46,202
25 Water-VT Fees	1,350	800	1,750	1,000	524	1,750
26 Service Connection	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Water-Misc	1,673	1,500	2,186	1,500	453	1,500
28 Total Expenditures	176,432	121,987	114,602	113,397	53,644	107,327

12/31/22 Account Balances:

Water Checking	\$63,111.56
Water Money Market	\$79,953.71
Water Total	\$143,065.27

2023 BOARD OF LISTERS REPORT

Our 2022 equalization study showed that our **Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)** is at **86.05%** and our **Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)** at **20.73%**. The **CLA** provides a town-wide comparison of the total listed value to the State's estimate of total fair market value, and the ideal CLA is 100%. The **COD** is a measure of uniformity of appraisal for all properties in the Grand List. If a COD is above 20%, a reappraisal is warranted. 165 of Vermont's 254 municipalities now have CLAs or CODs that warrant a reappraisal, including Montgomery. Our last town-wide reappraisal was completed in 2014, and with the changes that occurred in the housing market in the past few years, it is not surprising that our assessed values are not as close to fair market value as is ideal. We had **92 transfers** again in 2022, as we have continued to see the increase in property sales that started in 2020.

The Board is looking for a vendor or appraiser to complete the town-wide reappraisal. There is a shortage across the state, and with the growing need of over half of Vermont's towns requiring a reappraisal, we are not sure when we will be able to start this process.

The Board decided to change vendors for our **town parcel maps**, as we felt that the company who bought Russell Graphics (our longtime vendor) did not offer as good a service as expected. We are now working with **Cartographic Technologies** out of Putney, VT and are pleased with their product and service. They have helped highlight some discrepancies to tighten up our mapping, and we now have an online parcel map viewer on the Town website. This viewer will make it easy for residents to look at parcels with Grand List information and even print maps from home.

Our Board **composition** changed this year, as **Lynda Cluba** has retired after serving on the Board for many years. She will be missed, both for her dedication and spirit as well as her vast knowledge of town properties and appraisal methods. Jamie Walsh was appointed to finish Lynda's term, and the Board welcomes his experience in the building trades.

It is also with a heavy heart that we lost **Kate Cummings** unexpectedly in December. In her short time on the Board, Kate brought enthusiasm and grace in her work and interactions. She served her community well, and she was a joy to work alongside. We are including her obituary that was published in the Rutland Herald next to our report here, in honor of our friend and colleague.

The **hours** for the Listers have also changed. We are now in the office on **Thursdays from 9am to 12pm** and are also available outside of these hours by appointment. Please call us **326-4719, ext. 204** or email us: montgomerylisters@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Montgomery Board of Listers
Genevieve Lodal-Guild, James Walsh



Kathleen D. Cummings

MONTGOMERY CENTER — Kathleen “Kate” Dempsey Cummings died unexpectedly on December 17, 2022, at her Montgomery Center, Vermont home from an undiagnosed illness. She was born June 5, 1976, in Gainesville, Florida to Brian P. Dempsey and Deborah A. Smith Dempsey. Kate graduated from Titusville High School in Titusville, Florida. She attended The University of Central Florida from 1996 to 1998 and graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 2000. She spent many years living in Boston and New York City before settling in Vermont. It was here Kate met and married her best friend and

fellow adventurer Rory Cummings. Kate found her true passion as a fierce advocate and devoted mother to Lila and recently Lantz. Always charismatic and full of energy, Kate managed two separate resorts in Vermont before founding her own property management company. Kate was a lifelong animal advocate and a foster parent to many dogs over the years; it was rare to see Kate without a happy pup in tow. Kate loved to travel and was always eagerly planning the next family trip to Puerto Rico, Florida, NYC or Boston. Kate is survived by her husband Rory Cummings and children Guinivere, Lila, and Lantz. She will be missed by many but especially her siblings, Brian Patrick (Brianna), William and Joseph Dempsey of Vermont, Grace “Avery” Euber of North Carolina, and stepsiblings Caitlin (Sam), Nathan and Eli Christiana of Vermont, as well as stepparents, Timothy Knowles and Jill and Thon Christiana, in-laws Pamela and George Rice, and grandmothers Jean Doughty and Donna Lewis of Florida and Mahrie Smith of Texas, aunts, uncles and cousins. Kate is predeceased by her mother and father and many well-loved relatives. In lieu of flowers, donations, if able, may be made in Kate’s memory to American Lab Rescue, Inc PO Box 215 Wilmington, CT 06279.

MONTGOMERY VILLAGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Financial Report 2022

Beginning Balance 1/1/22	CD's	0.00	
	Checking	24,712.76	
			24,712.76
RECEIPTS	Interest	26.82	
	Donations	0.00	
	Sale of Lots/Perpetual Care	0.00	
	Corner Post	0.00	
			26.82
EXPENSES	Lawn care	0.00	* Paid by Town
	Corner Posts	0.00	* Paid by Town
			24,739.58
Ending Balance 12/31/22	CD's	0.00	
	Checking	24,739.58	
			24,739.58
Respectfully Submitted,			
Erin Kopacz, Town Treasurer			

MONTGOMERY CENTER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Financial Report 2022

Beginning Balance 01/01/22	Checking	25,519.78	
	CD - 110	8,343.77	
	CD - 233	15,000.00	
	CD - 274	8,300.00	
	CD - 892	20,000.00	
	Charles Lumbra Fund	2,202.77	
			\$79,366.32
RECEIPTS	Interest Income	135.31	
	Donations		
	Lots Sold	1760	
			\$1,895.31
EXPENSES	Grounds Maintenance	5,985.00	
	Bank Service Charges		
			\$5,985.00
			\$75,276.63
Ending Balance 12/31/22	Checking	21,430.09	
	Checking Deposits in transit	0.00	
	CD - 110	8,343.77	
	CD - 233	15,000.00	
	CD - 274	8,300.00	
	CD - 892	20,000.00	
	Charles Lumbra Fund	2,202.77	
			\$75,276.63
Respectfully Submitted,			
Erin Kopacz, Town Treasurer			

JOHN L CLAPP ESTATE**Financial Report 2022**

Beginning Balance: 1/1/22	Community Bank Checking	<u>\$9,706.51</u>	\$9,706.51
Income:	Interest	<u>\$9.45</u>	<u>\$9.45</u>
Disbursements:	Care of Old Cemetery	\$1,296.00	
	Bank Service Charges	\$0.00	
	Office Supplies - Checks	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,296.00</u>
Ending Balance: 12/31/22	Community Bank Checking	<u>\$8,419.96</u>	<u>\$8,419.96</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Kopacz, Successor Trustee

HILL WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**Financial Report 2022**

Beginning Balance:	Checking - Jan. 1, 2022	\$2,264.65	
	Savings - Jan. 1, 2022	\$4,968.95	
	CD - Jan. 1, 2022	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	
		\$22,233.60	\$22,233.60
CD	Matured July, 2022	\$15,000.00	
	Withdrawal savings	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
	New CD Aug. 5, 2022	\$18,000.00	
	(Maturity Aug. 5, 2024)		
Income:	Donations	\$317.00	
	Lot Sales (2)	\$1,050.00	
	Town of Montgomery Support	\$200.00	
	Interest	<u>\$53.56</u>	
			\$1,620.56
Disbursements:	Maintenance - Mowing - \$100 x 11	-\$1,100.00	
	Corner Markers (2 sets)	-\$400.00	
	Grave Stone Repair	<u></u>	<u>-\$1,500.00</u>
			<u>\$22,354.16</u>
Ending Balance:	Checking - Dec. 30, 2022	\$2,384.47	
	Savings - Dec. 30, 2022	\$1,969.69	
	CD	<u>\$18,000.00</u>	
			<u>\$22,354.16</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Lumbra, Treasurer

HILL WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Report to the 2023 Montgomery Annual Town Meeting

Hill West Cemetery, located above West Hill Brook on West Hill Road, appears to date from about 1870, for the earliest date on a gravestone in the cemetery is 1871. It is located on town land, which was roughly doubled in size by a donation by Peter Watson in 1978. The current size of the cemetery is about 30,000 square feet, or about two-thirds of an acre.

As plot-holders refurbished the cemetery from the dereliction into which it had fallen by mid-century, the Hill West Cemetery Association was established to administer the cemetery on behalf of the town, and the Association has ably administered the cemetery since that time. It holds an annual meeting each summer, and the agendas and minutes of all meetings are posted on the town bulletin boards and website in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. In 2016 and 2017 the Association reviewed and revised its Bylaws and Rules, approving them at a Special Meeting in September 2017.

The 2022 Annual Association Meeting was scheduled for June 9 in the pavilion at the Montgomery Recreation Center, an outside venue chosen because of the coronavirus pandemic. Meeting in this public space emphasizes the Association's accountability to the Town of Montgomery on behalf of which it administers the cemetery.

While several cemetery officers and trustees attended, not enough association members attended to provide a quorum for an annual meeting, so the meeting was not held. Current officers are: President, Jeff Jewett; Vice President, Earl Lumbrá; Clerk, Titus L. Presler; Treasurer, Nancy Lumbrá. The trustees are: Wayne Jewett, Gary Jewett, Earl Lumbrá, Michael Jewett, Nancy Lumbrá, and Titus L. Presler.

The association has 38 member households. Each year two, three or four burials occur at the cemetery, so it is active. Officers and trustees are committed to encouraging members to become more engaged and to ensure that the 2023 Annual Meeting can be held with a quorum of members present.

Hill West Cemetery continues to have burial plots available, and it provides for cremains as well. Interested persons can contact Jeff Jewett at 802-782-5466.



Titus L. Presler
Clerk

2022 STATISTICS					
Town Clerk Report					
2022 Births			Registered Births:	12	
January	Henning	Daberer	Registered Deaths:	7	
January	Esme	Worthington	Registered Marriages	13	
March	Gaston	Purrier	2022 Deaths		
March	Bronwyn	Khan	February	Shawn	Glidden
April	Peyton	Philips	March	Therese	Demar
May	Levi	Carlisle	April	Anne	Voos
June	Zachary	Clark	August	Gregory	Berg
July	Quinn	Besette	August	Geraldine	Cota
July	Jeanella	Lawyer	December	Peter	Godfrey
July	Edgar	Stanley	December	Kathleen	Cummings
September	Sawyer	Nelson			
November	Eleanor	Kovacs			
2022 Marriages			2022 Marriages Continued...		
Travis Worthington	Whitney Mathews	May	Brenna-Lee Lanphear	Jacob Tobey	September
Haley Drake	Jason Fusco	June	Abby Trivento	Jeremiah Kane	October
Kaitlyn Ramsey	Andrew Beattie	June	Emily Richard	Elisha LeLong-Douglas	October
Cynthia Scott	Robert Townsend	June	Robert Hickey	Brooke McGraw	October
Ashley Pospisil	Andrew Correia	June	Jason Weitzen	Ping-Kwan Lai	December
Brianna Marshall	Kyle Billado	July			
Amy Rifenburgh	Luke Godfrey	August			
Monica Manning	Satchel Toole	September			
	Recorded Instruments	573			
	Properties Transferred	92			
	Fish & Wildlife Licenses	17			
	Dogs Licensed	267			
	Elections Reported	3			
	New Voters (1st time/Active Transfers)	71			

Annual Report of Zoning Permits and Compliance Letters Issues - 2022					
Zoning Permits					
Issue Date	Permit #	Name	Parcel ID	Address	Project Description
1/6/2022	ZP-01-22	Andre Labier	00029.008X	219 Rossier Rd	New Deck
2/3/2022	ZP-02-22	David Kittell	00012.152X	Hill West	New camp
3/17/2022	ZP-05-22	Michelle and Tracy Jollie	00028.021A	Regan Rd	New camp
3/10/2022	ZP-03-22	Paul Grenier	00011.048X	2355 West Hill Rd	Addition to SFR
3/17/2022	ZP-04-22	Tucker Windover	00006.038X	2299 Black Falls Rd	Replace SFR
3/24/2022	ZP-06-22	John Messier	00242.057X	1224 VT RT 242	New garage
5/12/2022	ZP-07-22	Michael Pratt and Christina Suarez			Addition to SFR
6/2/2022	ZP-08-22	Matt and Mary Tryhorne	0S118.031X	880 South Main	Addition to SFR
6/16/2022	ZP-09-22	Josh Howard	0S118.132X	2949 South Main St	
6/23/2022	ZP-10-22	Anthony Piscitelli and Barry Uihlein	0N118.177X	202 Dutchburn Rd	Addition to SFR
6/30/2022	ZP-11-22	Jason & Heather Haddick	00242.065X	180 Munn Rd	
7/21/2022	ZP-12-22	Roger and Mary Garceau	00008.001B	116 S Branch Ext	
7/21/2022	ZP-13-22	Matt and Mary Tryhorne	0S118.031X	880 South Main St	Addition to SFR
8/4/2022	ZP-14-22	Sarah and Matthew Silva	00006.045X	3056 Black Falls Rd	
9/1/2022	ZP-15-22	Viola Woodward and Barry East	0N118.124X	1935 North Main	Corrective Permit for Accessory Structure
10/6/2022	ZP-17-22	Todd Bowden	00303.035X	419 Highland Dr, Unit 77	Accessory structure (New garage)
10/20/2022	ZP-18-22	Joanne Bennett	00011.078X	2099 West Hill Rd	Subdivision to 2 lots; not completed
10/20/2022	ZP-19-22	Nicholas Iorio	000242.110X	3709 Mountain Rd	Replace sign
11/3/2022	ZP-20-22	Alexander Bazes	00015.002X	Sheldon Farm Rd	Accessory structure
12/12/2022	ZP-22-22	Shirley Carlson	00020.025X	662 Montgomery Heights	Corrective permit for sauna
Certification of Zoning Compliance Letters					
Issue Date	Certification Number	Name	Parcel ID	Address	
1/20/2022	CC-22-01	John Snider	00001.035X	946 Fuller Bridge Rd	
1/27/2022	CC-22-02	Julie and Matthew Rafuse	00036.022A	837 Rushford Valley Rd	
2/10/2022	CC-22-03	John and Joanne Rosploch	00242.091X	2796 Mountain Rd	

3/10/2022	CC-22-04	Dean Lumbra and Priscilla Stutz	00058.066X	2372 Hazens Notch Rd
3/21/2022	CC-22-05	Gadpaille	00301.001X	38 Mistletoe Lane
4/7/2022	CC-22-06	Mary Andes	00043.003A	South Brook Rd land
4/7/2022	CC-22-07	John and Teresa Meyer	ON118.058X	27 Mill House Lane
4/14/2022	CC-22-08	Bruce and Martina Eveland	00058.079X	3304 VT RT 58
5/12/2022	CC-22-09	Kathy Hager	00058.026X	381 Hazen's Notch Rd
5/12/2022	CC-22-10	Lisa Lague-Greco	00013.004X	215 Rockaway Road
5/26/2022	CC-22-11	Doris and James Smith	00A18.001X	164 Oberland Valley Rd
6/2/2022	CC-22-12	Cynthia and David Maibaum	00028.077X	4012 Regan Road
6/30/2022	CC-22-14	Sue Tillotson	ON118.048X	333 North Main St
6/30/2022	CC-22-13	Mirek Hubacek	00242.074B	73 Hannah Clark Brook
7/21/2022	CC-22-15	Matt and Mary Tryhorne	00005.013X	374 Green Mountain Rd
7/28/2022	CC-22-16	David and Mary Richardson	00033.044X	1389 Gibou Rd
8/4/2022	CC-22-17	Sueann Bennett	00012.123X	3348 Hill West Rd
9/1/2022	CC-22-18	Viola Woodward and Barry East	ON118.124X	1935 North Main
9/15/2022	CC-22-19	Marty Lumbra	00242.026X	211 Mountain Rd
9/22/2022	CC-22-20	Keri Lombardi-Poquette & Paul Poquette	00C18.004X	Lot 20 Oberland Valley Ext
10/11/2022	CC-22-21	Joanne Bennett	00011.078X	2099 West Hill Rd
10/20/2022	CC-22-22	Paul and Sheila Flowers	00011.004X	99 West Hill Rd
11/3/2022	CC-22-23	Nina Haddad	00019.068X	2869 Amidon Rd
12/8/2022	CC-22-24	Hedwig Bischof	00011.047X	65 Hemlock Mountain Dr
12/12/2022	CC-22-25	Shirley Carlson	00020.025X	662 Montgomery Heights

Submitted by Ellen Fox, Zoning Administrator 1/26/2022

HELPFUL TOWN INFORMATION

Tax Due Date: Second Friday In November

(Town Offices open until 4pm on Tax Due Date)

*****Postmarks are not accepted*****

*****Postdated Checks are not accepted*****

2020 State of Vermont Census: 1,184

Verified Voters: 860

FIRE, RESCUE & POLICE EMERGENCIES.....911

VERMONT STATE POLICE.....524-5993

NWSWD RECYCLING SITE.....524-5986

TOWN OFFICE.....326-4719

Fax.....326-5053

Clerk.....municipalclerkmontgomery@gmail.com

Treasurer.....montgomerytreasurer@gmail.com

TOWN WEBSITE.....www.montgomeryvt.us

TOWN LIBRARY.....326-3113

HIGHWAY GARAGE.....326-4418

LISTER'S OFFICE.....326-4719 Ext 204

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.....326-4719 Ext 205

Who Meets Where and When

Group	Day/Month	Time	Place
Budget Committee	Dec- Feb	As Needed	Public Safety Bldg
Cemetery Commissions	As needed	As Needed	Public Safety Bldg
Conservation Commission	First Wednesday	5:00pm	Public Safety Bldg
Development Review Bd	By Appointment	As Needed	Public Safety Bldg
Fire Department	Every Monday	6:00pm	Fire Station
Library Trustees	Second Monday	6:30pm	Library
Planning Commission	Second Tuesday	6:00pm	Public Safety Bldg
Recreation Board	First Monday	5:30pm	Rec Center
Selectboard/Water Comm	First & Third Monday	6:30pm	Public Safety Bldg

Town Offices, Fire Dept, Library, & Recycling site located at 86 Mountain Rd (Montgomery Center)

Town Highway Garage located at 1800 North Main St (Montgomery Village)

Available Payment Options

Water Bills, Taxes, and other Fees

In addition to regular in-office service and USPS mail options we offer multiple ways for you to pay your bills. Our hope is that these additional options will provide our residents and taxpayers with the highest level of flexibility and convenience.

E-Check OR Credit/Debit Cards

You may pay online via the “Residents” tab on our website! Use our new E-check feature or choose the Credit Card option. *(Fees apply: \$1.50 for E-check payment & 2.65% for credit card payments.)*

ACH Withdrawal from Checking or Savings

If you would prefer to have your Tax Payments and/or Water Payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account on the due date(s), you will find application forms on our website. ***Please note NEW ACH agreements MUST be submitted to our Treasurer prior to November 1st to meet the processing deadline. Canadian bank account holders must call our offices for special directions. Call 326-4719 Ext 209 with questions.***

Secure Drop-Box (non-cash transactions ONLY)

For those who need to drop off paperwork or would prefer to utilize checks or money orders but are not able to arrive during regular business hours, there is a secure Drop-Box mounted outside to the left of the main entrance to the Town Offices. *Please note on the Final Tax Due Date the Drop-box & our PO Box will be checked at 4:00pm at the close of business*. Tax Payments received after the 4:00 pm deadline on the final due date are considered delinquent and will be handled by the Delinquent Tax Collector.

Reminder: envelope postmarks & postdated checks are NOT accepted, please plan accordingly to be sure your mailed items have adequate time to make their way to our office to avoid fees and penalties.

Montgomery Town Offices
86 Mountain Road
PO Box 356
Montgomery Ctr VT 05471

Montgomery Town Office Hours:

Town Clerk:

Monday: 9:00 – 5:00
Tuesday: 9:00 – 3:00
Wednesday: 9:00 – 3:00
Thursday: 9:00 – 3:00
Friday: 9:00 – 1:00

Clerk: Elizabeth Reighley

municipalclerkmontgomery@gmail.com

Asst. Clerk: Genevieve Lodal-Guild

municipalassistantmontgomery@gmail.com

Town Treasurer:

By Appointment

Treasurer: Erin Kopacz

montgomerytreasurer@gmail.com

Zoning Administrator

Thursday: 9:00 – 12:00

Ellen Fox

montgomeryzoning@gmail.com

Town Lister's

Thursday: 9:00 – 12:00

montgomerylisters@gmail.com

***** In cases of inclement weather & School closings**

Offices may be delayed up to 1 hour /or closed depending on severity of road conditions***

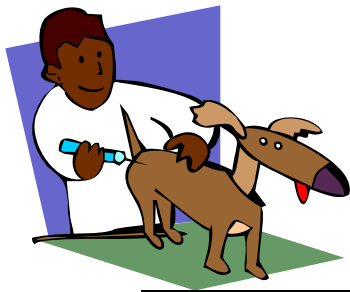
For urgent notices or closures

Check our Website: www.montgomeryvt.us

OR Follow our Facebook Group: Montgomery Bulletins

Phone: (802) 326-4719 |Elizabeth: Ext 202|Genevieve: Ext 201|Erin: Ext 209

Listers: Ext 204 |Zoning: Ext 205|Delinquent Taxes Ext 206



2023 Rabies Clinics

Local Clinic Days



Saturday, March 18th, 2023	Saturday, March 18th, 2023
*Montgomery Elementary: 12:00-12:45 PM **NEW LOCATION**	Berkshire Highway Garage: 10:30-11:00 PM

*Due to the fast-paced nature of Drive-Thru clinics we will not be offering on-site licensing. See below for information about licensing your dog(s).

Other Community Clinic Dates- Offered by: Tractor Supply-Pet Vet
St Albans, 2636 Highgate Rd. Saint Albans VT, 05478

Saturday, January 28th	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday, February 25th	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 25th	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday, April 22nd	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday, May 20th	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

STEPS TO LICENSING YOUR DOG WITH YOUR TOWN

- Dog Licenses are due annually by April 1st.**
- For any new dogs that have received their first rabies vaccination or are new to the area licensing must occur within 30 days of moving to Town/or getting the new dog.
- To obtain a license you must submit a current Rabies Certificate and Spay/Neuter Certificate (if applicable) along with the license fee(s). Fees can be paid via check, cash, or online with E-check or credit card.
 - \$9.00 for each spayed/neutered dog
 - \$13.00 for each intact dog
 - Licensing after the deadline will incur Late Fees: \$2.00 (fixed) or \$4.00 (intact)
- If your dog is already registered, you will receive a renewal notice in early February.
- Ways To obtain a NEW dog license or RENEW an existing one:**
 - Register in person at the Town Office during office hours.
 - Mail the Certificates & fee to our PO Box 356 Montgomery Ctr VT 05471.
 - Submit the Certificates & check for the fees into our outdoor Drop-Box.
 - E-Mail the Certificates & pay the fee online at our website: www.montgomeryvt.us (under the Residents menu select "Pay Taxes/Other" choose 'Town Office' and select 'Licenses-Dog' to begin filling in your information.) Registrations that are sent in via mail, drop-box, or online methods will receive the dog tags and licenses in the mail within 3-5 business days.

If you have a dog that no longer lives with you or has passed away, please contact our offices to let us know: 326-4719.



Rabies Clinics

Where:	When:	Time:
• Richford / Fire Station - In Building 2-4 at a time	3/18/23	9:00 - 10:00
• Berkshire / School - In Car	3/18/23	10:30 -11:00
• Montgomery / School - In Car	3/18/23	12:00 -12:45
• Fairfax / Town Garage - In Car	3/18/23	2:00 - 3:00
• Morrisville / Morrisville VFW - In Car	3/25/23	8:30 - 9:30
• Eden / Town Garage - In Car	3/25/23	10:15-11:15
• Hyde Park / Town Clerk's Office - In Car	3/25/23	12:00 - 1:00
• Albany / Town Clerk's Office - In Car	3/25/23	2:00 - 3:00
• Wolcott / Town Clerk's Office - In Car	3/25/23	3:30 - 4:30

Cost

For Dogs & Cats

Rabies Vaccine = \$20

Distemper Vaccine = \$40

If your dog or cat has been vaccinated in the past please bring a previous certificate with you.



Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee

2839 VT Route 105 East Berkshire, VT 05447

Tel: (802) 393.0076 E-mail: info@vtwsr.org Website: www.umatrwildandscenic.org

Dear Residents of Montgomery,

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee strives to protect, enhance, and encourage enjoyment of our beautiful rivers. Designated as Wild and Scenic in 2014, 46.1 miles of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery are protected. Our Committee is made up of residents from each of these 8 municipalities, as well as our great partners.

As we began our return to 'normal' this year, UMATR is proud to report on the many things we accomplished during 2022. We were able to provide 14 fun events throughout our region, reaching ~260 participants. Several of these occurred in Montgomery, including a wonderful snowshoe event led by Nancy Patch along the Trout, and our annual swimming hole clean-up, where we removed a truckload of trash from several of the wonderful swimming holes that we enjoyed all summer.

During 2022, we also supported 11 great community-led grant projects in our region with \$54,374 in grant funds. We have enjoyed partnering with Montgomery for several projects, and we are glad to have supported the Montgomery Conservation Commission with their evaluation and research relating to the Town Forest; we look forward to seeing the Town continue to improve and utilize this parcel in new ways.

Watch for our upcoming events in 2023 – we'd love to see you out on one of our County Forester-led snowshoes, online at our virtual webinars, or at the Open House for our new office space in March. Visit our website (umatrwildandscenic.org) and join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with all our activities.

Respectfully submitted by your representatives to the UMATR Committee: Cynthia Scott and Keith Sampietro, and our Executive Director, Lindsey Wight. Please contact us with any questions or comments (info@vtwsr.org).

STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE



St. Albans Field Station
140 Fisher Pond Rd
St. Albans, VT 05478

January 3rd, 2023

On behalf of the Vermont State Police, St. Albans Barracks, we are providing our 2022 Annual Report. This report will provide you information regarding current staffing issues and detail the specialty services provided by the Troopers assigned to the St. Albans Barracks.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Vermont State Police is to individually and collectively serve and protect by providing the highest quality of professional law enforcement services. The mission of the Troopers assigned to the St Albans Barracks is to protect the citizens of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. By working together, we can educate, empower and foster trust within our community. We will strive to reduce crime and enforce the laws of our roadways through criminal investigations and aggressive motor vehicle enforcement.

Specialty Services Provided by Troopers assigned to the St Albans Barracks

In addition to their field primary responsibilities, many of the troopers assigned to the St Albans Barracks are members of special response teams that provide expert response capabilities in a variety of areas to address critical needs throughout Vermont.

The breakdown of these responses is as follows:

- 1 Trooper – Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- 4 Troopers – on the Tactical Services Unit (TSU)
- 6 Troopers – on the Critical Action Team (CAT)
- 1 Trooper – on the Search and Rescue Team (SAR)
- 1 Trooper – on the Bomb Squad (EOD)
- 3 Troopers – on the CLAN lab team
- 2 Troopers – on the Crash Reconstruction Team (CRT)
- 1 Trooper – on the Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU)

“Your Safety Is Our Business”

Annual Crime Statistics for the St. Albans Barracks:

Total Cases: 5556

Total Arrests: 353

Total Tickets Issued: 454

Total Warnings Issued: 1163

Fatal Accidents: 8

Total Burglaries Investigated: 37

Total DUI's: 81

Local Community Report: Montgomery

Total Cases: 138

Total Arrests: 5

Total DUI's: 1

Total Accidents – Property Damage: 9

Total Accidents – Injury: 1

Total Vandalisms: 0

Total Alarms: 13

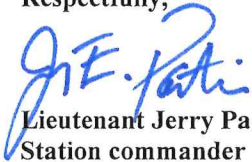
Total Burglaries: 1

Total Tickets: 0

Total Warnings: 10

We will continue to make our communities safer through enforcement, directed patrols, outreach and community programs. It is our privilege to serve the citizens of this community. Together, we will get through these challenging times.

Respectfully,


Lieutenant Jerry Partin
Station commander

Montgomery Cares For Our Seniors

Family style platters crowded the tables at the Public Safety Building as our Montgomery seniors helped themselves to Thanksgiving dinner with all the sides—warm homemade rolls, squash from the Community Garden, cranberry sauce, green bean salad with local donated beans. Our Montgomery Cares for Our Seniors has quickly become a celebration of neighbors, friendship and good food. Folks who rarely get out and see others are regulars and we've had to turn away seniors from other towns who've heard about the fun and food.

Nothing comes out of a box. It's all fresh, local and delicious. We've been serving up to 40 seniors every month since March 2022, except for two months when Covid forced us to cancel.

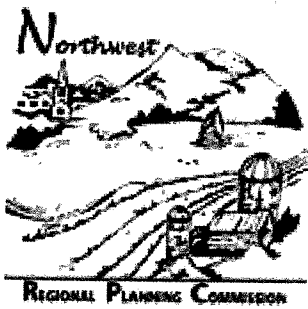
Sue Wilson chooses guest speakers who provide relevant and helpful information about health, safety and taxes. Our first roster of speakers included representatives from United HealthCare, Age Well Vermont, Montgomery Fire Department, Montgomery Historical Society, Montgomery Town Library and the Board of Listers.

Meals follow the seasons. Cold winter months feature hearty broccoli cheddar, corn chowder and beef barley soups from Parma's farmhouse kitchen. Summer's menus offered ham and potato salads, tortellini salad and always wonderful desserts. Fall sees the return of hot meals that reflect the bounty and generosity of local farmers and gardeners happy to participate in this one of a kind program.

Right from the start, Montgomery's open hearts have been evident in the generous donations of meat, produce and raffle prizes that included grocery gift certificates, warm fleece throw blankets, and amazing chocolate cheesecake.

Montgomery Cares for Our Seniors is supported by donations and we are ever grateful for the funding that is given by seniors, their families and neighbors. We look forward to continuing this wonderful monthly meal in 2023 and extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who makes our tables beautiful, welcoming, nourishing and delicious.

Sue Wilson
Lynda Cluba
Parma Jewett



NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Town Report, 2022 - Montgomery

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

2022 MONTGOMERY TOWN PROJECTS

- Provided planning and zoning technical assistance.
- Updated the locally adopted Emergency Management Plan that will help the town respond to future disasters and assisted with FEMA funds for a past disaster declaration.
- Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects.
- Provided grant writing assistance for a Municipal Planning Grant application to conduct a town-wide Natural Resources Inventory.
- Served as project manager for VTrans grants for bank stabilization work along Longley Bridge Road and the streetscape project.
- Supported the Northwest Communications Union District, in which Montgomery is a founding member.
- Consulted with local officials and evaluated infrastructure projects that address water quality concerns and reviewed grant funding that could be used for project implementation.
- Provided grant administration for a Northern Borders Regional Commission grant for a wastewater system.
- Completed a Municipal Planning Grant application to update the Montgomery Town Plan.
- Collaborated with the Montgomery Planning Commission to modernize Montgomery's zoning bylaws to allow for increased housing choice and affordability funded by a Bylaw Modernization consortium grant.
- Purchased produce from one farm business to support the Northwest Farmacy CSA in partnership with the NOTCH Richford Health Center.

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with maximizing local, state and federal COVID recovery and infrastructure funds, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance, water quality project implementation, local energy and climate planning, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. NRPC will help promote the Missisquoi and Lamoille Valley Rail Trails, support local farm and food businesses through its Healthy Roots Collaborative, assist the Northwest Communications Union District in expanding broadband access in the region, and coordinate Housing For All, a three-year housing development campaign. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

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

Montgomery Town Regional Commissioners - Leanne Barnard & vacant seat

Transportation Advisory Committee - Mark Brouillette

NRPC Projects & Programs

Municipal plan and bylaw updates, technical assistance for local permitting

Brownfields site assessments, clean-ups and redevelopment plans

Transportation planning, coordination and project development

Bike and pedestrian planning and project management

Emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and resilience

Energy conservation, renewable energy plans and projects

Watershed planning and stormwater project management

Regional plans for growth and development

Geographic Information System maps and data

Downtown and village revitalization and community development

Grant writing and administration

Associated Projects & Programs Managed by NRPC

Healthy Roots Collaborative

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation, Inc.

Clean Water Service Provider: Missisquoi and Lamoille River Basins

Address: 75 Fairfield Street,
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 524-5958

Fax: (802) 527-2948

Website: www.nrpcvt.com



January 6, 2023

Town of Montgomery
P.O. Box 356
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

Dear Montgomery Selectboard members and Residents of Montgomery,

This year, the Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA) celebrated 25 years working to protect and improve water quality! As a non-profit organization, it is thanks to our volunteers – which include school groups, teachers, paddlers, and farmers, to name just a few – that we succeed in our mission to identify and address issues that affect water quality in the Missisquoi River and its tributaries.

MRBA Projects and Programs:

Ecological restoration, streambank stabilization, and river clean-up efforts: During 2022, as in most years, MRBA volunteers assisted with tree plantings (an additional 1300 trees were planted along streams and the river during 2022!), helped pull trash from our riverbanks (including from 2.5 miles of the Trout), and assisted with our continued study of non-chemical ways to combat Japanese knotweed.

Water quality sampling: MRBA staff and volunteers collected water quality samples from 10 locations within our watershed during 2022; this includes 1 site in Montgomery, assessing the health of Hannah Clark Brook (one of our favorite spots to visit on our biweekly circuit).

Assisting farmers and landowners: In addition to implementing projects (tree plantings, bank stabilizations, water bars, combating invasive species), we also conducted several site assessments this year. These are designed to help landowners understand what water may be doing on their property, and some ways to mitigate or improve their relationship with runoff.

Educational programs: We love providing hands-on educational opportunities to students through our watershed model, rainfall simulator, and Bugworks program. In 2022, we were pleased to help bring back Lake Lessons, a half-day water-focused field trip for area 4th graders; we also are assisting in a year-long educational experience, called Winds, Waves, and Variables, for MES and several other of our watershed schools.

We respectfully request the Town's support of MRBA through a \$600 donation so that we may continue to serve our community with these programs. Your appropriation will help us continue to provide programs, assist landowners, and will help us grow our team so that we may better serve our watershed towns.

Your support of our organization in past years is so greatly appreciated and the funds have been put to good use. We thank you very much for your consideration of our 2023 request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Little'.

John Little, MRBA President

Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA)

2839 VT Route 105 East Berkshire, VT 05447

Tel: (802) 393-0076 E-mail: lindsey@mrbavt.com Website: www.mrbavt.com

GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, 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 again for Green Up Day 2023.

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

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for your support of 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 anytime 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



Montgomery FY22 Annual Report

Who We Are

GMT is the public transportation provider for the northwest and central regions of Vermont, offering a variety of services to the communities in which we serve. GMT is proud to offer traditional public transportation services like commuter, deviated fixed routes and demand response shuttles, while providing individualized services such as shopping and health care shuttles, Medicaid, Elderly and Disabled services to both urban and rural communities.

Our Services

Elderly/Disabled/Medicaid Individual Service

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

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

FY22, Town of Montgomery Residents Served by Elderly & Disabled/Medicaid Service

- 36 Total Trips Provided

General Public Transportation Service

GMT provides the Franklin Grand Isle region with traditional public transportation service through deviated fixed route, commuter routes, weekly shopping shuttle and direct regional connections to Chittenden County. These services directly support regional economic development, individual savings and environmental stewardship. Current routes for the region include:

- St. Albans LINK Express
- St. Albans Shuttle
- Alburgh-Georgia Commuter
- Richford-St. Albans Commuter
- Price Chopper Shopping Shuttle

GMT Volunteer Driver Program

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

Thank You

Thank you to Montgomery taxpayers and officials for your continued financial support of GMT's public transportation service and for your commitment to efficient transportation solutions.

Information

Please feel free to contact Jamie Smith, Director of Planning and Marketing with questions or to request additional information on GMT services at 802-540-1098 or jamie@RideGMT.com

101 Queen City Park Road, Burlington, VT 05401 | T: 802-864-2282 F: 802-864-5564

6088 VT Route 12, Berlin, VT 05602 | T: 802-223-7287 F: 802-223-6236

375 Lake Road, Suite 5, St. Albans, VT 05478 | T: 802-527-2181 F: 802-527-5302



FCIDC Annual Report for 2022

The Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC) was created in 1971 in an effort to grow the economy and job opportunities. Over the 50 plus years, with the help of all of our communities and partners, FCIDC has been successful in both of those areas. As I share with folks on a regular basis, there are hundreds of rural counties across our country that would trade places with Franklin County in a heartbeat. Our county continues to grow in population, job creation, capital investment and we have seen a rise in household income levels. Milk prices continue to increase for our dairy community, this is very important so that our farmers can cover the increases that they have seen in fuel, feed and other overhead expenses.

At the beginning of 2022 FCIDC embarked on creating an organizational strategic plan, "The Next 50 Years". We assembled 10 community panels focused on a variety of topics such as education, health care, manufacturing, millennials, recreation and tourism among others. In addition to the panels the FCIDC Directors participated in a Board retreat. One of the decisions coming out of those discussions was the need to assist our communities with projects that they might be working on; projects that would improve their villages/downtowns and improve their quality of life. In addition to the community focus we will continue to work with industries to attract new businesses and grow jobs. The new FCIDC mission statement that rose from our discussions is: *FCIDC is a catalyst for regional economic progress through a community approach.* The strategic plan can be found at WWW.fcidc.com.

During the month of May of 2022 and after a lengthy period of due diligence, FCIDC purchased the Perley Block located at 366 Main St. in Enosburg, VT. The original Perley Block was constructed in 1883 only to have burned down in February of 1908. It did not take the community long to re-construct the building and it was opened on February 3rd, 1909; almost one year after the fire. The retail portion of the building was last occupied some 7 years ago when the Enosburg Pharmacy operated on the site. There have always been apartments on the second floor. FCIDC has converted the existing first floor into two retail spaces and 3500 sq ft of office space. In addition to the first floor uses we have 8 apartments on the second floor. Attached to the back of the building was a cold storage warehouse and we will be converting that space to offices and conference room on the first floor and hopefully apartments on the second floor. The FCIDC cost of this investment will be \$1.4 million.

The Perley Block project, along with our work with Richford on hiring a Town Administrator, FCIDC support of water and sewer projects in Highgate and Montgomery and assisting with the engineering plans for the Abenaki Food Shelf in Swanton goes directly to our new mission that came out of our recent Strategic Plan. In addition to these plans in prior years FCIDC has invested in Swanton, Bakersfield, Enosburg and St. Albans Town.

Respectfully submitted by

Timothy J. Smith,
FCIDC Executive Director

P.O. Box 1099

St. Albans, Vermont
05478-1099

(802) 524-2194

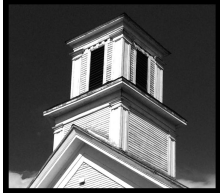
Fax: (802) 524-6793

E-mail: info@fcidc.com
tim@fcidc.com
Web Site: fcidc.com

Montgomery Community Gardens

The community gardens have continued to thrive with many loyal members helping in any way they can. Again this year an abundance of produce was grown. Many of our members share the extra with family and friends. Also again this year surplus vegetables were placed in front of the village post office for community members to take home.

There will be a couple of open lots available this year to rent. If interested please contact Remi Gratton or Parma Jewett. Members are very caring, always willing to share knowledge and willing to help in any way they can.



MONTGOMERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PO Box 137, #2 Mountain Road

Montgomery Center, VT 05471

www.montgomerycenterforthearts.com

Town of Montgomery Selectboard
P.O. Box 356
Montgomery Center, Vermont 05471

Dear Selectboard:

As 2022 draws to a close we want to thank each and every one of you for the outpouring of love and support you have shown to Montgomery Center for the Arts this past year and years of the past. As is often the case in everyday life, certain events and situations surprise us and take our breath away. These events invite us to reflect on how they'll change us.

Unfortunately Covid 19 is still with us and continues to force us to temporarily close our doors to the general public for the winter of 2023. The pandemic has presented so many challenges and difficulties for all aspects of society. At The MCA these challenges - financial, emotional and physical- require that we take extraordinary efforts to provide people with access to the arts .

During this time we are working diligently to see how we can take the MCA into the future. We are moving forward with our building restorations, our 14 restored windows should be arriving and reinstalled by late spring. We are busy planning our new 2023 season and also creating a fundraising art auction which will support our building restoration plans.

After reopening our doors in the summer of 2022 we had a fairly eventful year, from weekly community meditation, adult ballet classes, and ecstatic dance. We hosted 5 art shows, two book signings by local authors and illustrators, two student art shows from Montgomery Elementary School in May and November. This years art shows focused on community artist from Nature Artist Cristin Kovacs, Quilter Beth Burgess, Photographer Jennifer Domina-Cox, Watercolor Artist Avery Ellis, Quilter Caroline Babcock and Painter Harold Babock

Keeping a building running and all snug and tight is not an easy job in these covid times. We all know as homeowners how difficult it is to make ends meet too. We are lucky we have community members who have stepped up to the plate to help support some of our needs. We have had a variety of maintenance issues this year: from cleaning out and purging the shed and the main building, filling up multiple dumpsters to plumbing issues. Securing a donation from Sticks and Stuff last winter for 6 large tarps to be used as window draperies have helped reduce draft and keep the heat in. They are now hung ,and huge thank you to the many community volunteers and their expertise.

We are committed to not just remain a community resource but also a thriving organization. There are many issues and obstacles ahead for our community and ourselves so we would like to be here when the dust settles and have a clear vision of the future.

We want to thank all of you for all your support, if it wasn't for you we would not still be in operation. Each of you has something unique to offer to this organization. We all came together in 2016. It's been 6 years since the inception of The Montgomery Center for The Arts. Times have been hard these past three years, but we truly believe we will get through this.

Last year's grant of \$1,000.00 contributed to the MCA opening its doors again as a community arts institution. Our goal to host workshops, classes and art and wellness events that are accessible, thought provoking, and entertaining will continue. The Board continues to be determined that 2023 will achieve the same caliber of excellence as in the past. We have hosted a vast array of events-- all art and community based-- and we have learned many things. We have also begun to partner with local businesses, contributors and town organizations, who have been very amenable.

Funding the arts is essential to the preservation and illumination of our society. We need your help to continue our mission to cultivate programs that enrich our community. We are asking you to continue to build your art center with another grant of \$1,000.00 or more if possible.

Our board of local and long distance volunteers, will continue to listen to our community's needs while honoring the space we are striving to create.

With Gratitude and Respect,

The Montgomery Center for The Arts Board of Directors:

Melissa Haberman, M. Sebastian Araujo, Suzanne Dollois, Greta Quinton, Amie Koontz



agewellvt.org
Helpline: 1-800-642-5119
P 802-865-0360
F 802-865-0363
875 Roosevelt Hwy, Ste. 210
Colchester, VT 05446

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY REPORT

FY 2022 (10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022)

Last year, Age Well served 52 people from Montgomery, services included:



43 calls to the Helpline



78 hours of Care & Service Coordination



196 Meals on Wheels delivered
532 Congregate Meals served
24 Grab & Go meals served



24 hours of Options Counseling

1 Montgomery resident volunteered over 192 hours

IMPACT

1 YEAR of Meals on Wheels equals roughly the same cost as one day in a hospital.

89% say Meals on wheels makes them feel more safe and secure while at home.

93% say it helps maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

ABOUT AGE WELL

Age Well, formerly CVAA, are the leading experts and advocates for the aging population of Northwestern Vermont. We believe that health happens at home and focus on lifestyle, happiness and wellness—not on age. Since 1974, we have been part of Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging, coordinating services and care for Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

Committed to helping individuals age well, we reduce barriers by providing access to healthy meals, in-home care and community resources. Delivered by staff members and over 1,000 incredible volunteers, our sought-after services are designed to meet the diverse needs of our clients, their families and caregivers.

We do not charge for services provided. As a nonprofit, we rely on donations and encourage clients to contribute if they are able to do so.

MISSION: TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE THAT INSPIRES OUR COMMUNITY TO EMBRACE AGING WITH CONFIDENCE.

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District
2022 Supervisors' Report

The Northwest Solid Waste District's (NWSWD) mission is to help its residents reduce waste, recycle the waste it produces and reduce the toxicity of what ends up in the landfill. The result of this work shows in the amount of waste we diverted from the landfill this year. Some of our 2022 highlights include:

- NWSWD residents used our services and facilities almost 50,000 times!
- District operations diverted 1,565 tons of waste from the landfill!
- Our outreach program engaged over 300 businesses in the Northwest Vermont region.
- We collected almost 60 tons of hazardous material from 1696 households and small businesses through our Household Hazardous Waste program.
- Our composting programs collected over 700 tons of food scraps from businesses, institutions, and residents to be turned into compost.

NWSWD will hold a Bond Vote on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at your town's polling place. Voters will be asked to authorize the NWSWD to borrow up to \$1.5 million to finance the

District's cost of renovating the NWSWD Georgia Recycling Facility. The proposed improvements include: Construction of a new building for the collection and storage of household chemicals like paint, bleach, oil, and pesticides; Redesign of our traffic flow system with better unloading areas and additional parking; A 3000 square foot addition for the storage of baled recyclables. When our facility was built in 2007, we exclusively managed cardboard and paper, and served around 34,000 people. Today our programs serve over 54,000 residents and have expanded to include electronic waste, Household Hazardous Waste, plastic diversion, maple sap tubing, agricultural film, and many other waste streams. Considering the volume and variety of recyclable material we are now receiving, the limitations of the facility, including traffic flow patterns, now present safety challenges for staff and customers. These improvements will increase the number of residents that we can serve, improve the safety of our employees and customers, increase the amount of waste we are able to recycle, and improve the efficiency of our operations. Please support the NWSWD's vision for a better waste system in Franklin and Grand Isle

Counties and vote YES on March 7th. In 2022 the Drop-Off facility in Montgomery collected the following tonnage of materials from customers in Montgomery and nearby District towns:

MSW (Trash)= 98 tons

Recycling= 98.98 tons, as follows: Paper=12.28. Cardboard=31.54.

Containers=32.03 consisting of glass, metal cans, and plastic sent to Chittenden SWD for processing and marketing, Food Scraps= 7.99*, Metal=11 and Mattresses= 4.1

*Food scraps collected in Montgomery are shipped to the Hudak farm in Swanton for composting. Your Supervisor has been pushing the District to seek local alternatives. All NWSWD staff members are available through the District office at (802)524-5986 or info@nswsd.org. For more information about the District and our services, how to reduce and recycle your waste, or how to get involved, call District staff at the above number. You can also visit us on the web at www.nswsd.org, find us on Facebook, and sign-up for our email updates. More information can also be found in our newsletter available at your Town Meeting.

~John Leddy, Executive Director, and Barry Kade, Montgomery Supervisor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warning
FNESU Priorities
Continuous Improvement Plan
FNESU Programs.....
NMV UUSD Principals' Annual Reports
FY 24 Budget Report
Northern Mountain Valley UUSD FY24 General Fund Budget
FY23 Education Spending Per Pupil by Town
FY24 General Fund Budget Charts
Agency of Education Three Prior Years Comparison
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union FY24 General Fund Budget

WARNING
NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VALLEY UUSD ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 and Tuesday, March 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Northern Mountain Valley Unified Union School District, consisting of the Towns of Bakersfield, Berkshire, Montgomery, and Sheldon, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Sheldon Elementary School in Sheldon, Vermont, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 7:00pm, to transact the following business, viz:

Articles 3 through 6 will be voted on by Australian ballot in the respective polling places and times hereinafter named on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Clerk.

ARTICLE 3. To elect one (1) school director for a three-year term, ending March 2026, who resides in the Town of Bakersfield.

To elect one (1) school director for a three-year term, ending March 2026, who resides in the Town of Berkshire.

To elect one (1) school director for a three-year term, ending March 2026, who resides in the Town of Sheldon.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the District approve the school board to expend \$19,481,245, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters authorize the Board of School Directors to deposit \$243,824, half of the surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year, into the capital reserve fund?

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the District authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, pursuant to Title 16 V.S.A. 562(9)?

Polling Places and Times

Bakersfield Residents – Bakersfield Town Hall, polls open at 10:00am and close at 7:00pm.

Berkshire Residents – Berkshire Town Office, polls open at 10:00am and close at 7:00pm.

Montgomery Residents – Montgomery Grange Hall, polls open at 10:00am and close at 7:00pm.

Sheldon Residents – Sheldon Elementary School, polls open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm.

Adopted and approved at a special meeting of the Board of School Directors duly noticed, called, and held for that purpose on January 24, 2023.


Mary Niles, Chair

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joint Report of School Directors and Office of Superintendent of Schools 2022-2023

Dear FNESU Families and Community Members,

Since our school district consolidation in 2019, the FNESU board has been working to create an organizational mission, vision, goals, a strategic plan, and develop a Portrait of a Learner that represents the necessary skills and attributes we want all students to be proficient with by the time they graduate from our FNESU schools. The focus of our work has been on improving the systems in all our schools for the good of all our students. The work of the FNESU board and our leaders has been centered on educational equity and the important work of creating more equitable systems in all our schools. We are driven by the belief that “all means all” and that it is our collective responsibility to build a system where all students can come to school and feel safe and proud, experience a deep sense of belonging, and engage in rigorous and meaningful learning opportunities that result in positive outcomes for all learners.

The FNESU board has set three (3) goals to guide our work and direction. We are working to ensure that by 2027:

1. All students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade.
2. All students will complete high school by demonstrating proficiency in graduation requirements as reflected in their Personalized Learning Plan.
3. All students will demonstrate proficiency by the end of each grade level band on the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) priority standards.

In 2018, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 173, an act related to enhancing the “effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to all students who require additional support in Vermont’s schools.” This law is grounded in evidence-based best practice and supports the work we have been doing over the past five (5) years. The work includes coordinating our curriculum, developing a local comprehensive assessment plan, ensuring an effective Multi-Tiered System of Support, and providing needs-based professional learning.

Like many districts in the nation, we have identified significant achievement gaps in reading and mathematics. In FNESU our gaps are most prevalent in students with disabilities and students who are economically disadvantaged. Our board has set the expectations and the goals for the organization, and they monitor our growth regularly. We are committed to guaranteeing every student’s success by developing a culture focused on thre continuous improvement of teaching and learning. We are proud of this work and believe that we are on the road to improving outcomes for all our students and closing those achievement gaps. The report you are about to read gives you a comprehensive look at the work we are doing as an organization in support of our learners and our communities.

Our administrators, along with our school board members have worked collaboratively to develop school budgets that are responsible, sensitive to our tax payers, and focused on building the necessary systems, supports, and opportunities that all our students need to both succeed and thrive. The budgets you will be voting on in both the Northern Mountain Valley Unified Union School District, and the Enosburgh-Richford Unified Union School District are clearly aligned to the work we have been doing in FNESU.

It is my honor to serve as your superintendent. I am grateful for our dedicated staff, teachers, and leaders who work tirelessly every day to create safe and healthy learning environments in each of our schools where all our children can feel safe, happy, and challenged. Thank you to our School Board members whose service to our organization has set us on a path that will ensure the best for our students. Thank you families for entrusting your children to us and being our partners in their educational journey. Finally, I am especially grateful for our fantastic students. They are the reason we are all here and committed to doing this hard work.

Respectfully,
Lynn Cota, FNESU Superintendent

On behalf of the FNESU Board, I'm pleased to have the opportunity to share some thoughts about the critically important work we are doing to support our students across all six (6) towns. As we head into budget season, we are ever mindful of the awesome responsibility we have to be fiscally savvy and thoughtful in how we use precious resources. In collaboration with our dedicated administrators, teachers, and staff, we continue to center students and their success in all our goals and decision making. Every child has the ability to learn and thrive if the system is well resourced and attentive to the needs of ALL. Educational equity is a moral imperative. To this end, we are deeply committed to supporting all students, especially those furthest from opportunity, and using data to address performance gaps and educational disparities. When we ensure that all learners are able to access what they need to succeed in school and beyond, the entire learning community benefits. When we remove barriers to learning and cultivate culturally responsive, relevant social and academic environments, the system is more dynamic and everyone thrives. An equitable system supports the social, emotional, and intellectual needs of all learners inclusive of race, ethnicity, ability, socio-economics, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin, language, culture, and creed. An equity lens informs how we distribute resources and while equity doesn't always mean equal, we are committed to ensuring all our schools are well resourced and meeting the needs of all learners. The Board appreciates the opportunity to continue working with our communities to create an equitable and innovative educational system.

Respectfully,
Mary Niles, MS
FNESU Board Chair

Student Enrollment and Demographics

The Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union serves 1880 PK-12 students in the towns of: Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, Montgomery, Richford, and Sheldon. FNESU's demographic data represents the diverse population of students we serve. **Goals in FNESU are centered on ensuring high levels of learning for ALL students.**

District Enrollment Data

Enrollment as of October 1, 2022

School	PK-3	PK-4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Bakersfield	11	7	14	12	13	14	15	14	13	19	13	145
Berkshire	7	13	11	27	12	11	16	24	22	22	20	185
Montgomery	10	14	14	13	7	16	17	15	13	11	20	150
Sheldon	14	24	37	41	27	31	33	32	30	32	32	333

Enrollment as of October 1, 2021

School	PK-3	PK-4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Bakersfield	5	8	11	12	15	15	12	13	21	13	11	136
Berkshire	10	7	25	14	13	17	21	26	18	22	16	189
Montgomery	10	10	12	7	14	17	12	14	11	17	14	138
Sheldon	12	23	40	28	30	34	33	27	33	29	24	313

Supervisory Union Demographic Data

School	% Eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch	% IEP Eligible
Bakersfield	39%	13%
Berkshire	59%	14%
Montgomery	46%	12%
Sheldon	33%	17%
Richford Elementary	99%	17%
Richford Jr-Sr High School	79%	24%
Enosburg Elementary	69%	14%
Enosburg Middle	41%	20%
Enosburg High School	41%	12%

Student Demographic Data by the Numbers

Total Enrollment as of 10/1/22

1880

Economically
Disadvantaged

1068

Disabilities

321

Migrant
Farm
Family

11

Homeless

20

English
Learners

28

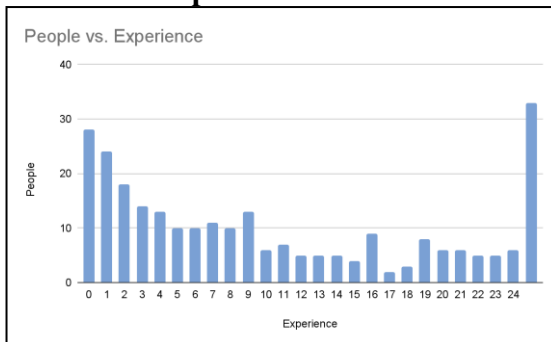
DCF
custody

10

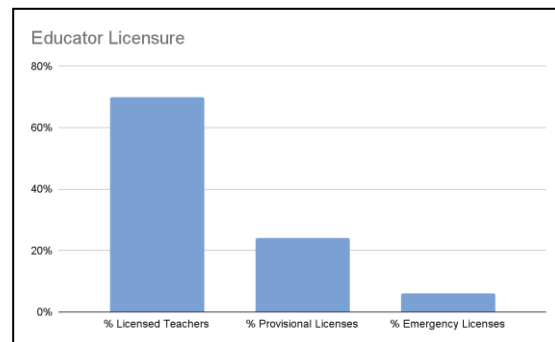
American Indian/Alaska Native,
Black/African American, Native
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander or
Multiracial.

113

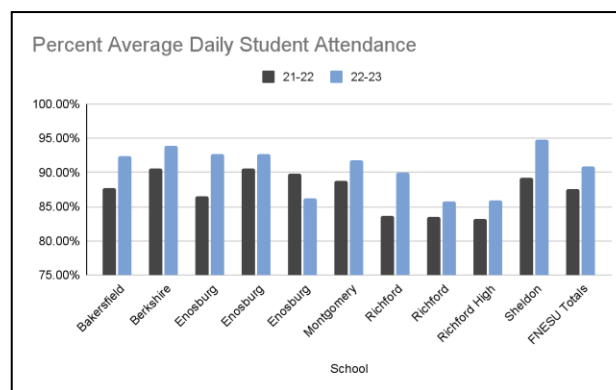
FNESU Experience Levels



FNESU Educator Licensure Data



Student Attendance Data



FNESU Priorities

Mission - Core Purpose: Schools in the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union provide equitable, inclusive, and personalized learning opportunities for all students. Student wellness and achievement is our collective priority and responsibility.

Vision - Image of the future: FNESU is a community where students want to learn, families want to live, and educators and staff want to teach and work. In FNESU, we work collaboratively with staff, students, and the community to achieve an equitable, responsive learning environment which prepares all students for lifelong success.

Educational Equity: The FNESU Board is working on developing a three (3) part equity statement that starts with the equity imperative, or the “why” behind the need to look at improving equity, a definition of educational equity, and our commitments to improving equity in our district.

- Educational Equity means that student success should not be predictable based on identity characteristics such as race, ethnicity, religion, family economics, class, geography, ability, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or initial proficiencies.
- High-quality, culturally responsive curriculum, programs, staff, extracurricular and support services for every student, every day.
- Equity may result in unequal distribution of resources and services.
- Intentional discovery, acknowledgement, and disruption of barriers and practices that create inequity.

FNESU is committed to dismantling barriers for those farthest from justice in our system by:

- Identifying and removing systems that reinforce inequities and create a mechanism to ensure we have adequate resources in the right places.
- Developing and retaining high quality teachers that are culturally diverse and a curriculum that is inclusive, culturally relevant, and historically accurate.
- Promoting a sense of belonging between students, parents, teachers, and community members by enacting antiracist/anti-bias practices and policies, and by providing opportunities for connection and communication.

Continuous Improvement Plan

Jody Vaillancourt, Director of Instruction and Learning
Michelle Irish, Director for the Advancement of Educational Equity

FNESU Board Goals

1. **By June of 2027, all students in FNESU will be reading on grade level by the end of Third grade.**

Importance of Early Literacy

Extensive research shows that reading proficiency rates by third grade are the best predictor of high school graduation. Effective reading requires two (2) overarching sets of skills: “code-based” and “meaning-based.” Code-based skills include the ability to map letters to their sounds and combining these sounds to read words. Meaning-based skills include understanding the meaning of text, speech, and vocabulary.

To be a competent reader, code-based skills are necessary, but not enough on their own. Students also need meaning-based skills to support reading comprehension and writing. Generally, code-based skills can be acquired by Third grade. These are acquired faster through direct and explicit instruction. Meaning-based skills, on the other hand, continuously develop from early childhood on. Developing these skills require more exposure to hearing and using language, and opportunities to build vocabulary through instruction and life experiences.

In addition, high quality children’s literature is essential in building literacy skills. Quality children’s literature also provides an avenue for students to learn about their own cultural heritage and the cultures of other people. Being read to and reading independently for as much time as possible every day is crucial to develop literacy skills, which in turn build the solid academic foundation needed for success in all content areas.

Steps taken in 2021-2022

In order to meet this goal, FNESU has:

- Purchased the structured literacy program Foundations for all K-3 classrooms.
- Provided professional development through the Stern Center for Language & Learning for effective implementation of Foundations for all K-3 teachers and principals in FNESU.
- Provided a week-long Reading Institute from the Teachers College Reading & Writing Project at Columbia focused on effective reading instruction for comprehension for all K-2 teachers, including incoming new teachers and principals.
- Purchased classroom libraries of high-quality children's literature for every K-8 classroom in FNESU.
- Purchased sets of high-quality decodable readers for every K-3 classroom in FNESU to support the acquisition of foundational reading skills.
- Purchased the Renaissance STAR Reading assessment for all students grades K-12 for screening and progress monitoring of reading achievement.
- Developed a regular progress monitoring plan in order to track reading achievement data by teachers, administrators, and school boards using multiple measures, such as STAR, Concepts About Print, Phonemic Awareness Skills Screener, SBAC, Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems, and curriculum-based measures.

2. By June of 2027, all students in FNESU will complete high school by demonstrating proficiency in graduation requirements as reflected in their Personalized Learning Plan.

Steps taken in 2021-2022

In order to meet this goal, FNESU has:

- Aligned FNESU priority standards and transferable skills to the characteristics of the Portrait of a Learner to create proficiency indicators.
- Engaged a group of educators and students in professional learning and the creation of tools to support the alignment and effectiveness of advisory systems throughout FNESU. This work is ongoing.
- Created an Adult-Youth Partnership with the support of Up for Learning to assist with the implementation of the FNESU Portrait of a Learner.
- Provided ongoing, job-embedded professional learning for all K-12 Unified Arts and 6-12 content teachers in Universal Design for Learning.
- Began the development of a bank of models of student work that demonstrates proficiency with the indicators of the Portrait of a Learner.
- Provided an intensive summer professional learning experience grounded in effective proficiency-based learning practices to develop teacher capacity across FNESU.

3. By June of 2027, all students in FNESU will demonstrate proficiency by the end of each grade level band on the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) priority standards.

Steps taken in 2021-2022

In order to meet this goal, FNESU has:

- Purchased the Zones of Regulation instructional resource for all K-12 teachers to help meet the needs of students for learning self-regulation strategies.
- Provided professional learning for all K-12 teachers to effectively implement Zones of Regulation.
- Purchased the Second Step digital curriculum tool for all schools with K-8 students.
- Finalized and adopted Social Emotional Learning priority standards for PK-12. Created learning scales and lesson targets for all standards.
- Created professional learning resources for all teachers and staff to learn and apply the principles of Social Emotional Learning and provided sustained time for this learning throughout the year.
- Purchased the SAEBRS SEL Screener and prepared for a pilot administration. In the future this tool will provide baseline and progress monitoring data that will help teachers target instruction to the learning needs of their students and track growth.



Social Emotional Learning

“At its core, SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.”

(<https://medium.com/social-emotional-learning/in-school-systems-around-the-world-theres-growing-appreciation-of-the-importance-of-social-and-fc797d8aa84>)

In the spring of 2022, the FNESU board adopted the SEL priority standards, and set a five (5) year goal that all students will demonstrate proficiency by the end of each grade band in those priority standards.

All FNESU faculty and administration are participating in Adult SEL Modules during each inservice and early release day in 2022-2023. The last session of the year will be a faculty dialogue to determine how they will engage in a coordinated approach to providing universal first instruction with students in 2023-2024, as well as generate ideas to engage families and the broader community in this learning.

Portrait of a Learner

The FNESU Portrait of a Learner represents our commitment to ensuring students demonstrate proficiency in the transferable skills and priority standards represented in the seven (7) characteristics: Financially Literate, Independent Decision Maker, Information Savvy, Creative Thinker, Contributor, Emotionally Intelligent and Trustworthy in order to graduate. The Portrait of a Learner work began in 2019 with a charge by the board to develop a set of proficiency-based graduation requirements. The board felt strongly that this work needed to be student led.



A team of 13 high school students representing all six (6) towns in our supervisory union collected data from state and local stakeholders by conducting interviews, collecting surveys, attending conferences and workshops. The students, working together with a facilitator, sorted and categorized hundreds of data points to distill the results of their research into these seven (7) characteristics. Just before the pandemic, a representative group of educators from around the district reviewed the work of the students and identified strengths and opportunities for growth for each of the characteristics. Although the pandemic has slowed the progress on this project, we have identified the

transferable skill and priority standard indicators for each of the characteristics and are working to develop the system for collecting evidence to demonstrate proficiency.

The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is the place where students and their team articulate the plan for how they will attain proficiency. For example, noting that they plan to attend college to pursue a science major and will take AP Science classes, or plan to enter the workforce and will use the Construction program at CHCC to create evidence for some of the indicators.

Performance Data

State Summative Assessments

As of this writing, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) math and literacy scores and the Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) scores from spring 2022 are still embargoed by the Vermont Agency of Education. This means that we may not publicly report them. When they are released, you will find them at <https://education.vermont.gov/data-and-reporting/educational-performance>

In October, we received news that the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is discontinuing the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) math and literacy assessment. They have selected Cognia as the new statewide summative assessment vendor. The AOE will be training district assessment coordinators in February, and we will communicate information about this new assessment as soon as we are able.

Fall 2022 Administration Baseline Early Literacy Data

Seventy Four percent (74%) of Kindergarten students in FNESU were proficient on the Concepts About Print reading readiness assessment. This is substantial growth over last year's 41% proficiency rate.

Grade One students were 38% proficient on the STAR Reading assessments.

Grade Two students were 46% proficient on the STAR Reading assessments.

Grade Three students were 32% proficient on the STAR Reading assessments.

We expect to see growth when students take this assessment again this winter and in the spring. Each school sets growth goals for their students and identifies specific action steps to help ensure this goal is met. With continuous growth each year, we will meet the early literacy goal set by the FNESU Board.

FNESU Programs

LEAPS After School and Summer Programs **A 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC)** **- Heather Moore, Director**

LEAPS Enrollment Numbers

School	School Year Enrollment	Summer Enrollment
Bakersfield	70	7
Berkshire	89	58
Montgomery	115	87
Sheldon	131	96

Last summer, LEAPS provided programming for nearly 500 youth, extending services to provide for 100 more youth than we served pre-pandemic. Campers played games, got messy, wrote stories, went kayaking, raced go-carts they made themselves, learned local history, and much more. Each camp had at least one field trip a week, often to state parks, and had guest presentations.



So far this school year, LEAPS has enrolled over 800 youth across all eight (8) sites. LEAPS staff have worked hard to create a single brochure template to simplify enrollment for families. Brochures include a section for feedback to help keep our program relevant and interesting to students. Each site offers between three and six activities per day, ranging from physical fitness, cooking, farm-to-school, art, foreign language, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Celebrations

In October, LEAPS received a peer review from the AOE Coordinator of 21st CCLC programming and other 21st CCLC Program Directors. The report praised the LEAPS After school and Summer Programs for its ability to maintain a large, vibrant program over the past three (3) school years and for the systems and support present in our programs.

LEAPS coordinators have been working hard to create new opportunities for youth in a variety of subjects. Some



activities to look forward to during the last half of the school year include musicals at both EFMHS and RJSHS, robotics programs, yearbook clubs, cheerleading, career exploration, and hunter's safety. Though all of our sites operate in person, many sites still offer virtual programming as a way of reaching more students in ways that work best for them. Students are always encouraged to share their experiences and help in program planning to improve our programs and their experiences.

Upcoming LEAPS Goals

LEAPS is working on three (3) major goals across all eight (8) sites:

1. Incorporate language programs in every after school program. The three (3) major languages include: American Sign Language, Spanish, and French. Some sites have developed classes that allow students to study any language of their choosing at their own pace.

2. Increasing our youth leadership opportunities through job mentorship, youth-led programming, and inviting more youth to participate in program planning.
3. LEAPS is working on more outreach and communication. This includes having an online presence for each site (either on the school website or Facebook page), creating a LEAPS logo, and finding new ways to connect families with the awesome experiences shared by LEAPS participants.

Family Engagement

Michelle Irish, Director for the Advancement of Educational Equity

Research shows that students whose families were involved in their education, regardless of their income or background, were more likely to:

- Regularly attend school.
- Earn higher grades and receive higher test scores.
- Pass their classes and move to the next grade.
- Have better social skills, including positive behavior at school; and
- Graduate from high school and attend postsecondary education.

A 2004 study of 129 high-poverty elementary schools indicated that schools that implemented a comprehensive set of family engagement practices were able to see improvements in statewide assessment results in as little as two (2) years. The cumulative effects of better, more frequent, family-school interactions led to increased levels of trust and respect, increased social capital for students, and a school community that is better able to support children's academic and social success.

In FNESU, we recognize the importance of partnerships between schools and families to improve outcomes and ensure equity for all students. We have four (4) Family Engagement Coordinators (in addition to the school social worker already employed at Sheldon Elementary School), who are working in our schools to support student and family engagement through targeted family support and proactive attendance strategies. These strategies include:

- Publishing newsletters and social media communications.
- Hosting community dinners & events.
- Strengthening community partnerships and collaboration.
- Supporting family participation in school events and at meetings.
- Assisting students with transition and attendance support, and
- Assisting families to access needed resources such as:
 - housing, food, clothing, medical and mental health care, fuel and financial assistance, employment, transportation, substance recovery/support.

Emerging Multilingual Learners

Michelle Irish, Director for the Advancement of Educational Equity

Emerging Multilingual Learners are students who are fluent in languages other than English. Multilingual learners may be recent newcomers to the United States, but many were born here. Many have had several years of formal education either in the US or in their home country, some may have experienced educational disruption or have had no opportunity for formal schooling at all. All multilingual learners bring linguistic, cultural, experiential, and social emotional strengths and assets to our classrooms. We can create a welcoming, asset-based learning environment for multilingual students and their families by:

- Exploring and nurturing students' and families' cultural identities.
- Ensuring high expectations and language-rich opportunities for questioning, dialogue, and reflection.
- Encouraging students to use all of their ways of talking, being and knowing to communicate their thinking.
- Providing learning materials that reflect the identities and experiences of all students.
- Focusing on learning acceleration by identifying what students already know and build on their social, cultural and linguistic capabilities.

“A welcoming classroom is about community and equity. By keeping these two ideas in mind, you can create an environment where students feel safe, visible, and valued and where they are provided access to rigorous curriculum that engages and challenges them in meaningful ways.”
<https://wida.wisc.edu/teach/learners/welcoming-classroom>

Twenty-eight (28) students in FNESU identified as Multilingual/English Language Learners. Primary home languages include Spanish, French, Czech, Chinese, German, and Thai.

Food Services - Dawn Reed, Director

Through various programs such as Community Eligibility (CEP), Provision 2 and universal meals, we are able to offer free meals to all students regardless of income eligibility within our Supervisory Union. This is a huge success to be able to feed all students without families having to pay.



It is great to see all the students back in the cafeteria for meals. This year, we were able to invite families and community members into the schools for our holiday meals. It was wonderful to see the community come and join us once again.



Celebrations

I have worked closely with our Director of Facilities to get quotes for new refrigeration in three (3) of our schools. With his help, I was able to secure two (2) separate grants to get that work done. We have installed auto dialers in all of our

schools in the event coolers/freezers go under temps so we can address the problem before losing the products we have on hand.

We are seeing improvements in our participation rate for school meals as a result of offering free meals to all students.

Upcoming Food Services Goals

Next year, we are hoping to secure more grant opportunities to replace outdated or rundown equipment.



We will continue to serve free meals to all students in our Supervisory Union as part of the CEP and Provision 2 Programs with the extra help from the Universal Meals as well.

Technology – Dominic DeRosia, Director

Technology has become increasingly prevalent in K-12 education in recent years in the form of computers, tablets, and many digital tools. These technologies can be used to facilitate a variety of learning activities, such as online research, collaborative projects, and virtual field trips. Technology can also be used to personalize learning with adaptive software and other tools that can provide tailored lessons based on a student's individual needs and abilities. Additionally, technology can be used to enhance communication and collaboration among students and teachers, allowing for more flexible and interactive learning environments. Overall, the integration of technology in K-12 education has the potential to improve educational outcomes and prepare students for success in the digital age.



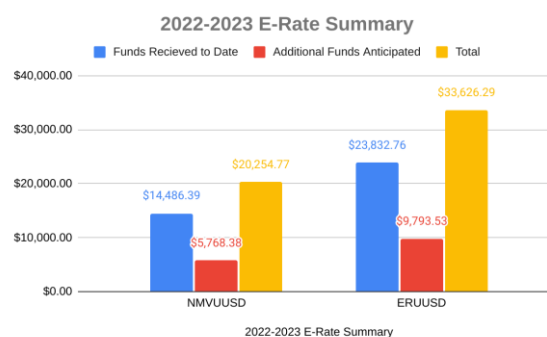
Celebrations

As difficult as the pandemic has made things over the past couple of years, there have been some benefits from an educational technology standpoint. With the temporary shift to virtual learning, it became more evident than ever how important it is for computing devices, digital tools, and adequate internet service to be available to all students, both at school and at home. This has been recognized by school administration as well as at the state and federal levels of the government, resulting in an increasing level of support for funding these important resources. Infrastructure is one area in particular where we are seeing a much bigger focus, with the state striving to make broadband accessible to all homes in Vermont.

In FNESU, we have been able to take advantage of federal E-Rate funding to help with costs related to providing internet service to students.

Upcoming Technology Goals

As the use of technology in our schools to create engaging and authentic learning experiences continues to grow, our focus on student safety will grow as well. This can be achieved by a multi-pronged approach. Professional development for teachers is one important area of focus. Teachers in turn, along with technology integration specialists, can help students become comfortable with using technology effectively and safely. At the same time, we need to be vetting the apps and services that we use with students to make sure they are not only educationally and age appropriate, but safe as well. One particular area of focus will be student data privacy, ensuring the apps and services we use with students take appropriate measures to keep student data secure.



Facilities – Vernon Boomhover, Director

Facilities work consists of prioritizing issues in all schools and bringing them to the principals, superintendent, and business manager. I sit down with each principal individually to present what I feel are potential problems that should be addressed in the current year. Next, I work collaboratively with principals to determine which projects they would like to accomplish during the summer break. After this information is compiled, I research if there is any grant money available for any of the identified projects.



Once it is determined which projects we would like to move forward with for each school, I will create a Request for Proposal to be able to get quotes for each project from quality contractors. Depending on the equipment and the project, I will reach out to Efficiency VT to ensure I am using the most efficient equipment and to see if they offer any incentive money.

After awarding the contracts, I will create a calendar and timeline with beginning and ending dates for job completion. One of the biggest challenges last year was being able to get the equipment needed to get the jobs done within our schedule.

Celebrations

Last summer we were able to complete many projects that ranged from boiler replacements, parking lots, flooring, gym floors, concrete sidewalks, and new entry vestibules. Being able to bring staff and students back from summer break and show them improvements to the facilities, I feel is important for morale and overall pride in their schools. Last year we were able to secure grants that will enable us to improve our facilities in comfort and efficiency.

Upcoming Facilities Goals

I would like to continue where I left off last year. I have met with all NMV schools and plan on meeting with ERU schools within the next few weeks to talk about their needs. One of the biggest jobs I am trying to do in all schools is to take advantage of the money that is available for LED lighting from Efficiency Vermont.



Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

PCBs testing has been a slow process with the State. The State is requiring remediation at levels three (3) times lower than national acceptable levels. Vermont has few qualified staff to be able to read the results of these tests. Another challenge is getting these companies to get the testing done from their scheduled dates. At the time of this writing, we have one (1) school tested and awaiting results. This school was in the first round of testing, and results were supposed to be available by last March. Two other schools have been inventoried, however have not been tested at this time.

School Safety– Robin Gagne, School Safety Coordinator

In FNESU, we continue to work hard to keep all our schools safe. Since 2018, we have used ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) as our primary preparedness tool.

ALICE is an options-based response to school safety threats that consists of Awareness and Communication strategies and Response Options strategies. The Awareness and Communication strategies consist of situational awareness and alerting/informing others. Situational Awareness is the perception of the environment and how one comprehends and responds to that environment. Alert is the information being provided to others so they can choose the best strategy for their own safety.

The Response Options strategies are how one responds upon being alerted there is danger. Options are **Evacuate** (remove yourself from danger), **Lockdown** (barricading your location) and **Counter** (countering the intruder's ability to use their weapon to give yourself and others time to evacuate).

Staff training is conducted by certified instructors (FNESU staff and law enforcement partners) and includes classroom instruction and demonstrations of strategies and discussion. Training is tailored to be trauma informed.

Staff implement ALICE training with students from a developmental readiness perspective with specific focus on the following grade bands: Pre-K, K-3, 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Students are taught evacuation expectations, lockdown expectations and counter expectations relevant to their grade band. The learning is staff-directed and student-centered.

Student Services – Michelle Theberge, Director

FNESU Alternative Programs

Trailhouse and STEPS - Student Therapeutic Educational Placement Program

Both programs provide a smaller, therapeutic, trauma-informed classroom environment housed within the local school community. They are built on safety, connection, and trust. These programs were designed to create personal,

RISE - Reaching Independence through Structured Environments



This is a life skills program designed for students who have significant disabilities in grades 6-12. The students in this program require intensive instruction in both adaptive and cognitive skills, along with functional communication skills. TAPS will work with students and families on obtaining independent living skills to apply to home, community, and vocational settings.

Over the past several years, FNESU has seen an increase in social emotional learning deficits and a decrease in outside community services for students with behavioral challenges. The outside placement options for students are limited and

A group of people are walking through a vast field of raspberry bushes. The bushes are lush green and filled with ripe red raspberries. The people are dressed in casual outdoor clothing, and the scene is set against a clear blue sky. The perspective is from behind the people, looking down the path they are walking.

- Currently, there are 34 students attending our programs and 10 students on a waitlist to access our programs.
- In the 2021-2022 school year, the FNESU behavior team completed 36 Functional Behavioral Assessments and implemented 18 Behavior Intervention Plans.
- Currently, our behavior team has completed 38 Functional Behavioral Assessments and implemented 40 Behavior Intervention Plans.

- General education
- Specialized instruction
- Functional behavioral analysis with behavior plans
- Implementation of individualized plans and supports
- Sensory room
- Related services; Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy,

Speech

- Variety of therapies dependent on student need
- Behavior Technicians
- Discrete Trial Learning
- Verbal Behavior (VB) Mapping
- Community-based learning
- Six-to-eight-week therapeutic team update meetings
- Consistent collaboration with sending schools
- Multiple social emotional learning (SEL) skill building sessions incorporated throughout the school day
- Family engagement coordinator

Early Childhood Programs - Melissa Wood, Director

In the early education world, we know that children learn best through play. Through Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union's Early Education Program, children are encouraged to play and to engage in multi-sensory learning opportunities. Teachers strive to build relationships with both children and families, as families play such an important role in the lives of our youngest learners. Not only do we recognize each child for who they are as individuals, we also create opportunities for each child's growth so they can feel successful on a daily basis. In Early Education, every moment is a learning opportunity, and the focus is on growth in all the developmental domains (cognition, physical, adaptive, social-emotional, communication).

As I visit all of the classrooms and engage with children and teachers, I see the honoring of each child and the dedication teachers have to children's development. I support professional development for all of our early education team and have both paraprofessionals and teachers attend the same training sessions, so language and systems will be consistent across adults, classrooms, and schools. Most recently, this fall I coordinated the

creation of an Early Education Leadership Team, which allows voices of various perspectives to be heard in order to strengthen our Early Education Program. Through strategic planning, the Early Education Program will evolve to continually better support children's development.



Early Literacy

This past year the Early Education Program has begun implementation of Get Set for School, a Learning Without Tears whole curriculum. Through this curriculum, children are exposed to early literacy concepts which include rhyme, syllables, making and breaking compound words, identifying sounds, and letter and number recognition and formation. Get Set for School uses multisensory lessons to foster a love of reading and to support oral language development, so children are able to understand and use language to express themselves.

Through Pyramid Model training, coaching, and implementation, classrooms have become rich with print along with visuals of routines and expectations.

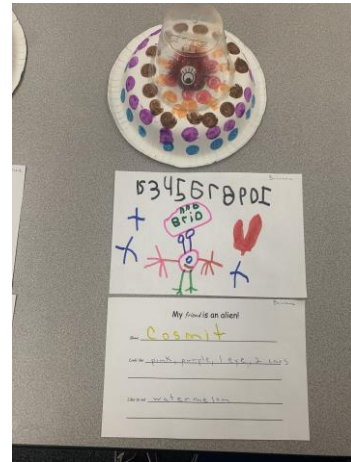
This supports children's ability to be ready to learn and to gain independence in the classroom.



Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning is the main focus in early education. During these years, children are learning routines and expectations outside of their homes as well as learning the skills needed to interact with others, whether it be in a 1:1 scenario, small group, or large group. Through the Second Step curriculum, our preschoolers are explicitly taught specific emotions, the look-fors to recognize those emotions (body language, facial expressions), and strategies to deal with big emotions. Social skills, such as sharing, taking turns, asking for help, etc. are also explicitly taught.

Through Pyramid Model training, coaching, and implementation, classrooms have become increasingly supportive of children's social-emotional needs, recognizing relationships as one of the biggest factors in a child's development. Through modeling, visuals, and conscious wording, the focus is around what the children should be doing, not on what they shouldn't, along with helping each child work through struggles with strategies that have been identified as being successful for them as individuals. Children's artwork provides representation of themselves and a sense of belonging in the classroom.



Community

In addition to classrooms hosting individual events and engaging in school-wide events, the Early Education Program participated in two (2) community events over the past year. In April of 2022, we celebrated Week of the Young Child by hosting an event in Enosburg with a focus on healthy development. There were many hands-on activities for children ages five (5) and under. The Book Mobile and NCSS were present as community collaborators.

In October of 2022, FNESU's Early Education Program had a tent at the Enosburg Harvest Festival. We provided information on developmental milestones and our school-based programs.

Early Education Highlight

Over the past year, the Early Education Program has worked diligently to implement curriculums and systems that allow for alignment across the supervisory union while still honoring the uniqueness of each school and each classroom. Getting the Early Education Leadership Team up and running and through this completing the Pyramid Model Inventory which takes a close look at our program's strengths and areas of need has been a super exciting endeavor that will lead to such growth and the strengthening of our program. I am looking forward to the planning and implementation of that plan over the next year(s).



K-8 Flexible Pathways Academy - Gabrielle Lumbr, Principal

Mission and Vision

Flexible Pathways Academy (FPA) is an option available to all learners in Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union. It strives to offer a flexible learning environment that leverages technology and community resources to provide a personalized and integrated educational experience.



Through FPA, learners can access learning virtually and can use their interests and experiences outside of school to make their school experience more personalized. We want learners to take ownership of their learning and have agency in deciding where and how they learn best. We believe that adults can help learners tap into their strengths and interests, set meaningful learning goals, and make decisions about their learning so that their learning experience is relevant and personalized.

The Flexible Pathways mission is to provide a personalized, engaging, and integrated learning experience without walls. Each learner works with an advisor weekly who gets to know them well. Advisors help learners develop a personal plan that incorporates state and district academic requirements. Learners develop and present

evidence of their skills through their personal interests and goals.

We work to integrate academic learning with authentic experiences leveraging technology and community resources. This year, our school community studied government and civics formally, experienced a student government model, and visited the state house in Montpelier in order to integrate the academic content into a variety of authentic areas.

Early Literacy

Flexible Pathways follows the district curriculum for early literacy. Our early readers engage in virtual lessons for word work specifically as well as reading instruction in comprehension, writing instruction, and language arts. In addition to direct instruction in skill areas, our literacy programming aims to integrate the arts and multi-sensory experiences. Learners are encouraged to read outside of school hours and use several virtual resources to promote reading outside of direct instruction.



FPA works to meet the district goal of having all learners reading at grade level by grade three. In order to do this, we meet regularly to review data through our Educational Support Team process. We provide targeted reteaching of first instruction when needed. We provide intervention in targeted areas of reading to address specific areas of need. Most importantly, we try to promote a love of reading for pleasure.

Social Emotional Learning

Learners in Flexible Pathways engage in an advisory each day where they work to learn and use the skills outlined in our district's social emotional learning priority standards. These skills include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making skills.



Learners get direct instruction in these areas of social emotional learning and create evidence to show their learning. Our faculty works to encourage learners to generalize their learning into their learning process. It is important for learners to be able to experience struggle when learning gets difficult and use resources to achieve their learning goals. We are working diligently to develop this stamina so learners can become independent at the craft of learning.

The need for learning new tools and information is growing at a rapid pace and so today's learners must become experts at learning new skills, information, and tools. These social emotional skills are an important prerequisite in ensuring this can happen.

Community

The K-8 team has worked hard to connect with our community resources. We have a monthly "Lunch with a Professional" event which brings in people from our local community and as far away as San Francisco. We have invited artists, inventors, musicians, truck drivers, business people, and others to share their experiences.

This year, our literacy instructor collaborated with North Country Animal League on a project-based learning experience which added to the authenticity of the projects. Our Physical Education instructor is planning monthly in-person events using various local resources. We hope to continue to increase our partnerships within the community.



Information Savvy	
I can find a variety of information (online library, subscriptions services) and communicate that information orally and in writing.	
Evidence of my learning.	
Example 1	
Example 2	

School Highlight

This year, the K-8 team has focused on developing the skills of "expert learners" that will be needed in order to prepare these students to achieve the graduation requirements approved by the board this year. The portrait of a learner skills, developed by a representative group of stakeholders, include being a contributor, trustworthy, information savvy, an independent decision maker, a creative thinker, emotionally intelligent, and financially literate. In order to be prepared to create evidence around these skills in high school, they need to begin engaging in that process from the start.

Learners have been creating evidence around these skills through their work and then engaging in the development of their personalized learning plan by self-evaluating and setting goals.

Grades 9-12 Flexible Pathways Academy - Gabrielle Lumbra, Principal

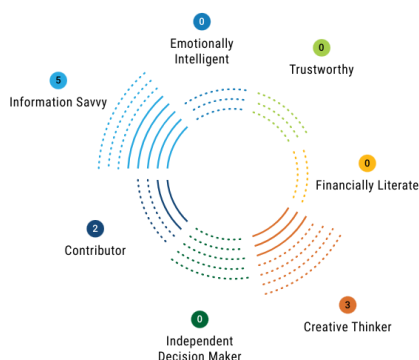
Mission and Vision

The High School Flexible Pathways academy promotes learners taking ownership of their high school experience based on their interests and goals. We encourage learners to build on their assets, explore areas of interest, and plan around their future goals. We meet learners where they are and assist them in their growth at their various stages of readiness.

Learners work with an advisor whose goal it is to get to know them well. The advisor learns about the interests, skills, and goals of the learner and works to connect them to experiences that will help them reach those goals. When learners become more skilled and independent, they are encouraged to design their own learning experiences.

At the high school level, the goal of becoming an expert learner is the same as it is in the K-8 grades. The types of learning become more advanced and complex but the goal of ensuring preparedness for the future is still essential.

Learners in Flexible Pathways Academy consider their future goals through regular advising. They develop their high school experience based on these goals and are encouraged to leverage activities and experiences that happen outside of the school building, outside of the day, and outside of the school year as relevant ways to demonstrate their proficiency.



FPA learners have designed projects around hobbies like rebuilding a car or an interest in food. Several students have started businesses and used that as evidence of their skills in various areas. They go deeper into areas of interest like climate change or psychology. Students may design a project around yoga instead of taking a traditional physical education class. Some FPA students work during the day and take traditional online courses allowing for flexible scheduling. Through these experiences, FPA allows for flexible scheduling, pacing, and personalization.

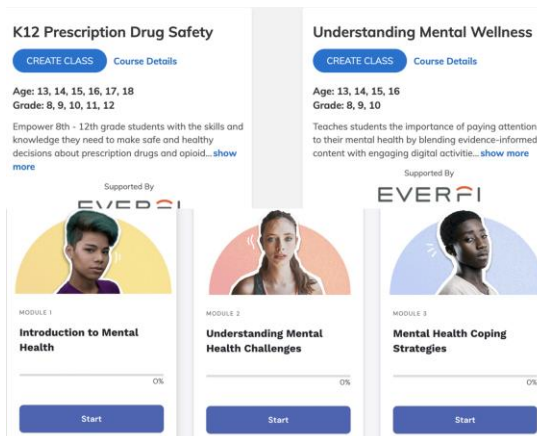
Student Centered Learning

Learners engaging in Flexible Pathways Academy use a variety of means to learn and demonstrate their skills. They take classes, create projects, and engage in the community at various times in their high school careers based on their personalized plan. They learn virtually and in person and choose the best way to demonstrate their learning with the help of an advisor who knows them well.

Learners who are in Flexible Pathways Academy use a Mastery Transcript to show their skill proficiency. They upload evidence of their proficiency into the transcript and this evidence is then accessible to anyone looking at the transcript. Their transcript also lists any courses that the student has completed with an 80% or 2.5 or above.

Social Emotional Learning

Learners in Flexible Pathways Academy work towards the same social emotional learning standards as the district which are visible in the Portrait of a Learner graduation requirements. Depending on whether they access their education in person or virtually, they use different



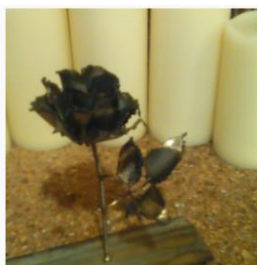
resources. In-person learners engage in advisory and other school-based experiences where these skills are taught. Virtual learners use online resources to earn certificates in many of these skills and they may also generate reflective pieces in order to demonstrate their competence in social emotional learning.



Cupcake Website



Color Run



Welding & Physics

FPA students have many opportunities to integrate these skills into their learning path. This work can be difficult and require much self-regulation, organizing, planning, and advocacy. It requires learners to know themselves well and integrate that knowledge into a variety of aspects of their learning.

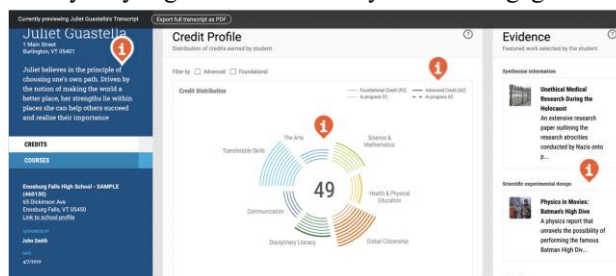
Community

Learners at the high school level engage with their community in a variety of ways. Many learners in Flexible Pathways Academy are still engaging with their school community, in the after school program activities, and Cold Hollow Career Center. We also have students who are interacting with the local community as a resource. Many learners work in our community and some even run their own businesses.

The “contributor” graduation requirement allows students to learn and apply their skills as a community contributor. They may engage in volunteering at Brownway residence. They may organize a community event or engage in a school improvement project. Many learners have designed independent projects that require the collaboration of outside community members or organizations. Community interaction is a key element of FPA.

School Highlight

Just as the K-8 team is working to develop “expert learner” skills, the high school students who are engaging in Flexible Pathways Academy are honing these skills and becoming more independent. These learners are developing time management, organizational, and learning management skills through course completion either online or in person. They are collaborating with experts to learn and create independent projects related to their learning. These learners are demonstrating agency by deciding what evidence they want to showcase and which areas they want to go deeper in their learning. All of these skills lead to the development of independent learning skills that will be essential for today’s learners to possess in order for them to succeed in the future.



Northern Mountain Valley UUSD Principal Reports

Montgomery Elementary School

Sandra Alexander, Principal



Mission and Vision

To put it in a nutshell, Montgomery Elementary School stands for high expectations, both academically and behaviorally. We believe that it is important to set the bar high and be sure that students understand that they can and will reach the bar with guidance and assistance as needed, but the bar will not be lowered. This philosophy promotes a growth mindset, which is a powerful element toward achievement. “In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.” (Dweck, 2015).

Our vision at Montgomery Elementary is to create a community that will build lifelong, confident learners who have the tools necessary for success in a changing world. At MES, we are very intentional about making sure that all staff members are consistently working toward this goal. We focus on building strong relationships in an inclusive environment, which is the foundation of the work we do. In addition, we foster the development of the whole person, identify strengths for continual improvement, and promote open communication. Our goal is always to learn and grow together through respectful interactions and celebrations. We, as a staff, pride ourselves at being “on the same page” with regard to expectations, and students hearing the same message from everyone. There is no question regarding the determination and dedication of the MES staff.



Early Literacy

Early literacy has been a big focus at MES for many years, and specifically, the Foundations Program curriculum has been a tradition. Lara Morales, our Reading Specialist, is also the Team Leader for our PreK through 3rd grade Professional Learning Community. Lara works with these grade level teachers to ensure that the Foundations Program is being implemented with fidelity. She also monitors these students closely, along with the classroom teacher, to determine any need for intervention. As new teachers are hired, they receive professional development in this area as soon as possible. Foundations is a structured reading, spelling and handwriting curriculum. It is research based and designed to be fun and engaging.



Social Emotional Learning

After we got through the separation caused by Covid, we realized the tremendous need for Social-Emotional Learning, which is defined as the process through which students and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL is a focus in all classrooms, and specifically during Morning Meeting time. The younger grade levels follow the Responsive Classroom curriculum, as they have for years, and the middle school is now focusing on the tenets of “No Barriers Life.” In addition to this work, this year there is intentional time set aside for adult social-emotional learning, which is being facilitated by our Guidance Counselor, Courtney Skar. To start off the year, adults participated

in a “fishbowl” activity to model the different aspects and expectations of Morning Meeting. This was led by our Instructional Coach, Patrick Hartnett, and Patrick continues this focus with staff at monthly staff meetings.

Community

When we were finally able to blend students together again, we immediately returned to paired reading, a Friday morning ritual of older and younger students reading together. Although we had done this for years, there was a tremendous sense of value that was realized when we began again after Covid. With that came the development of monthly, student-led community meetings. These meetings begin with the students parading down the hallway to music, meeting in the gym for specific mixed seating, and middle school students using a template to conduct the meeting. Each month a different grade level spotlights something that is taking place in their classroom, and at the end of the meeting participants are offered an opportunity to “shout out” to those who they have seen exhibiting something positive. Visitors often comment that Montgomery Elementary School has a strong community feel, and these are just two examples of how we promote that feeling.





School Highlight

In closing, I always feel compelled to highlight the love and support that MES receives from the Montgomery community. It is, so to speak, the icing on the cake for what makes a great school even greater. This support comes from individuals as well as committees in town, and we appreciate all who contribute to bringing added benefits to our students. To name a few, thank you to the Fire Department, the Montgomery Conservation Commission, the Montgomery Center for the Arts, our Therapy Dog and Handler, Megan and Jim, and our amazing PTO. It is also important to recognize the outpouring of people who are determined to send our 8th graders to Washington DC again this year, which includes the 8th grade parents, a group of community members playing cornhole in the gym, our Craft Show coordinators, Sue Wilson, Diane Gendron, Robert Gendron, and most importantly, Jeff Ward. Jeff has been teaching at Montgomery Elementary for forty-six (46) years, and rumor has it this will be his last. It will be hard to imagine MES without Jeff, so I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Jeff for serving the students and families of Montgomery.

Bakersfield Elementary Middle School

Rhoda McLure, Principal

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Bakersfield Elementary Middle School (BEMS) is to be a place where all students (and adults) learn and grow through connection and care. We believe that caring connections and relationships are central to making sure that growth and learning happen for all (and we do mean all) students (and adults) that walk through our doors. Through this culture of care, we can then work together to empower all our students to have a growth mindset that allows them to be flexible, independent, critical thinkers; and responsible, caring, positive members of society both locally and globally. We here at BEMS strive to follow our schoolwide expectations, and be a place where we all are safe, kind, and ready to learn!

This year we are working hard to live out this mission/vision through our work on revamping our Restorative PBIS system, and our Multi-Tiered System of Support. We are in year two of our work with the Starling Collaborative, and through this partnership we have been working to



define, refine and put into action our mission, vision and theory of action (beliefs), while tying this work to our continuous improvement plan in order to ensure that all we do is connected and empowers **ALL** our students. We have rolled out our revamped schoolwide expectations for all areas of our building in order to ensure a safe and kind learning culture throughout our school. We are also collaborating together on our academic and behavioral systems to support all students at all levels of learning and to ensure clear communication.

Early Literacy

As a part of BEMS work toward all students reading on grade level by the end of third grade, we have focused on early literacy skills. This summer, several teachers, staff and myself participated in literacy professional development including the Readers Institute



through the Teachers College Reading/Writing Project, and Mindplay: Comprehensive Reading Course for Educators. These opportunities strengthen our team's ability to meet the literacy needs of all our students. Our K-2 educators continue to meet in PLC (professional learning community) teams to look at our literacy data and create meaningful goals around teaching and learning. We also continue to focus on improving first instruction for all students, and making sure that we have systems in place (such as WIN - What I Need time, and a strong EST - Educational Support Team) to ensure multiple layers of instruction are happening to meet each student's needs.

Social Emotional Learning

We are working at BEMS to create a culture of care and belonging. This work is centered around social emotional learning (SEL) for both adults and students. This summer, five teachers/staff went to the BEST institute. They started to revamp our Restorative PBIS system and created schoolwide expectation lessons. Together with the Starling Collaborative we are creating a comprehensive SEL, wellness, behavior, equity, and mental health system to meet the needs of all our students. We continue to use Zones of Regulation to teach students about their own emotions and how to regulate them, as well as continue to strengthen our Behavior Team and Student Support Center and to have clear systems in place for how students move in and out of layers of support. This year we have also focused on adult SEL through a series of lessons, while our leadership team has worked with the Starling Collaborative and the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) on creating the culture of care that we want to see in our building.



Community

We are excited this year to have the community in our building again! We believe that relationships, not only within the building but outside of it, are key to learning and growth. We love providing opportunities to partner with our community. Events like our ice cream social, Title One meeting, Open House, and Bakersfield's Got Talent night were wonderful. Having the fire department in for Fire safety and Rachel Huff at our Harvest Fest was also amazing. Our middle schoolers loved caroling around town and we collected 281 items for families in need this year. We are continuing to plan events such as a Winter Concert, bullying presentation by John Halligan, Math Night with All Learners Network, Reading Week, and

Spring Drama that we hope to see the community be a part of. Our PTCO is also growing! As the principal of BEMS, I am committed to finding ways for the Bakersfield community and BEMS to partner together.

School Highlight

I have been pleased with our students, teachers, and staff this year and I could highlight many things. Our K-4 students have had several celebrations for following schoolwide expectations, and students across our school have earned above and beyond prizes. A group of our middle schoolers attended the Getting to Y conference to look at our youth risk survey data and develop a plan to improve our school community. Another group of our middle schoolers went to the capitol for the Vermont Equity Day. We have had several all-school events where students have worked together across grade levels as a community. We have had buddy readers and student helpers across our building, as well as wonderful academic projects such as readers theater, writing presentations, science experiments, and the Brigham Project. The atmosphere at BEMS has felt welcoming and inclusive, and I have been impressed with our teachers, staff, and students as we work to build this culture of care and learning.



Berkshire Elementary School

Leonard Badeau, Principal

Mission and Vision

Berkshire Elementary believes that all students can learn - and ***must learn*** - at high levels of achievement. Through Restorative Practices, Responsive Classroom techniques, and Trauma Informed practices, Berkshire creates a sense of belonging and support for all. We work collaboratively with all stakeholders (parents, staff, students, and community partners) to provide every student with what they need, when they need it.



Berkshire works to support the “whole” student. This means that we work to provide an educational experience that addresses both their academic and social emotional needs so that students are prepared to succeed in the 21st century. This means that we develop programs, activities, and supports that promote a well rounded education including - and beyond - academic instruction. We respond to in the moment challenges for a student by looking to identify the cause of the challenge and then work with the student, staff, and family to develop an effective response by utilizing a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support approach to provide the “just right” instruction, or differentiation, from the “just right” staff.

Early Literacy

Berkshire utilizes a Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop model that is deliberately designed to offer a simple and predictable environment so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of observing students’ progress and teaching to each student’s individual needs. Each session begins with a mini-lesson. Students sit with a long-term partner while in the mini-lesson. The mini-lesson ends with the students being sent off to their own independent work, where they practice applying the skills they have learned. As students work, the teacher confers with them and leads small groups, based on information the teacher has collected from assessments and conferring with students, and the workshop ends with a share. We also implement the Foundations word study program to build a strong foundation for early literacy skills.



Social Emotional Learning

Berkshire has dedicated resources to provide effective Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and support. Students receive direct instruction in social emotional skills through the Second-Step Curriculum led by our school counselor. We



have partnered with Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS) to provide highly skilled dedicated staff to help support students’ growth in Social Emotional Learning. We have a school based behavior consultant that provides specific individualized plans to help students learn and grow, and provides support and consultation to teachers to plan and implement individual, small group, or whole classroom programming to address on-going social emotional concerns. We have a school based clinician who provides consultation for staff regarding specific social emotional concerns and works with individual students to provide instruction and support.

Community

Berkshire has a strong history of effective partnerships with our community. Our Parent Teacher Organization and Recreation Department continues to create fun and engaging fundraisers, which then are invested in making the school experience better for our students. In the past, they have helped the school with new backboards and rims for the gym, helped us get a dedicated playground for our preschoolers, fund field trips, install a new infield on our little league field, support our ski program, and this year they will help us replace the outdoor basketball hoops.



In the past we have had countless activities and programs that helped bring families into our school, such as our service learning days when all of our students worked on producing materials to donate to various community organizations, and we are continuing to explore how to bring them back. This year we have had a Winter Concert, Trimester Awards assemblies, and classroom student learning celebrations. We look forward to continuing to find more ways to have our families see and experience the wonderful learning and experiences that are happening in our school.



School Highlight

One of the things that makes a Berkshire educational experience so unique is the ways in which we seek to provide experiences for our students that are authentic and connected to the outside world, and support every learner as a whole person, and not just an academic student. Our Farm to School program helps students learn and experience how to grow food, as well as

all the various tastes and foods our community can create. Our Ski and Ride Program gives students a low cost opportunity to experience the joy of the unique winter experience of skiing and snowboarding that our community has to offer. Activities like the Food Brigade help students learn and experience the value of helping others. We continue to explore more ways to help connect the learning and growth students are doing in their classrooms to the real world, and provide every child with what they need, when they need it.

Sheldon Elementary School

Julie Benay and Lisa Delorme, Interim Co-Principals
(Annual Report Co-Written by Ethan Dezotelle & Lisa Cioffi)

Mission and Vision

Sheldon Elementary School stands for meeting the needs of each of our students. At Sheldon, we believe that every student belongs, every student can learn, and every student is deserving of dignity and compassion as they grow. SES stands for celebrating successes of all sizes, as well as facing challenges without forgetting that in all things, our students must come first. We stand for learning from mistakes, rather than looking at them as shortcomings, and we stand for leaving our students, our school, our community, and ourselves a little bit better than when the day began.

Sheldon Elementary School's mission is "Lead, Learn,



Succeed.” We lead our students to learn so they will succeed. Our students have the opportunity to become successful leaders, engaged in lifelong learning, contributing to their communities, and carrying the SES mission on to future generations. Our vision at SES is to have an engaged school community that values being kind, respectful, and hard working. Additionally, we want a school community that is able to work hard while also having fun. This



vision is promoted daily by catching students reflecting these values and celebrating the students’ positive success and modeling for peers.

Early Literacy

At Sheldon Elementary School, early literacy is a vital part of our mission to help students lead, learn, and succeed. Early literacy efforts promote the development of a stronger vocabulary, high-quality writing, improved spelling, and improved oral communication, among other benefits. There are many approaches we take at SES when engaging in early literacy work. These include working on sight words to help with fluency and understanding of what students are reading, as well as word play activities, reading groups, spelling words, using tools

like IEP magnet boards, and reading books aloud. All these things contribute to a strong reader.

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is as important to our daily success and growth as our work in literacy and math, global citizenship, science, and the arts. Sheldon Elementary School’s focus on SEL helps students recognize, process, and manage their feelings in ways that keep them engaged in the classroom. SEL work is a vital part of education, particularly as we continue to readjust to life in a post-pandemic setting. Students missed out on important socializing opportunities and opportunities for emotional growth during the pandemic, and SES is working to meet those needs, fill in gaps, and support positive social/emotional growth in all of our students. Whether it’s having conversations in the classroom, problem-solving through group activities, or having fun on the sledding hill, SEL is a priority at Sheldon.



Community

Sheldon Elementary School is a vital part of the Sheldon and Northeast Franklin County community, and we are



always looking for ways to build on and improve those relationships throughout the year. This past fall, SES students voted on a name for a VTrans snowplow, and the winner – Blizzard Bear – was selected by the state as an official snowplow name. In addition to the families and friends of student athletes, our soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball games regularly draw in spectators from around the area. During the holiday season, our cafeteria/gymnasium was packed for two special community events: a big holiday lunch before Thanksgiving break and the school’s first winter concert in three years. This past summer, the SES Summer LEAPS program decorated a float and marched in the Sheldon Home Day parade.

School Highlight

There are many special things about Sheldon Elementary School, but one of the greatest highlights is the school's easy access to the Sheldon Community Forest. In all four seasons, students get to enjoy the hiking trails, landmarks, and fresh air that this vital resource provides. The trails are often filled with students engaged in class projects, enjoying a leisurely reading walk with their teachers, and running for cross country practice. This year, students marked their first schoolwide celebration with a scavenger hunt in the Sheldon Community Forest. The SES Summer LEAPS program takes advantage of the forest too, with participants regularly visiting to check out the Grandfather Tree and Grandmother Tree, as well as to see what's happening at the Frog Pond.



If you would like to view any ERUUSD school reports, including high schools your children may attend (Richford Jr-Sr High School, Enosburg Falls High School, and Cold Hollow Career Center), please visit our website at www.fnesu.org under the 2023 Annual Reports Tab.

FY24 Budget Update

Mary Niles, Northern Mountain Valley UUSD Board Chair

On behalf of the NMVUUSD Board, I want to thank voters and taxpayers in our four (4) towns for entrusting us to responsibly and thoughtfully allocate precious tax dollars. We recognize the delicate balance between fiscal responsibility and what it costs to support an innovative and engaging educational system which meets the academic, social and emotional needs of all students. As you will see, our proposed budget is up approximately \$1.2 million or 7% from last year. Some of this increase is driven by the need for more teachers and staff across the district. Specifically, we have hired additional paraprofessionals and custodial staff, a district technology integrationist and health teacher shared between all four (4) schools, as well as two (2) additional middle school teachers at Sheldon which will right-size classes in the higher grades. Health insurance rates have increased by 12.5%, which is significant and impactful for our budget. This is a realm over which we have no control as these rates are proposed by Blue Cross Blue Shield and approved by the Department of Financial Regulation. Lastly, we are contending with inflation in fuel and food costs, so there are budget increases relative to this national trend.

We are pleased to have a FY22 budget surplus of \$487,648 and are asking voters for the authority to transfer half to the Capital Reserve in order to support upkeep of and upgrades to our school buildings. The remaining amount will go toward reducing the FY24 tax rate. If the budget passes, we anticipate our district-wide tax rate will decline by approximately 7.7¢. The district wide tax rate is divided by CLA to get the local tax rate. This "equalizes" the rate between towns, to make up for inaccuracies between each town's respective grand list. Our CLAs are all in the 80th percentile. At a CLA of 80%, a house listed at \$100,000 should have a fair market value of \$125,000. The CLA is applied to the district-wide tax rate so that a house with the same fair market value is raising the same amount of money, regardless of the assessment. Statewide, CLAs are falling due to the current real estate market. The falling CLA in all four (4) towns will increase local residential rates between 2.8 and 7.9¢, depending on your town of residence.

Public education is an endeavor for the common good and an invaluable part of our shared social contract. A well resourced educational system which meets the needs of all students is a springboard to future success in life and chosen work; we all benefit from this. The budget we are presenting to you reflects our mandate to use resources

wisely while simultaneously being ever attentive to the needs of our students. We thank you for your support and look forward to another year of learning and growth across the district.

Mary Niles, MS
Chair NMVUUSD

Morgan Daybell, Business Manager

FNESU FY24 Budget

Increases to FNESU projected expenses are related primarily to the shift of thirty (30) special education paraeducators from out of local district budgets, as well as increases in contracted transportation costs.

These increases are largely offset by an increase in projected revenue both for special education as well as the food service program.

Act 127

Both FNESU districts are anticipating an increase in weighted pupils over the next four (4) years under Act 127. This should allow both districts to raise more budget dollars for the same tax rate.

Tax Rates

Four (4) factors set the *residential tax rate* you see on your bill:

- **Education Spending** is the budget approved by voters, minus expected revenue (like grants and interest). *As Education Spending goes up, the tax rate goes up.* This is the only part of the formula controlled by local boards and voters.
- Equalized Pupils is a weighted count of students in the district. *As Equalized Pupils go up, the tax rate falls.*
- The **Property Dollar Equivalent Yield** is the amount of money, per pupil, raised by one dollar on the tax rate. *As the yield goes up, the tax rate falls.* The yield presented is an estimate; the final number will be set by the Legislature.
- The **Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)** measures the difference between listed property values and market value. A CLA below 100% means that on average, properties are selling above their assessed value. Each town has its own CLA. *As CLA goes up, the tax rate falls.*

This year, a favorable projected yield amount is offsetting another large decline in the CLA for all six (6) towns.

You may be eligible for a property tax credit. Last year, over 2,300 FNESU property owners had their school taxes reduced and at least 137 renters received a renter rebate. Residents who own and occupy a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim (HS-122) with the Tax Department by April 15.

Non-residential tax rates are set by the legislature and change with the CLA. Local budget votes do not change this rate.

Audit

RHR Smith audited the district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. For a copy of the most recent, visit www.fnesu.org or call 802-848-7661.

Respectfully Submitted,

NMV UUSD School Directors

Mary Niles, Chair (Montgomery)
Emily Norris, Vice Chair (Sheldon)
Erin Paquette, Clerk (Bakersfield)
John Dziedzic (Berkshire)
Katherine Barnard (Montgomery)
Lisa Hango (Berkshire)
Miranda Johnson (Sheldon)

Administration

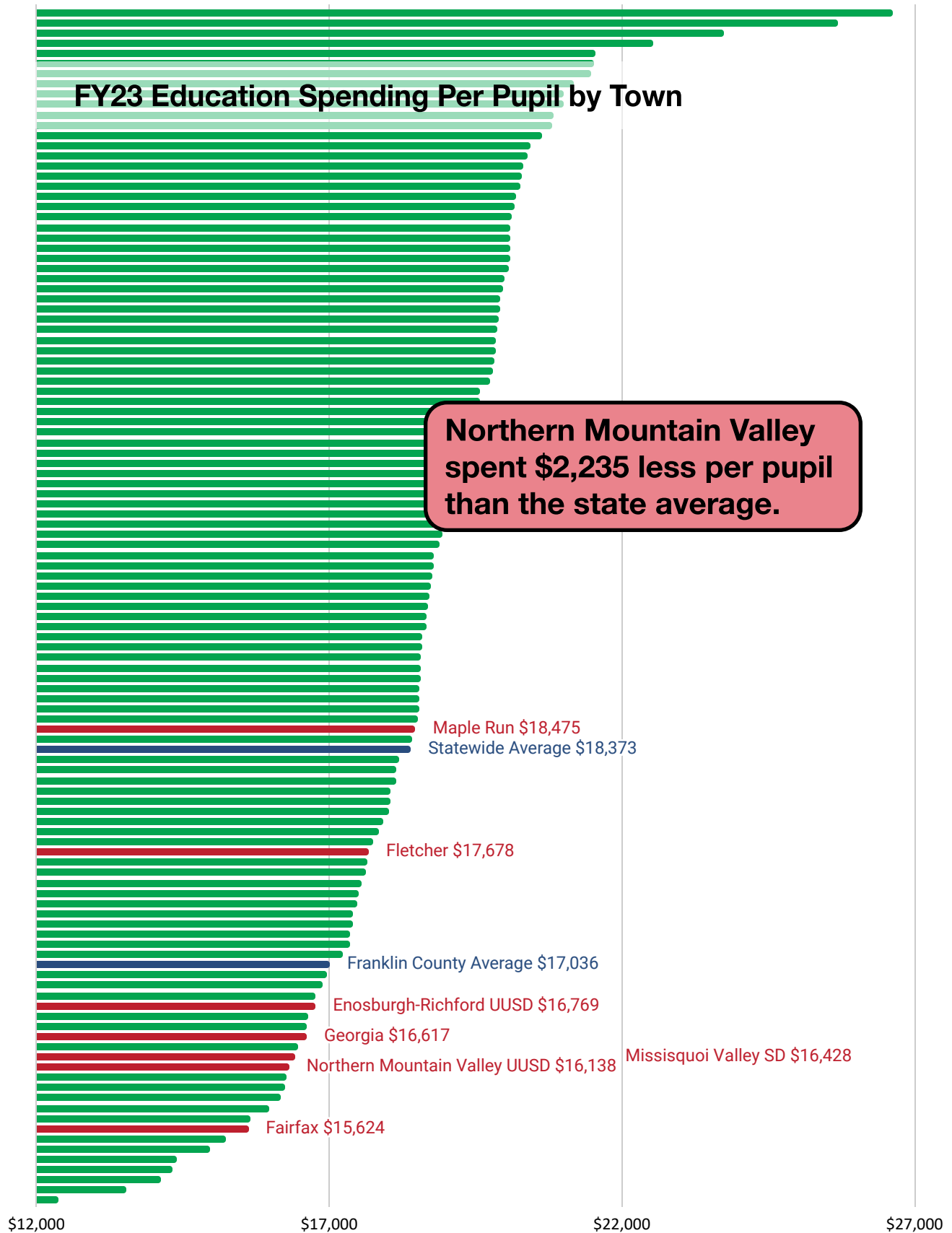
Lynn Cota, Superintendent
Jody Vaillancourt, Director of Instruction & Learning
Michelle Theberge, Director of Student Services
Dr. Michelle Irish, Director Advancement Educational Equity
Melissa Wood, Early Education Director
Dominic DeRosia, Technology Director
Dawn Reed, Food Service Director
Heather Moore, LEAPS Project Director
Vernon Boomhover, Facilities Director
Robin Gagne, School Safety Coordinator
Sandy Alexander, Montgomery Principal
Rhoda McLure, Bakersfield Principal
Leonard Badeau, Berkshire Principal
Julie Benay/Lisa Delorme, Sheldon Interim Co-Principals
Gabrielle Lumbra, Flexible Pathways Academy Principal
Morgan Daybell, Business Manager

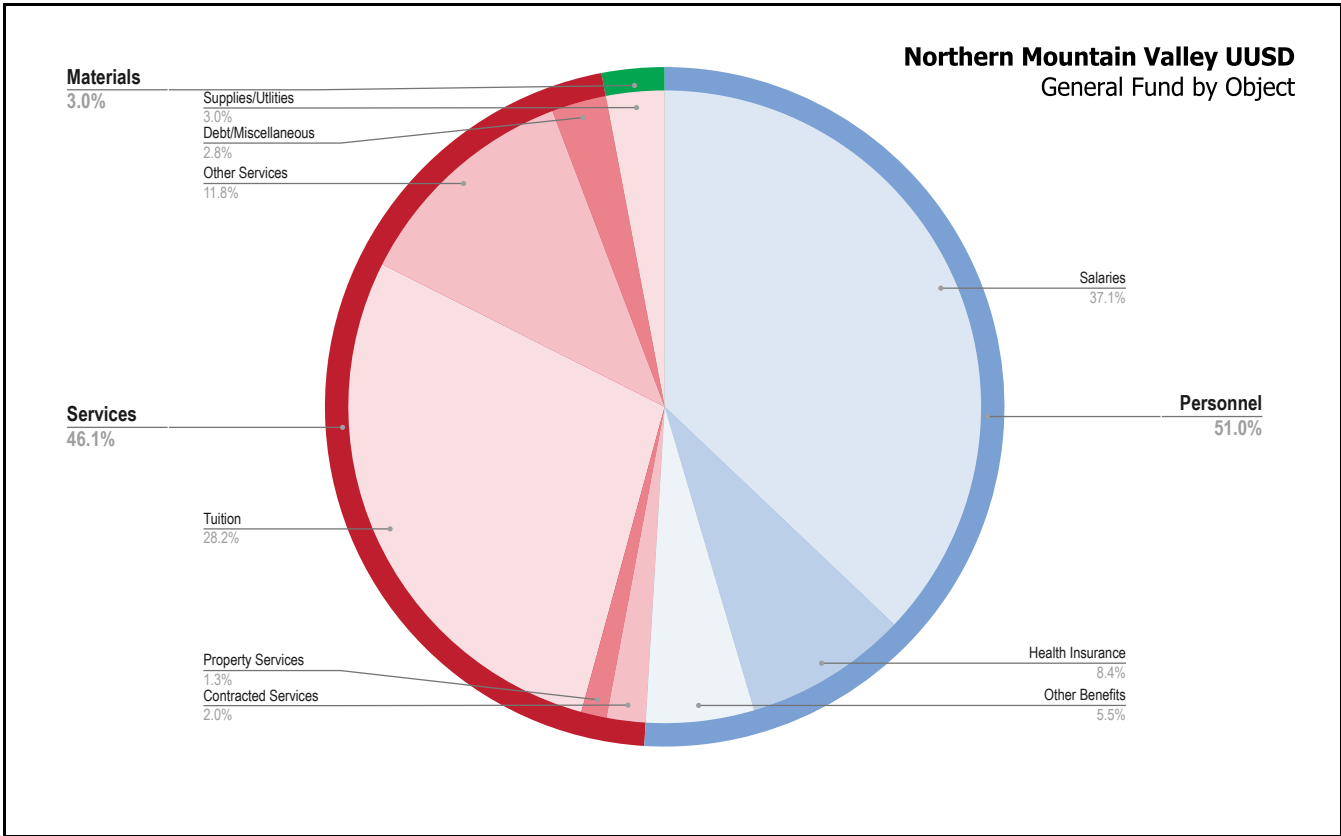
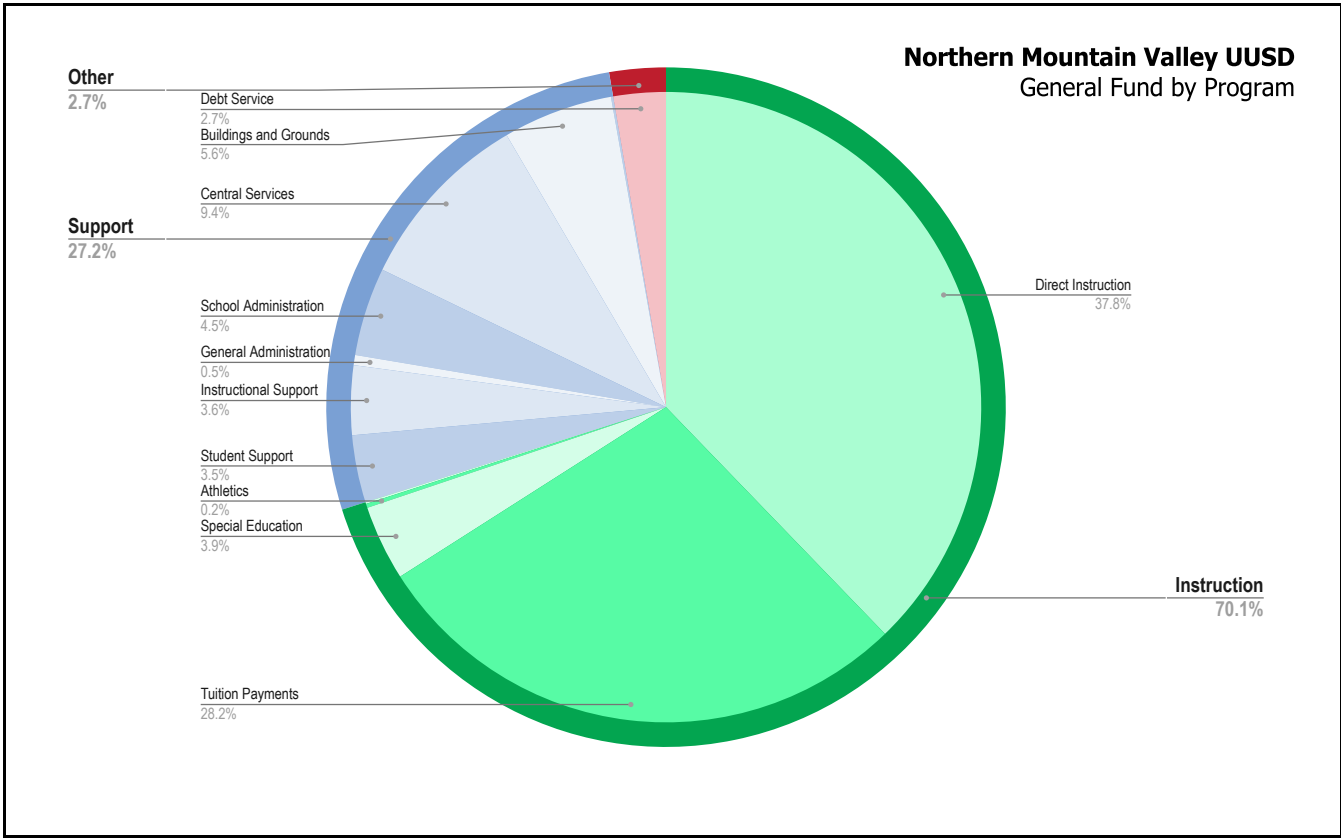
Northern Mountain Valley UUSD FY24 General Fund Budget	FY22 Actual	FY23 Approved	FY23 to Dec 31	FY24 Proposed	FY23-24 Change
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES					
Instruction					
Direct Instruction	\$5,958,543	\$7,477,387	\$2,019,522	\$7,359,461	(\$117,926)
Tuition Payments	\$4,994,353	\$5,257,342	\$1,795,593	\$5,491,700	\$234,358
Special Education	\$770,895	\$0	\$215,251	\$751,905	\$751,905
Athletics	\$39,384	\$32,000	\$15,914	\$40,000	\$8,000
Co-Curricular	\$7,775	\$16,000	\$2,887	\$18,000	\$2,000
Total Instruction	\$11,770,950	\$12,782,729	\$4,049,167	\$13,661,066	\$878,337
Support Services					
Student Support	\$543,654	\$686,541	\$237,559	\$672,232	(\$14,309)
Instructional Support	\$363,108	\$416,173	\$249,672	\$692,148	\$275,975
General Administration	\$79,827	\$83,234	\$64,001	\$101,366	\$18,132
School Administration	\$772,093	\$798,781	\$422,929	\$882,833	\$84,052
Central Services	\$1,998,269	\$1,901,237	\$950,673	\$1,827,900	(\$73,337)
Buildings and Grounds	\$1,246,977	\$964,964	\$576,785	\$1,098,825	\$133,861
Transportation	\$34,098	\$49,000	\$5,940	\$22,000	(\$27,000)
Total Support Services	\$5,038,026	\$4,899,930	\$2,507,559	\$5,297,304	\$397,374
Construction					
	\$0	\$0	\$255,964	\$0	\$0
Debt Service and Other					
Debt Service	\$539,837	\$528,240	\$456,285	\$522,875	(\$5,365)
Adjustments and Transfers	\$639,444	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total Debt Service and Other	\$1,179,281	\$528,240	\$456,285	\$522,875	(\$5,365)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$17,988,257	\$18,210,899	\$7,268,975	\$19,481,245	\$1,270,346

GENERAL FUND REVENUE					
Local Revenue	\$47,664	\$25,000	\$35,721	\$25,000	\$0
State Revenue	\$630,511	\$213,275	\$142,184	\$213,275	\$0
Other Revenue	\$140,208	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Use of Fund Balance	\$0	\$605,000	\$0	\$243,824	(\$361,176)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$818,383	\$843,275	\$177,905	\$482,099	(\$361,176)

PROJECTED TAX RATES					
Budgeted Expenditures	\$18,210,899			\$19,481,245	\$1,270,346
less Local and Grant Revenue	\$843,275			\$482,099	(\$361,176)
equals Education Spending	\$17,367,624			\$18,999,146	\$1,631,522
divided by Equalized Pupils	1064.34			1068.44	4.10
equals Per Pupil Education Spending	\$16,318			\$17,782	\$1,464
divided by Dollar Yield	\$13,314			\$15,479	\$2,165
equals Equalized Residential School Tax Rate	\$1.2256			\$1.1488	(\$0.0768)
divided by Bakersfield CLA	88.77%			81.58%	-7.19%
= Bakersfield Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.3806			\$1.4082	\$0.0276
divided by Berkshire CLA	95.17%			86.18%	-8.99%
= Berkshire Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.2878			\$1.3330	\$0.0452
divided by Montgomery CLA	95.04%			86.05%	-8.99%
= Montgomery Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.2896			\$1.3350	\$0.0454
divided by Sheldon CLA	91.85%			81.31%	-10.54%
= Sheldon Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.3343			\$1.4129	\$0.0786

FY23 Education Spending Per Pupil by Town





District: Northern Mountain Valley UUSD		U085		Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$15,479 of spending per equalized pupil
SU: Franklin Northeast		Franklin County		15,479	1.00
				17,600	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$16,834,820	\$17,782,880	\$18,210,899	\$19,481,245
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$16,834,820	\$17,782,880	\$18,210,899	\$19,481,245
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	
6.	Total Union Expenditures	\$16,834,820	\$17,782,880	\$18,210,899	\$19,481,245
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data				
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$968,937	\$1,134,061	\$843,275	\$482,099
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$968,937	\$1,134,061	\$843,275	\$482,099
Education Spending		\$15,865,883	\$16,648,819	\$17,367,624	\$18,999,146
12.	Northern Mountain Valley UUSD equalized pupils	1,062.00	1,069.31	1,064.34	1,068.44
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil		\$14,939.63	\$15,569.68	\$16,317.74	\$17,782.14
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$406.89	\$395.43	\$387.20	\$382
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$4.57	\$2.44	\$0.76	\$5
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	\$47.69	\$56.27	\$61.56	\$59
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-	
23.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$18,756	threshold = \$18,789	threshold = \$19,997	threshold = \$22,204
24.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	\$18,756.00	\$18,789.00	\$19,997.00	\$22,204.00
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$14,940	\$15,570	\$16,318	\$17,782.14
26.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	135.840% based on yield \$10,998	137.578% based on yield \$11,317	122.561% based on \$13,314	114.879% based on \$15,479
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$17,782.14 ÷ (\$15,479 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3584 based on \$1.00	\$1.3758 based on \$1.00	\$1.2256 based on \$1.00	\$1.1488 based on \$1.00
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Northern Mountain Valley UUSD					
		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
T007	Bakersfield	1.3584	1.3758	1.2256	1.1488
T018	Berkshire	1.3584	1.3758	1.2256	1.1488
T128	Montgomery	1.3584	1.3758	1.2256	1.1488
T187	Sheldon	1.3584	1.3758	1.2256	1.1488
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
28.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Northern Mountain Valley UUSD [((\$17,782.14 ÷ \$17,600) x 2.00%)]	2.21% based on 2.00%	2.26% based on 2.00%	2.05% based on 2.00%	2.02% based on 2.00%
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Northern Mountain Valley UUSD					
		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
T007	Bakersfield	2.21%	2.26%	2.05%	2.02%
T018	Berkshire	2.21%	2.26%	2.05%	2.02%
T128	Montgomery	2.21%	2.26%	2.05%	2.02%
T187	Sheldon	2.21%	2.26%	2.05%	2.02%
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$15,479 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$17,600 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.386. These figures use the estimated \$64,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union FY24 General Fund Budget	FY22 Actual	FY23 Proposed	FY23 to Dec 31	FY24 Proposed	FY23-24 Change
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES					
Instruction					
Direct Instruction	\$24,850	\$61,176	\$12,081	\$56,912	(\$4,264)
Special Education	\$3,432,393	\$3,772,987	\$1,419,827	\$4,193,037	\$420,050
Total Instruction	\$3,457,243	\$3,834,163	\$1,431,908	\$4,249,949	\$415,786
Support Services					
Student Support	\$640,541	\$426,914	\$317,620	\$857,969	\$431,055
Instructional Support	\$217,108	\$325,752	\$108,787	\$330,783	\$5,031
General Administration	\$458,449	\$454,249	\$232,505	\$481,962	\$27,713
School Administration	\$339,789	\$350,661	\$176,101	\$404,612	\$53,951
Central Services	\$788,979	\$842,837	\$389,279	\$866,548	\$23,711
Buildings and Grounds	\$32,215	\$125,857	\$109,845	\$275,089	\$149,232
Transportation	\$1,428,348	\$1,543,700	\$765,832	\$1,658,700	\$115,000
Total Support Services	\$3,905,429	\$4,069,970	\$2,099,969	\$4,875,663	\$805,693
Food Service Operations	\$1,637,098	\$1,781,462	\$675,175	\$1,710,012	(\$71,450)
Adjustments and Transfers	\$126	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$8,999,896	\$9,685,595	\$4,207,052	\$10,835,624	\$1,150,029
GENERAL FUND REVENUE					
Assessment	\$4,603,201	\$4,417,818	\$2,186,845	\$4,536,434	\$118,616
Other Local Revenue	\$38,419	\$32,000	\$33,924	\$37,000	\$5,000
State Revenue	\$3,279,363	\$4,117,697	\$2,394,019	\$5,075,190	\$957,493
Federal Revenue	\$1,511,349	\$1,043,080	\$322,558	\$1,112,000	\$68,920
Other Revenue	\$55,451	\$75,000	\$32,359	\$75,000	\$0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$9,487,783	\$9,685,595	\$4,969,705	\$10,835,624	\$1,150,029
LOCAL/21ST CENTURY EXPENSES					
Direct Instruction	\$22,104	\$205,701	\$25,360	\$41,271	(\$164,430)
Support Services					
School Administration	\$145,426	\$96,299	\$61,572	\$326,829	\$230,530
Transportation	\$28,441	\$0	\$5,615	\$900	\$900
Total Support Services	\$195,971	\$302,000	\$92,547	\$369,000	\$67,000
TOTAL LOCAL/21ST C EXPENSES	\$195,971	\$302,000	\$92,547	\$369,000	\$67,000
LOCAL/21ST CENTURY REVENUE					
Bill Back	\$191,108	\$302,000	\$46,336	\$369,000	\$67,000
TOTAL LOCAL/21ST C REVENUE	\$191,108	\$302,000	\$46,336	\$369,000	\$67,000
LOCAL/BILLBACK EXPENSES					
Direct Instruction	\$154,466	\$132,732	\$116,195	\$239,041	\$106,309
Support Services					
Student Support	\$81,943	\$51,361	\$21,868	\$63,636	\$12,275
Instructional Support	\$74,890	\$74,113	\$0	\$0	(\$74,113)
School Administration	\$0	\$0	\$25,074	\$64,379	\$64,379
Total Support Services	\$311,299	\$258,206	\$163,137	\$367,056	\$108,850
TOTAL BILLBACK EXPENSES	\$311,299	\$258,206	\$163,137	\$367,056	\$108,850
BILLBACK REVENUE					
Bill Back	\$311,299	\$258,206	\$53,328	\$367,056	\$108,850
TOTAL BILLBACK REVENUE	\$311,299	\$258,206	\$53,328	\$367,056	\$108,850