

LEICESTER, VERMONT 2023 TOWN REPORT

January 2023 – December 2023



TOWN MEETING & FLOOR VOTING:
MONDAY, MARCH 04, 2024 7PM
PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU

TOWN MEETING AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING:
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 10AM – 7PM

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CHANGES TO THE TOWN REPORT

Due to changes in legislation and the consolidation of the RNESU schools, the Leicester Town Report is separate from the School District Report. The Town Report is compiled and distributed by the Town, and the School District Report is compiled and distributed by the Otter Valley Unified Union School District (and RNESU).

The OVUUSD report will be distributed by the OVUU Board. They have asked that we include a few reports in our Town Report this year. These reports can be found at the end of this Town Report.

If you have questions regarding this change, or with the Town Report, please contact Julie Delphia, Town Clerk, at (802) 247-5961 x 3.

FRONT COVER: Fern Lake, Leicester, VT *Photo by Julie Delphia*

Town of Leicester
44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733
WWW.LEICESTERTV.ORG

TOWN INFORMATION
OFFICE HOURS

Julie Delphia
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER
(802) 247-5961
TOWNCLERK@LEICESTERTV.GOV

Monday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

A Drop Box is located under the bulletin board on the front of the Town Office. Payments and correspondence may be placed in the **Drop Box** at any time.

Dianne Harvey
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
(802) 465-4079
LISTER@LEICESTERTV.GOV
Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Keith Arlund
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
(802) 465-4079 (OFFICE)
(802) 465-8098
ZONING@LEICESTERTV.GOV
By Appointment

RECYCLING: 1st & 3rd Saturday of month 9:00am - 12:00pm at Town Garage* *
On snow days, recycling may be by the Town Office

REGULAR MEETINGS

Held at Town Office

SELECTBOARD
1st & 3rd Monday of month at 6:30pm

PLANNING COMMISSION
2nd & Last Tuesday of month at 6:00pm
As required

ZONING BOARD
2nd & Last Tuesday of month at 6:00pm
As required

CEMETERY COMMITTEE (Apr - Oct)
2nd Thursday of month at 6:30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

(AS OF 1/1/2024)

Diane Benware
Selectboard Chair
(802) 247-3786

Arlan Pidgeon
Road Foreman
(802) 247-6361

Ricky Nicklaw
Fire Warden
(802) 247-8357

Tom Barker
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3160

Brad Lawes
Road Commissioner
(802) 465-8065

Chree Perkins
Health Officer
(802) 465-8335

Brad Lawes
Selectboard Member
(802) 465-8065

Beth Ripley
Del. Tax Collector
(802) 247-0075

Robbie Devoid
Animal Control
(802) 349-6163

John Rouse
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3135

Jeff McDonough
1st Constable
(802) 343-0788

Diane Randall
Selectboard Member
(802) 558-8885

Mike Rakowitz
2nd Constable
(802) 247-3281

LEICESTER TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Term Expires

Auditors

Lyndsay D'Avignon (2)	March 2024
Deb Miner	March 2024
Donna Pidgeon	March 2025

Delinquent Tax Collector

Elizabeth Ripley	March 2024
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Justices of the Peace

Cheryl Morrison	February 2025
Diane Benware	February 2025
Hilary Hatch	February 2025
Thomas Barker	February 2025
Greg Bernhardt	February 2025

Moderator

Richard Reed	March 2024
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Town Clerk

Julie Delphia	March 2026
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Town Treasurer

Julie Delphia	March 2026
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Selectboard

Diane Benware, Chair (3)	March 2025
Diane Randall (2)	March 2024
Brad Lawes (3)	March 2024
John Rouse (3)	March 2026
Thomas Barker (2)	March 2025

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Jay Michael (3)	November 2026
Donna Swingleton (3)	November 2025
Lyndsay D'Avignon (3)	November 2024
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2026
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2025

Planning Commission

Jay Michael (3)	November 2026
Donna Swingleton – Chair (3)	November 2025
Suki Fredricks (3)	November 2024
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2026
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2025

Otter Creek Watershed Mosquito District

Doug Perkins
Lynne Peck
Brad Lawes - Alternate

HIRE TOWN OFFICIALS

Administrative Assistant to the Assessor

Dianne Harvey	Hired
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Road Foreman

Arlan Pidgeon	Hired
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Zoning Administrator

Keith Arlund	Hired
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Animal Control Officer

Robbie Devoid	Hired
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APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS Term Expires

Cemetery Sexton

Donna Pidgeon	March 2024
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Emergency Management Coordinator

John Rouse	May 2024
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Energy Coordinator

Jeremy Gildrien	May 2024
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First Constable

Jeff McDonough	March 2024
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Forest Fire Warden

Richard C. Nicklaw	June 2026
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Regional Planning Representative

Diane Benware	June 2024
Tom Barker	June 2024

Road Commissioner

Brad Lawes	March 2024
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Second Constable

Mike Rakowitz	March 2024
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Solid Waste Representative

Richard Reed	March 2024
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Tree Warden

Arlan Pidgeon	March 2024
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Health Officer

Chree Perkins	August 2025
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LEICESTER TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Leicester Meeting House in said Town on Monday, **March 4, 2024** at **7:00 pm** to transact the following business:

1. To hear the auditor's report.
2. Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$809,685.72** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 341,495.72	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 256,057.68
Highway Expenses	\$ 468,190.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 361,908.28

Note: The Selectboard will set the tax rate at a later date.

3. Discussion of articles to be voted by Australian ballot.
4. To do any further business that is proper to be done when met.

The Town Meeting shall adjourn until 10 AM Tuesday, March 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are further warned and notified to meet at the **Leicester Town Office** in said Town on **March 5, 2024** between the hours of **10 AM and 7 PM** when the polls will be open to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year

- A Moderator for a one (1) year term
- A Selectboard Member for a three (3) year term
- A Selectboard Member for a two (2) year term
- An Auditor for a three (3) year term
- An Auditor for the remaining two (2) years of a three (3) year term
- A Delinquent Tax Collector for a one (1) year term

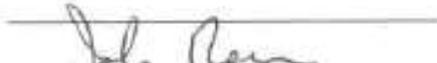
Leicester Selectboard:



Diane Benware – Chair (2025)



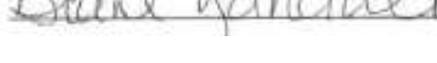
Tom Barker (2025)



Brad Lawes (2024)



John Rouse (2026)



Diane Randall (2024)

January 15, 2024

NOTICE TO VOTERS

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by **February 4, 2024**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by **February 23, 2024**.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on **March 4, 2024**. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

- If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first-time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know 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.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Australian Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS: Go to the entrance checklist table. Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official. An election official will give you a ballot. Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc." To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for. WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT: Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in "Voted Ballots" box.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

LEICESTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOWN RECEIPTS

Balance, Jan. 1, 2023		120,217.87
Allocated Funds Education		512,000.00
Transfers	183,221.40	
Grant Income	40,447.50	
Fines, Fees, & Licence Income	3,280.50	
Property Taxes	2,984,314.39	
Zoning Income	4,360.00	
Other Income	<u>2,037.41</u>	
Total Income	3,217,661.20	<u>3,217,661.20</u>
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS		<u>3,849,879.07</u>

TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

Allocated Funds Education		519,000.00
Transfers to Restricted Funds	209,663.94	
Payments covered by Restricted Funds	3,211.96	
Selectboard Orders	232,678.60	
Assessments & Appropriations	103,958.28	
Education Taxes	<u>2,728,543.25</u>	
Total Expense	3,278,056.03	<u>3,278,056.03</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>3,797,056.03</u>

Ending Balance Dec 31, 2023

52,823.04

LEICESTER HIGHWAY SUMMARY

HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

Balance Jan 1, 2023		12,309.95
Highway Tax Receipts	389,680.05	
Highway Aid	108,163.38	
Weight Permits	670.00	
Reimbursement Income	600.00	
Transfers from Restricted	37,290.98	
Total Income		<u>536,404.41</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS		<u>548,714.36</u>

HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

Transfer to Restricted Funds	40,000.00	
Selectboard Orders	<u>438,032.64</u>	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS		<u>478,032.64</u>

Ending Balance Dec 31, 2023

70,681.72

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Tax Rate:	Homestead			Non-residential	
Town	0.1104			0.1104	
Town Highway	0.2123			0.2123	
Veteran Exemption	0.0016			0.0016	
Education	1.5270			1.7614	
Total Tax Rate	1.8513			2.0857	
 Grand List	 1,841,479.00				
 Taxes billed:					
Town	1,841,479.00	x	0.1104	203,299.22	
Highway	1,841,479.00	x	0.2123	390,946.08	
					594,245.30
Education Taxes:					
Veteran's Exemp.	1,841,479.00	x	0.0016	2,946.39	
Homestead	847,821.00	x	1.5270	1,294,622.82	
Non-Residential	997,161.18	x	1.7614	1,756,399.69	
					3,053,968.90
Late Filer Penalty					2,086.26
Total Taxes Billed					3,650,300.46
Less State Rebates					324,638.09
Balance to be collected					3,325,662.37
 Taxes Accounted for as Follows:					
2023 Current Taxes				3,233,980.83	
2023 Payments from Previous Year				617.71	
2023 Delinquents Collected				43,354.22	
2023 Delinquents Outstanding				47,709.61	
 Total					3,325,662.37

% of Property Tax Town vs. Education Homestead Property Tax Bill

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Town & Highway	17.4%	19.1%	18.8%	19.9%
Education Homestead	82.6%	80.9%	81.2%	80.1%

% of Property Tax Town vs. Education Non-Residential Property Tax Bill

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Town & Highway	15.5%	17.0%	16.4%	17.5%
Education Non-Residential	84.5%	83.0%	83.6%	82.5%

BUDGET

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in General Fund	68,477.14	120,217.87	120,217.87	52,823.04	After receivables/payables
Loans and Transfers:					
Selectmen's Loans					Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfer from Restricted Funds	164,708.04		183,221.40		See Funds Page 16
Tax Account Allocation Refund	642,000.00		512,000.00		Allocated for State Ed prmt
Grants & State Direct Deposits					
Grant Income	8,747.00		33,758.00	12,500.00	See Grant Info Page 20
State DD Reappraisal Fund	6,689.50		6,689.50		See Funds Page 16
TOTAL LOANS AND TRANSFERS	822,144.54	0.00	735,668.90	12,500.00	
Fines, Fees & Licenses:					
Civil Fines from Sheriff Patrol	79.57		836.50		Register your dog by April 1st See report page 21
Dog Licenses / Fines	2,443.00	2,200.00	2,379.00	2,200.00	
License - Liquor / Junkyard	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	
TOTAL FINES, FEES, & LICENSES	2,587.57	2,265.00	3,280.50	2,265.00	
Taxes:					
Current Taxes - Town	247,683.50		202,638.79		
Education Tax True-Up/Municipal Adj	2,904.31		7,227.50		
Current Taxes - Education	2,245,158.85		2,641,661.99		
Delinquent Taxes, Interest, Penalties, Tax Sale Principal & Penalty Revenue	265,485.62		108,356.67		Penalty pays DTC, Tax Sale Principal & Penalty Included
Tax prepayments	617.71		4,860.66		
Current Use	10,443.00		10,439.00	10,000.00	
Tax Sale Charges Revenue	10,017.52				Offset Tax Sale Expense
Fed Bureau Land Mgt - PILOT	8,181.17	7,500.00	8,748.17	7,500.00	
Railroad Tax	381.61	350.00	381.61	350.00	
TOTAL TAXES	2,790,873.29	7,850.00	2,984,314.39	17,850.00	
Zoning:					
Zoning Permit Fees	2,525.00		4,360.00		Fees offset Zoning expense
TOTAL ZONING	2,525.00	0.00	4,360.00	0.00	
Other Income:					
Reimbursement	1,001.00		71.50		
Interest on Checking	1,526.87		1,377.46		
Rental of Town Hall/Meeting House	35.00				
Other	39.87		588.45		
TOTAL OTHER	2,602.74	0.00	2,037.41	0.00	
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS	3,689,210.28	130,332.87	3,849,879.07	85,438.04	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans:					
Loan Payments					Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfers:					
Transfer to Building Repair Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Cemetery Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Clerk Education/Software	965.00		965.00		See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Municipal Expense Fund	152,651.27		180,009.44		See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Professional Audit Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Reappraisal Fund	11,689.50	5,000.00	11,689.50	5,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Records Restoration	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Allocated Funds:					
Transfer to Tax Account	512,000.00		519,000.00		State Education Tax Prmt
Payments covered by Restricted Fund Transfers:					
Audit	8,900.00				See Funds Page 16
Reappraisal					See Funds Page 16
Records Restoration	3,156.77		3,211.96		See Funds Page 16
LOANS AND TRANSFERS TOTAL	706,362.54	22,000.00	731,875.90	22,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Auditing:					
Salaries	581.25	1,000.00	611.25	1,000.00	
AUDITING TOTAL	581.25	1,000.00	611.25	1,000.00	
Selectboard:					
		4,000.00		4,000.00	Rate set by Auditors
Diane Benware, Chair	1,000.00		1,000.00		
Brad Lawes	750.00		750.00		
Diane Randall	750.00		750.00		
John Rouse	750.00		750.00		
Tom Barker	750.00		750.00		
Selectboard Secretary	2,160.00	2,200.00	2,160.00	2,200.00	
SELECTBOARD TOTAL	6,160.00	6,200.00	6,160.00	6,200.00	
Listing:					
Consulting	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Contract with NEMRC
Salaries	1,833.75	2,500.00	2,156.25	2,500.00	
Software			299.49	300.00	
Tax Map Update	1,675.00	2,000.00	1,675.00	2,000.00	Update & Maintain Maps
LISTING TOTAL	9,508.75	10,500.00	10,130.74	10,800.00	
Recycling:					
Solid Waste	13,408.56	15,400.56	15,400.56	15,862.56	1st & 3rd Sat 9am-12pm
RECYCLING TOTAL	13,408.56	15,400.56	15,400.56	15,862.56	
Buildings Expenses:					
		10,000.00		10,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Meeting House					
Town Hall			335.00		
Town Office	172.00		1,646.25		
Fuel:					
Meeting House	4,004.83	4,000.00	4,386.08	4,400.00	
Town Hall	1,092.58	1,100.00	1,012.17	1,100.00	
Grounds Care:					
Cemetery	5,950.00	6,000.00	6,100.00	6,000.00	
Office ,Town Green, Fern Lake Access	5,520.00	6,000.00	5,450.00	6,000.00	
TOTAL BLDGS & GRNDS EXPENSES	16,739.41	27,100.00	18,929.50	27,500.00	
<p><i>Note: Clerk fees for recording, vault usage, and licenses are set by State Statute. Depending upon the types of transactions, total fees collected can vary greatly year to year. These fees are paid by individuals or firms based on the statute fee schedule posted at the Town Office. Fees collected not otherwise identified in this report, were \$14,882.</i></p>					
Town Clerk / Treasurer / Assistant:					
Town Clerk, Julie Delphia	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	
Treasurer, Julie Delphia	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Clerk / Treasurer Training	35.00	1,000.00	35.00	1,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Office Assistant	1,886.25	4,250.00	1,323.75	4,000.00	
CLERK / TREAS / ASSIST TOTAL	24,921.25	28,250.00	24,358.75	28,000.00	
Office Expenses:					
Cleaning Services	599.00	600.00	599.00	600.00	
Cleaning Supplies	70.73	200.00	200.99	200.00	
Computer Tech Support / License	1,848.06	2,000.00	1,927.44	2,000.00	
Copier	1,287.60	1,500.00	1,977.20	2,347.32	
Office Supplies	2,963.10	3,000.00	2,701.67	3,000.00	
Postage	2,489.82	2,900.00	2,639.39	2,900.00	
Printing	2,539.62	2,500.00	2,606.00	2,600.00	
Town Web Page	790.00	800.00	604.20	800.00	
Disaster Recovery / Maintenance:					
NEMRC Annual Support	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,425.00	5,500.00	NEMRC Contract
NEMRC Disaster Recovery Contract	1,384.24	1,500.00	1,397.68	1,500.00	NEMRC Contract
Monthly IT Maintenance & Security	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	Annual Maintenance Contract
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	22,272.17	23,300.00	23,378.57	24,747.32	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Insurance:					
Property & Casualty	9,147.25	11,517.00	10,877.04	11,030.00	Figures are actuals for 2024
Workman's Comp	3,216.75	4,554.00	4,554.00	5,772.00	Figures are actuals for 2024
INSURANCE TOTAL	12,364.00	16,071.00	15,431.04	16,802.00	
Zoning:					
Recording Fees	345.00		450.00		
Secretary	456.25	500.00	1,275.00	1,500.00	
Zoning Administrator	2,070.00	1,500.00	1,420.00	500.00	Part/Offset by zoning fees
Printing	226.02	500.00	576.00	500.00	
ZONING TOTAL	3,097.27	2,500.00	3,721.00	2,500.00	
Utilities:					
Electricity	4,086.14	5,000.00	3,887.95	4,000.00	
Telephone	2,845.40	3,000.00	3,393.43	3,500.00	
UTILITIES TOTAL	6,931.54	8,000.00	7,281.38	7,500.00	
Public Safety:					
Addison County Humane Society	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	Annual Contract
Animal Control	450.00	750.00			Covered by Dog Income
<i>Dog Licenses - Tags</i>	149.86		156.22		Covered by Dog Income
<i>Dog Licenses - Clerk Fees</i>	410.00		374.00		Covered by Dog Income
<i>Dog Licenses - State Fees</i>	1,025.00		930.00		Covered by Dog Income
Fire Protection Contract - BFD	44,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	48,000.00	
Fire Warden	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	
Health Officer	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Law Enforcement Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	5,343.86	4,000.00	Part/Offset by zoning fees
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	47,084.86	46,800.00	51,854.08	53,050.00	
Other Expenses:					
Trash Removal - Bullock Rd		150.00	0.00	150.00	
<i>Delinquent Tax Collector - Beth Ripley</i>	18,325.14		7,553.69		Covered by DTC penalty
Elections / Payroll & Supplies	2,784.63	1,500.00	519.33	2,500.00	Presidential Election 2024
Grants: Milfoil Grant to LDFLA	8,747.00		29,758.00		See Grant Info Page 20
Planning Grant LHMP Match		2,537.50	2,073.26	464.24	Town Match
Grant Administration	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Legal Fees	3,833.13	5,000.00	4,147.73	5,000.00	
Miscellaneous	106.25	200.00	134.52	200.00	
Town Moderator	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Payroll Liability:					
Payroll Tax Liability - FICA / Medicare	11,677.86	12,000.00	9,951.20	10,440.32	
Tax Sales Legal & Recording Fees	11,534.46		586.00		Offset by Sale Income '22
Workshops / Training - Town Officers	0.00	500.00	48.00	500.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	57,658.47	22,537.50	55,421.73	19,904.56	
Assessments:					
Addison County Humane Society	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Animal Holding Facility
Addison County Regional Planning	1,336.50	1,366.20	1,366.20	1,366.20	On per capita basis
Addison County Tax	10,426.00	10,874.32	11,520.00	12,434.00	County tax
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Brandon Area Rescue Squad	19,800.00	19,800.00	19,800.00	19,800.00	
Otter Creek Watershed Insect CD	24,574.00	25,314.00	25,314.00	25,997.00	Reports can be found starting on page 25.
Brandon Library	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Green - Up Vermont	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Lake Dunmore / Fern Lake Assoc	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Vermont League of Cities & Towns	2,327.00	2,402.00	2,402.00	2,476.00	Municipal Assistance Center
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	87,563.50	88,856.52	89,502.20	91,173.20	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Appropriations					Requests on file at TC
Addison County Economic Development			1,000.00	1,000.00	Reports can be found starting on page 25.
Turning Point Center			1,000.00	1,000.00	
Addison County Restorative Justice	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Addison County Readers	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Addison County Home Health Care	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	
Addison County Parent/Child Center	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
RSVP of Addison County	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Tri-Valley Transit	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	
Age Well	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
Counseling Service of Addison County	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Elderly Services Inc.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
HOPE	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
John W. Graham Housing & Services	725.00	725.00	725.00	725.00	
Open Door Clinic	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Otter Creek Natural Resources	113.08	113.08	113.08	113.08	
Rutland County Parent/Child Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Vermont Adult Learning	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	
Vermont CARES - Aids Research	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
VT Center for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	
Atria Collective formerly WomenSafe	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	12,456.08	12,456.08	14,456.08	14,456.08	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	320,747.11	308,971.66	336,636.88	319,495.72	
OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL	1,411,167.00		1,723,642.00		
STATE EDUCATION TAX	1,130,715.76		1,004,901.25		
TOTAL TOWN DISBURSEMENTS	3,568,992.41	330,971.66	3,797,056.03	341,495.72	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in Highway Fund	25,426.58	12,309.95	12,309.95	70,681.72	Includes Accts Receivable
Accounts Receivable - Highway Grant					Highway Grant Revenue
Transfers and Loans					
Transfer from Bridge/Culvert Fund	78,046.52		2,790.98		See Funds Page 16
Transfer From Equipment Fund			34,500.00		See Funds Page 16
Transfer from Highway Fund	18,992.44				See Funds Page 16
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND LOANS	97,038.96	0.00	37,290.98	0.00	
Agency of Transportation Highway Aid	73,578.05	65,000.00	108,163.38	35,000.00	Early payments to help with flood relief in '23
State Highway Grant	4,106.00				
Current Taxes to Highway Fund	347,913.42		389,680.05		
Reimbursement - Highway			600.00		
Road Permits	740.00	600.00	670.00	600.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS	548,803.01	77,909.95	548,714.36	106,281.72	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans and Transfers:					
Transfer to Highway Fund		20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Culvert/bridge	20,000.00				See Funds Page 16
Transfer to Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 16
TOTAL TRANSFERS	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Equipment Repairs:		10,000.00		10,000.00	
Chains & Miscellaneous Parts	1,933.48		15.99		
Loader	264.88		1,200.55		
Plow & Wing - Shoes/Blades/Parts	30.95		9,275.46		
Sander	473.24		175.57		
Truck	186.23		0.00		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	2,888.78	10,000.00	10,667.57	10,000.00	
Highway Purchases:					
Sander	0.00	0.00	34,500.00	0.00	See Funds Page 16
Fenders					
TOTAL HIGHWAY PURCHASES	0.00	0.00	34,500.00	0.00	
Highway Grants:					
OJR Bridge/Culvert	53,671.40		2,790.98		See Funds Page 16
TOTAL HIGHWAY GRANTS	53,671.40	0.00	2,790.98	0.00	
Equipment Rental:		115,000.00		115,000.00	
Other	1,170.00				
Arlan Pidgeon	116,853.00		101,575.00		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL	118,023.00	115,000.00	101,575.00	115,000.00	
Materials:		95,000.00		95,000.00	
Chloride	6,545.00		6,900.00		
Sand, Stone & Gravel	25,801.89		39,502.42		
Salt	42,959.41		30,577.03		
Winter Sand	16,022.98		18,741.70		
TOTAL MATERIALS	91,329.28	95,000.00	95,721.15	95,000.00	
General Highway Expenses:					
Bridge Drain Cleaning	0.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	
Culverts	14,886.15	2,500.00	2,263.80	2,500.00	
Town Shed Repair / Electricity	701.31	1,000.00	676.43	1,000.00	
Fuels, Oil, Antifreeze - Loader	3,765.77	3,000.00	1,219.59	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous	2,475.67	2,000.00	2,400.34	2,500.00	beavers, mulch, etc.
Fuel Surcharge	3,617.75	4,000.00	2,737.10	4,000.00	
MRPG Annual Fee	1,350.00	1,590.00	1,765.00	1,590.00	Annual Fees
Resurfacing	118,992.44	100,000.00	99,783.20	100,000.00	
Green-up Removal	575.00	600.00	625.00	650.00	
Roadside Mowing	8,497.00	8,900.00	7,888.00	8,900.00	
Signs	811.82	1,000.00	1,925.09	1,000.00	
Town Shed Furnace Fuel	2,633.19	2,500.00	2,324.39	2,500.00	
Town Shed Repair	1,890.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	160,196.10	127,590.00	123,907.94	128,190.00	
Payroll:		80,000.00		80,000.00	
Arlan Pidgeon	32,012.50		29,670.00		
Scott Pidgeon	23,076.00		23,370.00		
Steven Morrison	2,360.00		4,370.00		
Richard LaPorte	140.00				
Terry Muzzy	2,970.00		8,600.00		
Cameron New	8,690.00		2,640.00		
Richard Malinowski Jr	260.00				
Robert Charbonneau	120.00		220.00		
Tom Barker	756.00				
TOTAL PAYROLL	70,384.50	80,000.00	68,870.00	80,000.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS	536,493.06	467,590.00	478,032.64	468,190.00	

	2023	2024	Difference
	330,971.66	341,495.72	10,524.06
	467,590.00	468,190.00	600.00
	798,561.66	809,685.72	11,124.06
			1.39%

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	TOWN		HIGHWAY	
	1/1/2023	12/31/2023	1/1/2023	12/31/2023
ASSETS:				
Checking	120,217.87	52,823.04	12,309.95	70,681.72
Total Delinquent Taxes	84,555.75	81,234.38		
Restricted Funds	601,109.66	628,403.43	368,381.70	371,830.45
Allocated Funds	512,000.00	519,000.00		
Equipment			202,505.00	237,005.00
Buildings & Improvements	94,402.00	94,402.00	51,975.00	51,975.00
Land & Improvements				
Highway/Culverts/Bridges			4,812,386.00	4,912,169.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,412,285.28	1,375,862.85	5,447,557.65	5,643,661.17
 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATIONS				
Equipment			115,746.00	141,632.00
Buildings	33,444.00	33,219.00	32,663.00	33,219.00
Highways/Culverts/Bridges			3,338,838.00	3,595,150.00
	33,444.00	33,219.00	3,487,247.00	3,770,001.00
Assets less Depreciation	1,378,841.28	1,342,643.85	1,960,310.65	1,873,660.17
 LIABILITIES:				
Loans, short term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans, long term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	10,707.07	5,813.79	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,707.07	5,813.79	0.00	0.00
 TOTALS	 1,368,134.21	 1,336,830.06	 1,960,310.65	 1,873,660.17

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, the elected Auditors for the Town of Leicester, in accordance with VSA 24 § 1681, have examined the accounts and records of the Town for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. To the best of our knowledge and belief, these records present a fair and accurate accounting of Leicester's financial activities.

As in previous years, the Auditors wish to express our appreciation to Julie Delphia for her assistance in making this examination possible and for the energy she puts into compiling nearly all the information that you see in this Town Report. The detailed and accurate manner in which the Town's financial records are kept makes our job much easier.

Deb Miner
Donna Pidgeon
Lyndsay D'Avignon

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

In April, we held a multi parcel tax sale that was very successful in reducing our outstanding delinquent taxes. It's important to remember that delinquent taxes cause shortfalls in Town revenue which can create the need to borrow money to pay for Town expenses.

With the full support of the Selectboard, I will be looking to do future tax sales to minimize our delinquent taxes. Taxes over 6 months delinquent may be considered for a tax sale. If you are currently delinquent, please take this into consideration and contact me to make acceptable payment arrangements at (802) 247-0075.

If you are struggling to pay your delinquent taxes, please contact the Vermont Housing Financing Agency's Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (vhfa.org or (833) 221-4208) to see if they can help you.

Please contact me with any questions or to make payment arrangements at (802) 247-0075.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Swington Ripley, Delinquent Tax Collector

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S POLICY

Town of Leicester

1. All payments made on or before November 15 will be timely. After November 15, they will be considered delinquent and subject to interest and fees.
2. It is requested that all back taxes be paid before current taxes are paid.
3. **Partial payments will be taken at the tax collector's discretion, and the payment must be large enough to pay off the delinquent tax before the next current tax is due. Payments will be applied to interest and fee first, and the remainder on the tax.**
4. Bills will be sent out on a monthly basis.
5. No post-dated checks will be accepted.
6. All bad checks will be prosecuted, if not made good in ten (10) days.
7. **Accounts 6 months delinquent can be sold at a tax sale at the discretion of the delinquent tax collector.**
8. All payments must be paid to the delinquent tax collector or the treasurer.
9. All taxpayers must notify the town of a change of address, in state or out of state, in a timely manner.
10. No mobile home can be sold or moved unless all taxes are paid and a transfer filed at the town office. The owner and mover can be fined.

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	525.51	98.23	1,129.67	1,753.41
2017	775.62	100.11	1,251.41	2,127.14
2018	655.00	104.82	1,310.29	2,070.11
2019	519.08	109.32	1,366.47	1,994.87
2020	412.62	126.95	1,586.83	2,126.40
2021	606.93	275.65	3,466.98	4,349.56
2022	2,439.18	3,285.15	40,919.33	46,643.66
2023	483.84	3,453.46	43,354.22	47,291.52
TOTAL	6,417.78	7,553.69	94,385.20	108,356.67

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Allegretto, Paul Sr
 Atwood, Duane
 Carroll, Richard & Veronica
 Carroll, Veronica
 Corbett, Helen
 Cram, Leonard & Sandra
 Currier, Florence
 Currier, Scott Estate
 Foley, Jacqueline
 Forrest, Leon
 Fyles, Michelle
 Gearwar, David & Melissa
 Hector, Eric
 Lafave, Scott
 Lanpher, Jonathon
 Lanpher, Larry
 Lanpher, Larry Jr
 Lopez, Juan
 Lounsbury, Daniel
 Maranville, James
 Marcille, Roger & Joan
 McAtee Brenda

Newton, Nora
 Orum, Samantha
 Quenneville, Matthew & Erica
 Severy, Robert
 Sherwood, Geanine
 Skidmore, William M
 Smith, Paul D
 Smith, Richard C
 Tillman Family
 Witherbee, Michelle

*Per Vermont Statute 32 V.S.A. § 3102.
Confidentiality of tax records, we are no
 longer able to publish individual tax
 amounts owed in the Town Report.*

**Total Delinquent Taxes:
\$81,234.38**

**Total Delinquent Interest:
\$11,730.62**

**Total Delinquent Penalty:
\$6,512.48**

**Total Delinquent Due:
\$99,477.48**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 01/01/23	Deposits 2023	Interest 2023	Withdrawn 2023	Balance 12/31/23
TOWN					
Savings:					
American Rescue Act Fund (5)	\$ 172,058.94			\$ 130,009.44	\$ 42,049.50
Building Repair Fund (1)	\$ 12,198.08	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 24.59		\$ 17,222.67
Cemetery Fund (1)	\$ 46,768.73	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 93.79		\$ 51,862.52
Clerk Training & Software (1)	\$ 16,239.04	\$ 965.00	\$ 32.54		\$ 17,236.58
Glebe Land Fund	\$ 6,439.73		\$ 12.89		\$ 6,452.62
Honor Roll Fund	\$ 115.66		\$ 0.23		\$ 115.89
Lister Education Fund (3)	\$ 2,950.66		\$ 5.73	\$ 2,956.39	\$ -
Municipal Expense Fund (3)(5)	\$ 152,651.27	\$ 183,530.96	\$ 297.21	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 286,479.44
Professional Audit Fund (1)	\$ 4,827.91	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 9.73		\$ 6,837.64
Reappraisal Account (1)(2)	\$ 142,010.87	\$ 11,689.50	\$ 284.67		\$ 153,985.04
Record Rest/Maint Fund (1)(4)	\$ 44,284.73	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 88.76	\$ 3,211.96	\$ 46,161.53
Solid Waste Fund (3)	\$ 564.04		\$ 1.09	\$ 565.13	\$ -
Town Total	\$ 601,109.66	\$ 213,185.46	\$ 851.23	\$ 186,742.92	\$ 628,403.43
HIGHWAY					
Savings:					
Culverts (6)	\$ 2,702.34		\$ 5.25	\$ 2,707.59	\$ -
Ditching Fund (6)	\$ 14,400.60		\$ 27.95	\$ 14,428.55	\$ 0.00
Equipment Fund (1)	\$ 157,552.23	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 316.06	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 143,368.29
Land/building Acq - Garage	\$ 58,550.84		\$ 117.21		\$ 58,668.05
Road/Highway Fund (1)(6)	\$ 53,222.21	\$ 37,136.14	\$ 273.26		\$ 90,631.61
- Bridge/Culvert Reserve (7)	\$ 81,953.48			\$ 2,790.98	\$ 79,162.50
Highway Total	\$ 368,381.70	\$ 57,136.14	\$ 739.73	\$ 54,427.12	\$ 371,830.45

Explanation of changes to Restricted Funds:

- 1 Transfer budget/budget balance from GF
- 2 Transfer State reappraisal payment
- 3 Close Account. Transfer to Municipal Expense Fund
- 4 Offset RecordHub cost, Land Record supplies
- 5 The Selectboard has worked diligently with the advice of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to use American Rescue Plan Act funds in a way to best benefit the Town. The Selectboard used funds in 2023 to cover payroll. This allowed for the creation of a Municipal Expense Fund in an equal amount. The Municipal Expense Fund will allow the Town to plan for future expenses without having a direct effect on taxes.
- 6 Close Account. Transfer to Highway Fund
- 7 Offset Culvert/Bridge replacement Old Jerusalem Road

SELECTBOARD REPORT

When asked to describe 2023 the words wet and buggy come to mind quickly. 2023 was one of the wettest years on record and Leicester received more than its fair share of precipitation. The continued soggy ground and weather made fighting the mosquitoes very difficult. The July storms washed out several roads and impacted many homeowners with flooded basements. Arlan and the crew worked quickly and tirelessly to repair the damage. The rains in August were less severe but also created hardship for residents. The rains of mid-December brought the creek to flood stage within two days and the water has been slow to recede.

Folks are looking to try to get back to life as we knew it pre-pandemic. Town Meeting this year will be in person on Monday evening, March 4, 2024 at the Meeting House, at 7:00 p.m. The members of the Selectboard look forward to seeing residents to discuss the budget and other items of interest. Australian ballot voting for town officials will occur the next day, Tuesday, March 5, at the Town Office, from 10 am to 7 pm.

As we prepare our budget and report we strive to be as transparent and accurate as possible. We are aware of the continued rise in prices and are working to ensure that our limited resources are put to the best use possible. Education costs account for over 80 percent of the costs related to your property taxes. The Selectboard has no control over the costs of education for students in Leicester. As you are likely aware, many properties have sold for prices above their assessment value. Leicester's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), like most towns, has fallen below levels set by the state, necessitating a town-wide reappraisal. Due to the high demand, a reappraisal is likely to occur in 2026.

In looking ahead to 2024:

We recently signed a four year contract for fire protection services with the Brandon Fire Department, at a cost of \$48,000 per year. See page 23 for a report from Fire Chief Tom Kilpeck.

We will continue to budget \$100,000 for paving. In 2023, portions of Old Jerusalem Road were repaved as was a portion of Lake Dunmore and Fernville Road. In 2024 we are aiming to pave Fern Lake Road. This year, we are not likely to be eligible for a paving grant to assist with the costs but will apply in the future.

A few changes have occurred at the Town Office. Lyndsay D'Avignon was named to the DRB to replace Sarah von Trapp. Lyndsay was also appointed to the position of Auditor and helps with clerical work at the Town Office.

The Selectboard and the Town owes Julie a very big "thank you" for her continued cheerful, helpful manner and attention to the many details involved in keeping the town running smoothly. The Selectboard also wishes to thank other town office personnel and Rob Devoid (Animal Control Officer) and Chree Perkins (Health Officer) for their efforts on behalf of the town.

The Selectboard wishes to acknowledge the fine work that Arlan, Scott and crew perform to keep our roads clear in winter and safe year round.

Lem Palmer and Gus Letourneau both work diligently to maintain the roadsides and the town green and cemetery respectively.

In 2023, 100% of the town roads were cleaned up for Green Up Day, the second year of such an accomplishment. We are hopeful for a repeat in 2024. As is the tradition, a free lunch for volunteers will be held on Green Up Day, Saturday, May 4, from 11:30 to 1:00, at the Senior Center. Contact Diane Benware for more information or to volunteer.

We continue to seek land upon which to build a new town shed and covered sand/salt pile that meets state expectations. If you, or someone you know, has land for sale that might meet our needs, contact a Selectboard member.

Pet owners: your dogs need to be registered by April 1. To avoid fines and penalties for not being registered in a timely manner, please make arrangements as soon as possible. A rabies clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 5-6pm.

The Selectboard meets the first and third Monday of each month at the Town Office, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Benware (C), Tom Barker, John Rouse, Brad Lawes, Diane Randall

ROADS MAINTENANCE POLICY

The Town of Leicester attempts to keep town roads safe and clear for traffic all year. Winter road maintenance can be a challenge. The practice is to keep roads passable and clear if at all possible. One challenge involves the placement of objects within the Town's Right of Way. In most cases, the road in front of a property is a public highway in which the town owns an easement, a right to use the land for highway purposes. This easement is a public Right of Way (ROW) that is typically 3 rods wide (49.5 feet). The town has a Right of Way that extends 24 feet 9 inches on either side of the center line of the highway. In the Town of Leicester, road Rights of Way can vary in width from 2 to 5 rods, (33 to 82.5 feet). The Selectboard ultimately controls this ROW.

Within this Right of Way, the Town may do work without having to ask landowner permission. Work may include, but not be limited to, trimming or removing trees or brush, repairing and expanding road shoulders, grading lawn edges to maintain road width, work on the shoulder of the road.

Legally, a resident must receive permission from the Town if one plans to build or place something in the ROW. Title 19, chapter 11, section 1111 of the Vermont Statutes "prohibits the encroachment of the Town ROW without prior approval from the Selectboard."

The Leicester Selectboard warns that objects in the ROW are placed there at the owner's risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for damage to objects placed in the Town's Right of Way. This may include, but is not limited to trees, fences, flower boxes/pots/beds, mailboxes, etc. Further, the Town will pursue recovery of damage to Town equipment that may occur during road maintenance practices due to the placement of objects in the ROW.

Warned Dec. 3, 2012 Initial Adoption Dec. 17, 2012 Formally Adopted with Revisions Jan. 7, 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 28, 2024	OVUUSD INFORMATIONAL MEETING - <i>CONTACT RNESU FOR INFO</i>
MARCH 4, 2024	TOWN MEETING - MEETING HOUSE 7PM
MARCH 5, 2024	TOWN MEETING/PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY - TOWN OFFICE 10AM - 7PM
MARCH 19, 2024	RABIES CLINIC \$20 - TOWN OFFICE 5-6PM
APRIL 1, 2024	DOG LICENSES DUE (SEE PAGE 21)
MAY 4, 2024	GREEN UP DAY
AUGUST 13, 2024	STATEWIDE PRIMARY - TOWN OFFICE 10AM - 7PM
NOVEMBER 5, 2024	GENERAL ELECTION - TOWN OFFICE 10AM - 7PM
NOVEMBER 15, 2024	TAXES DUE



CLERK & TREASURER REPORT

It's always interesting to sit down and write my Clerk & Treasurer Report. It's a time to look back at the past and look forward to the future. 2023 was definitely a busy and sometimes challenging year. We were thankfully pardoned from much of the flooding devastation that hit other towns in the State.

LAND RECORDS

In 2023, we continued increase the number of land records available online. This transition, which started during covid, has been incredibly helpful and time saving to landowners, lawyers, realtors, and surveyors looking for documents. We will continue to increase our online land record availability throughout 2024.

If you need some records, go to our website, leicestervt.org. Clicking "HERE" under the yellow highlighted line will bring you to our research page. You can find tax bills, lister cards, indexes, daybook, etc. We also provide a link to RecordHub, an online system to access our land records. If you are unable to find what you need there, or just hate technology, give me a call and we'll make an appointment for you to come in and search at the office.

ELECTIONS

The Town Meeting in 2023 went well with our first in-person meeting since covid. It was great to see everyone's smiling faces again and share in the community!

2024 is a presidential election year, so we will be busy with three separate elections. We will have Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary in March, the State Primary in August, and the General Election in November.

TAXES

The housing sales in 2023 continued to come in well above assessment. This had a direct impact on the Town's common level of appraisal (CLA*) which the State uses to determine our properties 'equalized' values for education taxes. Education taxes (which are completely separate from municipal taxes) increased accordingly. With education taxes accounting for over 80% of our tax bills, we all saw an increase in the bottom line even though the municipal taxes stayed nearly level with 2022. ****CLA is the amount the Town is assessed compared to the fair market value from sales. For instance, if your house is assessed at \$100,000 and the CLA is 70%, the State will equalize your fair market value to be ~\$143,000. The State then adjusts the education tax rate so the total amount of education taxes you pay on a \$100,000 assessment would equal the amount that would be due for a \$143,000 fair market value assessment.***

Looking forward to 2024, I fully expect our CLA to again be impacted by high housing sale values in addition to any increases the State may have in the rate prior to the CLA equalization. The Selectboard works hard to control costs for Town services. Unfortunately, with the municipal portion of the tax bill being less than 20% of the total tax amount, their efforts have little impact on our final amount due.

We are scheduled to have a State mandated town wide reappraisal in 2026. The Selectboard was proactive in scheduling the reappraisal in anticipation of the State mandate. Due to the housing market changes, a vast number of towns are under the mandated reappraisal requirement and many towns are scheduled out until 2028 or later.

Tax bills are generally mailed out in mid to late August. Taxes become delinquent at midnight on November 15th. We do not accept postmarks. Please keep this in mind when mailing your payments to accommodate any USPS delivery delays. The delinquent taxes are then turned over to the Delinquent Tax Collector who assesses an 8% penalty and 1% interest. They then receive another 1% interest on the base amount on the 15th of every month they continue to be delinquent. Taxes

that are still delinquent at midnight on December 31st go into the town report. For more information, contact the Delinquent Tax Collector, Beth Ripley, at 802-247-0075.

If you can't make it in during regular hours and need to drop something *off*, please use the **drop box** located under the bulletin board. If you need to come into the office, you can make an appointment that better suits your schedule. Call me and we'll work out a time.

I want to thank Dianne Harvey, my Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer, who is a great resource and Lyndsay D'Avignon, who in addition to being an Auditor and member of the DRB, has been helping with clerical and organizational projects at the office.

As I finish this report, I reflect on the heartbreaking loss of Ken 'Sonny' Young.

In Leicester, although we all have differing views and beliefs, we are a community in support and service to each other. Sonny was the perfect example of this. He was strong-minded in his beliefs, fiercely loyal, and had a heart of pure gold. He would always be there to help when anyone needed anything. He faithfully served both his town and his community. He was the true representation of support and service.

Sonny would always greet me with a smile and a big hug. I will miss him so, but his generous heart and dedication to service will stay with me forever.

I am profoundly grateful to serve this amazing Town and all its amazing people!

I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2024!

Julie Delphia
Town Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 247-5961 x 3
townclerk@leicestervt.gov

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Check us out at www.leicestervt.org

VITAL STATISTICS

Upon the advice of Vermont Vital Records, we will no longer be printing names for vital records. We understand that this change is a sign of the times, but it does sadden us not to celebrate our new residents, cherish our lost residents, and congratulate our new unions.

Births **12** Deaths **15** Marriages **4**

GRANT ACTIVITY

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued \$10,985 for a Milfoil grant (2022) and \$18,773 for a Milfoil Grant (2023). The money was directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Vermont Tax Department issued the following grants funds to the Town: Equalization - \$787; Hold Harmless - \$10,439; Reappraisal - \$6,689.50.

The Municipal Energy Resilience Grant issued \$4,000 for the MERP Mini Grant.

The Town spent \$2,790.98 as a 5% match for work done on the VT Agency of Transportation culvert/bridge replacement project on Old Jerusalem Road. BO 1445(37) Bridge 4.

The Town spent \$2,073.26 as a match for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The work is being conducted by Addison County Regional Planning.

DOG SUMMARY

Male Neutered	\$840.00
Female Spayed	\$897.00
Female	\$211.00
Male	\$406.00
Fines	\$25.00
Total Income	\$2,379.00

ALL dogs must be registered by

April 1, 2024

Spayed/Neutered \$11

Unspayed/Unneutered \$15

Dog tags/Paper	\$156.22
Clerk Fees	\$374.00
State Fees	\$930.00
ACHS Contract	\$600.00
Total Expense	\$2,060.22



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

If you have questions or concerns regarding animal control, please contact Animal Control Officer Robbie Devoid at (802) 349-6163 or rdevoid@msn.com.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

Please be a responsible dog owner. Fines and consequences for non-compliant dogs can be severe. Failing to comply with State registration requirements can lead to fines of up to \$500.00 per violation or result in the unregistered dogs being destroyed. Failure to comply with the Dog Ordinance can incur significant fines and/or result in the dogs being removed and/or destroyed.

To avoid the potential of fines or consequences, please register your dog(s) by April 1st and comply with the dog ordinance. For a copy of the dog ordinance, please contact the Town Office. Dog licenses may be obtained at the Town Office during office hours or by placing an envelope containing a copy of the rabies certificate and a check for the appropriate fee (see above) in the Town Office Drop Box or mailing the information to: Leicester Town Office, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733

VSNIP

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if

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

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

Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP

Executive Director: VVSA

2023 GREEN UP REPORT

For the second year in a row 100% of Leicester's roadways were cleaned for Green Up! Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to Lem Palmer for picking up bags over Green Up weekend and delivering them to the transfer station. Thank you to Brad Lawes for financial support of the effort.

As we look to 2024 it would be great to get some younger folks to help out. Longtime volunteers are getting older and climbing into the ditches to retrieve items is getting harder and harder to do. Consider involving the entire family or joining others that live on your road to form a team to assist us in this effort. Your help is appreciated to clean up what was tossed out over the fall and winter.

As usual, a free lunch (hot dogs, soda, water, cookies and brownies and chips) for volunteers will be held on Green Up Day, May 4, from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Four Corners. Your lunch ticket doubles as a raffle ticket. The cost of the raffle is underwritten by the Leicester Historical Society and Brad Lawes of Lawes Ag. Prizes include gift cards to local restaurants, maple syrup and other prize bags.

Green Up bags and some gloves are available at the Town Office the week of Green Up if you want to begin cleaning up early. Bags will also be available at the town shed next to the collection trailer the morning of Green Up. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Diane Benware at 802-247-3786.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

It was a busy year in the Lister's office as far as property transfers go. We had a total of 68 Property Transfers from 4/1/2022 to 3/31/2023.

We had 58 change of appraisals and heard three grievances at our hearing held on July 18, 2023.

We now have Lister Cards available online for easy access. But if anyone would like any other information, the Lister's office is open Tuesdays from 9am to Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Harvey,
Admin Asst to the Assessor

CEMETERY REPORT

The Cemetery Committee works to maintain and improve Leicester's Brookside Cemetery. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm from April to October.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Barker, Donna Pidgeon, Donna Swington, Pam Gates

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

If anyone wishes to burn in the winter – if there's snow on the ground, you don't need a permit. In the summertime, you do. I can be reached on my cell at 802-377-0272.

Richard C. Nicklaw – Fire Warden

BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT 2023 REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

I am proud to report that the members of the Brandon Fire Department continue to be prepared and ready to respond to the emergency needs of the three towns that we cover, Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. There are currently twenty-four (24) members of the fire department. We put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to keep our equipment at the ready and training so that we are prepared to respond when called upon.

We currently have eight members that hold Firefighter I certification, five Firefighter II and two Fire Instructor I certified personnel on staff. There are four others that are currently in the FFI course. We have a new truck on order, a custom-built rescue pumper, that should be delivered by the end of 2024.

For FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the Brandon Fire Department responded to 160 calls for assistance.

110 in Brandon; 30 in Leicester; 9 in Goshen; and 11 in other Mutual Aid towns.

Motor Vehicle accidents	33	Rescues of Person or Animal	2
Structure Fires	7	Assistance to EMS	24
Chimney Fires	1	Outdoor fires & other calls	17
Other building related emergencies	4	Other Good intent & cancellations	15
Alarm Activations	48	Mutual Aid to another department	9

I would like to acknowledge our working relationship with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Department, along with our mutual aid departments from Pittsford, Salisbury, and Whiting. I also want to thank the Prudential Board, the district treasurer, and the Water Superintendent for their guidance and assistance, without which my duty as Fire Chief would be far more difficult than it is.

Not everyone is capable going into a dangerous situation to aid others, it takes a whole team. From the firefighters entering a burning building, to the operators of the apparatus pumping them water, the support staff working on the outside, and the officers making the plan and decisions, it is a team effort for every different call. The Brandon Fire Department is looking for new members willing to join this team. We currently are accepting applications from residents of Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. Please stop by the fire station to discuss becoming a member. We are normally here on the second and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You also can contact me via email at chief@dunmorehose.org or by leaving a message on the non-emergency line 802-247-3400.

A huge THANK YOU goes to our firefighters, who respond at any hour of the day or night, to aid those in need in our community, and their families that support them with this.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Kilpeck, Brandon Fire Chief

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

The Town Health Officer is responsible for investigating and addressing public health concerns in town. In consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, the officer is to take steps necessary to enforce orders issued pursuant to 18 VSA Chapter 3. For water testing kits and info, call 1-800-660-9997. For Rental Housing concerns, issues call 1-802-864-0099.

The Town Health Officer is Chree Perkins. She can be reached at 802-465-8335 or 802-377-1991.

LEICESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Leicester Historical Society seeks old photos and related information that could be used to create an on-line resource for community members and others interested in town history. If you have old photos/documents we could borrow to scan, they would be promptly returned to you. Contact Diane at 802-247-3786 for more information.

Members of Leicester Historical Society look forward to once again sponsoring Prize Bingo at the Senior Center the second Saturday of each month, Sept to Dec and April to June. Refreshments are served. All are welcome and we appreciate the support.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Leicester Unified Zoning Regulations were updated and approved in February 2017 and are posted on the town website: leicestervt.org. You will also find a downloadable application form there.

Please remember that if you plan any kind of development within 250' from shoreline, you will need to consult with the Shoreland Protection Division of the Vermont Environmental Commission. (See full definition of "development" in the Regulations on line).

The administrator for Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake is Laura Dlugolecki. Her email address is: laura.dlugolecki@vermont.gov. She can answer any questions you have about shoreland development.

Applications which require action by the Development Review Board (DRB) may take several months before final approval is given and the time for appeals has passed. A completed application must be submitted three weeks before a hearing in order to allow for warning periods.

As another reminder, almost all land development in Vermont requires town and/or state permits. It is the responsibility of the landowner, **not the contractor**, to apply for them. Please contact the Zoning Administrator before beginning any project.

The Zoning Administrator is Keith Arlund. He can be reached at 802-465-8098 or at zoning@leicestervt.gov. Zoning hours are by appointment.

2023 TOWN MEETING RESULTS

Article I: The election of Town Officers for the ensuing year:

A Moderator for a one (1) year term	RICHARD REED
A Selectboard Member for a three (3) year term	JOHN ROUSE
A Selectboard Member for a two (2) year term	TOM BARKER
A Delinquent Tax Collector for a one (1) year term	BETH RIPLEY
An Auditor for a three (3) year term	
A Town Clerk for a three (3) year term	JULIE DELPHIA
A Treasurer for a three (3) year term	JULIE DELPHIA

Article II: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of \$798,561.66 to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year ...: YES 150 NO 24

Article III: Shall the Town of Leicester vote to raise, appropriate, and spend the sum of \$1,000 for the support of Addison County Economic Development Corporation to provide services to residents of the Town? YES 138 NO 37

Article IV: Shall the Town of Leicester appropriate \$1,000 to the Turning Point Center of Addison County for the purpose of supporting its mission to assist persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors? YES 138 NO 38

Article V: Shall the voters appropriate funds to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (formerly known as the BLSG) to apply adulticide for the purpose of mosquito control? YES 131 NO 45

ADDISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) is Leicester's economic development resource, serving the community for over 25 years. We appreciate that the voters of Leicester approved our initial request for FY24, and respectfully request that continued support in the amount of \$1,000 be included on the ballot for the Town of Leicester for fiscal year 2025.

We offer expertise and resources to businesses throughout Addison County. We not only serve businesses located in your community, we also serve the businesses in neighboring communities where your citizens work or may own a business. Our mission is to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment, nurturing businesses to launch, grow, and thrive. We do this through direct assistance and through our networks of partners and collaborators locally and at the state and federal levels. To view our FY23 Impact Map, please [visit here](#).

ACEDC also provides services to municipalities to advance economic and community development. These services include information and application assistance for state and federal grant programs and convening action groups to address issues such as housing, workforce development and childcare. In addition, we are constantly working with the entrepreneurs of Addison County in our efforts to increase the number and quality of available jobs.

If you have questions, need additional information, or would like our assistance with economic or community development projects in Leicester, please do not hesitate to contact me at fkennedy@addisoncountyedc.org or (802) 388-7953.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely, Fred Kenney, Executive Director

ADDISON COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ACRJP provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the "balanced approach" in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the program participant. The goal is to help the program participant develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation of loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in our programs is supported to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way, and learn from their experience so as not to reoffend and cause harm to yet another person.

We have expanded our programs beyond Court Diversion and the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program to include the Driving with License Suspended Program, Safe Driving Program, Reparative Restorative Panels, Reentry Navigation and Circles of Support and Accountability for those reentering the community from incarceration, and Pretrial monitoring and Tamarack for those community members who have committed a crime and have a mental illness or substance abuse problem. All Programs have the goal for the participant of instilling a sense of belonging and commitment to contribute to the Addison County Community as positive, proactive member and to not create any more victims, essentially decrease crime in the county.

The following is a breakdown of the number of individuals from the Town of Leicester who were provided services through our agency in FY 22-23.

Court Diversion Adult:	0
Court Diversion Youth:	0
Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program:	1
Reparative Restorative Panels:	1
COSA:	0
Reentry Navigation:	0
Driving With License Suspended:	0
Pretrial Services:	4
Tamarack:	0
Safe Driving	1

Thank you for your continued support. Our website: www.acrjs.org

ADDISON COUNTY HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Addison County Home Health and Hospice (ACHHH) is a community-focused non-profit home health care and hospice care agency that has been providing care for Addison County residents for more than fifty years. We provide an array of services that help our neighbors receive care in their own homes where they are most comfortable and where they often experience the best quality of life. Our services are offered to all Addison County residents who need them, regardless of their ability to pay. To ensure the future of these vital programs, we turn to our community for support.

Our clinicians provide skilled nursing; medical social work; rehabilitative therapies including occupational, speech and physical therapy; hospice and palliative care; maternal-child health care; IV therapy; Telemonitoring; Chronic Care Management and care of complicated wounds. During the Covid- 19 pandemic we have opened an Outpatient Therapy Practice, providing speech language pathology, physical therapy and occupational therapy services for our community members close to their homes. Our Personal Care Attendants and Homemakers help patients with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and cooking.

ACHHH serves many patients who are coping with chronic illnesses such as congestive heart failure, COPD and diabetes. Some patients face life-limiting illnesses including cancer, ALS and Alzheimers. ACHHH strives to help patients and families enjoy the best quality of life possible, in all life stages. We serve patients from birth to end-of-life.

Through the Covid-19 pandemic, not one of our employees said "I will not go" when asked to visit a patient who tested positive for the disease. They have continued to provide kind, compassionate care as they have for more than fifty years.

We appreciate the long-time support from the Town of Leicester. Your financial support makes it possible for our expert team to provide high-quality compassionate care to ALL of our patients and families.

Best Regards, Maureen Conrad, Director of Development

Number of Vermont towns served: 34
Total number of people served: 2126
Total number of Leicester residents served: 39 individuals/669 visits
Route 7 North. PO Box 754. Middlebury, VT 05753. (802) 388-7259. www.achhh.org

ADDISON COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

The mission of the Parent/Child Center is to provide support and education to families and assure that our community is one in which all young children get off to the right start, with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy, and productive. The Center provides parenting education classes and workshops (on site and in neighboring communities), community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF TOWN OF LEICESTER RESIDENTS THAT REC'D OUR SERVICE 25

Our website: www.addisoncountrypcc.org

ADDISON COUNTY READERS

Free Books For Young Children. A local organization, Addison County Readers, Inc., through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, is helping families have more books at home that their children love to look at and have their parents read. Preschoolers who are registered for the program have a free book mailed to their homes each month. There is no cost to the family and the books are the children to keep. Any child (birth to five years of age) living in Addison County can participate. 27 Leicester preschoolers are currently enrolled.

Pick up a registration brochure at the school or Town Office or you can enroll online at: www.addisoncountyreaders.org.

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2023

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2023 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Worked with Orwell, Waltham, Ferrisburgh and Vergennes on Municipal Planning Grants.
- Worked with Bristol, Lincoln and Shoreham on Bylaw Modernization projects focused on housing.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation: Cornwall, Ferrisburgh.
- Designed and conducted a Regional Housing Survey.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops on planning topics, including housing, planning essentials and flood resiliency bylaws..
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County’s Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Helped communities create Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) & Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)
- Updated Mutual Aid agreements for Public Works Departments.
- Administered two Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grants.
- Administered one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant.
- Assisted Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA with summer flooding response.

Energy Planning:

- Helped all towns access capacity grants and energy assessments through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Provided energy scorecards for municipalities to track progress on state and local energy efficiency goals.
- Developed an online map of renewable energy resources and siting.

Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee’s regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to reduce road erosion from local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for projects in Middlebury, Vergennes and New Haven.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian studies and hosted the regional Walk/bike council meetings.
- Provided local oversight for a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for Vergennes and surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Served as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

Brownfields Planning

- Administered EPA-funded Community Wide Assessment grant for brownfield sites

Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the member municipalities. The Board holds hybrid meetings on the 3^d Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly 8 days prior to the Board at 4:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public.

District Mission: To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting waste reduction; (2) Promoting pollution prevention; (3) Maximizing diversion of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for disposal of remaining wastes.

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

Transfer Station Hours: M-F, 7 AM-3 PM & Sat, 8 AM-1 PM

HazWaste Center Hours: M-F, 8 AM-2 PM & Sat, 8 AM-1 PM

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. A complete list of acceptable items and prices can be found on the District's website.

2023 Highlights

New Regional Residential Drop-off. The ACSWMD is developing a new regional residential solid waste transfer station at 65 Campground Road in New Haven, Addison County, VT. This regional facility will serve all 21 member towns of the District. District surveys and experience over the past 30 years have demonstrated that the hub and spoke system of town drop-offs feeding into the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, VT lacks a substantive depot, open some weekdays and on Sats., that can accept a variety of recyclables along with residential bagged Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). This new facility, while not intended to replace the small-town drop-offs, is intended to offer a sustainable system to provide more comprehensive and accessible service for residents. All relevant environmental and solid waste permits have been obtained by the District. The District contracted with Champlain Construction for Phase 1 construction. The scope of the work in Phase I, to be completed in early 2024, includes some site work: erosion control, concrete pads, paving, storm drain, buried retaining wall, driveway, landscaping, gate, and two concrete bunkers. The District will arrange for a private vehicle to park during Phase 1. In Phase 2, with a goal toward CY2025 construction, the new regional residential transfer station will be constructed and fully staffed, and will accept residential single stream recyclables, food scraps, leaf & yard debris, scrap metal, electronics (E-Waste), MSW, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, books, plastic film/bags, and confidential documents for shredding/ recycling. A new regional HazWaste (HHW) Center is planned for Phase 3 in CY2026.

HHW Extended Producer Responsibility Law. In 2023, Vermont enacted the first-in-the nation Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility Law. H.67 requires producers of hazardous household products to safely collect and dispose of them. It is the eighth Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law enacted in Vermont, second only to California with its number of successful EPR programs. EPR is a legislative tool that extends a manufacturer's responsibility for its product throughout all lifecycle stages. Under an EPR program, financial and management responsibility for products is shifted away from local governments and back to the manufacturer. The District has been participating in numerous planning sessions to obtain an EPR law for HHW since 2017 and will continue these efforts in the coming years along with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and other solid waste planning entities to ensure successful implementation of this critical program. The program goals include a reduction in public sector costs for managing HHW, increased education and outreach about safe management and reduction in generation of HHW, and incentives for producers to design products that are less toxic in the future.

2024 Annual Budget

The ACSWMD Board of Supervisors adopted its 2024 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for CY2024, on Nov. 16, 2023. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. As with prior years, the 2024 Annual Budget will be funded by a combination of: (1) tip fees collected at the Transfer Station; (2) a per-ton District Fee on all waste generated within the District and destined for disposal; (3) donations or fees at special events sponsored by the District; (4) the sale of items such as compost bins; (5) grants, if available; (6) profit sharing of scrap metal; and (7) manufacturer EPR reimbursements. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in CY2024.** The new tip fee for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) & Construction/Demo Debris (C&D) at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury will be \$148/ton, a \$3/ton increase. Rates on a few other items will have nominal changes. For a copy of the 2023 Annual Report and/or adopted CY2024 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at acswmd@acswmd.org. Both are also available on the District's website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

AGE WELL

Imagine if every older adult had access to the care, services, and nutrition that helped them age with confidence. With support from Leicester, we are trying to do just that. For nearly 50 years, Age Well has provided services that allow aging Vermonters to stay independent and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. We excel at integrating in-home and community resources, health services, and wellness programs to enhance and improve the quality of life for Leicester residents. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in demand for our services, and that will continue to increase as our population grows older.

We are writing to request support from the Town of Leicester in the amount of \$1,100.00. As a nonprofit, our services are provided at no charge, and your support ensures that we are able to continue to offer care & service coordination, Meals on Wheels, Grab & Go meals, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation services, expertise on Medicare, insurance, long and short-term care options, and the Helpline to residents in need.

Vermont is ranked as one of the three "oldest" state in the country and our aging population is only expected to grow, nearly doubling in the next fifteen years. Older adults living in rural areas have less access to healthcare, including specialized healthcare, and the services tend to be more costly than those provided in metropolitan areas. Overwhelmingly, Vermonters want to grow old in their own homes; Age Well provides the services and support to ensure that is a possibility.

Since 1974, Age Well has provided Vermonters with the necessary support to manage their daily living needs, with the goal of keeping them active, healthy, and independent. As the leading experts and advocates for the aging population, we believe that health happens at home and focuses on lifestyle, happiness, and wellness—not on age.

Committed to helping individuals age well, we reduce barriers by providing access to healthy meals, in-home care, expertise on Medicare and insurance, long-term and short-term care options, transportation to medical appointments, translations services, a Helpline, and many more community resources in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Carried out 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 their caregivers.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we do not charge for our services. 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.

Last year, Age Well served **30** people from Leicester, services included:

- 10 calls to the Helpline
- 39 hours of Case Management
- 452 Meals on Wheels delivered
- 47 Congregate Meals served
- 133 Grab & Go Meals served
- 4 hours of Options Counseling

9 Leicester residents volunteered over **478** hours



MEALS ON WHEELS CAN SERVE A PERSON FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR FOR ABOUT THE SAME COST AS JUST 1 DAY IN A HOSPITAL OR 10 DAYS IN A NURSING HOME

IMPACT: Our wide array of programs enhance the quality of life and improve health outcomes for older Vermonters by:

- Increasing food security
- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Improving quality of diet
- Reducing health care costs

Sincerely, Sara Wool, Director of Development & Planned Giving

P 802-865-0360 F 802-865-0363 Helpline: 800-642-5119 76 Pearl Street, Ste. 201 Essex Junction, VT 05452

AMERICAN RED CROSS

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

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

- We made **700 homes safer** by installing **2,177** smoke detectors and educating **897** families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained **42,950 people** in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills. (training data for county level)
- We collected over **133,100 units of blood**. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over **3,400** service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Leicester. *This year, we respectfully request a municipal appropriation of \$500.00.* These funds will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region, who benefit from our unique services at no cost.

Warmly,

Lauren Jordan, Development Coordinator

New Hampshire Headquarters: 2 Maitland Street, Concord, NH 03301 • 1-800-464-6692 supportnne@redcross.org
 Vermont Headquarters: 32 N Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401 • 802-497-5995 [www. redcross.org/nne](http://www.redcross.org/nne)

BRANDON AREA RESCUE SQUAD

Brandon Rescue responded to 34 calls for help in 2023. Below you will find a detailed breakdown. We strive to remain a mainly volunteer run organization which currently saves the community \$300,000 or more per year. Those volunteers have given more than 25,000 hours of their time over this past year to help ensure emergency medical coverage for Leicester and surrounding towns. As needs and availability of volunteers change, we've added additional paid staff to our roster to supplement our volunteer staff. We currently have 24 volunteer providers and 5 paid staff. As always, if anyone is interested in the medical field or coming on as a driver, we always have room and need for more.

Thank you for your continued support and if there are any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely, Andrew Jackson, Chief of Operations
 802-247-3231, andy@brandonrescue.org

Billed	911 / Transport / Patient Evaluated / Care Provided / Intermediate	12
	911 / Transport / Patient Evaluated / Care Provided / BLS	9
Completed	911 / Transport / Patient Evaluated / Care Provided / Paramedic	1
	911 / Transport / Patient Evaluated / Care Provided / Intermediate	1
N/A	911 / No Transport / Patient Evaluated, Refused Care / BLS	3
	911 / No Patient Contact / No Care Provided	2
Not Billed	911 / No Transport / Patient Evaluated, Care Provided / Intermediate	2
	911 / No Transport / Patient Evaluated, No Care Required / No Care Provided	1
Not Billed	Standby / No Transport / No Patient Contact / No Care Provided	1
	911 / No Transport / No Contact / No Care Provided	1
Not Billed	911 / No Transport / Not Applicable / BLS	1

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe environment in which patrons of all ages may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The BFPL pledges quality service, demonstrating respect for all individuals and our community.

A little under half of the BFPL's annual operating budget is from voter-approved appropriations from the towns of Brandon (including Forest Dale), Goshen, Leicester, and Sudbury, our service towns. Each year we must meet the remaining budgetary needs through several fundraisers, donations from the non-profit Friends of the Library, direct donations from our patrons, grants, apartment rents, and, when needed, distribution from an endowment.

At the 2024 Town Meetings, our towns' voters will be asked to approve their town's appropriation for the Library. Appropriations are critical, and without them the BFPL would not be able to operate anywhere near the level it presently does.

After moving the entire library in April to a temporary space in the lower level of the Town Hall to accommodate ADA renovations at our 1830s building, we are at full operations, serving our community. The BFPL is a busy place, with an average door count of 200 people/day; here are some things that our friendly and helpful Librarians do for you:

General Services

- Books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, audio CDs, interlibrary loan, myriad programming, Grief Group, Meditation Circle, Junior Librarian Program, monthly book discussions, TCG programming run by Librarian Eric Drzewianowski (Pokemon, Magic the Gathering, D&D)

Children's/Teen's Services

- Books, teen area, DVDs, audio CDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hour on Thursdays, Teen Advisory Group, board games, and a safe space for kids after school

Outreach Services

- Tables at local events (Harvest Fest, Spooksville)
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons

Building as a Resource

- The Library building (existing and temporary space) is used by a wide variety of community groups including school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Child Care Providers, French club, PTO, homeschoolers, Pins & Needles, Brandon Publishing Club, Forget- Me-Not grief group, and more

Computer/Digital Services

- We offer 5 public computers and laptops, iPads, 3 preloaded Kindles, 3 preloaded kids' tablets, 3 programmable robots, 1 Android tablet. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, and other critical needs
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for patrons to access Vermont Online Library, Udemy, Listen-Up, Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class, all free to our patrons
- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- 3-D printer
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment and scheduled digital literacy workshops
- Free Wi-Fi in the building

Non-traditional Services

- The BFPL Seed Library offers free seeds and sustainability education
- The Library is an outlet for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Free/reduced-price passes available for Vermont museums and parks
- Weekly free bread distribution site
- Free COVID tests

Library of Things

- Snowshoes, moisture meter, projector, backup power supply, sewing machine, serger, Cricut, games, ukuleles, microphone, green screen set-up

Elderly Services

- Extensive Large Print selection
- Home delivery for housebound patrons. The Library is often one of the few links someone might have to our community
- Various programming for older populations
- Free rides to the polls
- Digital Literacy classes

Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department- Quiz night, Trivia Championship, Spooksville, Harvest Fest
- Neshobe School- Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Area Toy Project- Pete the Cat Story Time

As you can see, the BFPL is about much more than books, and really is a Community Center for all! Appropriations from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen that YOU approve will allow all of these valuable services to continue.

It is critical for citizens to vote "Yes" for Library appropriations, and we thank you in advance for supporting one of Brandon's gems- your local Library. Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. 802-247-8230 or brandonpubliclibrary.org

Thank you!!

BFPL Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; John Peterson, Recording Secretary; Jeff Haylon; Nancy Iwanicki; Beate Jensen; Harry McEnerny; Gary Meffe; Bruce Ness; Cecil Reniche- Smith; and Courtney Satz

COUNSELING SERVICE OF ADDISON COUNTY
89 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) helps people seeking mental health, substance use, and developmental, and emergency services – people of all ages, income, and abilities such as your neighbors, your friends, and yourself.

CSAC staff strive to understand an individual's life experience from multiple perspectives, including mental status, oppression, poverty, and other social determinants. We prioritize helping the people who face significant barriers realize their rights, utilize

their voice, and find empowerment to foster their resilience and recovery. We help people feel safe voicing their experiences and believe that CSAC has a responsibility to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination.

In FY23, CSAC served 1,987 individuals, totaling 738,985 service hours. The Town of Leicester accrued 36,288 service hours.

Requests for behavioral, developmental, and 24/7 emergency services continue to be high. CSAC's commitment to Addison County is not just important but vital.

Thank you,

Rachel Lee Cummings, Executive Director
www.csac-vt.org
Phone: 802-388-6751

ELDERLY SERVICES

*The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elderly Services
112 Exchange Street, PO Box 581
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-3983 ~ Fax (802) 388-0427
mail@elderlyservices.org ~ www.elderlyservices.org*

The Board and staff of Elderly Services would like to thank you and the citizens of Leicester for your generosity in supporting our programs over the last 40 years, and request your renewed support in the amount of \$500. Currently, we have 5 participants from your town (and their families) who directly benefit from our services.

For more than 40 years, Elderly Services has been caring for some of the most vulnerable members of our community through our nationally-recognized adult day program (Project Independence) with nursing oversight, social work support, care coordination, transportation to our center, delicious homemade hot meals, and therapeutic activities in a beautiful home away from home on Exchange Street in Middlebury. In this joyful setting, participants feel like themselves again.

Social isolation and loneliness have a devastating impact on mental and physical health, as we learned during the pandemic. People feel happier when they are with other people and their health improves in a positive social setting. Over and over, we see our elders' health stabilize in this positive community setting and moods of the elders and their family members improve.

We provide daytime respite for families and other caregivers so that they may return to work, have time to themselves, and get a break from the daily challenges of caregiving. We also care for the caregiver – providing caregiver support one-on-one and in groups so that they feel more successful in handling the challenges of caregiving. Thank you for your consideration.

Ron

Ronald G. Hallman, Communications Coordinator

FRONT PORCH FORUM

Neighbors are talking on Front Porch Forum

Have you joined our local Front Porch Forum? FPF helps neighbors connect and build community by hosting a statewide network of online local forums. One-third of Vermont households participate with thousands more joining every month. People use their FPF to find lost animals, offer assistance to neighbors in need, organize local projects, draw crowds to events, highlight small businesses, share crime reports, seek contractor recommendations, and much more. Started 10 years ago, FPF is a free service and it's based in Vermont.

Learn more at <http://frontporchforum.com>

GREEN UP VERMONT

*P.O. Box 1191 Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191
(802)229-4586, or 1-800-974-3259
greenup@greenupvermont.org, www.greenupvermont.org*

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

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

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

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

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

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



Green Up Day, May 4, 2024

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Town Meeting Report

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to our local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve. The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Our New Office

We are excited to report that we now have a new Forest Supervisor's Headquarters located at 4387 U.S. Route 4 East in Mendon, Vermont! Our visitor center will be staffed and open to the public over the winter months on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. In the spring, we will be open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Our employees have recently transitioned from a full-time virtual work schedule to working out of the new office and are available should you need to reach them. You can always call our main office number (802) 747-6700 and press 9 to search our employee directory or to make an appointment with a member of our staff. Our permanent mailing address is: USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests, 4387 U.S. Route 4 East, Mendon, Vermont 05701. Please visit the staff directory link here for a current list of our employees: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/contactus/gmfl/about-forest/contactus>

Leicester Projects

- Resurfaced the Minnie Baker Trailhead. Installed new picnic grill, tables, and a bench at the Silver Lake picnic site. Installed a new outhouse at the Silver Lake picnic site.
- Moosalamoo to Silver Lake Connector Trail Project -- construction and maintenance of a non-motorized recreation trail in Goshen, Salisbury, and Leicester connecting Moosalamoo Campground to the Silver Lake Campground.
- Silver Lake Recreation Site Improvements Project -- installation of shoreline access steps and stairways in Leicester to address erosion and sedimentation issues around the Silver Lake Campground and Silver Lake picnic area.

HOMeward BOUND

236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-1100

Homeward Bound operates with an annual budget of approximately \$900,000 and receives no funding from federal, state or local governments. The only funding provided by the Town of Leicester is through an annual contract for \$600 which provides 24 hour/7day per week access to the shelter for the Animal Control Officer to bring in an unlimited number of stray dogs to our facility.

Shelter and Adoption Services:

- PetCORE is an income-eligible program that provides food, veterinary care, subsidized spay/neuter, and other pet owners
- Pets in Crisis provides free short term boarding and medical care for pets whose owners face housing crises
- PetFIX provides an affordable way for pet owners to sterilize their pets
- Spay the Mom provides free spay/neuter for pets who have an accidental litter (requires surrender of offspring)

Incoming Animals	Stray animals brought to shelter	6
	Animals surrendered by their owner	3
Outgoing Animals	Adopted	0
	Returned to their owner	0
Community Services	PetCORE	6
	PetFIX	4
	Pets in Crisis	0
	Spay the Mom	0

HOPE

*John V. Craven Community Services Center
P.O. Box 165 282 Boardman Street Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-3608 Fax: (802) 388-0756*

HOPE seeks to assist individuals and families in identifying and obtaining the resources that will help them meet their own basic needs. HOPE provides significant goods and services to people in need, including food, clothing, housing, and heating fuel, medical items, job-related needs and more. We work to assist people in accessing information and developing new skills in order to become more empowered and have healthier and more stable lives.

HOPE operates one of the largest food shelves in the state and has a thriving partnership with area farmers that allows us to salvage excess or unsaleable produce which is then available at HOPE and shared with dozens of other charitable food sites around the region. This year has been our busiest food shelf year ever – in October, we served 1,158 people, in addition to off-site food distributions and deliveries.

We are also seeing record numbers of people needing help with housing and utility payments, and we’re working to assist a swelling population of unhoused people, including a number with serious medical needs. During the calendar year 2022, we served 2,296 people, many of them multiple times.

HOPE respectfully requests that the voters of the Town of Leicester allocate the sum of \$1,300 to help defray the costs of providing assistance to town residents in the coming year. Thank you for your consideration.

JOHN W. GRAHAM HOUSING & SERVICES

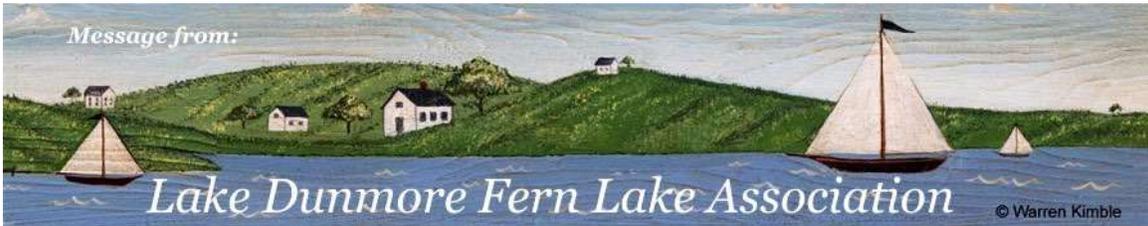
*69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491
Phone: (802) 877-2677 · johngrahamshelter.org*

John Graham Housing & Services (JGHS) has provided shelter, housing, and services to Addison County individuals and families for 42 years. We serve households impacted by domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health disorders, economic hardship, and disability. With seven properties spread across the county, we do this work in collaboration with our community partners. JGHS is the only shelter in Addison County that shelters families.

Vermont is facing a serious housing crisis. Nationally, housing stock has fallen to a third of what it was in the 1980s. Addison County is not immune to this downward trend. Many Addison County families are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their homes:

- **On the annual homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) count** on January 25, 2023, **3,295 Vermonters were experiencing homelessness—an 18.5% increase** in persons (515 people) compared to the prior year, and **an increase of 197% since the pre-pandemic PIT count** in 2020 (Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness 2023).
- **Vermont has the second highest per-capita rate of homelessness in the country**, behind only California. In the 2023 PIT count, **the number of people with children experiencing homelessness increased by 36%** compared to the prior year.
- **Addison County has a vacancy rate of less than one percent (1%)**. Sheltered households with approved housing vouchers often cannot find an apartment to rent. **Rental rates increased in Addison County by almost 6% in 2022.**

JGHS is requesting \$725.00 from the voters of Leicester, same as previous years. Thank you so much for your past support.



**LAKE DUNMORE FERN LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, Vermont 05769**

The Association's mission is "to protect and enhance the natural vitality of Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake while preserving the recreational and lifestyle interest of the Lake's community. In so doing, the Association protects the Lake's value as a public recreational facility and respects the interests of property owners and the public." Membership in the Association is open to anyone who supports the mission and goals of the Association. We encourage all those who visit the lakes to become members.

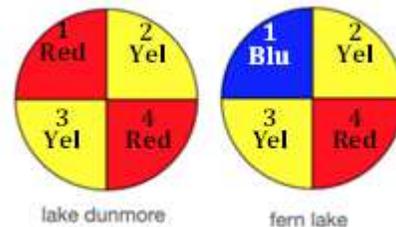
Invasive species control is by far the largest program operated by the Association. The uncontrolled spread of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) can limit recreational activity on the lakes. Our milfoil control program is supported by funding from the Towns of Salisbury and Leicester, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Aquatic Nuisance Grant in Aid. These funds help pay for the Greeters at the Magoon Access Area, as well as for equipment and labor.

The results of our EWM control program in 2023 continue to be positive. Although EWM has recovered and increased in both lakes, it is still significantly less than prior to our last application of ProcellaCor in 2020. On Lake Dunmore, there are fewer heavy patches of milfoil but there is still a significant amount of sparsely scattered plants. Fern Lake has also experienced an increase in EWM. To the extent possible, we rely on hand-pulling or diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) to control the EWM. However, we are going through the permitting process and at this time do intend to make a strategic application of ProcellaCor in Lake Dunmore in 2024 and are considering the need for an application in Fern Lake.

The milfoil control program costs and funding for 2023 was \$133,912. This was slightly less than the 2022 expenditure of \$137,190.

These costs were met as follows:

VT DEC Aquatic Nuisance Grant	\$ 10,985
Lake Champlain Basin Greeter Grant	\$ 15,000
Town Support – Leicester	\$ 25,000
Town Support – Salisbury	\$ 25,000
LDFLA Operating Fund	\$ 57,927



Watershed Quality Initiative - From Pristine to Poor & Back Again!

The VT Lake Score Card data is shown above: 1 Nutrient Trend, 2 Shoreland & Lake Habitat, 3 Mercury, 4 Invasive Species as blue-good, yellow-fair, **red-poor**

*~ we are committed to being **BLUE!!***

From our Watershed Action Planned using grant funding the shoreland restoration and stormwater improvements at the Magoon Boat Launch was completed and 4 more projects are in various stages of design.

The LDFLA is actively seeking public funding to implement additional projects in the plan.

We are working with Fitzgerald Environmental Associates and Green Mountain Power to better understand the nutrient inputs from the upper watershed and have installed monitoring equipment at the entry to Lake Dunmore on Sucker Brook.

The benefits to the Town of Leicester are twofold: First, the preservation of a wonderful, natural recreation area available to the public. Second, the preservation of property values around the lakes which are an important and substantial portion of the Town's Grand List.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Schumann, President

**MAPLE BROADBAND INFORMATION
2023 Annual Report**

Maple Broadband is one of ten Communications Union Districts in Vermont. Our mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of our 20 Addison County member towns, by ensuring that EVERY on-grid address has access to affordable, high-speed, fiber-optic, broadband. Maple Broadband has partnered with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) whereby both organizations are building fiber-optic networks concurrently, ensuring that all member towns receive service as rapidly as possible. As a local not-for-profit, unlike the big, commercial internet providers, we don't have shareholders; we have stakeholders: the residents and businesses of Addison County. All members of the Maple Broadband Governing Board are appointed annually by their respective member towns: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh,

Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting.

2023 Accomplishments and Plans for 2024

- After several years of planning, and since breaking ground in October 2022, we officially launched service in February 2023.
- Demand for Maple Broadband's services is strong with early subscriptions exceeding the estimates in the business plan.
- The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved a total of \$3.39 million in new grant funding for Maple Broadband this year.
- Maple Broadband is on target to offer services across over 125 miles by early 2024, finishing our Phase 1 build.
- As a result of Maple Broadband's support of its application to the VCBB, partner WCVT is on target to offer services across 225 new miles by the end of 2023, following its 2022 construction grant award.
- WCVT has funding in place for its 2024 build, including underserved portions of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro.
- Maple Broadband has funding in place to bring service to portions of Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Monkton, New Haven, and additional portions of Orwell in 2024, and is seeking up to \$3M in funding to bring service to additional areas.

The rollout of service to every home and business in Maple Broadband's service area takes time and money. We know that reliable access to the internet is key to meeting the current and future needs of all our communities. We SO appreciate the support, encouragement, and donations we've received from towns and individual community members across Addison County. Additional contributions are always welcome.

For additional information, including a map of current and future build plans; information on availability by specific address, internet package options, and more, please visit our website: maplebroadband.net OR call 877-49-MAPLE (877-496-2753).

OTTER CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES

The Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District contracts Riparian Plantings in priority watersheds paid for with the Trees for Streams Program, holds public and sector meetings for the Lake Champlain Direct watershed Plan, and the Otter Creek Tactical Plan, sponsors a Tree Seedling Sale and maintains a listing of local contractors. The District supports scholarships for up to 6 area students to attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp, supports Envirothon and continues that outreach at Addison County Fair and Field Days and the Addison County Tour and Annual District Meeting. Otter Creek NRCDC also supports the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan with agricultural progress reports. The Long-Range Plan addresses continuing to support all existing programs, expanding them where feasible and supporting the capacity needed to do that.

In 2024 Otter Creek NRCDC is moving into improving aquatic organism passage in streams through voluntary barrier removal. We are also documenting P agricultural Phosphorus reduction to Lake Champlain. The District will be looking to continue to support outreach and education around ways to get to water quality, tactical basin planning as pertains to agriculture and more tree planting.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure remains important. Rain gardens and other practices will recharge groundwater and reduce stormwater surges in streams and rivers following storm events. They are planted with a variety of flowering shrubs, bulbs, and perennials. It is construction that has measurable water quality benefits. See the Rain Garden at Marbleworks and at St. Stephen's Church on the Green in Middlebury installed in 2006 with renovations begun in 2013; the Robbins' residence installed in 2008, and 8 installed in 2009 in Middlebury, Bristol, Ripton and Starksboro. Cornwall and Bridport School have installed rain gardens with the support of OCNRCDC and United Ways Days of Caring.

4 Leicester residents purchased fruit and shade tree seedlings from the Annual District Tree Sale.

The OCNRCDC Annual Meeting was not held as we are in Phase 2 for Covid-19. We have yet to award the OCNRCDC Conservation Farmer of the Year.

The Otter Creek District created a scholarship to remember Middlebury resident and District Pond Consultant, Robert C. Collins. This scholarship is awarded to high school students continuing their education in agriculture or conservation of the working landscape.

Envirothon is an opportunity for high school students to test their knowledge of conservation issues and compete in Vermont and nationally. OCNRCDC supports this effort with funding.

Meetings are the second Tuesday at the Farm Service Center meeting room on Exchange Street in Middlebury.

**OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT
OCW (formerly BLSG)**

P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733

2023 End of the Year Report

After a Town Meeting Day vote and other required approvals, the Town of Proctor became the 6th member town of the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) on 12 May 2023. Congratulations and welcome!

In mid-February the OCW found out via a Vermont Public Radio news item that a new Rule for the Control of Pesticides was being promulgated by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM). That new rule went into effect on 24 February 2023 and required the OCW to submit, no later than 1 February, a comprehensive permit application to conduct mosquito adulticide applications. The 50+ page application package was submitted to VAAFM on 24 March. The OCW was issued an interim (6 month) permit for adulticiding on 16 May. At that point you'll recall that the mosquitoes were awful bad... the OCW call center phone was ringing off the hook with requests for service. You'll also recall that the very next night the entire district experienced a hard freeze, almost wiping the slate clean. Then it rained... and rained some more, which both provided ideal conditions for mosquito hatching and precluded treatment on far too many nights. Consequently, this spring and summer the nuisance level of biting insect activity in OCW member towns was way above average. The situation improved significantly in early September.

The OCW received 845 calls from district residents requesting nuisance mosquito control: 171 from Brandon, 16 from Goshen, 364 from Leicester, 206 from Pittsford, 19 from Proctor, and 69 from Salisbury. That number of service requests represents a 208% increase from last year. One hundred four owners opted out of adulticide spraying adjacent to their property: 23 from Brandon, 9 from Goshen, 16 from Leicester, 13 from Pittsford, 15 from Proctor, and 28 from Salisbury,. That number of no spray requests represents a 20% increase from last year. For reference, 2020 census data showed just over 4,500 households in the district.

On Town Meeting Day in March Salisbury community members voted not to pay for adult mosquito control for the fiscal year that started July 1, 2023. Consequently, as also happened in 2022, only larviciding service is being provided for the Town of Salisbury. In March 2024, Salisbury residents will consider returning to full service. Recognizing that the lack of adult control efforts would negatively impact their members, in July the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association raised money via private donations to pay the OCW for adulticide spraying along the private roads in Salisbury immediately adjacent to Lake Dunmore. Sufficient money was collected to provide that service through 30 June 2024.

One of the conditions appended to the adulticide permit was that the OCW could only use PermaSease® (a synthetic pyrethroid pesticide) to control adult mosquitoes; use of Fyfanon® (an organophosphate pesticide in the malathion family) was not allowed. Heretofore the OCW has interjected malathion applications into the spraying schedule to prevent building resistance to permethrin in the mosquito population. In September the OCW submitted mosquito egg samples for resistance testing by an approved laboratory. Results showed no resistance to permethrin. However, only having one pesticide approved for adult control will be a continuing concern.

In November 2022 the OCW Board of Trustees approved a new assessment algorithm, to go into effect in 2024, for apportioning district expenses among the six member towns. That algorithm uses the following factors and weights for determining each town's assessment: equalized education grand list (25.9%), acres of Class 2 wetlands (21.6%), number of dwelling units (26.3%), and adulticide spray route(s) road miles in the town (26.3%). Those factor weights will vary slightly year-to-year based on the ratios of overhead, to larvicide operations, to adulticide operations expenses in the OCW budget. The prices of the two PermaSease adulticides we use went up by 34% and 55% this year and the OCW really needs to start replacing our ancient truck fleet (one truck died this year and the other five trucks all have been driven more than 99,000 miles... with two approaching 200,000 miles). Consequently, the 2024 OCW budget will increase by 5% (\$11,816).

A reminder: No Spray requests must be renewed annually and should be submitted to the OCW no later than April 15th. Requests received after April 15th will be honored, but there could be a delay between the request and marking the property, which could result in the property being sprayed. If a No Spray Zone request was submitted for the preceding year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email sent to the OCW containing the 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again for the current year will suffice. The OCW email address is: ocwcd@gmail.com. If a No Spray Zone request was NOT submitted for the preceding year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, a letter must be submitted listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and include a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public or private road(s). The OCW mailing address is: PO Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733. For additional details please visit: <https://ocwcd.com/adulticide-program>. If you would like to receive email notifications about adulticide spraying planned for your location, please send an email to ocwcd@gmail.com with your name, E-911 physical address, and town.

Kudos again to Will Mathis, the OCW Operations Coordinator, and to Jeremy New and Kerry White for their long hours this season attempting to keep nuisance mosquito populations at tolerable levels. As mentioned in last year's report, additional part-time staff would be most welcome. For job particulars please contact Will, who can be reached via the OCW call center (802-247-6779) or the email address above.

At the OCW Board of Trustees Annual Meeting on 8 November 2023, Jeff Schumann (Salisbury) was elected Chair, Doug Perkins (Leicester) was elected Vice-Chair, Lynne Peck (Leicester) was elected Treasurer, Steve Belcher (Pittsford) was re-elected Secretary, and Jeff Whiting (Goshen) was elected Auditor. The Board is composed of two representatives and one

alternate from each member town, appointed by each town's Select Board. Currently, there are openings on the OCW Board for the towns of Pittsford and Salisbury. Anyone interested in serving as an OCW representative should contact their Select Board.

Thank you for your continued support for mosquito control in the Otter Creek watershed.

Respectfully submitted, Doug Perkins, Outgoing Chair, OCW Board of Trustees

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$300.00 from the Town of Leicester for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to uninsured and under-insured residents of Leicester and Addison County in general. We are grateful for your past and generous support of our clinic and hope that you will renew your commitment to the ODC once again this year.

Our Mission: The Open Door Clinic provides access to free, quality health care services to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established.

YTD Report: Between 1/1/23-12/22/23, the clinic provided 1,717 medical and dental visits to 1,228 distinct patients, including 391 new patients! We have served seven (7) Leicester residents, six of whom received help from our health insurance navigator, learning about health insurance options available to them through Vermont Health Connect, and one of whom had a medical visit.

Outreach and Services: Through our outreach program this fall, we provided health screenings, vaccines, and a number of medical visits to 43 farms and orchards throughout the county. In addition, we continue to offer 7-10 in-person medical and dental clinics each month through which patients receive comprehensive chronic and acute care and referrals to a variety of specialists when needed. Through our innovative wellness program, we held a second women's support group in Spanish and offered two yoga series in Spanish!

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely entirely on the expertise and efforts of many volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical director, dental director, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, EMTs, PTs, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, and others who provide general support.

Help with Health Insurance: To date, our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped 323 individuals learn about health insurance plans and has enrolled 214 individuals in plans through Vermont Health Connect. She is the only navigator remaining in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are free!

It's been another busy and fruitful year made possible by our extraordinary staff and volunteers who remain deeply committed to providing health care and comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in need across Addison County.

Thank you, Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

RSVP OF ADDISON COUNTY

Brief Description of RSVP:

RSVP of Addison County is a volunteer management program which offers individuals the opportunity to share their experience, professional skills, and time by volunteering for local non-profit organizations. RSVP considers volunteering to be a key solution in responding to Addison County's most pressing challenges. Needs are met in critical areas such as human services, elder care, health and education.

RSVP also oversees several free community outreach programs that benefit local residents. These include free Bone Builders health and osteoporosis prevention classes offered twice per week at many locations in Addison County; the Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program which places volunteers in our schools; the Warm Hearts Warm Hands initiative which distributes clothing items to local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, social service agencies; the RSVP/AARP Tax Program which provides income tax return services to low income residents; and the Peaceful Packs Program which provides essential items to children/families in crisis. These programs strengthen communities through service and volunteering and allow Addison County residents to stay healthy, engaged and financially stable.

Services Provided to Leicester Residents:

In FY'23, RSVP Leicester residents took advantage of RSVP programs our free health/osteoporosis prevention classes and our free income tax preparation services. In Addison County 261 residents benefited from attending remote Bone Builders classes and 394 residents received remote income tax services. Over \$246,361 in federal and state refunds and credits was returned to the Addison County community as a result of volunteer tax preparers working with individuals and families. During the winter months, more than 300 warm clothing items were given to Addison County community members in need and volunteers helped provide essential items to children and families in crisis.

In addition, RSVP volunteers also donated thousands of hours to support the community. Many Leicester residents who received assistance from a local service organization benefited from the work RSVP volunteers do throughout the area. Examples include community members at risk of hunger who received free nutritious meals from RSVP volunteers who assisted with meals, or residents who received free transportation services from volunteer drivers. In total, RSVP volunteers provided 24,711 hours to local social service agencies, health care organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations. This equates to \$785,809.80 in donated labor to our community.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help continue to defray the financial impact of COVID on our organization along with the cost of providing volunteer placement, support, transportation, and recognition. On behalf of our volunteers and nonprofit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Leicester for their continued support of RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 468-7056.

Sincerely, Maryesa White, Director

RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming lives with whole family services delivered through a unique and dynamic community framework of integrated programming. RCPCC serves children and families in Rutland County communities with programs such as; two Early Childhood Education centers (ECE), Children's Integrated Services (CIS), educational opportunities and enrichment for at-risk youth (Learning Together and 7's Club), family navigation services (Parenting Class, Playgroups, etc), and food insecurity supports with our grocery store style food pantry. Our programming is family goal oriented and provided at no cost or with substantial financial assistance available. Overall, RCPCC has served approximately 1,500 parents/caregivers and over 1,800 children in Rutland County. RCPCC continues to expand our services as the needs in our communities grow.

As the needs of the families we serve heighten, RCPCC is committed to expanding programming that supports our community. Many of the programs we offer exceed state-wide expectations in both capacity and volume. In order to meet the growing needs of our neighbors, friends, and families, RCPCC is expanding. Our new 2-Gen campus "One PCC Place" is a unique approach to delivering whole family programming. This space will provide a "one stop shop" environment where families can access all programming and case management services. At RCPCC "the coffee pot is always on."

With all the reverence, RCPCC is requesting a continuance of last year's total of \$300. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to serve our communities.

www.rcpcc.org 61 Pleasant Street, Rutland, VT 05701 802.775.9711
34 Faivre Circle Brandon, VT 05733 802.247.8251 16 Chaplin Avenue Rutland, VT 05701 802.773.8397

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT

Thank you for the Town of Leicester's generous support last year. Tri-Valley Transit's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Routes provided a total of **180,335 rides last year**. This includes a four-year annual average of **1015 Dial-a-Ride trips** for Leicester residents, provided by either volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. Additionally, **172 "Rutland Connector" bus rides** originated in Leicester. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment, and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-A-Ride Programs – Focus on specialized populations including older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. **Dial-A-Ride offers Leicester residents direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis, substance abuse treatment, and other destinations that enhance riders' quality of life.**



Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. **Leicester residents have direct access at the Town Offices to the "Rutland Connector" shuttles, connecting them to Middlebury and Rutland 6 days a week.**

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the match requirement.

Our website: www.trivalleytransit.org

TURNING POINT CENTER OF ADDISON COUNTY

54A Creek Road, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Phone: (802) 388-4249

The Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) is peer-lead and offers a safe and substance-free environment to support our mission: We provide peer-based recovery support to all including friends, families, and allies. We seek to enhance the spiritual, mental, and physical growth as well as foster social connection of our community members in Addison County affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors.

The need for TPCAC's services in Addison County is acute. Vermont has unfortunately been shattering all previous records for the number of deaths by opioid overdose over the past two years. The state consistently has among the highest per capita overdose rates in the nation. Addison County is a microcosm of the statewide problem.

Substance use disorder is an isolating disease that has real life consequences and often has a widespread negative impact. Participants often come to the center mentally, physically, spiritually, and financially broken. Our team helps participants learn how to find their chosen pathway to a new way to live. Participants are able to talk about what they are experiencing free from judgment and stigma with other people that have lived experience. We evoke hope and uplift the message that the seemingly impossible is possible.

In FY23, our coaches have provided 138 unique individuals with over 700 hours of recovery coaching support. Coaches utilize this time to support participants' chosen pathway to recovery and provide referrals to appropriate community resources needed to secure substance use or mental health treatment, safe housing, or access to food. The center held 535 group meetings totaling 2440 participants. (Please note this number does not represent unique individuals. Many of our participants go to groups at the center multiple times per month, week, and sometimes even per day.) Due to the confidential nature of these support meetings, we are not able to provide unique individual data.

Thank You, Danielle Wallace, MARJ, Executive Director

VERMONT ADULT LEARNING

282 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Phone: (802) 388-4392 Fax: (802) 388-4396

www.vtadullearning.org

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We work with each student to develop an individualized learning plan that includes a transition to further education or employment. We offer GED testing, programs for completing a high school diploma, basic skills instruction in reading, writing, and math and classes for English Language Learners (ELL). Instruction is also available to students who need skill preparation for college or employment purposes.

In addition, we are contracted by the Vermont Department of Children and Families to place and support Reach-Up participants in unsubsidized work experiences. [Our programs are free and confidential.](#)

We are grateful to the townspeople of Leicester for supporting the services we provide.

VERMONT CARES

Vermont CARES: Annual Report to the Town of Leicester for FY2023

Vermont CARES has been providing support services to Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for more than 36 years thanks to support from the Town of Leicester. Vermont CARES also works to prevention new HIV infections by educating and training Vermonters on how to stay safe and reduce their risks. So much of the foundational programming we've built over the last five years have allowed for our mobile outreach services to truly flourish, and with a new street outreach worker just beginning as of January 2022, we were able to serve even more Addison County community members. The appropriation from Leicester could help us continue focused excellent service for people living with HIV/AIDS, those in need of syringe service programs, and increase access to free rapid-result HIV tests. Those we work with are often the most needy, those most ill, and those most in poverty.

Vermont CARES' Programming for People Living with HIV/AIDS:

- * Emotional support for HIV care ranging from diagnosis to persistent medical and related issues
- * Advocacy with doctors, landlords and other social service organizations
- * Residential facility in Colchester, plus additional subsidized apartments across Vermont
- * Transportation to and from medical appointments, the pharmacy & grocery store
- * Emergency financial assistance for food and nutrition, housing, and utilities, and other critical financial needs
- * Support groups and social events

Vermont CARES Programming for People at Risk of HIV/AIDS:

- * Rapid HIV tests, including risk reduction planning and counseling around HIV prevention medication (called "PrEP")
- * Community education events for high schools, colleges, community groups, first responders, and employers
- * One on one education and support to reduce future HIV risks

* Syringe exchange services based out of our Rutland, Addison, Franklin, Grand Isle, Washington, Caledonia, Orange, Chittenden, Lamoille, and Orleans Counties, now including two mobile vans which provide all these services by appointment. These services include free naloxone kits, test strips to determine the presence of possible fentanyl, and other life-saving materials

Thank you for your support. Municipal funding from towns such as the town of Leicester is crucial to continuing these broad services. If you need or have any questions, please call (802)863-2437, ext. 1.

Sincerely, Theresa Vezina, Executive Director

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, **2** residents of **Leicester** received services from the following program: •Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

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

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Middlebury Local Health Office | 156 S. Village Green, Suite 102, Middlebury VT
802-388-4644 | AHS.VDHMiddlebury@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Middlebury Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Addison County. Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/Middlebury

WIC Welcomes Clients In-Person

When the COVID-19 waivers ended, the Middlebury District Office was able to resume in-person Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) services.

This kickoff event was successful, drawing over 100 attendees eager to reconnect. At this event staff met participants, taught about nutrition and shared VT state park passes. Since the start, the WIC team has been meeting clients by phone and in person. They also continue to reach out to families to educate them about WIC services.

802 Smiles

The 802 Smiles initiative is working to improve dental care access, education and prevention.

Our office is working with Vermont's 802 Smiles program and local schools to improve oral health services for students. We will be collaborating to improve infrastructure and increase capacity, making it easier for students to get care. Including oral health in schools ensures students understand the importance of dental health and have access to necessary resources.

Emergency Preparedness

Our office works with community partners to strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

During the recent flood emergency, our office distributed important information and resources. We distributed water test kits and promoted safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers through education and reflector distribution. We worked with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to offer "Stop the Bleed" training at various locations, including local farms. To learn more about "Stop the Bleed or to request training, please contact us!

VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- ✓ Check registration status;
- ✓ View information on upcoming elections;
- ✓ Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours;
- ✓ View a sample ballot;
- ✓ Request and track an absentee ballot;
- ✓ and much more.

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Registered Voters can log in at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> Online registration can be found at: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

ATRIA COLLECTIVE formerly WOMENSAFE

Elyssa Boisselle, Executive Director

24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205

Business: 802-388-9180

Supervised Visitation Program: 802-388-6783

info@atriavt.org www.atriavt.org

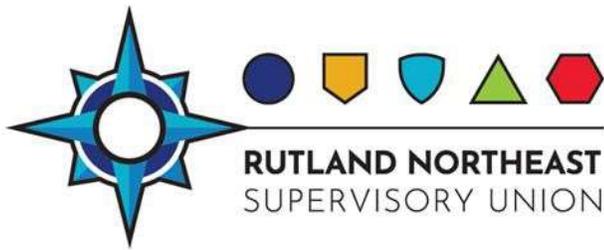
In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, Atria Collective staff and volunteers provided the following total services:

- 601 total adults and children served through advocacy and supervised visitation services.
- 8,907 total direct service contacts through in-person meetings, remote meetings, and web-based communications.
- 255 supervised visits and orientation meetings for 20 families including 27 children.
- Worked with the parents/caregivers of a total of 361 children exposed to violence.
- Provided 857 presentations and outreach events as part of our Education & Prevention programming, reaching over 5,988 youth and adults.
- 78 volunteers donated 6,816 hours of services.

LEICESTER

In Leicester, Atria Collective provided advocacy services to at least 7* residents, including adults and children.

*** For safety, some people do not share their town of residence.**



RNESU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dear Residents of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, & Whiting:

I am pleased to write this report to capture RNESU, Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union activities for 2022-2023. Although each town and school within our system is unique, we are committed to supporting OVUU and BUU working together toward achieving RNESU's vision

and mission of educating every child in our eight towns. This report summarizes the talent and dedication of the staff in providing learning opportunities for all students despite the lingering challenges of the pandemic. I want to emphasize how honored and privileged I am to continue to work within such a resilient, passionate, and innovative community.

Over this current school year, we began the collaborative process to identify the hopes, dreams, and aspirations we have for our children and the competencies that best reflect the skills, characteristics, and traits needed to achieve that vision, otherwise known as "Strategic Planning." We will build on past experiences to ensure that current and future students have opportunities to explore their interests and leave prepared to engage as positively contributing members of an ever-evolving society. This cohesive work will provide our roadmap for our work as we journey towards becoming a district of excellence.

In 2022-2023, each of our schools across the system took stock and measure of our academic, social, emotional, and behavioral growth priorities to support positive student outcomes. RNESU educators across the system prioritized the core work of teaching and learning, working to develop and refine student-focused measurable outcomes. It is through a focus on these outcomes, and other data sources, that our schools and educators are able to honestly reflect on how well our systems are operating and where we need to improve. In 2022-2023, RNESU schools and educators focused on the work of attending to Vermont's Act 173 legislation, asking for a commitment to:

1. Ensure elementary Tier 1 core instruction meets the needs of most students;
2. Provide additional instructional time outside core subjects aligned to the core instruction, to students who struggle, rather than providing interventions instead of core instruction;
3. Ensure students who struggle receive all instruction from highly skilled teachers;
4. Create or strengthen a systems-wide approach to supporting positive student behaviors based on expert support; and
5. Provide students having more intensive support needs with specialized instruction from skilled and trained experts.



In RNESU schools and across Vermont, we are committed to making sure each and every student thrives, improving outcomes for ALL students, while also accelerating growth for students that need the most support. In the 2022-2023 school year, we also sought to amplify the voices of our students - those most affected by District decisions - by developing a Student Advisory Council and engaging in "listening walks" in each of our schools. This focus and commitment continues in 2023-2024, with expanded opportunities for student voice in each of our schools, and engagement with student groups around Strategic Planning.

As you review the 2022-2023 annual report, I hope you take the time to reflect on this past school year and all that we accomplished together, while knowing that we still have much work to do as a school system and community. This proposed budget reflects the services and resources to support a student-centered educational program that will help our students flourish. I know from personal experience the transformational power of a

great public education and have seen the positive difference it makes for individuals, families, and communities. The health of our greater community depends on the excellence of our public schools, and I am committed to making them work for every one of our children. Thank you for your continued support of each and every student. Together, we can ensure that our children receive the public education they deserve and support they need to achieve their hopes and dreams.



In partnership,
Kristin Hubert, Superintendent
R NESU

Please read the full Otter Valley Unified Union School District Annual Report provided separately via mail and available online at www.rnesu.org.

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (R NESU) Board has been dealing with the ESSER Cliff that I mentioned to you last year. This means that all of the COVID monies we had received from the Federal Government have been depleted. The Administration has made some very hard decisions about what positions to keep within our budget that benefits our children the most. We decided that it made sense to keep the following previously ESSER funded positions in the current budget: a communications coordinator, elementary special education coordinator, a school psychologist, a mental health coordinator, and an out of district LEA. The Board made the decision this year to increase the number of Pre-K lottery slots from 5 to 10. This will allow additional families who cannot access our Pre-K programs to use state funds to attend a Pre-K program outside of our district. We are faced with a 16.4% increase in health care costs for our staff that is negotiated at the state level and is out of our control. Therefore, our budget reflects an 11.85% increase in spending. We have made no significant changes in programming.

We are currently hiring for bus drivers and paraprofessionals, so if you or someone you know are looking for a rewarding position, check us out!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rebecca Watters for her tireless work on behalf of the R NESU Board, as she is not seeking re-election. It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that we say goodbye to our Special Education Director, Marsha Bruce, who is retiring after many years of selfless dedication to our students.

Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We are committed to the education of all of our students. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Reach Out! button on any school website.



Respectfully Submitted, Laurie Bertrand, R NESU Board Chair

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL BOARD REPORT JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year!

COVID still haunts us. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on our kids' academics and their social and emotional well-being. Our administration, teachers and staff are doing everything possible to keep the learning going in our classrooms and schools. Now we find ourselves on the edge of the ESSER Cliff that is making for some hard decisions. As many of you know, ESSER were funds from the Federal Government to help us work thru the pandemic by allowing us to hire more staff to help our students who had fallen behind academically and to help with their social and



emotional health as we navigated a return to our new "normal". These positions were temporary as the funding only lasted for three years. We are currently in that final year. We have had to make decisions about which positions we felt were necessary to keep in our local budgets that had previously been paid with federal funding (ESSER).

Not only did we have to make those hard decisions, but new legislation from the State of Vermont in the form of Act 127 also challenged those decisions. Starting with the 2024-2025 budget, Act 127 states that if we kept our per pupil spending below a 10% increase, (what they are calling guardrails), then our communities would only see an increase of 5% on our tax rate.



Also, if we stayed within the guardrails this year, we could continue to use this method for the next 4 years. This all sounds like great news right? However, there is one piece of the puzzle that is out of our control. That is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) in each of our towns. Home sales have been much higher in all of our towns than what is reflected in the grand lists. Therefore, the CLA in all of our towns has dropped significantly this year. This means that although we are capped at a 5% increase in the school tax rate, the CLA will adjust that tax rate for each town. Unfortunately, the School Board does not have any control over the CLA. However, due to the drops in each of our member towns, each town will be seeing a significant jump in their tax bill.

The Board has been looking down the road 5 to 10 years and have renewed their vision of the possibility of a middle school model and how that might look in our schools. Currently, a middle school model encompasses grades 6 thru 8. To have the most effect, all 3 of those grades should be in the same spot. The Board will be looking at how we might add on to Otter Valley to accommodate that vision. We are just starting this endeavor, so feel free to let us know what you think.



While I am on that topic, the Board has been discussing ways to engage the community. We realize that we need to start coming to the people and wonder how we might be able to do that. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them. We want to work together for the success of all of our students.

If you or someone you know are thinking about a career change, we are currently hiring bus drivers and paraprofessionals. Come join the team!

The last thing I would like to do is say thank you to Rebecca Watters and Greg Bernhardt who have been outstanding board members, as they will not be seeking re-election this year. They will certainly be missed.



Thank you for your support of our kids, staff and schools! As always, feel free to contact a Board Member with any questions you might have, or use the Reach Out! button on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand, OVUU Board Chair

