



LEICESTER, VERMONT 2021 TOWN REPORT

January 2021 – December 2021

INFORMATIONAL HEARING:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 7PM (REMOTE)

TOWN MEETING VOTE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 10AM – 7PM

DEDICATION



Margaret (Peg) Oliver 1927-2019

Robert Oliver 1927-2021

The 2021 Leicester Town Report is dedicated to the memory of Bob and Margaret (Peg) Oliver of Old Jerusalem Road. Bob and Peg raised their four daughters in Leicester. Together they faithfully served the community in various roles for over 50 years.

Peg, born in New Hampshire, married Bob in 1951 and soon embarked on a quest to learn as much as possible about Leicester. If anyone had questions about early settlers or families, Peg was the one to call. Peg was a founding member of the Leicester Historical Society and a driving force behind the restoration of the historical buildings at the Four Corners. She and the late Frances Monroe wrote numerous grants and secured funding with the result being that the Meeting House and old school are listed on the National Historic Register. For over 15 years Peg faithfully made countless pints of baked beans and pies to support the society's fundraising efforts. She also served as Justice of the Peace, helping count ballots and working during elections. She truly enjoyed performing marriage ceremonies, rehearsing her lines as she did her chores. One of her happiest memories was helping to conduct a bus tour with Laura Coro's class to share her knowledge of town history.

Bob, born on the family farm on Jerusalem Road, attended the Jerusalem School. He took the train into Brandon to attend Brandon High School. For a number of years, he ran a small dairy operation before working at Community Light and Power, which later merged with Central Vermont Public Service. In the 1970's, 1980's, and through the early 1990's he served as a member of the Leicester School Board, as well as the Otter Valley Board and Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union board. He served the Leicester community as a Selectboard member for over 20 years, with highway maintenance as a special interest. Bob also represented Leicester in the Legislature for several years.

In their retirement Bob and Peg could be found planting and watering flowers at the Four Corners and making needed repairs to the historic buildings. Bob and Peg truly were good stewards of the town, serving with humility and quiet perseverance. Their commitment to, and support of, Leicester is unmatched and deeply missed.

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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.

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

TOWN INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

(802) 247-5961 x 3
TOWNCLERK@LEICESTERTV.GOV

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

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

(802) 247-5961 x 2
LISTER@LEICESTERTV.GOV

Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

(802) 247-5961 x 1
(802) 465-8098
ZONING@LEICESTERTV.GOV
By Appointment

RECYCLING: 1st & 3rd Saturday of month 9:00am - 12:00pm at Town Garage

REGULAR MEETINGS

Held at Town Office

SELECTBOARD

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

ZONING BOARD

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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 1/1/2022)

Julie Delphia
Town Clerk/Treasurer
(802) 247-5961

Diane Benware
Selectboard Chair
(802) 247-3786

Tom Barker
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3160

Brad Lawes
Selectboard Member
(802) 465-8065

John Rouse
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3135

Ron Fiske

Selectboard Member
(802) 247-4856

Arlan Pidgeon
Road Foreman
(802) 247-6361

Brad Lawes
Road Commissioner
(802) 465-8065

Dianne Harvey
Assessor Assistant
(802) 247-5961

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

Jeff McDonough
1st Constable

(802) 343-0788

Mike Rakowitz
2nd Constable
(802) 247-3281

Ricky Nicklaw
Fire Warden
(802) 247-8357

Chree Perkins
Health Officer
(802) 465-8335

Keith Arlund
Zoning Administrator
(802) 465-8098

Jahnu Gibbs
Animal Control
(802) 377-2691

LEICESTER TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Term Expires

Auditors

Vacant	March 2023
Deb Miner	March 2024
Donna Pidgeon	March 2022

Delinquent Tax Collector

Elizabeth Ripley	March 2022
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Justices of the Peace

Cheryl Morrison	February 2023
Diane Benware	February 2023
Hilary Hatch	February 2023
Thomas Barker	February 2023
Greg Bernhardt	February 2023

Moderator

Richard Reed	March 2022
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Town Clerk

Julie Delphia	March 2023
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Town Treasurer

Julie Delphia	March 2023
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Selectboard

Diane Benware, Chair (3)	March 2022
Ron Fiske (2)	March 2022
Brad Lawes (3)	March 2024
John Rouse (3)	March 2023
Thomas Barker (2)	March 2023

HIRED 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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APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Term Expires

Cemetery Sexton

Donna Pidgeon	March 2022
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Emergency Management Coordinator

John Rouse	May 2022
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Energy Coordinator

Jeremy Gildrien	May 2022
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First Constable

Jeff McDonough	March 2022
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Forest Fire Warden

Richard C. Nicklaw	June 2022
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Regional Planning Representative

Diane Benware	June 2022
Tom Barker	June 2022

Road Commissioner

Brad Lawes	March 2022
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Second Constable

Mike Rakowitz	March 2022
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Solid Waste Representative

Richard Reed	March 2022
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Tree Warden

Arlan Pidgeon	March 2022
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Health Officer

Chree Perkins	August 2022
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Zoning Board of Adjustment

Jay Michael (3)	November 2023
Donna Swington (3)	November 2022
Sarah Jane VonTrapp (3)	November 2024
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2023
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2022

Planning Commission

Jay Michael (3)	November 2023
Donna Swington – Chair (3)	November 2022
Suki Fredricks (3)	November 2024
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2023
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2022

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.

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

LEICESTER TOWN REMOTE INFORMATIONAL MEETING NOTICE

The Selectboard for the Town of Leicester will hold a public informational hearing by electronic means on February 28, 2022 at 7:00pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning.

Information on how to access the remote hearing:

- By telephone: Dial **1 646 558 8656**. When prompted enter the hearing ID: **818 2639 1090**.
- By computer: Join meeting by clicking here **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81826391090>**. You may be prompted to enter a hearing ID: **818 2639 1090**.
- By smartphone, tablet, or other device: Download and open the Zoom app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the meeting ID: **818 2639 1090**.

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Hearings" (below) to understand how electronic hearings will be managed. If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) to Julie Delphia at townclerk@leicestervt.gov

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote hearing software in advance of the meeting. If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, please call (802) 247-5961 x 3 or email townclerk@leicestervt.gov.

AGENDA

Times are approximate and may vary.

- 7:00pm: Call to Order
- 7:00pm: Pledge of Allegiance
- 7:05pm: Additions or deletions to the agenda
 - Public comment
- 7:05pm: Review and discuss Article I: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year
 - Public comment
- 7:10pm: Review and discuss Article II: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of \$762,265.64 to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year... (see warning on Page 4 for breakdown)
 - Public comment
- 7:25pm: Review and discuss Article III: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863?
- 7:30pm: Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)
- 7:35pm: Entertain motion to adjourn meeting

INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT FOR REMOTE HEARINGS

Remote Public Informational Hearing

The public informational hearing will be conducted remotely via electronic means. The public will also be able to access and participate in the remote hearing by dialing in through telephone.

Accessing the Hearing

Please refer to the hearing notice and agenda for information on how to access the remote hearing. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting "room" until granted access to the hearing. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the hearing.

Participation

The Selectboard will follow its agenda and allow public attendees to participate through voice (audio) means where feasible or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

Initially, the hearing host/organizer will mute all participants. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the Selectboard Chair.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The Chair will invite comment:
 - during the time designated on the agenda for public comment;
 - during any open public comment period, if applicable; and
 - other times as determined by the Chair.
- When a participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state their name before commenting.

When the Selectboard adjourns the hearing, the host/organizer will end the electronic hearing by turning off/closing the remote hearing software. Attendees will be automatically disconnected.

Minutes and other public records that were part of the hearing will be made available in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

To learn more about Remote Public Hearings and the Open Meeting Law, please visit the Secretary of State's Municipal Assistance webpage at <https://sos.vermont.gov/municipal-division/laws-resources/covid-19-response/>.

LEICESTER TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are warned and notified to meet at the **Leicester Town Office** in said Town on **March 1, 2022** 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 I: 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 the remaining one (1) year of a three (3) year term
An Auditor for a three (3) year term
A Delinquent Tax Collector for a one (1) year term

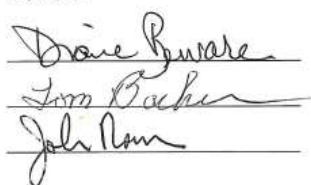
Article II: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$762,265.64** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 325,675.64	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 247,683.50
Highway Expenses	\$ 436,590.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 347,913.42

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

Article III: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863?

01/17/22





NOTICE TO VOTERS

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by **January 30, 2022**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by **February 19, 2022**.

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 **February 28, 2022**. (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, 2021		11,655.42
Selectboard Loans	25,000.00	
Transfers	<u>2,473.76</u>	
Total Loans & Transfers		27,473.76
Current Taxes for Town & School	2,632,678.26	
Delinquent Taxes, Interest & Penalty	162,606.57	
Zoning Fees	2,325.00	
Licenses & Fines	3,007.50	
Tax Allocation	530,000.00	
Grants	22,914.00	
Other	<u>31,159.66</u>	
Total Income		<u>3,384,690.99</u>
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS		3,423,820.17

TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

Loan Repayment	25,000.00	
Transfers to Restricted Funds	29,491.50	
Schools	2,357,063.94	
Tax Allocation for State	642,000.00	
Payments covered by Restricted Funds	2,473.76	
Selectboard Orders & Appropriations	<u>299,313.83</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>3,355,343.03</u>
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2021		68,477.14

LEICESTER HIGHWAY SUMMARY

HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

Balance Jan 1, 2021		75,393.30
Accounts Receivable (Highway Grant)	155,372.36	
Current Taxes for Highway	296,946.70	
Weight Permits	670.00	
State Aid - Highway	72,645.09	
Reimbursement Income & FEMA	1,777.00	
Grants	<u>13,660.00</u>	
Total Income		<u>541,071.15</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS		616,464.45

HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

Transfer to Restricted Funds	40,000.00	
Selectboard Orders	<u>551,037.87</u>	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS		<u>591,037.87</u>
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2021		25,426.58

LEICESTER ARPA SUMMARY

ARPA RECEIPTS

Balance Jan 1, 2021		0.00
Town Receipts	56,845.45	
County Receipts	<u>105,471.38</u>	
Total Income		<u>162,316.83</u>

TOTAL ARPA RECEIPTS

162,316.83

For more on American Rescue Plan funds, see the Selectboard Report on page 18.

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Tax Rate:	Homestead	Non-residential	
Town	0.1580	0.1580	
Town Highway	0.1622	0.1622	
Veteran Exemption	0.0012	0.0012	
Education	1.3836	1.6326	
Total Tax Rate	1.7050	1.9540	
Grand List	1,832,849.00		
Taxes billed:			
Town	1,832,849.00 x 0.1580	289,590.12	
Highway	1,832,849.00 x 0.1622	297,288.11	
			586,878.23
Education Taxes:			
Veteran's Exemp.	1,832,849.00 x 0.0012	2,199.39	
Homestead	803,106.00 x 1.3836	1,111,177.45	
Non-Residential	1,034,153.85 x 1.6326	1,688,359.61	
			2,801,736.45
Total Taxes Billed			<u>3,388,614.68</u>
Less State Rebates			340,139.29
Balance to be collected			<u>3,048,475.39</u>
Taxes Accounted for as Follows:			
2021 Current Taxes		2,928,716.54	
2021 Payments from Previous Year		1,285.30	
2021 Delinquent Collected		54,245.07	
2021 Delinquents Outstanding		64,228.48	
Total			3,048,475.39

% of Property Tax Town vs. Education

Homestead Property Tax Bill

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Town & Highway	18.8%	19.9%	20.2%	19.1%
Education Homestead	81.2%	80.1%	80.7%	81.2%

% of Property Tax Town vs. Education

Non-Residential Property Tax Bill

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Town & Highway	16.4%	17.5%	17.1%	16.8%
Education Non-Residential	83.6%	82.5%	82.9%	83.2%

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in General Fund	50,838.25	11,655.42	11,655.42	68,477.14	After receivables/payables
Loans and Transfers:					
Selectmen's Loans	280,000.00		25,000.00		Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfer from Restricted Funds	49,466.28		2,473.76		See Funds Page 15
Tax Account Allocation Refund	335,000.00		530,000.00		Allocated for State Ed pmt
Grants & State Direct Deposits					
Grant Income	64,243.98		22,914.00		See Grant Info Page 21
State DD Reappraisal Fund	6,715.00		6,689.50		See Funds Page 15
TOTAL LOANS AND TRANSFERS	735,425.26	0.00	587,077.26	0.00	
Fines, Fees & Licenses:					
Civil Fines from Sheriff Patrol	1,895.71		681.50		Register your dog by April 1st See report page 20
Dog Licenses / Fines	2,508.00	2,500.00	2,261.00	2,100.00	
License - Liquor / Junkyard	90.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	
TOTAL FINES, FEES, & LICENSES	4,493.71	2,565.00	3,007.50	2,165.00	
Taxes:					
Current Taxes - Town	244,841.91		289,275.26		
Current Taxes - Education	2,272,145.83		2,338,012.58		
Tax prepayments	1,285.30		939.12		
Current Use	10,504.00		11,911.00		
Delinquent Taxes, Interest, Penalties	118,703.02		162,606.57		Penalty pays DTC
Education Tax True-Up/Municipal Adj	5,220.05		5,269.00		
Railroad Tax	381.61	350.00	381.61	350.00	
Fed Bureau Land Mgt - PILOT	7,881.00	7,000.00	7,989.00	7,000.00	
TOTAL TAXES	2,660,962.72	7,350.00	2,816,384.14	7,350.00	
Zoning:					
Zoning Permit Fees	2,150.00		2,325.00		Fees offset Zoning expense
TOTAL ZONING	2,150.00	0.00	2,325.00	0.00	
Other Income:					
Reimbursement: Insurance	1,600.00		1,618.00		
Interest on Checking	2,176.50		1,686.40		
Rental of Town Hall/Meeting House					
Other	1.00		66.45		
TOTAL OTHER	3,777.50	0.00	3,370.85	0.00	
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS	3,457,647.44	21,570.42	3,423,820.17	77,992.14	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans:					
Loan Payments	280,000.00		25,000.00		Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfers:					
Transfer to Records Restoration	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Clerk Education/Software	965.00		802.00		See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Cemetery Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Building Repair Fund		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Professional Audit Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Reappraisal Fund	11,715.00	5,000.00	11,689.50	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Allocated Funds:					
Transfer to Tax Account	530,000.00		642,000.00		State Education Tax Pmt
Payments covered by Restricted Fund Transfers:					
Buildings	21,950.92				See Funds Page 15
Reappraisal	21,049.41		553.76		See Funds Page 15
Cemetery	5,500.00				See Funds Page 15
Clerk Software					See Funds Page 15
Records Restoration	965.95		1,920.00		See Funds Page 15
LOANS AND TRANSFERS TOTAL	884,146.28	22,000.00	698,965.26	22,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Auditing:		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Salaries	510.00		363.75		
AUDITING TOTAL	510.00	1,000.00	363.75	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		
Ron Fiske	750.00		750.00		
Ken Young/John Rouse	750.00		750.00		
Tom Barker	750.00		750.00		
Selectboard Secretary	1,980.00	2,200.00	2,160.00	2,200.00	
SELECTBOARD TOTAL	5,980.00	6,200.00	6,160.00	6,200.00	
Listing:		3,000.00		3,000.00	
Salaries	2,742.50		2,208.75		
Consulting	3,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Contract with NEMRC
Tax Map Update	3,512.50	3,512.00	1,675.00	3,512.00	Update & Maintain Maps
LISTING TOTAL	9,255.00	12,512.00	9,883.75	12,512.00	
Recycling:					
Solid Waste	13,004.08	14,100.00	13,045.08	13,408.56	
RECYCLING TOTAL	13,004.08	14,100.00	13,045.08	13,408.56	
Buildings Expenses:		10,500.00		10,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Meeting House					
Town Office	11,241.86		150.00		Roof, Maintenance (2020)
Town Hall	14,013.50				New Siding (2020)
Fuel:					
Meeting House	2,203.88	3,000.00	2,992.43	3,000.00	
Town Hall	1,093.88	1,000.00	1,144.10	1,000.00	
Grounds Care:					
Cemetery	5,500.00	6,000.00	5,450.00	6,000.00	
Office ,Town Green, Fern Lake Access	4,985.00	6,000.00	6,405.00	6,000.00	
TOTAL BLDGS & GRNDS EXPENSES	39,038.12	26,500.00	16,141.53	26,000.00	
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 \$19,429.					
Town Clerk / Treasurer / Assistant:					
Town Clerk, Julie Delphia	10,500.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	
Treasurer, Julie Delphia	11,500.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Clerk / Treasurer Training	35.00	1,000.00	198.00	1,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Assistant	3,892.50	4,250.00	1,653.75	4,250.00	
CLERK / TREAS / ASSIST TOTAL	25,927.50	28,250.00	24,851.75	28,250.00	
Office Expenses:					
Cleaning Services	599.00	600.00	549.00	600.00	
Cleaning Supplies	197.91	200.00	45.28	200.00	
Computer Tech Support / License	1,604.65	2,000.00	2,874.38	2,000.00	
Copier	1,372.50	1,500.00	1,565.40	1,500.00	
Office Supplies	2,761.12	3,000.00	2,968.72	3,000.00	
Postage	2,211.93	2,400.00	2,092.50	2,400.00	
Printing	2,152.12	2,500.00	2,565.00	2,500.00	
Town Web Page	570.00	600.00	570.00	600.00	
Disaster Recovery / Maintenance:					
NEMRC Annual Support	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	NEMRC Contract
NEMRC Disaster Recovery Contract	1,304.78	1,500.00	1,343.92	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	21,074.01	22,600.00	22,874.20	22,600.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Insurance:					
Property & Casualty	11,797.00	11,584.00	11,584.00	11,757.00	Figures are actuals for 2022
Workman's Comp	4,558.00	5,046.50	4,223.00	4,281.00	Figures are actuals for 2022
INSURANCE TOTAL	16,355.00	16,630.50	15,807.00	16,038.00	
Zoning:					
Zoning Administrator	791.00	1,500.00	1,635.00	1,500.00	Partial Offset by zoning fees
LHMP Match Fee		2,537.50		2,537.50	Town Match. See page 21
Recording Fees	345.00		480.00		
Printing	332.33	500.00	148.38	500.00	
Secretary	116.25	500.00	315.00	500.00	
ZONING TOTAL	1,584.58	5,037.50	2,578.38	5,037.50	
Utilities:					
Electricity	4,474.63	5,000.00	4,278.80	5,000.00	
Telephone	1,990.85	2,000.00	2,034.92	2,000.00	
UTILITIES TOTAL	6,465.48	7,000.00	6,313.72	7,000.00	
Public Safety:					
Addison County Humane Society Contract	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	Annual Contract
Law Enforcement Expenses	7,962.90	1,000.00	121.26	1,000.00	
Animal Control	500.00	750.00	213.75	750.00	
Dog Licenses - Tags	310.32		146.84		Covered by Dog Income
Dog Licenses - State Fees	1,060.00		1,020.00		Covered by Dog Income
Dog Licenses - Clerk Fees	430.00		388.00		Covered by Dog Income
Fire Protection Contract - BFD	44,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	
Fire Warden - Richard Nicklaw	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	
Health Officers	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	55,063.22	46,800.00	46,939.85	46,800.00	
Other Expenses:					
Trash Removal - Bullock Rd	0.00	150.00		150.00	
Delinquent Tax Collector - Beth Ripley	8,048.83		9,733.41		Covered by DTC penalty
Elections / Payroll & Supplies	2,193.69	2,100.00	963.00	2,100.00	
Grants: Milfoil Grant to LDFLA	29,371.00		22,914.00		See Grant Info Page 21
COVID Grants	34,872.98				
Writing & Research Grant	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Interest / Bank Fees	2,263.26	0.00	379.38	0.00	Offset by Interest Income
Legal Fees	265.00	3,000.00	3,422.08	5,000.00	
Miscellaneous	3.50	200.00	1,686.21	200.00	Roll off, Front Porch Forum
Town Moderator	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Payroll Liability:					
Payroll Tax Liability - FICA / Medicare	8,780.10	10,000.00	9,552.11	10,000.00	
Workshops / Training - Town Officers		500.00	48.00	500.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	86,448.36	16,600.00	49,348.19	18,600.00	
Assessments:					
Addison County Humane Society	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Animal Holding Facility
Addison County Regional Planning	1,425.60	1,425.60	1,425.60	1,336.50	On per capita basis
Addison County Tax	8,521.50	10,000.00	9,390.95	10,636.00	County tax
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	See report on page 28
Brandon Area Rescue Squad	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	19,800.00	See report on page 28
Brandon Library	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	See report on page 29
Green - Up Vermont	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	See report on page 33
BLSG Insect Control District	25,502.40	24,574.00	24,574.00	24,574.00	See report on page 31
Lake Dunmore / Fern Lake Assoc	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	See report on page 34
Vermont League of Cities & Towns	2,435.00	2,435.00	2,435.00	2,327.00	Municipal Assistance Center
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	72,109.50	72,659.60	72,050.55	87,773.50	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Appropriations					Requests on file at TC
Addison Country Restorative Justice	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	Reports for all requestors can be found on pages 24-41 of this report.
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	
Addison County RSVP	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Addison County Transit Resources	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	
Agewell formerly CVAA	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 formerly ACCAG	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Hospice Volunteer Services	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	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	
Women in Crisis - Women Safe	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	12,956.08	12,956.08	12,956.08	12,456.08	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	365,770.93	288,845.68	299,313.83	303,675.64	
OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL	1,303,453.00		1,194,179.82		
STATE EDUCATION TAX	892,621.81		1,162,884.12		
TOTAL TOWN DISBURSEMENTS	3,445,992.02	310,845.68	3,355,343.03	325,675.64	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in Highway Fund	6,499.71	75,393.30	75,393.30	25,426.58	Includes Accts Receivable
Accounts Receivable - Highway Grant			155,372.36		Highway Grant Revenue
Transfers and Loans					
Transfer from Bridge/Culvert Fund					See Funds Page 15
Transfer From Equipment Fund	126,000.00				See Funds Page 15
Transfer from Highway Fund					See Funds Page 15
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND LOANS	126,000.00	0.00	155,372.36	0.00	
Agency of Transportation Highway Aid	86,332.10	63,000.00	72,645.09	63,000.00	
State Highway Grant	6,710.00		13,660.00		
Current Taxes to Highway Fund	369,540.29		296,946.70		
Reimbursement - Highway			1,777.00		
Road Permits	945.00	250.00	670.00	250.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS	596,027.10	138,643.30	616,464.45	88,676.58	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans and Transfers:					
Transfer to Highway Fund					See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Culvert/bridge	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Equipment Fund	40,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Allocate for Shed Roof & Furnace					
TOTAL TRANSFERS	60,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Equipment Repairs:		10,000.00		10,000.00	
Loader	197.78		775.59		
Plow & Wing - Shoes/Blades/Parts	12,469.89		10,283.96		Replacement Plow/parts
Sander			123.16		
Truck	281.18		205.08		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	12,948.85	10,000.00	11,387.79	10,000.00	
Highway Purchases:					
Loader	126,000.00				John Deere Loader
Fenders			2,390.00		
TOTAL HIGHWAY PURCHASES	126,000.00	0.00	2,390.00	0.00	
Highway Grants:					
OJR Bridge/Culvert	5,884.55		8,383.48		Grant Match
Haybale Shredder			7,300.00		\$5840 covered by grant
TOTAL HIGHWAY GRANTS	5,884.55	0.00	15,683.48	0.00	
Equipment Rental:		105,000.00		105,000.00	
Other			1,034.29		
Arlan Pidgeon	77,869.00		90,826.00		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL	77,869.00	105,000.00	91,860.29	105,000.00	
Materials:		95,000.00		95,000.00	
Chloride	8,902.67		11,359.32		
Sand, Stone & Gravel	12,941.42		14,309.95		
Salt	28,766.76		30,992.83		
Winter Sand	19,672.20		18,843.54		
TOTAL MATERIALS	70,283.05	95,000.00	75,505.64	95,000.00	
General Highway Expenses:					
MRPG Annual Fee	1,590.00	1,590.00	1,350.00	1,590.00	Annual Fee
Bridge Drain Cleaning		250.00	250.00	250.00	
Culverts	1,965.20	1,500.00	2,190.00	2,500.00	
Fuels, Oil, Antifreeze - Loader	1,506.18	2,000.00	832.02	2,000.00	
Green-up Removal	575.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	
Miscellaneous	2,707.95	1,000.00	3,007.05	1,000.00	beavers, mulch, etc.
Resurfacing	101,368.10	100,000.00	273,551.55	100,000.00	\$155372.36 grant funds
Roadside Mowing	8,442.50	8,900.00	8,050.00	8,900.00	
Roadside Mowing - Brush removal		0.00		0.00	
Signs	211.32	1,000.00	6,877.48	1,000.00	speed signs
Town Shed Furnace Fuel	1,271.41	2,000.00	2,306.74	2,000.00	
Town Shed Furnace Repair		250.00		250.00	
Town Shed Repair / Electricity	938.19	1,500.00	647.83	1,500.00	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	120,575.85	120,590.00	299,662.67	121,590.00	
Payroll:		65,000.00		65,000.00	
Arlan Pidgeon	21,962.50		24,575.00		
Scott Pidgeon	17,616.00		19,488.00		
Steven Morrison	4,572.00		4,181.00		
Richard LaPorte					
Terry Muzzy	2,682.00		3,472.00		
Robert Charbonneau			960.00		
Tom Barker	240.00		1,872.00		
TOTAL PAYROLL	47,072.50	65,000.00	54,548.00	65,000.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS	520,633.80	435,590.00	591,037.87	436,590.00	

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	TOWN		HIGHWAY	
	1/1/2021	12/31/2021	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
ASSETS:				
Checking (Includes Accounts Receivable)	17,714.17	68,477.14	75,393.30	25,426.58
Total Delinquent Taxes	151,840.38	177,602.99		
Restricted Funds	230,265.38	257,984.43	383,417.09	424,570.09
Allocated Funds	530,000.00	642,000.00	0.00	
ARPA Funds		162,316.83		
Equipment			195,205.00	202,505.00
Buildings & Improvements	94,402.00	94,402.00	51,975.00	51,975.00
Land & Improvements	605.00	605.00		
Highway/Culverts/Bridges			4,422,832.00	4,696,066.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,024,826.93	1,403,388.39	5,128,822.39	5,400,542.67
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATIONS				
Equipment			71,121.00	93,245.00
Buildings	28,756.00	31,100.00	31,551.00	32,107.00
Highways/Culverts/Bridges			2,863,168.00	3,108,924.00
	28,756.00	31,100.00	2,965,840.00	3,234,276.00
Assets less Depreciation	996,070.93	1,372,288.39	2,162,982.39	2,166,266.67
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	6,058.75	12,382.52	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6,058.75	12,382.52	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	990,012.18	1,359,905.87	2,162,982.39	2,166,266.67

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, 2021 through December 31, 2021. 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, Chair
Donna Pidgeon

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 01/01/21	Deposits 2021	Interest 2021	Withdrawn 2021	Balance 12/31/21
TOWN					
Savings:					
Building Repair Fund (1)	2,171.35	5,000.00	12.27		7,183.62
Cemetery Fund (1)	36,275.57	5,000.00	109.67		41,385.24
Clerk Training & Software (1)	14,398.05	802.00	43.46		15,243.51
Glebe Land Fund	6,407.54		19.32		6,426.86
Honor Roll Fund	115.08		0.35		115.43
Lister Education Fund	2,935.91		8.86		2,944.77
Professional Audit Fund (1)	9,675.30	2,000.00	29.29		11,704.59
Reappraisal Account (1)(2)(3)	118,566.93	11,689.50	358.15	553.76	130,060.82
Record Rest/Maint Fund (1)(4)	39,158.43	5,000.00	118.25	1,920.00	42,356.68
Solid Waste Fund	561.22		1.69		562.91
Town Total	230,265.38	29,491.50	701.31	2,473.76	257,984.43
HIGHWAY					
Savings:					
Culverts	2,688.84		8.11		2,696.95
Ditching Fund	14,328.63		43.20		14,371.83
Equipment Fund (1)	116,923.37	20,000.00	353.73		137,277.10
Land/building Acquisition - Garage	58,263.62		170.24		58,433.86
Road/Highway Fund	69,200.74		577.72		69,778.46
- Bridge/Culvert Reserve (1)	120,000.00	20,000.00			140,000.00
- Paving Reserve	2,011.89				2,011.89
Highway Total	383,417.09	40,000.00	1,153.00	0.00	424,570.09

Explanation of changes to Restricted Funds:

- 1 Transfer budget/budget balance from GF
- 2 Transfer State reappraisal payment
- 3 Offset Reappraisal cost
- 4 Offset RecordHub cost



HELP WANTED

We need individuals to fill various positions in town government:

- Alternates for the Planning Commission
- Alternates for the Development Review Board
- Alternate representative to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District, formerly known as the BLSG

Please consider how you might help make Leicester an even better place to live! For more information, please contact the Town Clerk at (802) 247-5961 x 3.

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011	254.40	16.99	212.43	483.82
2012	315.89	98.12	1,178.65	1,592.66
2013	1,587.28	141.03	1,762.81	3,491.12
2014	3,144.25	305.41	3,934.40	7,384.06
2015	3,046.02	345.83	4,690.14	8,081.99
2016	1,830.90	275.15	3,418.81	5,524.86
2017	3,017.08	542.89	7,022.82	10,582.79
2018	1,546.66	417.17	5,152.13	7,115.96
2019	1,806.95	952.45	12,450.10	15,209.50
2020	2,359.74	3,119.80	39,307.71	44,787.25
2021	588.92	3,518.57	54,245.07	58,352.56
TOTAL	19,498.09	9,733.41	133,375.07	162,606.57

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It is important to remember that the Town needs to collect all of the tax dollars owed to run smoothly. When tax dollars are not collected, the Town must borrow money to cover the shortfall. To avoid this, I am planning to hold 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.

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.

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Atwood, Duane
Bobrov, Nickolai
Carroll, Richard & Veronica
Carroll, Veronica
Clark, Timothy & Shelly
Corbett, Helen
Cram, Leonard & Sandra
Cram, Walter
Currier, Scott
Disorda, Jess & Johanna
Foley, Jacqueline
Forrest, Leon
French, Ralph, Jr.
Fyles, Michelle
Gearwar, David & Melissa
Given, Hunter
Hector, Eric
Isabelle, Barbara Estate
Johnson, Tammy
Lafave, Scott
Lanpher, Larry
Lanpher, Larry Jr
Lopez, Juan
Lounsbury, Daniel
Maranville, James
Marcille, Roger & Joan
McAtee Brenda
Mohan, Elsie
Newton, Nora
Nims, Stephen

Orum, Samantha
Pierpont, Jacob
Quenneville, Matthew & Erica
Severy, Robert
Sherwood, Geanine
Skidmore, William M
Smith, Richard & Donna
Statewide Corporation
Strickholm, RG Revocable Trust
Taylor, Jess & Tina
Williams, Christopher
Wilson, Scott

*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:
\$136,938.86

Total Delinquent Interest:
\$28,934.98

Total Delinquent Penalty:
\$11,729.15

Total Delinquent Due:
\$177,602.99

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 23, 2022	OVUUSD INFORMATIONAL MEETING. CONTACT RNESU FOR INFO
FEBRUARY 28, 2022	TOWN MEETING INFORMATIONAL MEETING. SEE WARNING FOR INFO
MARCH 1, 2022	TOWN MEETING VOTE TOWN OFFICE 10AM - 7PM
MARCH 15, 2022	RABIES CLINIC \$20 [MASKS REQUIRED] TOWN OFFICE 5-6PM
APRIL 1, 2022	DOG LICENSES DUE (SEE PAGE 20)
MAY 7, 2022	GREEN UP DAY
NOVEMBER 15, 2022	TAXES DUE



SELECTBOARD REPORT

As we begin another year under pandemic conditions, the only certainty that we face is that uncertainty exists on many levels and that we need to be ready to respond to the ever-changing conditions. Thanks to the diligence and commitment of Town Clerk Julie Delphia, the town office has remained open and functioning well. The road crew: Arlan, Scott, Steve and Terry have maintained the roads in their usual outstanding fashion. The Selectboard has been meeting in person, observing social distancing protocols and town business has been conducted as usual. At this writing it is unclear whether Town Meeting will be an in-person event or whether an informational meeting will be held prior to Town Meeting, with items being voted on by Australian ballot, as we did in 2021.

The town has received federal funds through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), with significant restrictions as to their use. The Selectboard is proceeding cautiously to insure allowable use of the funds.

The town was successful in receiving a state paving grant, which funded repaving of Leicester Whiting Road from east of the bridge over the creek to Route 7. Line striping did not occur in 2021 due to a statewide shortage of striping materials. We are hopeful it can be done in the spring of 2022. As we did last year, we are requesting \$100,000 (with no additional request) for paving, to fund the repaving of Swinington Hill Road, from the town line to the junction with Leicester Whiting Road. We have applied for grant funding from the Agency of Transportation, handled by ACRPC, to continue culvert replacement and road improvements as part of the mandates under the state's Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP). Work has been done, and will continue, on Hooker Road.

In 2022, the town will be seeking grant funds to cover the town share of culvert replacement on Old Jerusalem Road. To meet state standards the culvert will be replaced with a bridge where the Leicester River enters Otter Creek. The town's portion is 5% of the total project costs.

As we look to the future, the Selectboard is seeking land upon which to locate a new town shed and covered sand/salt pile. The current site does not allow for expansion, and we anticipate a future state mandate that salt piles be covered and contained to eliminate a source of pollution. An ideal location would be near the center of town with easy access to Route 7. If you, or someone you know, has land that could meet our needs, please contact a Selectboard member as soon as possible.

As we worked out budget details, as always, the board was attempting to balance the needs of the community while dealing with rising costs. The request from Brandon Area Rescue Squad (BARS) is the source of the increase for the town. See page 28 for the letter from BARS.

In 2022 the Town will be conducting tax sales of properties for which the property taxes have remained unpaid and are therefore delinquent. Delinquent taxes have a significant impact on our town operations.

We rely on the help and support of community members to help residents and taxpayers with development and planning issues. We welcome Sarah Jane Von Trapp to the Development Review Board. We continue to seek individuals to serve as alternates on the DRB and Planning Commission. We also seek an individual to serve as an alternate representative to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District, formerly known as the BLSG. Please contact a Selectboard member for more information or to volunteer.

The Selectboard wishes to acknowledge Julie for all her hard work throughout the pandemic. She has been the "go-to" person to get information and has worked many hours beyond the hours stated on the office door. We also wish to thank Nancy Jakiela for her years of work as Julie's assistant. This fall Dianne Harvey and Lyndsay D'Avignon have stepped in to help fill the void left by Nancy's retirement.

All the folks involved in town government have worked hard for you.

The road crew is diligent and works hard in all kinds of conditions. We are very fortunate to have such caring and dedicated individuals working with us and for us.

The Selectboard meets to the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Feel free to contact us with questions and concerns.

Diane Benware, Chair
John Rouse

Tom Barker
Brad Lawes

Ron Fiske

CLERK & TREASURER REPORT

I had certainly hoped that I would be writing something different than last year, but we still find ourselves in the midst of the pandemic. We continue to work our way through it and develop alternate strategies for supporting the needs of the Leicester community.

We were able to have the office open to the public for most of 2021. In order to serve you, we need to be healthy and avoid unnecessary contact with contagious individuals, so we continue to ask that you not enter the building if you are sick (anything from a cold to COVID). Thanks!

We still require appointments for land records research as our space for research is limited. We do however have several of our land records available online so many researchers do not need to come to the office. Hopefully, over the next couple of years, we will be able to increase the number of documents available so almost all searches can be completed online.

Town Meeting will look different again this year. Due to the pandemic, we will be voting everything by Australian ballot (nothing will be voted from the floor). We will have a virtual informational Meeting on February 28, 2022 at 7:00pm (see Pages 4 & 5 for info). To reduce the number of people who vote in-person, to protect voters and election staff, we encourage you to vote by absentee ballot if possible. You can still vote at the Town Office in-person on March 1, 2022 from 10am – 7pm, if you choose, but there will most likely be COVID protocols in place and possible wait times as the number of voters in the building at one time may be limited.

A special thanks to Nancy Jakiela for serving as my assistant for so many years. I truly appreciate all her hard work and dedication to Leicester. I am grateful that Dianne Harvey has stepped up to learn the position and Lyndsay D'Avignon has stepped in for a couple months to help organize and reconfigure the vault in hopes of getting a few more years before we run out of space.

The pandemic has really made it clear how unpredictable and challenging life can be. I am grateful that I can serve my community and hopefully be a help to you through all of this craziness.

I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2022!

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.gov

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

SHIRLEY BADGLEY
BETTY LOU BEAROR
GARY DWIGHT BRIDGMON
GARY RUSSELL CHANDLER
KATHERINE LOUISE EASTWOOD
KENNETH JOSEPH LAPORTE
CHARLES E. LOUNSBURY JR
ELSIE MOHAN
PATRICK JAMES NEWTON JR
JOAN ARDITH O'NEIL-GITTENS
ROBERT GORDON OLIVER
JOZEF CALLUM SLOMA
ELIZABETH LOIS WETMORE
MARY JANE CHURCHILL WING
VIRGINIA BURGOYNE WOLF

BIRTHS

MARRISKA LARAE COLFORD
EVA LOUETTA DAYTON
ARCHER JEFFERY ELLIS
ALEXANDRIA EVELYN DAWN FORTUNE
PAISLEY MARIE HALL
ALEXANDER SAMUEL LALUMIERE
OLIVER BRIAN MATTISON
LUKAS GERALD NICKLAW
LUCAS ANDREW PIPER
NORA LYNN SULLIVAN

MARRIAGES

LAURA MORGAN CAPPIO &
RIORDAN PIERS FROST

KIMBERLY HOPE FALLON &
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER COLE

NIKOLA KOCHENDOERFER &
LEWIS CLAGHORN FOX

MOLLY HARIETTA WATSON &
SEAN THOMAS SULLIVAN

MELISSA ASHLEY WEBB &
MARK PATRICK JENKINS

DOG SUMMARY

Female Spayed	\$1,023.00
Male Neutered	\$789.00
Female	\$120.00
Male	\$300.00
Fines	\$25.00
Late Fees	<u>\$4.00</u>

Total Income **\$2,261.00**



ALL dogs must be registered by

April 1, 2022

Spayed/Neutered \$11

Unspayed/Unneutered \$15

Animal Control	\$213.75
Clerk Fees	\$388.00
State Fees	\$1,020.00
ACHS Contract	\$600.00
Dog tags/Paper/Badge	<u>\$146.84</u>

Total Expense **\$2,368.59**

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

If you have questions or concerns regarding animal control, please contact Jahnu Gibbs at (802) 377-2691

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 hold 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

SEE PAGE 40 FOR INFO ON THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

GRANT SPENDING

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued \$17,083 of an awarded \$28,472 Milfoil grant (2020). The money was directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued \$5,831 of an awarded \$14,578 Milfoil grant (2021). The money was directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Municipal Roads Grant in Aid issued \$5,840 of a \$5,840 award for a haybale shredder.

The Municipal Roads Grant in Aid issued \$7,820 of a \$7,820 award for work on hydrologically connected road segments.

The Vermont Tax Department issued the following grants funds to the Town during 2021: Equalization - \$787; Hold Harmless - \$11,911; Reappraisal - \$6,689.50.

The Town spent \$8,383.48 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

LOCAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The Town of Leicester has been awarded a FEMA grant to update our Local Hazards Mitigation Plan, with funding coming from the 2020 Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities program (BRIC). The Selectboard and other representatives will work to revise and update the plan, to begin mid-summer of 2022 and will most likely involve 2 meetings a month for 3-4 months. We will be working with Addison County Regional Planning personnel to fine-tune the existing plan and set future goals to ensure the safety of residents and visitors alike. No specific skills are needed, except for an interest in the future of the town. The Selectboard is seeking a parent of an Otter Creek Academy student(s) to serve on the committee as well as any other interested folks. For more information, contact Diane at 802-458-7234.

LEICESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Leicester Historical Society is involved in an initial assessment of historical photographs and related information with the plan to locate and photograph documents that could be used to create an on-line resource for community members and others interested in town history. If you have old photos that could be used for such a purpose, or for more information, please contact Diane at 802-458-7234. Your photos and/or documents would be scanned and promptly returned to you.



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Members of the Leicester Historical Society sponsor Prize Bingo at the Senior Center at 1:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, September to December, and April through June. All are welcome and we appreciate the support.

Note: Due to COVID, bingo might be cancelled or require COVID protocols be followed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Leicester Unified Zoning Regulations were updated and approved in February 2017 and are posted on the town website: leicestervt.gov. 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.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

In 2021, the Assessor's office was almost back to pre-pandemic times with the Town Office open to the public but remaining by appointment to research properties.

We had a total of 52 property transfers from 4/1/2020 to 3/31/2021.

We held our grievance hearing May 25, 2021, and out of 99 change of appraisal notices sent out we heard 3 grievances virtually.

In 2021 we went with a new mapping company and updated the tax maps. The new maps are more detailed and much more user friendly. This is the first year that we were able to access some of our land records online with more to come going forward.

The assessor's office is open on Tuesdays from 9 am – 12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Harvey, Administrative Assistant to the Assessor

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 at my home at 247-8357 or my cell at 558-9031.

Richard C. Nicklaw – Fire Warden

CEMETERY REPORT

The Cemetery Committee works to maintain and improve Leicester's Brookside Cemetery. This year we had several more stones cleaned. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm from April to October. We are always looking for members. Please contact a committee member if you would like to help.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas Barker, Donna Pidgeon, Donna Swington, Ron Fiske, Pam Gates, Laura Driscoll

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.

2021 TOWN MEETING OVERVIEW

2021 Leicester Town Informational Meeting 03-01-21

The Selectboard for the Town of Leicester held a public informational meeting to precede Town Meeting by electronic means on March 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Australian ballot articles on the 2021 Town Meeting Warning.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Article I was read and reviewed: The election of Town Officers for the ensuing year:

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

Doug Perkins asked if anyone had stepped up for the open Auditor position. Julie stated that no one had stepped up at this point.

No further discussion.

Article II was read and reviewed: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of \$746,435.68 to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 310,845.68	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 289,275.26
Highway Expenses	\$ 435,590.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 296,946.70

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

Diane (Chair) explained that the Selectboard worked really hard to keep the costs the same or lower than they had been for the general town expenses and keeping a close eye on the highway expenses. In the Town Report, they tried to be as complete and transparent as possible. Diane explained that in the past for the highway, they have usually budgeted a certain amount

and then asked for additional money to be voted on the floor. So, rather than doing that, they went for the straight amount for paving purposes. They will try to apply for a grant again; as well.

Julie (Town Clerk) mentioned that on page 7, it shows the budget comparison. The net difference is .16%. Almost level funded.

Doug Perkins gave kudos to Arlan Pidgeon and Brad Lawes for their fabulous job of keeping the roads clear.

Doug Perkins mentioned the extra \$50,000 for paving. He doesn't want to see the Town get behind with the paving by not utilizing the \$50,000. The Town put it to good use the past couple years.

Julie (Town Clerk) explained to Doug that the \$50,000 they usually separate out with \$50,000 in the budget and \$50,000 as a separate line item, the \$50,000 is still there. It is just all in the budget at \$100,000. They are still getting the extra \$50,000, they just put it into the budget instead of a separate line item.

No further discussion.

Chris Bray joined to give updates on current legislation and discuss Leicester's needs and concerns.

Diane (Chair) thanked all for participating in the virtual Informational Meeting.

Motion by Ron, second by Tom, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All in favor. So, approved.

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 2020/2021.

Court Diversion Adult:	1	Driving With License Suspended:	3
Court Diversion Youth:	1	Pretrial Services:	2
Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program:	0	Tamarack:	0
Reparative Restorative Panels:	0	Reparative Pretrial:	0
COSA:	0	Safe Driving	2
Reentry Navigation:	0		

Thank you for your continued support. Our website: www.courtdiversion.com

ADDISON COUNTY HOME HEALTH

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. 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 Alzheimer's disease. 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.

During the past year we have adjusted our practices because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have incurred substantial unplanned expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which keeps our employees, patients and the entire community safe. In some cases, the cost of supplies has quadrupled. In the past fiscal year, we cared for 2100 patients, and increase of 45% over previous years. During all this, not one of our clinicians or aides said "I will not go" into a home where a patient or family member had Covid-19. They suited up in the appropriate equipment designed to keep them safe and they did exactly what they have done for more than fifty years-treated their patients with skill and kindness. In this regard, it has been business as usual at ACHHH.

We appreciate the long-time support from the towns we serve. 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: 22

Total number of people served: 2100

Total number of Leicester residents served: 45 individuals/939 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 26

Our website: www.addisoncountypcc.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's 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.

ACRPC ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2021

Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following services to the Region during FY 2021:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting local regulations implementing their municipal plan.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials concerning municipal government.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation.
- Worked with Ferrisburgh, Shoreham (2020) Cornwall and Salisbury (2021) on their municipal planning grants.
- Completed work on an update of the Population and Housing section of the regional plan.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted workshops, Zoning Administrators Roundtables, and public meetings on a variety of planning topics.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.

- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management to exercise local and statewide disaster plans.
- Assisted in development of a hazard mitigation plan for the Town of Lincoln,
- Assisted all communities in the region to complete Local Emergency Management Plans..
- Provided COVID-19 updates and information to Town Officials and Emergency Managers
- Assisted in developing a Mutual Aid agreement for Public Works Departments

Energy Planning:

- Assisted Bristol, Panton, New Haven, Starksboro and Shoreham in completing their enhanced energy plans
- Worked with Panton, Salisbury, Vergennes and Bristol through regional approval of their Enhanced Energy Plans.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Developed an online mapping tool to support municipal energy planning.

Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee's regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit/ACTR by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to produce road erosion and culvert inventories for local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads, and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Vergennes, a culvert replacement project in Bridport and moving the historic New Haven Train Station.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies in Bristol and traffic and pedestrian counts throughout the region..
- Hosted regional Walk/bike council and began planning for a future Bike/Ped Summit in Middlebury.
- Sponsored a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study in Vergennes and the surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC).
- Developed a new website, interactive dashboard, and data repository for the ACRWC.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Supported the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan and worked to establish the Clean Water Service Provider infrastructure.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

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

2021 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 regularly holds hybrid meetings (due to the ongoing pandemic) on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly 8 days prior to the Board meeting 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	Fax: (802) 388-0271	Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org
E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org	Transfer Station Hours:	M-F, 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM
Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM–4 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.

2021 Highlights

COVID-19. District staff have been working diligently toward maintaining the solid waste management and collection system within its 21 member municipalities during these challenging times. Despite the disruption of COVID-19, the District Transfer Station remained open to commercial haulers and area businesses and continued to provide access to essential services. The District continued to adopt Precautionary Guidelines for all visitors to its Transfer Station and Offices, in order to reduce exposure

to its staff and other customers. Visitors are asked to stay home if sick, and when visiting, to practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet away from others and wearing a mask. We appreciate visitors and customers' continued patience and cooperation as we strive to protect the health of our employees, customers and communities. Thank you!

New Implementation Grant. The District was awarded a Materials Management Implementation (MMI) grant of \$80,000 by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, a division of the VT Agency of Natural Resources. The grant is part of \$975,000 made available from the Solid Waste Management Assistance Fund provided by the State to help towns and solid waste planning entities implement their solid waste plans, as required by State law. Grant funds will be used to improve the collection and management of single stream recyclables and food scraps at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, where both programs have grown in volume in recent years. The MMI Grant funding of \$80,000 represents 40% of the total project costs, with the District providing 60% or \$120,000 in matching funds.

Recycling. Single stream recycling tonnage collected at the Transfer Station has seen a major increase through September 2021. The 3,367 tons of single stream recyclables collected surpass the 2020 totals by 527 tons. Of the MMI Grant total, ACSWMD received \$40,000 for a single stream recycling transfer trailer. The purchase of a new transfer trailer will provide additional capacity for storing the higher volume of single stream recyclables for efficient transfer to out-of-District processing facilities.

Food Scraps. Since the statewide food scrap ban took effect on July 1, 2020, the volume of food scraps the District Transfer Station manages has grown significantly. The District Transfer Station received 70.25 tons of food scraps through September 2021, almost double the 38.41 tons collected in 2020. An additional \$40,000 of the MMI Grant was awarded to the District to assist with the collection and management of food scraps. Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment that will support safe, efficient and sanitary collection of food scraps at the Transfer Station. Additional funding for the toter tipper is supported by a \$5,000 grant from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund.

Illegal Burning/Disposal. The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff's Department in 2021 to enforce its Illegal Burning & Disposal Ordinance. The District served again as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, assisting the many area volunteers who organized collection of roadside litter, and providing bags and gloves. The District subsidized the disposal of 12.57 tons of roadside trash, 4.94 tons of tires, and various other abandoned items, for a total economic benefit to its member towns of \$3,342.

2022 Annual Budget

The District's adopted Annual Budget for CY2022 is \$3,975,660, a 4.13% increase over last year. The Transfer Station tip fees will increase to \$135/ton (\$9 minimum fee) for MSW and C&D. The rate for Single Stream Recyclables will decrease to \$100/ton. Rates on a few other items will have nominal increases. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2022.** For a copy of the full 2021 Annual Report and Adopted 2022 Annual Budget and Rate Sheet, please call (802) 388-2333, or visit the District website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

AGE WELL Formerly CVAA

For nearly 50 years, Age Well has provided services and support that allow aging Vermonters to stay independent, and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. We excel at integrating community resources, health services, and wellness programs to enhance and improve the quality of life for older adults. We continue to see an increased demand for our wrap-around services, supporting older Vermonters during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Thanks to past support from the Town of Leicester, we have been able to offer care & service coordination, Meals on Wheels, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation services, expertise on Medicare, insurance, and long and short-term care options, and the Helpline to Leicester residents.

Vermont is ranked as the third "oldest" state in the country and our aging population is only expected to grow exponentially, 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.

As a non-profit, most of our services are provided at no charge and we rely on donations and town funding to continue to help our aging population access services and receive the support they deserve.

Age Well's Mission: To provide the support and guidance that inspires our community to embrace aging with confidence.

Last year, Age Well served 31 people from Leicester, services included:

- 22 calls to the Helpline
- 40 hours of Care & Service Coordination
- 55 Congregate Meals served
- 700 Meals on Wheels delivered
- 2 hours of Options Counseling

10 Leicester residents volunteered over **550** hours

Impact:

- 1 Year** of Meals on Wheels equals roughly the same cost as one day in a hospital.
- 89%** of Meals on Wheels clients notice an improved quality of life.
- 93%** say it helps maintain social distancing during COVID-19.

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 volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the region:

- We assisted a local family in the face of disaster, on average, **once every 18 hours**, helping nearly **2,000 individuals**.
- We made over **500 homes safer** by installing smoke detectors and educating families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign
- Trained **26,957 people** in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills.
- We collected **153,000 units of blood**. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over **85** service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

The 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 be used right here in our region so that we can continue to serve your friends and neighbors during these unprecedented times.

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

Warmly, Rachel Zelle, Regional Development Specialist

New Hampshire Headquarters: 2 Maitland Street, Concord, NH 03301 • 1-800-464-6692
Vermont Headquarters: 32 N Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401 • 802-497-5995 www.redcross.org/nhvt

BRANDON AREA RESCUE SQUAD

The Board of Directors and Members of Brandon Area Rescue thank you for your unwavering support over the last 51 years. The necessity of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is indisputable, and with your continued aid and financial assistance, we have been able to maintain an agency dedicated to rapid response, cutting edge patient care, and progressive provider education at a reasonable cost for all. Over the years, Brandon Rescue has been able to manage and overcome adversities, but our current predicament is dire. We have reached a point where the challenges have become too great, and your support is more crucial now than ever before. Therefore, we are attaching an appropriation request for your consideration.

Our first challenge is that of volunteer recruitment and retention that has been created by a number of factors: aging service members; extensive initial and continuing education requirements; increased provider responsibility and financial liability; full-time jobs and personal commitments, and; members moving on to paid career services. Given the lack of volunteers and volunteer availability, we need to offer paid positions to help mitigate staffing disparities, ensure coverage, increase our response times, and allow for community outreach. We'd also like to generate other revenue opportunities with reliable staff, such as offering transports to Dartmouth Hitchcock and the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Adequate reimbursement is another challenge we face. As you may know, EMS cannot control what it will be paid for most of its calls. Reimbursement rates are substantially controlled by state and federal government programs, like Medicaid and

Medicare. A high percentage of our transports involve an older population and a lower income demographic, most of which are insured by Medicare and Medicaid programs. Not only does the government control what they will pay, they control what balances can be billed to the patient. **Medicaid patients cannot be billed for any balance, and Medicare generally allows EMS to bill 20% of the allowed amount.** Given the high percentages of these transports, the financial impact of these controls is monumental.

Commercial insurers also rarely pay the full amount of any EMS bill, as most patients have a cost sharing amount that may go unpaid. Likewise, the upsurge of high deductible plans has increased the patient's financial responsibility, many of which go into default. EMS also carry a percentage of patients who are uninsured, and those bills are **rarely paid, if at all.**

Not only is EMS burdened by government-controlled reimbursements and lack of payment from private insureds, but it is also saddled with a significant number of responses where no patient is transported, and, as a result, there is no reimbursement for services. Services that result in refusals consume 80% of our total transport costs. This cost includes provider readiness, vehicle maintenance, equipment, medication, and any other miscellaneous costs. **In the year 2020 the value of unreimbursed calls for service was \$228,633.60.** The costs listed below are basic operational costs of one ambulance, and we maintain **three** ambulances at any given time.

Ambulance Cost (Stock Unit)- \$238,480
Cardiac Monitor/AED- \$40,000 (a piece) Stretchers- \$20,000 (a piece)
External CPR Device- \$10,000 (a piece)

The increased cost of medical supplies and equipment offer another dimension to the multifaceted issue of prehospital medical care. As an agency gains years of experience, naturally, equipment updates need to be made. Brandon Area Rescue is licensed at the ALS Paramedic Level, which by law requires us to operate at this level. The lifesaving care Paramedics can provide is second to none, but the costs of equipment updates are challenging.

Despite volunteer shortages, inadequate reimbursement rates, and rising medical equipment costs, we believe it is possible for Brandon Area Rescue to enact a budget that reflects the values and priorities of the residents we serve. We ask for your trust, confidence, and renewed support to allow Brandon Area Rescue Squad the opportunity to continue to serve our constituents to the very best of our ability. Approving our appropriation request will allow us to do that. We thank you for your time and encourage anyone with questions to reach out to Chief Jordan Stage.

Respectfully,

Chief Stage, NRP

1338 Franklin St. Brandon VT, 05733

Phone: 802-247-3231

Email: brandonrescue@gmail.com

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe atmosphere 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 the individual and our community.

Approximately half of the Library's income is derived via the appropriations from the Towns of Brandon, Sudbury, and Leicester. *At Town Meeting, Leicester voters will be asked to approve the appropriation for the Library.*

The Library's other sources of income include several annual fundraisers, financial donations from the non-profit Friends of the Library, direct donations, grants, apartment rents, line items from the towns of Leicester, Goshen, and Sudbury, and distribution from endowment (which is invested wisely and provides needed income for the operating budget).

In 2020, the global pandemic changed the way we had to do things at the library, as well as decreased the amount we were able to raise via donations and fundraisers.

The Library employs two full-time and two part-time librarian, and cleaning personnel. In 2020 the library had to close its doors between March and September, but expanded services and the librarians worked consistently to provide 40+ hours a week of access with every service provided free. The Brandon Library welcomes everyone to access our myriad services and resources and we are back to operating at full capacity, 40 hours a week.

General Services

- Books, DVDs, programming, magazines, newspapers, audioCDs, interlibrary loan, Friday films, Meditation Circle, Junior Librarian Program, friendly and helpful Librarians

Children's Services

- Books, Teen area, DVDs, audioCDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hours Wednesdays and Fridays, Crazy8s Afterschool Club, monthly Game Night, Teen Advisory Group

Group Outreach Services

- Monthly delivery of books to 4 residential/senior buildings
- Biweekly delivery books (with a story time!) to daycares
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons
- Everybody Wins! participation at local elementary school

Building as a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups; Brandon Planning Commission, DBA, AI-Anon, school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Estabrook Award, Child Care Providers, writer's group, Italian Club, PTO, homeschoolers, and more
- Local artists- "pop-up gallery" monthly

Computer/Digital Services

- 7 public computers and laptops. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, etc.
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for patrons to access RBDigital movie streaming service, Vermont Online Library, Listen-Up Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class free to our patrons
- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment
- Free Wi-Fi

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 area museums and parks
- Weekly bread distribution site for Brandon Food Shelf
- Mitten tree provides free mittens and hats
- Snowshoes for loan

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

Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department- Quiz night, Trivia League, Spooksville, Harvest Fest, Spring Swing
- Neshobe PTO - Crazy 8s
- Neshobe School- Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Town Hall- Masquerade Ball, Summer Reading Finale
- Brandon Police Dept. - Local Heroes Story Time
- Brandon Area Toy Project- Pete the Cat Story Time
- Neshobe SOAR program - site visits

Some of the above services were rendered unavailable by COVID-19 restrictions. Although we had to close our doors for a few months, we never stopped working tirelessly for our community. During that time, the following services were added, continued and/or amplified:

- Increased social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Curbside delivery of library materials
- Print/copy/fax via email
- Online story times weekly
- Virtual Trivia weekly
- Free books, puzzles, games outside 3 days/week
- Friends' sale cart outside 3 days/week
- Free WiFi open, and boosted to extend service across the Central Park
- Free masks, sewed by the library Director
- Distributed bread, art kits, and craft boxes for Town of Brandon
- Created and distributed almost 1200 craft kits for our summer program
- Purchased Overdrive Advantage to ease wait times for materials
- Purchased RBDigital to provide access to streaming content
- Received returns for Neshobe/Otter Valley schools
- Interlibrary Loan reestablished
- Waived patron out of town fees for 2020
- Continued ordering of library materials
- Continued and tightened collaboration with Town Officials
- Multiple wellness checks for patrons daily

- Continued planning/grant writing
- Seed library distributed over 500 packets of seeds

Funds from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen keep the Library open. The Library is a busy place with an average door count of 200 people/day.

It will be important for voters to "Check Yes" for the Library. We thank you for supporting one of Brandon's gems- your local Library. Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. 802-247-8230 brandonpubliclibrary.org

Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; Carol Fjeld, Recording Secretary; Sue Gage, Stacey Doucette, Beate Jensen, John Peterson, & Bruce Ness

BLSG INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733

Breaking News! The Brandon/Leicester/Salisbury/Goshen/Pittsford (commonly known as the BLSG) Insect Control District is changing its name to the Otter Creek Watershed (OCW) Insect Control District. With a new town potentially joining and a current member potentially leaving the District, having a more generic name will alleviate the need to change the formal agreement that established the District and the District's By-Laws, every time there is a change in District membership. Needless to say, there are a plethora of related logistics to change (e.g., web site, call center greeting, vehicle registrations, insurance policies, bank accounts...) that the District will be making over the next several months.

The technical term for the level of biting insect activity within the District this past spring and summer was "horrendous". The BLSG staff worked many long days surveying (dipping for larvae throughout the 6,000 acres of wetlands within the District setting / retrieving / counting the contents of light traps in all member towns, including Salisbury) and then dispensing larvicide, when State-mandated larval counts were present and / or spraying adulticide where light trap counts exceeded thresholds of adult mosquitoes.

The BLSG is dedicated to constantly improving the quality of our efforts through training, program development, and continuing education. As a result, our staff is able to target areas of high density mosquito breeding. This year Rutland County received 143.8 lbs of *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* (bti) and *Bacillus Sphaericus* (bs) while Addison County received 125.7 lbs.

Adulticide applications included Addison County receiving 216.2 gal of Permanone/Permasease and 11.7 gallons of Fyfanon. Rutland County received 494.5 gallons of Permanone/Permasease and 50.9 gallons Fyfanon to combat adult mosquito populations.

BLSG uses a series of factors to determine where and when to spray. This includes surveillance, species of mosquito, number of mosquitoes collected from mosquito traps, landing rates, weather and citizen service requests, in any given area. The District received 766 calls from residents reporting and requesting mosquito control: 182 calls from Brandon, 279 from Leicester, 65 from Salisbury, 4 from Goshen, 173 from Pittsford, 34 from Proctor and 31 misc. Total requests equal 766 requests from individuals for spraying services, a 417% increase from last year.

Salisbury. As reported previously, on Town Meeting Day last March Salisbury voters decided not to fund their portion of the BLSG budget for the fiscal year that started July 1, 2021. Consequently, and as provided for in the BLSG By-Laws, the BLSG Board of Trustees voted to suspend mosquito control services in the Town of Salisbury starting July 1st. That decision was agreed to by the two BLSG representatives from Salisbury: Paul Vaczy, who also is Chair of the Salisbury Select Board, and Jeff Schumann, who also is President of the LDFLA. Subsequently, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets notified the BLSG that if larvicide services were not provided to Salisbury, that would void the \$70,000 grant that they award the BLSG annually. The BLSG Board, in July, voted to resume larviciding (but not adulticiding) in Salisbury, when and where larva counts met State thresholds. Salisbury voters will have to decide during Town Meeting Day in March 2022 if they will fund the OCW.

Kudos to Will Mathis, Jeremy New, John Capen and Kerry White for heroic efforts this season keeping the biting insect populations at a tolerable level. Speaking of heroic efforts, the OCW normally employs 6 to 8 part-time folks to do all of the things pertaining to insect control in this area. Due to a number of factors over the past year, the staff has declined to a dedicated hard nucleus, and could really use some more help! If you know someone who might be interested in making some extra money and has a flexible schedule please have them contact Will Mathis for more information about what the job entails. Will can be reached by leaving a message with the OCW call center (802-247-6779) or sending an email to BLSGDistrict@gmail.com (though this email address will change sometime soon). To apply for a position, a letter of interest and resume should be sent to: OCW Insect Control District, PO Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Will Mathis, Operations Director

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 and 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 FY21, CSAC served 2,054 individuals, totaling 762,386 service hours. The Town of Leicester accrued 48,020 service hours.

Requests for behavioral, developmental, and 24/7 emergency services continue to be high. Like many social and human service organizations in out county, we have incredibly dedicated, hardworking staff who are committed to improving the wellness of neighbors, friends, and perhaps you. As made evident by the events of the last two years, CSAC's commitment to Addison County is not just important but **vital**.

Sincerely,

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*

Addison County's Daytime Home Away From Home

Drivers and welcoming staff make the trip to Project Independence a fun part of the day.

Getting out is good for you!

Elderly Services thanks you, the residents of Leicester, for your Town Meeting Day grants extending back over 35 years. We have been the adult day care center for Addison County for over 40 years; we call our adult day center *Project Independence*. Elderly Services offered the residents of Leicester the following services during this pandemic year:

Project Independence: In-Person (limited to 25-35% capacity) and Remote

- Real-time, interactive activities 5-6 hours each day over Zoom with tech support
- Telehealth nursing calls
- Telephone companionship

ESI College: Lifelong learning over Zoom through our elder college

Caregiver Support: Support groups, respite referrals, geriatric social work, and counseling

During the Fiscal Year 2021 pandemic year, Elderly Services continued to provide activities, support, volunteer opportunities, and education to 9 residents of Leicester.

To learn more about our programs and services, you can find us online: elderlyservices.org and facebook.com/elderlyservices. Please call Eileen or Kristin at 388-3983 if we can be of help to you or your family.

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 on May 1, 2021 was a huge success thanks to nearly 22,000 volunteers statewide who Greened Up. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is needed and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play a very special place. As one of Vermont's favorite holidays, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment.

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.

Along with Green Up Day, we work year-round to further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

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



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

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 229-4586

Green Up Day, May 7, 2022

HOPE (ACCAG)

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 is a United Way Member Agency. 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.

The past year has been challenging to us as we worked to assist people at a time of risk to all. We had to figure out how to provide food at a distance, while preserving people's ability to choose the foods they wanted. We created a system of food delivery routes to people who were at greatest risk of illness. We had to run our free holiday shop without parents coming into the building. We had to close our store for two months and contend with reduced customers and income. Despite all the challenges, we have continued to provide all the types of help we always offer.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, HOPE directly aided 2,409 people, including 106 Leicester residents. Many more were assisted as the result of our work, as they were able to receive food at remote locations.

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 EMERGENCY SHELTER

JGHS maintains an Emergency Shelter at 69 Main St, Vergennes. The site is a two-story congregate setting, with shared bathrooms, living room, and kitchen. A food shelf service, accessible to anyone in need in the community, is located on the second floor of the Shelter. The property includes a playground for resident's children in the side yard and a front and side porch. The Shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and staff are on 24/7. COVID has increased client needs and a decrease in available housing have created more clients facing greater housing instability. JGHS also maintains nineteen apartment units spread throughout several Addison County towns. JGHS served clients from approximately 45 Vermont municipalities with a total of more than 350 people receiving JGHS wrap around services in the last year.

We are requesting the same \$725.00 from the voters of Leicester as we have in the past, despite the increased needs.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely, Susan Whitmore, Executive Director

Please visit our website at www.johngrahamshelter.org for more information.

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.

Invasive species control is by far the largest program operated by the Association. The uncontrolled spread of Eurasian milfoil can limit or make impossible boating, fishing and swimming. Our milfoil control program in 2021 was supported by funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Aquatic Nuisance (ANC) Grant in Aid. These funds helped pay for equipment and labor to remove milfoil from our two lakes. The results of our milfoil control program in 2021 were very positive and after many years of struggling to keep up with the infestation, we feel our recent efforts are showing signs of success. This past season we removed 337 total bushels from our 2 lakes. For comparison the totals from 2017 thru 2020 were 1290, 1894, 1918, and 916. In prior years the milfoil was so thick and dense that at least one suction harvester was running from June - September. In 2021 the concentrations were so reduced that we only used the suction harvester 11 days. Our lakes were in the best shape this fall that they have been in since the infestation begin so many years ago. We look forward to continued success in the coming years as we determine the best strategies to mitigate its spread. However, we must not become complacent and less vigilant as a result of our short term successes.

The milfoil control program costs and funding for 2021 were \$173,751. Which was less than the \$225,374 spent last year thanks to the successful herbicide treatment of 2020. These costs were met as follows:

State Invasive Species Grant	\$ 22,914
Town Support – Leicester	\$ 25,000
Town Support – Salisbury	\$ 25,000
LDFLA Dues & Annual Donations	\$ 34,479
LDFLA Endowment Fund Contribution	\$ 66,358
	\$173,751

Watershed Action Plan - Intended to identify specific actions around our lakes that would reduce phosphorus loading, this plan was completed in November, 2021. 62 projects were prioritized with input from the LDFLA Water Quality Committee. The list of projects was entered into a statewide database, making them eligible for public funding. LDFLA successfully proposed two of the projects for VTDEC Design and Implementation Grants. The grants will be used to make stormwater improvements at Branbury State Park and at the Magoon Boat Launch. The full Watershed Action Plan can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q5q9hx1cleqgsco/AABqqC2yRdH4ZiLJ-BQhj-ZOa?dl=0>. The LDFLA would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with the Select Board.

The benefits to the Towns of Leicester and Salisbury 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

Annual Report - Year End June 30, 2021

Maple Broadband is Addison County's Communications Union District (CUD). A CUD is a municipal not-for-profit corporation. Maple Broadband's mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of the communities we serve by providing a high-speed, reliable, affordable fiber internet network to all households and businesses; supported by prompt, skilled, helpful customer service. Our 20 member towns include Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting. Our Governing Board has 20 representatives appointed by the Select Boards of the member towns. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our website.

During 2021, Maple Broadband has been focused on two broad areas:
Operational Development/Capacity Building and Network Pre-construction and Construction.

Operational Development and Capacity Building

- Held weekly meetings of the Maple Broadband Executive Committee, which is composed of members with expertise in a wide variety of professions;
- Held monthly meetings of the Maple Broadband Governing Board;
- Retained administrative and consulting services from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission;
- Established a website to help inform the community about Maple Broadband;
- Applied for over \$200,000 in capacity-building grants and have continued to explore a variety of financing options;
- Through the Vermont Community Broadband Board, applied for and was awarded \$2.3 million to cover capacity building efforts and necessary pre-construction tasks;
- Continued to receive essential support from our partners, including:
 - Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)
 - Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC)
 - Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS)
 - Vermont Communications Union District Association (VCUDA)
 - Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
 - Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)
 - ValleyNet
 - Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT)
 - Middlebury College
- Established and maintained on our website operational policies, including bylaws, conflict of interest policy, public relations policy, purchasing policy, and financial policies and procedures;
- Met with every select board in our service territory to tell the Maple Broadband story, to provide updates on our progress, and to seek financial support in the form of town ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds;
- Met with area business groups, including the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Addison County Economic Development Corporation, the Middlebury Rotary Club, and major employers like Middlebury College, to tell our story and solicit support;

Network Pre-Construction and Construction

- Completed a Business Plan;
- Negotiated, executed and announced a Network Management Agreement with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom;
- Selected the network engineering firm Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) to perform pre-construction tasks:
 - Completed Step 1: High-level network design;
 - Initiated Step 2: Field data collection services;
- In a partnership with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, submitted an NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant which, if approved, will provide over \$8 million in funds dedicated to extending fiber broadband service to over 1,600 addresses in the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom operating territory of Addison County; and
- Initiated a program to pre-purchase long lead-time materials now, to improve likelihood that necessary construction materials will be on hand in time to begin network construction in 2022.

The coming year will be an important one for Maple Broadband. While it is difficult to predict with certainty what our network will look like at this time next year, our path forward includes completion of pre-construction tasks, creation of construction bid specifications, and selection of a qualified cabling contractor.

In coming months, we expect to be facing significant challenges related to availability of construction labor and materials. However, we are preparing to purchase key construction materials now to mitigate this concern. Implementation of a pre-

purchase program presumes we will have the funds needed to cover these purchases. Vigorous member town support in the form of ARPA donations will be an important contributor to the success of the pre-purchase program.

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 NRCD also supports the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan with agricultural progress reports. Our ever-popular contractors list was updated this year and is available at our office in Middlebury. The Long-Range Plan addresses continuing to support all existing programs, expanding them where feasible and supporting the capacity needed to do that.

In 2021 Otter Creek NRCD 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 OCNRCD and United Ways Days of Caring.

The OCNRCD Annual Meeting was not held as we are in Phase 2 for Covid-19. We have yet to award a farmer the OCNRCD 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. OCNRCD annually supports this effort with funding.

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

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$300.00 from the Town of Leicester for the fiscal year 2022-2023 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Leicester and Addison County in general. We are grateful for your past support of the Open Door Clinic and hope that you will renew your commitment 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 1/1/20-11/30/21, the clinic has provided 3,431 medical and dental visits to 1,489 distinct patients, including 682 new patients! As compared to this time last year, we've experienced a 57% increase in distinct patients served, a 95% increase in new patients and a 161% increase in medical and dental visits provided. **We have served 9 Leicester residents through 37 medical visits and 9 consults and case management services during this same timeframe.**

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely solely on the expertise and efforts of 150 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 general volunteers. We provide chronic and acute care and refer our patients to a variety of specialists when needed.

Help with Health Insurance: Our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped more than 260 individuals learn about health insurance plans this year; and has enrolled 182 people in Vermont Health Connect. She has helped one person from Leicester. Melanie is the only navigator remaining in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are also free!

Outreach and Services: I am so proud of our staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to provide Covid testing and vaccines on more than 51 farms, five orchards and at 43 businesses this year. They have given 740 first doses of the Covid vaccine, 698 second doses and 63 Johnson and Johnson vaccines! We're also currently immersed in our annual flu vaccine program and have given 361 flu vaccines to date all the while continuing to see patients at clinic during year two of the pandemic.

Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

RSVP

RSVP is a volunteer management program which offers individuals the opportunity to share their experience, 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'21, RSVP provided remote services to the community. Leicester residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as our free income tax return preparation services, and our free health/osteoporosis prevention classes. Overall, 221 Addison County residents benefited from attending the free Bone Builders strength training and osteoporosis prevention classes and 338 residents received income tax services. During the winter months, RSVP 600 warm clothing items were given to Addison County community members including through Leicester School. In response to COVID-19, volunteers distributed over 68 hand sewn masks to Addison County community members, provided essential items to families in crisis and offered wellness calls to isolated seniors.

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 receive free nutritious meals from RSVP volunteers who assisted with meals, or residents who received free transportation serviced from volunteer drivers.

Through RSVP, Leicester residents volunteered 300 hours to support the community. Although the delivery of services was impacted by COVID-19, RSVP volunteers provided a total of over 32,000 hours to local social service agencies, health care organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations. This equates to more than \$850,000 in donated labor to our community.

On behalf of our volunteers and non-profit 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 388-7044.

Sincerely, Lynn Bosworth, Program Coordinator

RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to removing barriers that perpetuate poverty for children and families throughout Rutland County. RCPCC provides early childhood education, early developmental assessment and intervention, educational opportunities and enrichment for at-risk youth, family navigation services, and food security support. All services are provided at no cost or with substantial financial assistance for working families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only highlighted the needs of families in Rutland County and we have responded by increasing our capacity and scope. This past year, our food pantry became one of the largest in the State and we are looking forward to bringing our services to One PCC Place, a 6,000 sq. ft. 2Gen Campus on Chaplin Avenue in Rutland City where we will deliver quality whole family programming in newly renovated space.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Mary Feldman, M.S.Ed. , Executive Director

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (F/K/A ACTR)

Thank you for the Town of Leicester's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped TVT provide an annual average of 1,400 free trips for Leicester residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. Tri-Valley Transit's Dial-A-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems provided a total of 126,022 rides for the year. All our transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, public transportation has been on the frontlines of providing essential service to many of the most vulnerable members and essential workers of our communities. TVT has revamped its service to protect riders, the general public and staff, focusing on riders with no other means of transportation but whose trips are essential: healthcare staff getting to work and patients accessing dialysis, cancer, and opioid addiction treatment. We also added free food delivery service for at-risk members of the community. Unfortunately the pandemic lingers on with new variants of the virus that are more than 2x as contagious as previous strains and can be passed to unvaccinated people by those who are vaccinated but may not be experiencing symptoms. We remain vigilant to protect riders, staff and volunteers from COVID.

To protect everyone, we have worked hard to:

- install protective shields between seats,
- implement pre-ride screening techniques to ensure drivers and riders are not COVID risks,
- ensure all vehicles are frequently sanitized and hand sanitizer is available,
- require face masks to be worn in our vehicles and facilities, and supply them as needed.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the 20% requirement. TVT seeks the other 15% from other sources including businesses, institutions, individuals, and grants.

Our website: www.trivalleytransit.org



US DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ- and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely, Laura Miraldi, Acting Medical Center Director

VERMONT ADULT LEARNING

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.

282 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753 (802) 388-4392 Fax: (802) 388-4396 www.vtadultlearning.org

VERMONT CARES

Vermont CARES: Annual Report to the Town of Leicester for FY2022

Vermont CARES has been providing support services to Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for more than 35 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 know we will be able to serve even more Addison County community members. An 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, Caldedonia, 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 ongoing 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.

With sincere appreciation, Peter Jacobsen, Executive Director

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For the last 42 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'21 (10/2020-9/2021) 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 **186** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **141** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **65** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **74** individuals with information on assistive technology; **42** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **497** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home

to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **35** people and provided **24** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served 418 people in its first few months. The Rise Program can help provide an array of items or services if the needs are directly related to the Covid-19 epidemic (computers for tele-med appointments, cleaning supplies, etc.).

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'21, **2** residents of **Leicester** received services from the following programs:

- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
(\$**365.00** spent on meals for residents)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
(resident on waiting list for assistive technology in FY'22)

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 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>

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program aka "VSNIP", under the oversight of the VT Economic Services Department, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). VSNIP helps financially challenged Vermont residents spay/neuter cats and dogs for \$27.00. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters when dogs are licensed by an added \$4.00 fee, the major funding for this important program. Funds are determined by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law when a dog is six months of age. A current rabies vaccination is required to register, and a rabies vaccination can be administered after 12 weeks of age for both cats and dogs.

Prostrate and mammary cancer is more likely to occur in unsterilized cats and dogs. It's not pretty and they're likely to die. Animals live longer and happier when they're spayed and neutered, are less likely to fight for territory, and mark what they claim to be "theirs"!

Licensing a dog: 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal, but would still need immediate medical attention, 3) if your dog bites an animal or person – which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for infection, and 4) helps pay for VSNIP, addressing the population situation in Vermont.

Farms with cats should especially be aware that one rabid cat or dog can affect an entire population of animals on the premise. The answer is neutering through VSNIP which includes a rabies vaccination and the first of the two part distemper series. Look for Rabies Clinics in March across the state. You can call your veterinarian and ask the cost of a rabies vaccination only or call your nearest Tractor Supply Store for their Monthly Rabies Clinic schedule. Rabies IS in Vermont, and it IS deadly.

To receive a VSNIP Application, send a 9" S.A.S.E to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. For more information, call 802-672-5302. Please visit our website: www.VVSAHS.org

VVSA will be hosting Rabies Clinics in March. Call for dates and locations.

The animals thank you in advance! Together We Truly Do Make A Difference!!

Sue Skaskiw, VVSA Humane Society Executive Director/VSNIP Administrator

WOMENSAFE

Christina Grier, Interim Executive Director

24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205

Business: 802-388-9180

info@womensafe.net

www.womensafe.net

For the fiscal year ending 6/30/21, **WomenSafe** staff and volunteers provided the following total services:

- 511 total adults and children served through advocacy and supervised visitation services.
- 8,300 in-person meetings and phone calls through the advocacy program.
- 410 supervised visits and orientation meetings for 18 families including 25 children.
- Worked with the parents/caregivers of a total of 330 children exposed to violence.
- Prevention programming reached 1,784 youth and adults through 438 presentations and outreach events.
- 66 volunteers donated 7,861 hours of services.

LEICESTER

In Leicester, WomenSafe provided advocacy services to at least 3* **residents**. **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 2021. It has been 6 years since merging into OVUU and BUU and we continue to work together toward achieving the vision and mission of educating every child in our eight towns.

For nearly two years, our nation, the world, and our schools have been impacted by COVID19. In March, 2020, we closed schools and moved to remote learning for the remainder of that school year. Seniors did not get to experience the rituals of senior year, with no prom, a virtual award ceremony and a creative car based graduation on the fields at OV. Barstow 8th graders and OVUU 6th graders had individual send-offs as they transitioned to their next school. We headed into that summer with a great deal of anxiety and so much unknown.

Last school year, 2020-2021, was a hybrid year. We opened with K,1,2 in school five mornings while everyone else started remotely. By early October, we settled into a routine of all K-6 graders (K-8 at Barstow) in school four days a week, with Wednesday being a remote learning day across the district. Half of OV 7-12th graders attended 2 days a week, with 3 days remote, so that we could keep social distancing measures in place. We continued to provide meals for free, delivered on Wednesdays. As we all wore masks, and classrooms were sectioned off at desks 6 feet apart and facing forward, we fielded a few cases of COVID but had clear guidelines that kept a consistent, though different, schedule for the year. We ended the year moving to three foot distancing, which allowed students to return to school four days a week at all grade levels. Teachers taught both online and in person, simultaneously, all year- an exhausting way to keep all students engaged and progressing. The conditions required we all, parents and students included, did what we could to keep our communities healthy as the virus raged through.

This fall, we had high hopes for a normal school year; however it was not to be. As the Delta variant ramped up, we returned to in person learning 5 days a week, still with masks and 3 foot distancing, yet with fewer state guidelines and many, many more cases of COVID shutting down classrooms and sports teams. Contact tracing, Test to Stay, remote learning all became standard parts of our vocabulary.

Despite all of this, we achieved many things. OVUHS refurbished its auditorium and built a new entrance that will not be undermined by the weather and will keep the school safer from unexpected visitors. The school boards approved an equity policy that will focus on ensuring all of our students receive the support and opportunities they deserve. We said goodbye to Principal Judi Pulsifer after decades of service at Neshobe School and welcomed Principal Vicki Wells and Assistant Principal Daniel Raabe at Neshobe School this fall.

The pandemic brought federal funds to our district. These funds are for three years and were committed based upon input from staff and community alike. With these funds, we were able to

- Increase custodial and nursing staff;
- Add academic coaches and interventionists to help both students and faculty;
- Offer a Virtual Learning Academy during the 2021-2022 school year to support students who were not ready to return to in person schooling;
- Offer extended 2021 summer programming to help support student mental health and wellbeing, reengagement with school and academic recovery;
- Offer credit recovery at OVUHS;
- Increase school based mental health clinicians;
- Begin an equity audit to help build the capacity of RNESU educators' universal instruction and knowledge of interventions and supports to improve student engagement and performance across all indicators, toward developing a 3-year plan; and
- Develop teacher leader teams to support staff professional development and curricular work around a multi tiered system of support throughout the district.

Another area strongly supported by federal COVID funds is educational technology. With a sudden pivot to remote learning, we provided Chromebooks to every student, some with hot spots if wifi was needed at home. This initiative supported more than 2500 students, parents/guardians and staff members. We also worked to improve our internal internet speed to accommodate the devices in school, and have been working steadily to modernize all school equipment, which should be completed by Feb. 2022. Through this, our small tech staff completed 5,269 tickets from Dec. 1, 2020-2021, with a 98% satisfaction rate. In the midst of this massive project, the state introduced a statewide data reporting system that we have begun implementing during this past year.

There are many people to thank this year, starting with students, staff and parents who have had to quickly respond to positive cases that forced classrooms to close unexpectedly. I thank all faculty and staff, for doing everything within their power to learn the technology and distance learning skills, maintain relationships, and move academic achievement forward throughout a turbulent school year. Our custodians have our gratitude for keeping our buildings clean throughout the anxious time of the pandemic and ongoing. Thank you to our bus drivers and monitors for incredible flexibility, delivering meals instead of students and driving through the winters with masks on and windows down. Our admin assistants in each school kept the motor humming, with a constant thumb on the pulse of all, and our administrators and nurses who worked tirelessly around the clock seven days a week to keep our schools open and our students healthy. Together, we are #RNESUStrong and I am proud to be part of this district.



Alas, this is the year I say farewell to RNESU. I will retire in June 2022, as my personal life has exciting changes ahead. I have enjoyed my eight years here, with the many friends and relationships made. This crew of faculty, staff and administrators are top notch, dedicated to the children of these communities and I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead with this team in place.

Respectfully, **Jeanné Collins, Superintendent RNESU**

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

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNEsu) Board has been busy this year continuing to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our two districts, Barstow Unified Union and Otter Valley Unified Union, have been doing everything they can to continue educating our kids during this turbulent time.



The Board voted to continue the pilot preschool lottery program that allows five of our preschoolers to attend preschools outside of our district for another year. Currently, our preschool program approval only allows our preschoolers to attend state approved preschool programs within our supervisory union. The voucher to an out of district program can be requested by a family. If more than five students request a voucher, then a lottery will pick the students who will be given a voucher.

The Board creates the budget for Special Education, Technology, Central Office, and Transportation. This year we are pleased to present a budget that reflects a moderate 2.75% increase in spending. We have made no significant changes in staffing or programming.

However, the most important work that the Board is doing, is looking for our next innovative Superintendent. Superintendent Jeanne Collins has submitted her letter of Retirement as of June 30, 2022 and we are busy with the process of finding her replacement. So far, the Board has put out two thought exchanges and held a public forum where we have asked what you are looking for in a new superintendent. We hope to select the new Superintendent before Town Meeting Day.



I would like to thank Superintendent Collins for her eight years here at RNEsu. She has helped us through our Act 46 Consolidation and she has worked tirelessly during the COVID 19 Pandemic to keep our schools open and safe and continues to do so. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Brenda Hummel for her tireless work on behalf of the RNEsu Board, as she is not seeking re-election. Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We look forward to continuing our mission of educating life-long learners. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Let's Talk button on any school website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
RNEsu Board Chair



OV UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD'S LETTER

Covid 19 continues to disrupt our education system, not to mention our daily lives. We had hoped that when the school year began, COVID would be a distant memory. I think it is probably worse than it was in 2020. We continue to remain vigilant and resilient in educating our children. It hasn't been easy, but I commend all of our students, parents, staff and administration for continuing to move forward during this pandemic. We can only hope that things will return to normal as soon as possible.



The Board has been focused on facilities and we are pleased to announce that Sudbury Country School will be used for Special Education Assessments and office space for school psychologists. We do not have an area currently where this can be done. The use of the Sudbury School will save the district money by not having to have costly assessments done out of our district that can easily be done by our own staff starting with the new 2022-23 school year. We have also continued to study the idea of a middle school and have asked for a feasibility study of the Caverly Lands in Pittsford that the district

owns. The feasibility study will tell us if a middle school is possible at the site. We hope to have the feasibility study by spring so that we can continue looking at the Enhanced Middle School and whether we should continue to explore this possibility.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Board Members, Angela Ouellette, Bonnie Chmielewski and Barry Varian for their tireless efforts on this board as they are not seeking reelection. They will be missed. We are also saying goodbye in June to Jim Avery, Geoff Lawrence and Thom Fleury, principals of Otter Valley and Otter Creek Academy thru retirement. We wish to say thank you for everything you have done for our kids during your tenures. The Otter Valley District is better for having you as part of our community. Best of luck in your future endeavors! We are also losing Superintendent Jeanne Collins to retirement as well. She has been a powerhouse, allowing OVUU to remain focused on students and learning even during this pandemic. We will miss you Jeanne!



OVUU will be experiencing a lot of change in the next few months, from a new Superintendent to new principals to even new teachers. Please know that the Board will continue to stay focused on making sure that our kids have the resources they need to succeed in whatever their future is past Otter Valley High School. As always, feel free to contact a Board Member with any questions you might have, or use the Let's Talk App on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
OVUU Board Chair



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Do you recognize anyone in this picture?
If so, please contact Julie at (802) 247-5961 x 3.

THANKS!