

Annual Report

TOWN OF

BELVIDERE

VERMONT

of the Town Officers



for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31

—◆ 2023 ◆—

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

**3996 VT Rte. 109
Belvidere, VT 05442**

Welcome!

Here is some information about the town and the town services.

Cathy Mander-Adams, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Kelly Stuber , Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer

3996 VT Rte. 109 Belvidere, Vermont 95442

Phone: 802-644-6621

Email: townclerk@townofbelviderevt.com

Town website:

www.townofbelviderevt.com

Notices, agendas, minutes, policies, and regulations, elections and tax information.

Clerk's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

8:30 am – 3:30 pm



Register to Vote



**For all elections, you can register with the Belvidere Town Clerk
Or**

You can register to vote online at:

Olvr.vermont.gov

Dog Licenses

By Vermont State Statute, all dogs must be registered with the Town Clerk by April 1 each calendar year.

Neutered/spayed = \$9.00

Not = \$13.00

A current rabies certificate needs to be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

After April 1, the cost of licensing includes a late fee.

Animal Control Officer

Dean Mercier – 802-274-1653

Green Mountain Passports

62 years or older OR a veteran of the armed services and a Vermont resident, for only \$2.00

Tree Warden

Kevin Leavitt – 802-644-1440

Copier - \$.25 per page

Belvidere Cemetery Association

802-644-6621 or 802-644-5306

Land Records available online.

Use the Land Records Portal on the Home page of Town website.

Tax Deadlines

Check the Town website for the most accurate information.

There is only one (1) tax bill mailed.

Post marks accepted.

Cash or Check

Hold on to your tax bill for Tax Time.

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Dedication

Lyle Miller

1934 - 2023

We are dedicating this year's report to the Rev. Lyle Miller. Lyle served his community well as Reverend, bus driver, jokester and Town Auditor.

Lyle will be missed.

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator	Pamela McKenna	Term expires 2024
Town Clerk	Cathy Mander-Adams	Term expires 2024
Town Treasurer	Cathy Mander-Adams	Term expires 2024
Select Board		
Earl Domina, Jr.		Term Expires 2026
Kenneth Adams, Jr.		Term expires 2024
Kevin Leavitt.....		Term expires 2025
Road Commissioner	Kevin Leavitt	Term expires 2024
Auditors		
Debora Baker		Term expires 2026
William McLean		Term expires 2024
Gary Edmonds.....		Term expires 2025
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Mary Hysick	Term expires 2024
First Constable	Charlene Spaulding	Term expires 2024
Second Constable	Stacey Chase	Term expires 2024
Listers		
Stephanie Domina.....		Term expires 2024
Stacey Chase		Term expires 2026
Richard Schoon		Term expires 2025
LNMUUSD Board Member	Stephanie Sweet	Term expires 2025
District Solid Waste Supervisor	Cathy Mander-Adams	Term expires 2024
Justice of the Peace	Cathy Mander-Adams	
	Lucy Howard	
	Thad Tallman	
	Stephanie Draper	
	Andy Iwaskiewicz	

APPOINTMENTS

Select Board Chair	Earl Domina, Jr.
Sexton	Larry Brown, Jr.
Fence Viewer.....	Bert Burleson Bill McLean
Heath Officer	Vacant
Flood Hazard Officer	Jack Slagle
Local Emergency Coordinator	Vacant
Transportation Advisory Council	Kenneth Adams, Jr.
Fire Warden	Vacant
Deputy Fire Warden	Vacant
Tree Warden.....	Kevin Leavitt
Animal Control Officer	Dean Mercier
Green Up Coordinator	Paul Nowell
Lamoille County Planning Commission	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds
Planning Commission.....	Debora Baker 2026 Kenneth Adams, Jr. 2024 Kathy Marchant 2025 Stephen Brown 2026 Andy Iwaskiewicz 2024
Planning Commission Selectboard Rep	Kevin Leavitt
E-911 Coordinator	Cathy Mander-Adams
Lamoille Fibernet CUD Representative	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds
Lamoille Fibernet CUD Alternate	Vacant
Americain Rescue Plan Act Advisory Committee	Kathy Marchant Jack Slagle Lindsay Fletcher-Minor Paul Nowell

**WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF BELVIDERE, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2024**

The inhabitants of the town of Belvidere who are legal voters in the Town Meeting of said Belvidere, are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting at the Belvidere Central School on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00A.M.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for Town Meeting

Article 2: To elect all other Town Officers required by law; terms are for 1 year unless stated otherwise:

Town Clerk

Town Treasurer

By ballot, A Selectboard member for a term of 3 years

By ballot, a Lister for a term of 3 years

By ballot, an Auditor for a term of 3 years

Road Commissioner

First Constable and, if needed, a Second Constable

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District Supervisor for a term of 2 years

Article 3: To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 4: To see what action the town will take regarding the collection of taxes. Will the town vote to pay education taxes to the Treasurer on or before September 18, 2024, and pay town taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 13, 2024, and a rate of interest of 1% per month be charged on all overdue taxes beginning December 1, 2024?

Article 5: To fix the rate of compensation for elected and appointed Town Officers, if any.

Article 6: Will the Town vote to expend the current revenues as proposed in the Selectboard's Budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town?

Article 7: To do any other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.

Earl Domina, Jr., Chairman Earl H Domina Jr Date 1-25-24

Kenneth Adams Jr. Kenneth Adams Jr. Date 1-25-24

Kevin Leavitt K. L. A. Date 01-25-24

As Selectboard of the Town of Belvidere

Received and recorded at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office:

Cathy Mander-Adams Date 1/25/24

NOTICE TO VOTERS

For Local Elections

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Town Clerks Office and Belvidere Central School by February 4, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote.

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** to Town Meeting by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to **olvr.vermont.gov**

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 or 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 to help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ❖ Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in a different town.
- ❖ 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 1-800-439-8683.

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 1-800-253-3931.

Notice to Vermont Voters

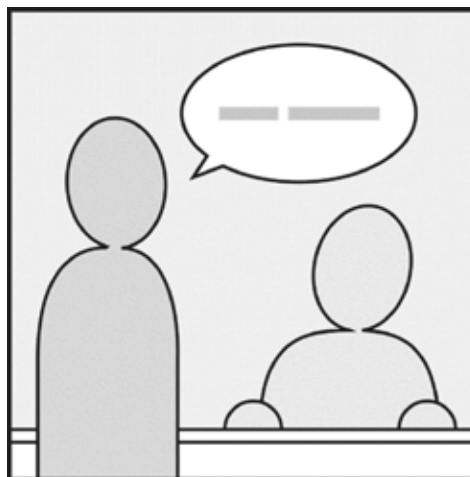
You must declare which ballot you want to vote in the Presidential Primary.

Choose

Democratic Ballot

Or

Republican Ballot



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

Notice provided by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office, sos.vermont.gov/elections
Images used with permission and provided by ElectionTools.org.

Write-in? Use BLOCK LETTERS and Keep it in the Box

CORRECT

JIMMY SMITH

WRONG

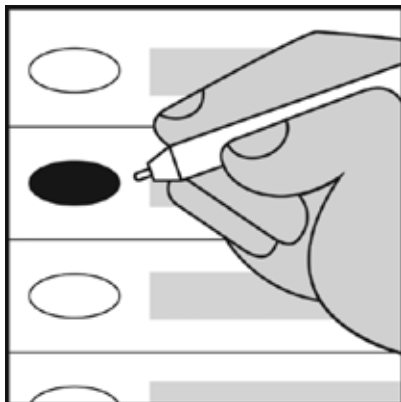
Jimmy Smith

Notice to Vermont Voters:

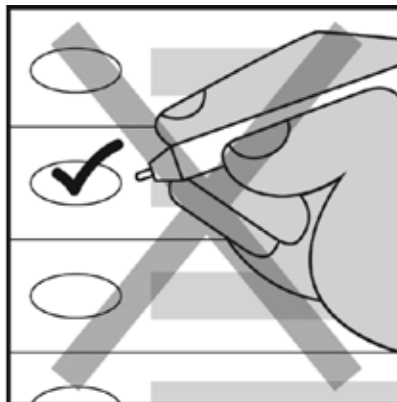
How to Mark Your Ballot

Use black pen. Fill in the oval(s) completely.

CORRECT

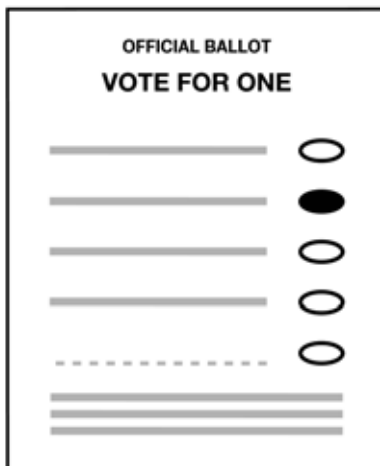


WRONG

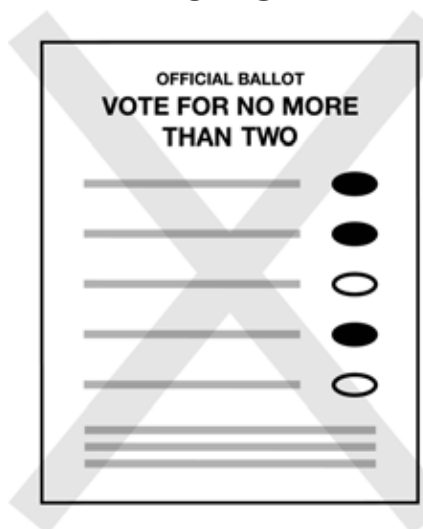


Follow the “Vote for Number”.

CORRECT



WRONG



If you make a mistake, ask a poll worker for another ballot.

Notice provided by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office, sos.vermont.gov/elections
Images used with permission and provided by ElectionTools.org.

TOWN OF BELVIDERE, VERMONT
Town Meeting Minutes
MARCH 7, 2023

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Belvidere was held on March 7, 2023, at the Belvidere Central School.

Freeda Powers, Town Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:05. Freeda reviewed the Rules for the Meeting Order. Voting instructions for the meeting were given as well as announcements. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for Town Meeting. Freeda Powers was nominated but declined the nomination. Pamela McKenna was nominated by Mary Hysick, and seconded by Jon Hysick. Pamela was elected by voice vote.

Article 2: To elect all other Town Officials required by law; terms are for 1 year unless stated otherwise:

Town Clerk: Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Josie McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations and Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.

Town Treasurer: Cathy Mander-Adams was nominated by Josie McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations and Cathy Mander-Adams was elected by voice vote.

By ballot: A Selectboard member for a term of 3 years. Earl Domina, Jr. was nominated by Ken Adams, Jr. and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations. Thad Tallman made a motion and was seconded by Stephanie Sweet that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Earl Domina, Jr. to Selectboard for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Earl Domina, Jr. was elected for a term of three years.

By ballot, a Lister for a term of 3 years. Stacey Chase was nominated by Ken Adams, Jr. and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations. Bill McLean made a motion that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Stacey Chase as Lister for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Stacey Chase was elected for a term of 3 years.

By ballot, a Lister for a term of 2 years. Richard Schoon was nominated by Stacey Chase and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations. Bill McLean made a motion that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Richard Schoon as Lister for a term of 2 years. Motion carried. Richard Schoon was elected for a term of 2 years.

By Ballot, an Auditor for a term of 3 years. Debora Baker was nominated by Josie McLean and seconded by Brent Jones. There were no further nominations. Bill McLean made a motion that the clerk cast 1 ballot for the election of Debora Baker as Auditor for a term of 3 years. Motion carried. Debora Baker was elected for a term of 3 years.

Road Commissioner: Kevin Leavitt was nominated by Earl Domina, Jr. and seconded by Bill McLean. Randy Katon was nominated by Francis Machia and seconded by Christopher Lang. There were no further nominations. Earl Domina, Jr. made a motion that was seconded by Bill McLean that nominations cease. Gary Edmonds called for voting be by paper ballot. Motion carried. There were 41 votes cast: Kevin Leavitt received 26 votes and Randy Katon received 15 votes. Kevin Leavitt was elected to the position of Road Commissioner for 1 year.

First Constable: Charlene Spaulding was nominated by Stacey Chase and seconded by Thad Tallman. There were no further nominations and Charlene Spaulding was elected as First Constable by voice vote.

Second Constable: Stacey Chase was nominated by Thad Tallman and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations and Stacey Chase was elected as Second Constable by voice vote.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Mary Hysick was nominated by Jon Hysick and seconded by Bill McLean. There were no further nominations and Mary Hysick was elected as Collector of Delinquent Taxes by voice vote.

Article 3: To hear the reports of the Town Officers. Charlene Spaulding made the motion to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Bill McLean seconded the motion. Susan Schill asked the name of the Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer. Cathy Mander-Adams informed the body that the Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer were Kelly Stuber. Kelly lives in Troy, Vermont. Susan Schill questioned how the hours between Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are separated. Cathy Mander-Adams explained that it would be very difficult to pinpoint with any amount of accuracy how much time is dedicated to each position. Every day is devoted to answering any questions that arise during office hours. Cathy was asked if it is possible to document the hours separately for a more accurate reflection of the amount of time spent in each position. The question was called by Charlene Spaulding and seconded by Earl Domina, Jr. to close discussion and vote on the article. The article was passed by voice vote.

Article 4: To see what action the town will take regarding the collection of taxes. Will the town vote to pay education taxes to the Treasurer on or before September 20, 2023, and pay town taxes to the Treasurer on or before November 15, 2023, and a rate of interest of 1% per month to be charged on all overdue taxes beginning December 1, 2023. Susan Schill made the motion to move the question and Jon Hysick seconded the motion. There were no questions and Bill McLean called the question and was seconded by Brent Jones. The article was approved by voice vote.

Article 5: To fix the rate of compensation for Town Officers, if any. A motion was made by Mary Hysick and seconded by Randy Katon, to keep all rates the same as last year. Melissa Manka made a motion that was seconded by Chris ????? to amend the article to include an increase in compensation for the Town Clerk & Treasurer and the Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer to \$20.00 per hour. David Muir asked what the percentage increase would be to the budget. The increase will be approximately ????????? After brief discussion the motion was approved by voice vote 20 in favor and 17 against. Motion was passed to pay the Town Clerk & Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk & Assistant Treasurer \$20.00 per hour.

Article 6: Will the Town vote to expend the current revenues as proposed in the Selectboard's Budget to pay the debts and current expenses of the Town? Ken Adams, Jr. made a motion and Gary Edmonds seconded, to approve the Selectboard Proposed budget of \$220,344.00 with \$196,801.00 to be raised by 2023 property taxes. Subsequent discussion and amendments to Ken's motion resulted in the following: Melissa Manka's amendment for the Town Clerk and Treasurer and the Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer wage adjustments increased the original budget amount by \$3500.00, for a new budget total of \$223,844.00; Susan Schill's amendment, seconded by Mary Hysick, reduced the highway funds by \$10,655.00 (\$5655.00 for winter roads and \$5000.00 for summer roads) for a new budget total of \$213,189.00; less 2022 budget surplus of \$23,543.00 = \$189,646.00 to be raised by property taxes; Melissa Manka amendment, seconded by Stephanie Sweet, to level fund amount to be raised by taxes in the amount of \$179,352.00 with the balance to come from the Contingency Fund; a figure of \$9994.00 from Contingency Fund was approved but is actually \$300.00 short of the needed amount of \$10,294.00 to achieve the intention of the amendment and the voters.

Article 7: To do any other business that may legally come before the Town Meeting.

- Francis Machia questioned the material removed from the gravel pit. Answered by Ken Adams, Jr. - It was overburden and deemed unusable. The overburden was traded for trucking fees.
- Paul Nowell – will work on the summer and winter roads be put up for bid? Answer – Work will be done according to the town Purchasing policy. Any requests for bids will be advertised in local newspaper and the State website.
- Susan Schill recommended that local contractors be considered in the bidding process for work within the town. Answer – The Selectboard reserves the right to reject any/all bids.
- Jack Schill – Does the Selectboard ban any contractors from bidding? Answer – No.
- Carol Caldwell-Edmonds provided an update on the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) process and requested residents contact her with information about the distance of their residents from the road. Please contact her directly.
- Earl Domina Jr. mentioned the vacancies in town that are still in need of people to fill.
- Charlene Spaulding asked if there is a management plan for the land around the school. Answer – Not that we are aware of.
- Stacey Chase asked if land owned by the town, such as the land surrounding the Belvidere Central School, be used by the public. The Selectboard does not have an answer but they must consider the liability. The Selectboard will check into it.
- Francis Machia asked about the use of absentee ballots for those who cannot make it to Town Meeting. Answer – There are no absentee ballots when all elections are made at Town Meeting.
- Susan Schill suggested that town meeting move to meet in the evening.
- Brent Jones asked for moment of silence for all those who passed away in the last 3 years. So moved.
- Cathy Mander-Adams announced that all dogs in Belvidere are to be registered by April 1. The Town Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 am to help with the process of completing the registrations. This is the only business that will take place on that day. A valid Rabies Certificate must be on file in the Town Clerk's office at the time of registration.
- Thank you
- Susan Schill recommended the Town Clerk's Office consider shifting some hours to include a later time in the day.

Earl Domina, Jr. motioned to adjourn the meeting and Josie McLean seconded the motion. Motion carried. Town Meeting adjourned at 12:48

Signed 3/14/23

Thad Tallman, Justice of the Peace

Signed 3/14/23

Earl Domina, Jr., Selectboard Chair

TOWN INCOME 2023

1300 FEMA Reimburse	\$ 49,471.38
20 Current Town Taxes.....	166,655.20
21 Current Non-Residential Ed.....	251,387.84
22 Current Homestead Ed. Taxes	223,944.09
23 Current Tax Overpymt	0.00
30 Del. Tax Collections.....	42,619.62
31 Del. Tax Collector Fees	3,385.80
32 Del. Tax Interest.....	1,304.70
33 Del. Tax Overpymt.....	6.00
35 Delinquent Tax Atty Fee.....	109.50
40 Interest income	4,409.06
50 Copies	81.30
501 Dog licenses	486.00
53 Land Record copy	323.00
535 Green Mountain Passports.....	4.00
60 SOV Highway Class 3	29,304.93
62 SOV Equaliztion Funds	293.00
63 SOV Reappraisal.....	2,490.50
67 SOV Current Use.....	41,170.50
80 Recording Fee	
80a. RPC Fund	1,240.00
80 Recording Fee - Other	3,875.00
Total 80 Recording Fee	5,115.00
81 Certified copies.....	90.00
83 Vault use.....	57.00
95 Fleet Permit	220.00
Other Income.....	83.00
General Fund Revenue	\$ 823,011.42

2023 TOWN EXPENSE - AUDITORS' REPORT

(1/1/2023-12/31/2023)

General Fund

1000 Winter Roads.....	\$ 67,448.93
1001 SOV Class 3.....	19,155.16
1100 Summer Roads.....	17,908.38
1109 ARPA Expenditures.....	27,986.75
1150 Municipal Roads General Pe	1,056.67
1201 Emergency Shelter	3,624.44
1203 Mud Season Expense	2,331.96
130 SELECTBOARD Remuneration	2,150.00
140 Board of Civil Authority	260.00
145 Board of Abatement.....	120.00
150 Elections Ballot Clerks.....	560.01
1505 Advertising	1,061.00
1510 Animal Control	180.00
1520 VLCT Dues	1,568.00
1800 Town Office Expense.....	2,900.00
1801 Town Office IT Expense.....	4,845.88
1802 Office Supplies	487.78
1803 Town Office Machine Expens	209.69
1850 Microfilm Storage.....	60.00
1900 Legal & Professional Servi	7,462.74
2000 Meetings & Training	
LRSWMD.....	100.00
2000 Meetings & Training - Other.....	320.55
Total 2000 Meetings & Training	420.55
201 Postage	859.57
2010 Mileage Expense	266.59
210 Town Report Expense	564.95
2300 Refund Current Taxes.....	2,075.02
400 Town Street Lights	1,591.11
410 Town Office electricity.....	782.87
411 Town Sand Pile Electricity.....	278.81
412 Town Gravel Pit Electricity	312.11
420 Phone & Internet.....	1,161.07
430 Heating Fuel	2,580.74
500 Lamoille County Sheriff's.....	10,236.25
501 Lamoille Cty Court Assmt.	3,887.00
510 Fire Protection	15,246.00
520 Newport Ambulance	15,072.84
600 Insurance.....	3,296.00
820 LCPC Planning Assistance.....	210.00
900- Appropriations Community S.....	4,744.00
920 Dog License Expenses	
920b. SOV Animal License Return	104.00

TOWN EXPENSES 2022 *continued*

920 Dog License Expenses - Other.....	126.00
Total 920 Dog License Expenses	230.00
Credit Card REFUND	-100.00
Ed Taxes LNMUUSD	502,848.42
Payroll Expenses.....	34,496.77
Reconciliation Discrepancies.....	-59.90
Total Expenses	\$ 762,378.16
Other Income/Expense	
Recording Overpayment.....	\$ -15.00
Total Other Income	-15.00
Net Other Income.....	\$ -15.00

Town Receipts	\$ 823,011.42
Town Expenses.....	\$ 762,378.16
Accounts Balances	
Town Checking	\$ 16,974.59
Town Sweep	\$ 567,520.78
Gospel Fund.....	\$ 8,108.83
Lease Land Conveyance.....	\$ 46,494.11
Petty Cash.....	\$ 50.00
Town Contingency Fund.....	\$ 25,000.00
Town Coningency Fund Sweep.....	\$ 302,557.08
A/R.....	\$ 195.10

DELINQUENT TAXES - 2023

Beginning Balance	\$ 22,156.21
2023 Warrant - Ed Tax.....	\$ 34,955.22
2023 Warrant - Town Tax.....	\$ 6,513.00
Total Due	\$ 63,624.43
Collected	\$ (42,619.62)
Total Due - Remaining	\$ 21,004.83

2023 VITAL RECORDS

BIRTHS: 0
DEATHS - 4
MARRIAGES - 2

AUDITORS' STATEMENT

The Town of Belvidere Auditors have examined the accounts of the Town Officers. As far as we can ascertain, the accounts of the town as presented in this report are correct.

Respectfully,
Debora Baker
William McLean
Gary Edmonds

MESSAGE FROM THE SELECTBOARD AND ROAD COMMISSIONER

The flood of July 2023 was big news throughout Vermont and its impact was felt in Belvidere. Repairs to the road damage caused by the storm have been completed and applications for reimbursement from FEMA are pending at this time.

Although we did not undertake or complete any grant funded road improvement projects in 2023, several grants for road projects in Belvidere are either pending approval or have been approved. Some of these projects have a deadline of September 30, 2024, while the other projects have deadlines extending into construction season 2025 or beyond. The Selectboard and Road Commissioner thank the Lamoille County Planning Commission for their assistance applying for and administering these grants that reimburse the Town for various highway projects.

Several town roads were reclassified in 2023. The Basin Road is now Class 4 in its entirety, beginning at the intersection of Bog Road. John Lot Road and Sackett's Harbor Road are now classified as Legal Trails. Beginning 400 feet from the intersection of Sackett's Harbor Road through the bridge and extending to the Waterville town line, that portion of Smithville Road is now classified as a Legal Trail.

The Road Commissioner is working to control tree and shrubbery growth along all the town highway roadsides, to improve gravel surfaces on an ongoing basis, and to continue routine maintenance such as grading, ditching, and culvert cleaning.

The Selectboard, as stewards of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that Belvidere has received, are working closely with Belvidere's ARPA Advisory Committee to identify opportunities where this money might benefit our town. To date, the ARPA Advisory Committee and the Selectboard have assigned ARPA funds to the Lamoille Fibernet CUD, the Belvidere Community Club, and to the Town for tax map updates. The ARPA Advisory Committee is working on a strategy with the Lamoille North School District to use ARPA funds to improve the playground equipment at the Belvidere Central School. The ARPA Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and Selectboard are considering the creation of a town forest on the acreage surrounding the Belvidere Central School.

New grants available this year which the Selectboard is utilizing for additional benefit to the Town are The Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) and The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). MTAP is a new program from the Vermont Agency of Administration intended to assist those communities with a high need for state and federal grants but lower capacity for accessing and applying for those sources. MERP is a new grant program funded by Vermont Building and General Services (BGS) and administered by regional planning commissions to help communities become more energy resilient. These two grant opportunities require no matching funds from the Town.

The region's Communication Union District, Lamoille Fibernet, is dedicated to bringing high speed internet to our residents. Our representative to this organization reports regularly to the Belvidere Selectboard and Planning Commission on progress that the CUD is making. In conjunction to improving high-speed internet access in town, the Planning Commission is also researching ways to improve cell service throughout the community.

On behalf of all Belvidere residents, the Selectboard offers a big "Thank You" to all who serve as an elected or appointed town official. It is because of their dedicated service that we thrive as a community and maintain our presence in discussions of regional importance within Lamoille County and beyond. For the last few years, however, the Selectboard has been unable to fill some of the appointed officers' positions, and we encourage interested residents to consider accepting an appointment for one term to see if it is something they are comfortable doing.

BELVIDERE SELECTBOARD 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

CODE	General Fund Expenses	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Bud - Act	2024 Proposed
	SALARIES (see detailed summary in town report)				
	Town Clerk & Treasurer	23,000.00	17,149.00	5,851.00	23,000.00
	Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	5,000.00	7,100.00	(2,100.00)	5,000.00
	Listers	4,725.00	3,642.00	1,083.00	3,500.00
	Quick Books Support	175.00	175.00	-	175.00
	Auditors	790.00	535.00	255.00	600.00
150	Ballot Clerks	850.00	560.00	290.00	2,170.00
140	Board of Civil Authority	160.00	260.00	(100.00)	260.00
145	Board of Abatement	220.00	120.00	100.00	220.00
	Tax Collector Fees	-	3,439.00	(3,439.00)	-
	LRSWMD Rep	240.00	100.00	140.00	240.00
2000	Meetings and Training	400.00	321.00	79.00	400.00
2010	Mileage	350.00	267.00	83.00	350.00
130	Selectboard (includes \$150 SB Chair stipend)	2,050.00	2,150.00	(100.00)	2,150.00
	FICA, Social Security & Medicare Match, & Sick Time	3,050.00	2,457.00	593.00	3,750.00
	TOWN OFFICE				
1802	Office Supplies	2,000.00	488.00	1,512.00	1,000.00
201	Postage	1,000.00	860.00	140.00	1,000.00
210	Town Report Expense	850.00	565.00	285.00	850.00
1803	Office Machines	500.00	210.00	290.00	500.00
1800	Office Expense & Building Maintenance	2,500.00	2,900.00	(400.00)	2,500.00
1801	IT Expense & Town Website	3,500.00	4,846.00	(1,346.00)	4,000.00
	Record Digitization	1,800.00	-	1,800.00	1,800.00
	Banking & Wire Fees and Reconciliation Adjustments	100.00	(160.00)	260.00	100.00
1505	Advertising	1,350.00	1,061.00	289.00	1,200.00
921	SOV Marriage License Payments	-	-	-	-
	Property Reappraisal Reserve Fund Contribution -Tax Maps	-	-	-	2,200.00
1850	Municipal Records Restoration & Preservation	3,500.00	60.00	3,440.00	14,520.00
1510	ANIMAL CONTROL				
920	License Tags & Fees	200.00	230.00	(30.00)	300.00
	Animal Control / Pound Fees	1,000.00	180.00	820.00	1,000.00
1900	LEGAL				
	Attorney's Fees	4,000.00	7,549.00	(3,549.00)	4,000.00
		Budget	Actual	Bud - Act	Proposed
1520	VLCT DUES				
	Annual Pro-rated Fee	1,570.00	1,568.00	2.00	1,600.00
	PLANNING				
820	LCPC appropriation	210.00	210.00	-	250.00
	Belvidere Planning Commission funds	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
	ARPA Advisory Committee funds	750.00	530.00	220.00	750.00
	UTILITIES				
410	Town Office Electricity	900.00	783.00	117.00	850.00
400	Street Lights Electricity	1,600.00	1,591.00	9.00	1,600.00
411	Sand Pile Electricity	300.00	279.00	21.00	300.00
412	Gravel Pit Electricity	400.00	312.00	88.00	400.00
420	Town Office Phone & Internet	1,100.00	1,161.00	(61.00)	1,200.00
430	Town Office Heating Fuel	1,700.00	2,581.00	(881.00)	1,900.00
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
500	Lamoille County Sheriff 911 Dispatch	8,400.00	10,236.00	(1,836.00)	8,858.00
510	Johnson Fire Dept. Coverage	15,250.00	15,246.00	4.00	15,780.00
520	NEMS Ambulance Service	15,340.00	15,073.00	267.00	15,956.00
600	Insurance	2,600.00	3,296.00	(696.00)	3,577.00
1201	Emergency Shelter & Generator				
	Generator Annual Inspection	1,025.00	1,113.00	(88.00)	1,200.00
	Generator Repairs	500.00	2,511.00	(2,011.00)	1,000.00
	Generator Fuel	300.00	-	300.00	300.00
900	COMMUNITY SERVICES				
	See Detailed Summary in Town Report	4,794.00	4,744.00	50.00	4,794.00
501	LAMOILLE COUNTY ASSESSMENT				
	Annual Pro-rated Fee	3,890.00	3,887.00	3.00	4,420.00
	General Fund Expenses TOTAL	124,189.00	122,185.00	2,004.00	141,770.00

BELVIDERE SELECTBOARD 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

		2023	2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Bud - Act	Proposed
	Highway Fund Expenses				
1000	Winter Road Maintenance	65,000.00	67,449.00	(2,449.00)	70,000.00
1100	Summer Road Maintenance	15,000.00	17,908.00	(2,908.00)	15,000.00
1150	Municipal Road General Permit (Annual MRGP Fee)	1,200.00	1,057.00	143.00	500.00
1203	Storm Damage & Mud Season Expense	3,500.00	2,332.00	1,168.00	3,500.00
1107	Road Signs	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
1102	Gravel Pit Misc. Expense	500.00	-	500.00	500.00
1200	Highway Grant Matching Reserve Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
	Highway Fund Expenses TOTAL	98,200.00	98,746.00	(546.00)	102,500.00
	Total Budgeted Expenses	222,389.00	220,931.00	1,458.00	244,270.00
	NON-TAX REVENUE				
		Budget	Actual	Act - Bud	Proposed
	ARPA Committee Expense Funds	750.00	530.00	(220.00)	750.00
	Property Reappraisal Reserve Fund Contribution -Tax Maps	-	-	-	2,200.00
	Mun. Records Restoration & Preservation Reserve Fund	3,500.00	1,260.00	(2,240.00)	14,520.00
95	Fleet Permits	200.00	220.00	20.00	250.00
40&32	Interest Income	3,500.00	5,714.00	2,214.00	4,000.00
31	Tax Collector Fees Collected	-	3,386.00	3,386.00	-
	Marriage License Revenue	120.00	-	(120.00)	120.00
501	Pound Fee & Dog License Revenue	330.00	486.00	156.00	400.00
	Copies, Faxes, Misc. Fees	500.00	555.00	55.00	560.00
80	Recording Fees	-	5,115.00	5,115.00	-
	Other Income	-	83.00	83.00	-
35	Attorneys' Fees Collected	-	110.00	110.00	-
	Total Non-tax Revenue	8,900.00	17,459.00	8,559.00	22,800.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES LESS REVENUE	213,489.00	203,472.00	10,017.00	221,470.00
	Less Previous Year's Surplus	23,543.00			10,017.00
	AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY PROPERTY TAXES	189,946.00			211,453.00
	Level tax funding for Budget	\$ 179,352.00			\$ 179,352.00
	General Fund Contribution to Budget	10,594.00			\$ 32,101.00

BELVIDERE SELECTBOARD 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2024 Unbudgeted Expenses				
2300	Overpayment of taxes refunded		2,075.00		
	LNMUUD education payment - paid from School Tax collected		502,848.00		
	Total Unbudgeted Expenses		504,923.00		
	2024 ARPA Fund Payouts				
1109	Committee Approved ARPA Contributions				
	Parcel Data and Tax Mapping		4,500.00		
	Belvidere Community Club		22,870.00		
	Lamoille Fibernet (CUD) Pledged for future payment		10,980.00		
	2024 State Aid & Grant Projects Budget				
		2023	2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Bud - Act	Proposed
	Highway State Aid & Grant Project Expense				
1001	Vt. State Aid Class 3 Road Maintenance	18,500.00	19,155.00	(655.00)	18,500.00
	FY 23-24 & FY 24-25 Better Roads Projects	95,000.00	-	95,000.00	67,560.00
	FY 23-24 & 24-25 Grant-In-Aid Projects	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	20,500.00
	FY 24-25 SOV Structures Grant Project	-	-	-	60,984.00
	FY 24-25 BRIC Grant Project	-	-	-	71,000.00
	Highway State Aid & Grant Project Expense TOTAL	123,500.00	19,155.00	104,345.00	238,544.00
		2023	2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Act - Bud	Proposed
	Highway State Aid & Grant Revenue				
60	Vt. State Aid Class 3 Road Maintenance	18,500.00	19,155.00	655.00	18,500.00
	Better Roads Grants Reimbursement	76,000.00	-	(76,000.00)	54,050.00
	Grant-in-Aid Reimbursement	8,000.00	-	(8,000.00)	16,400.00
	Structures Grant Reimbursement	-	-	-	48,787.00
	BRIC Grant Reimbursement	-	-	-	67,450.00
	Better Roads & Grant-in-Aid Match from Reserve Fund	21,000.00	-	(21,000.00)	17,610.00
	Structures Grant Match from Reserve Fund	-	-	-	12,197.00
	BRIC Grant Match from Reserve Fund	-	-	-	3,550.00
	Highway State Aid & Grant Project Revenue TOTAL	123,500.00	19,155.00	(104,345.00)	238,544.00

2024 PROPOSED TOWN OFFICER COMPENSATION SUMMARY

**2023
Proposed**

Town Clerk & Treasurer	
1150 hours per year @ \$20.00 per hour	\$ 23,000.00
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	
250 hours per year @ \$20.50 per hour	\$ 5,000.00
Listers 200 hours per year @ \$17.50 per hour	\$ 3,500.00
Auditors 35 hours per year @\$17.50 per hour	\$ 600.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees (unbudgeted item)	
Quick Books assistance @\$17.50 per hour	\$ 175.00
FICA, Medicare, Social Security Matching & Sick Time	\$ 3,750.00
Sub-total 2024 proposed payroll expense items	\$ 36,025.00
*Select Board @ \$25 per meeting	\$ 2,000.00
plus Select Board Chair additional stipend	\$ 150.00
*Board of Civil Authority @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 260.00
*Board of Abatement @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 220.00
*LRSWMD Representative @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 240.00
*Ballot Clerks 124 hours per year @ \$17.50 per hour	\$ 2,170.00
Sub-total 2024 proposed non-payroll expense items	\$ 5,040.00
* Starred items not paid through "payroll", because no taxes were withheld	
TOTAL 2024 PROPOSED TOWN OFFICER SALARIES EXPENSE	\$ 41,065.00

2023 ACTUAL TOWN OFFICER COMPENSATION SUMMARY

**2023
Actual**

Town Clerk & Treasurer	\$ 17,149.00
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	\$ 7,100.00
Listers @ \$17.50 per hour	\$ 3,642.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees (unbudgeted item)	\$ 3,439.00
Quick Books Set-up, training & assistance @\$17.50 per hour	175.00
FICA, Medicare and Social Security matching	2,457.00
Sub-total 2023 Actual Payroll Expense	\$ 33,962.00
*Auditors @ \$17.50 per hour	\$ 535.00
*Select Board @ \$25 per meeting	\$ 2,000.00
plus Select Board Chair additional stipend	\$ 150.00
*Board of Civil Authority @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 260.00
*Board of Abatement @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 120.00
*LRSWMD Representative @ \$20 per meeting	\$ 100.00
*Ballot Clerks @ \$17.50 per hour	\$ 560.00
Sub-total 2022 actual non-payroll expense items	\$ 3,725.00
* Starred items not paid through "payroll", because no taxes were withheld	
TOTAL 2023 ACTUAL TOWN OFFICER SALARIES EXPENSE	\$ 37,687.00

2023 Community Services Summary

Expenses	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed
Community Services:			
American Red Cross.....	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Johnson Food Shelf.....	150.00	150.00	150.00
Central Vt. Adult Basic Ed.	100.00	100.00	100.00
Cambridge Food Shelf.....	100.00	100.00	100.00
Capstone Community Action	150.00	150.00	150.00
Central Vt. Council on Aging.....	500.00	500.00	500.00
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	150.00	150.00	150.00
Habitat for Humanity of Lam. Co.	100.00	100.00	100.00
Home Share Now	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lamoille Restorative Center	250.00	250.00	250.00
Lamoille Community House - 365	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lamoille County Mental Health.....	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lamoille Econ. Dev. Corp.....	50.00	50.00	50.00
Lamoille Home Health & Hospice.....	1,074.00	1,074.00	1,074.00
Lamoille County Spec. Investigation Unit.....	225.00	225.00	225.00
Meals on Wheels of Lam. County.....	300.00	300.00	300.00
North Country Animal League	200.00	200.00	200.00
Rural Community Transportation.....	250.00	250.00	250.00
VACD (Vt. Dry Hydrant Program)	100.00	100.00	100.00
Vt. Center for Independent Living.....	195.00	195.00	195.00
Belvidere Green Up Day Program.....	50.00	50.00	50.00
Waterville Connections After School Program.....	400.00	400.00	400.00
GRAND TOTAL.....	\$4,794.00	\$4,794.00	\$4,794.00



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday January 23, 2024

Media Contact:
Lisa Birmingham
director@LamoilleFiber.net
802.696-9025

Lamoille FiberNet Construction Contract Complete; Fidium Fiber Coming to Lamoille County in 2024!

Morrisville, VT. January 23, 2024. Lamoille Fibernet Communications Union District (CUD) has finalized its construction contract with Fidium Fiber to bring high-speed broadband to more than 4,000 unserved and underserved addresses in Lamoille County this year. The 2024 construction project, which is the first of two phases and will begin this spring, is funded by a Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) grant and by Consolidated Communications Inc., the company that brings us Fidium.

2024 Project Scope

Phase I will reach 86% of the unserved and underserved (“U/U”) addresses in our service area by the end of 2024. More specifically, the 2024 plan includes all U/U addresses and incidental passings in Belvidere, Eden, Elmore, Johnson, Waterville and Wolcott. It also includes all of Hyde Park except the northeast corner above Green River Reservoir, and all U/U addresses of Morrisville, except a few addresses on Rte. 15 on the Wolcott border. The Phase I plan also includes roughly 65% of the U/U addresses in Cambridge and Stowe. Also, in early 2024, Fidium plans to announce other areas it will serve completely at its own cost, including some areas already served by other carriers.

During 2024, Lamoille FiberNet will design and secure funding for the remaining U/U addresses in parts of Stowe, Cambridge, North Hyde Park and Morrisville, with a Phase II planned completion date of 2025. For a high-level depiction of Phase I and II, check out the map at page 6 of the CUD’s annual report: <https://lamoillefiber.net/document/2023-annual-report>. When we finish our two-phase build, our service area in Lamoille County will have universal service.

Why aren’t we building all Lamoille County addresses?

Our mission as a CUD is to ensure that all on-grid addresses have access to wired broadband with at least 100/100 mbps speeds. Because the majority of Lamoille County has broadband service, Lamoille FiberNet’s responsibility is filling the gap — reaching those addresses that are unserved or underserved. Also, while Lamoille FiberNet’s “service area” includes all of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Johnson, Hyde Park, Morrisville, Stowe and Waterville, it includes

only the portion of Wolcott closest to Lake Elmore and does not include East Elmore. NEK Broadband, another CUD, currently has responsibility for those remaining portions.

For clarity, “unserved or underserved” (“U/U addresses”) are those with wired Internet speeds of less than 25 Megabits down/3 Megabits up, or only wireless connection of any speed. “On-grid” means the address is connected to the electric grid. The grant funding also allows Fidium to serve already “served” addresses that are enroute, or incidental to, the new fiber network, so residents and businesses will have a new competitive option.

When will this all happen?

Now that the Phase I contract is finalized, the team will review pole conditions, get permits and easements, and finalize the network’s detailed design between now and spring of this year. Lamoille FiberNet will update each town as construction plans are finalized and will also post the schedule on the website. To stay updated on the progress, [sign up for Lamoille FiberNet’s mailing list](#).

Are you on the list?

To find out if your address will be in Phase 1, please email Lamoille FiberNet’s construction manager, Fabian Bourgeois, at fbourgeois@lamoillefiber.net. Remember, we won’t know exactly when your address or road will be built until designs are finalized.

If you are not on the list

If you are not part of Phase I but you are interested in Fidium’s services, you should still pre-order and encourage your neighbors to also pre-order. Pre-ordering provides an expression of interest that Fidium can take into account in its service planning, and it involves no commitment to you. When Fidium extends beyond the area served by this partnership, your level of interest could help them determine where to provide service. To pre-order:

Go to: fidiumfiber.com and enter your address in the box titled “Check your address for service availability.” If your address does not show up, it may be due to an incomplete database. Contact fbourgeois@lamoillefiber.net.

Speed and cost of the new service

You can see Fidium’s product and price information by finding your town on this site: [Fast, Reliable Fiber Internet Service Locations | Fidium Fiber](#).

The mission of Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District is to prioritize access to unserved and underserved addresses to symmetrical, high-speed, and affordable internet service—as soon as possible. Our vision is that every home and business in our territory will be connected to fast, reliable internet service.

For more info, go to <http://www.LamoilleFiber.net>.

BELVIDERE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
3996 VT Rte. 109
Belvidere, VT 05442
802-644-6621
Email: townclerk@townofbelviderevt.com

NOTICE

**The Town Clerk's Office will be open on
Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 am –
12:00 pm for the purpose of
licensing dogs.**

**No other business will be conducted
at that time.**

20 V.S.A. § 3581

A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six months old shall **annually** on or before April 1 cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed on a form approved by the Secretary for one year from that day in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the dog or wolf-hybrid is kept.

Before you can get a license for your dog(s), you must give to the town clerk either the dog's original rabies vaccination certificate or a certified copy of it on a form issued by a duly licensed veterinarian stating that the dog received its current pre-exposure vaccination.

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring 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



GREEN UP
VERMONT

www.greenupvermont.org

**Success on
Green Up Day
May 6, 2023**



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.

Join us for Green Up Day on May 4, 2024. Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org
802-522-7245

Town of Belvidere

3996 VT ROUTE 109

BELVIDERE, VT 05442