

Town of Bridgewater



April 1940, Frank H. Shurtleff family sugaring on their North Bridgewater farm.
Wolcott, Marion Post, photographer
Courtesy of Bridgewater Historical Society Gallery

Vermont

**2022 Annual Report
Town & School District
(For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022)**

Table of Contents:

1.....	Dedications
2.....	Town Reminders
3.....	Permit Fees
4-5.....	2022 Minutes of Informational Meeting
6.....	Elected Officials
7.....	Appointed Officials
8.....	Town Warning
9-10.....	Selectboard Report
11-12.....	Highway Report
13.....	Town Clerk Report
14.....	Lister's Report
15.....	Dog & Liquor License Report
16.....	Vital Statistics

Town Financials:

17.....	Budget Summary
18-20....	General Fund
21.....	Highway Fund
22.....	Sewer Fund
23.....	Recreation Comm.
23.....	Cemetery Fund
24.....	School Fund
24.....	Designated Fund Balances
25-27....	Balance Sheet for all funds
28.....	Explanation of Grand List
29.....	Delinquent Tax Collector's Report
30-31....	Delinquent Tax Reports

Town /Local Reports:

32-33...	Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. Reports
34.....	Cemetery Commissioners Report
35.....	American Legion Report
36.....	Bridgewater Historical Society
37-38....	Bridgewater Area Community Foundation

39.....	Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Report
40.....	Two-Rivers Regional Planning Commission
41.....	Woodstock Recreation Center, Inc.
42.....	Green Up Day Report
43.....	Windsor County Update
44.....	VLCT

Warned Appropriations Reports:

45.....	Visiting Nurse & Hospice for VT & NH
46.....	Spectrum Teen Center
47.....	Woodstock Area Council on Aging
48.....	SEVCA
49.....	Norman Williams Public Library
50-51.....	Senior Solutions
52.....	WISE

53.....	Ottauquechee Health Foundation
---------	--------------------------------

Informational Reports:

54.....	State of VT-Department of Health
55.....	VSNIP
56.....	Joan Jenne Memorial Scholarship Fund

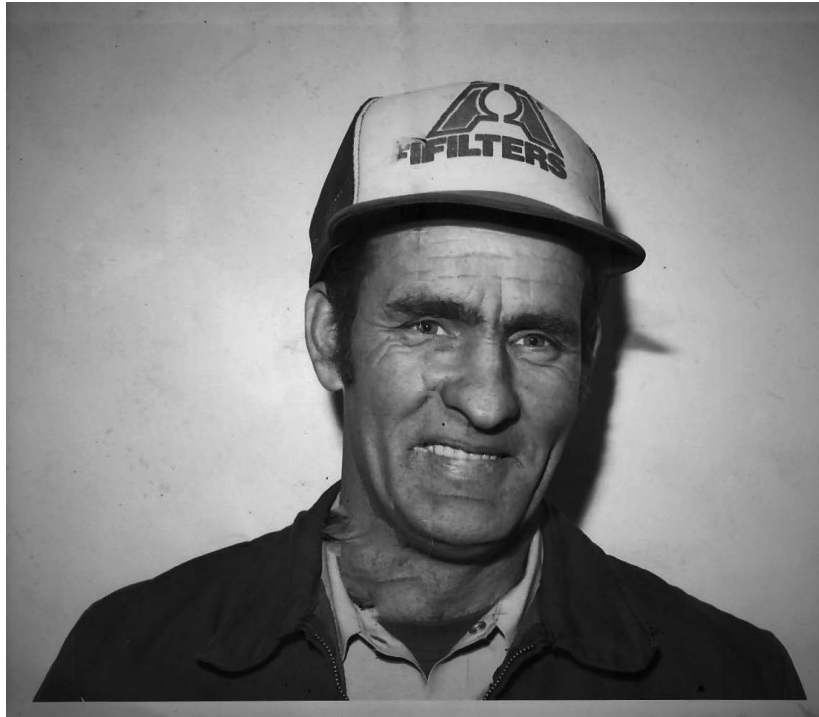
School Reports:

57-58.....	Warning-WCUUSD
59.....	Report of the Superintendent
60.....	WUHSMS Principal's Report
61-62.....	WCSU & WCUUSD Board of Director's Report
63.....	Official Notice of Hearing
64-65....	Financial Details
66.....	KES Annual Report
67.....	TPVS Annual Report
68.....	WES Annual Report

Bridgewater Vermont Information

Country	United States
State	Vermont
County	Windsor
Chartered	1761
Settled	1779
Organized	1785
Area	
• Total	49.5 sq mi (128.3 km ²)
• Land	49.4 sq mi (128.0 km ²)
• Water	0.2 sq mi (0.4 km ²)
Elevation	1,040 ft (317 m)
Population (2010)	
• Total	936
• Density	19/sq mi (7.3/km ²)

2023 Dedication



Paul G. Hutt

July 10, 1941 – August 23, 2022

Paul Hutt was born in Bridgewater on July 10, 1941, to Stanley Lowell Hutt and Amy Irene Merriam Hutt of Bridgewater, Vermont, he was one of six children.

Paul married Roberta “Bertie” Hutt and raised 5 children in Bridgewater.

Paul would become well known in his hometown over the years, having worked in many industries. He worked as a bus driver, constable, firefighter, electrician, and cemetery commissioner to name a few. He assisted in tearing down the old Woodstock Inn, as well as making use of the parts for projects throughout the surrounding towns. He also claimed fame in Bennington as he was the only person fearless enough to climb up and change the lightbulb atop the Bennington Battle Monument. Paul enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time with this family. Paul was often seen at his grandchildren’s ballgames. Paul also loved to scratch lottery tickets, more often than not, winning large “pots”.

Paul was best known for his dedication and service to the Town of Bridgewater as a Cemetery Commissioner, serving the town for 38 years and was the “go to guy” when anyone had questions about the cemeteries. Paul carried the maps and knew where everyone was buried.

The Town of Bridgewater is thankful for his many years as Cemetery Commissioner and dedication to the Town.

Town Reminders:

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

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

Direct questions to: ABLE Waste Management 672-3569

- ❖ **January 01, 2023 - April 1, 2023** - Remember to License your Dog/Wolf Hybrid
Call the Town Clerk if you have questions.
- ❖ **March 2, 2023- School Informational Meeting 6:30 p.m. WUHS School Library**
- ❖ **March 04, 2023 - Rabies Clinic**
DRIVE UP & POKE RABIES CLINIC at the Woodstock High School parking lot.
Saturday, March 04th, 12:30-2:00, - \$13.00 per shot. Pre-Registration requested but not
mandatory. Please call 802-672-5302 to pre-register. Leave message on #1.
Everyone stays in the car. Bring proof of prior vaccination records.
Thanks to Dr. Philippa Richards, Kedron Valley Vet Clinic.
Hosted by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society
- ❖ **March 7, 2023 - Town Meeting Day - Fire Station 9 a.m. - In Person**
- ❖ **March 7, 2023 - School Australian Ballot Voting – Town Office 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **April 1, 2023** Property Assessment Date – Property is assessed each year as of this date.
Dog License Renewals due on or before April 1, 2023
- ❖ **April 15, 2023** File State Form - HS 122 for residency declaration.
- ❖ **May 1, 2023** Liquor License Renewal Date.
- ❖ **June 2023** Lister Grievances
- ❖ **August 2, 2023** Tax Bills mailed.
- ❖ **November 1, 2023** Property Taxes Due – Please remember that taxes paid after
this date is considered late, and subject to interest & penalty charges.

Town Permits required:

PERMIT FEES:

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

ACCESS / CURB CUT AND RIGHT OF WAY EXCAVATION

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

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

*** SEPTIC**

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

GUVSWD LANDFILL STICKER / COUPON

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

PERMIT TO BURN BRUSH

Duncan Brettell, Warden

Cell - 802-291-2466

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

Contact Town Office for Application & Permit Fee information.

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

**Bridgewater Annual Town Meeting
Informational Meeting**

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Lynne Bertram, Chair.

Present: Brian Bontrager, George Spear, Nancy Robinson, Cindy Ansardy, Bill Berry, Moderator and Justin Wardwell, IT Assistant

Zoom Attendees: Audrey Putnam, Gloria Martin, Althea Derstine, Bruce Maxham, Bruce & Meg Seely, Chris Stevens, David Sleeper, Deb Fish, Don Sawyer, Jeanette Sawyer, Josh Maxham, Karen Maxham, Karen Thompson, Mary Oldenburg, Melinda Griggs, Melissa Spear, Nicole Wagner, Roberta Darby, Sandy Sawyer, Robert & Sue Kancir, Vicky & Bill Young, Greg & Wendy Jenne, Gerry Hawkes, Jerry Oppenheimer, Lisa Lawlor, Ellen Quinn, Julie Melendy, Cliff Geno, Marsha Fraser, Owen Astbury, Casey Melendy, Michele Hough, Owen Putnam, Robin Lepel-Cointet, Alison Waters, William Young, Rachael Ringenberg, Bill Blair, Spencer Potter, Assessor, Tom Ayers, VT Standard Reporter & Rep. Jim Harrison. There were also several first names (no video) and unknown phone numbers.

Rep. Harrison spoke of current happenings in the legislature, redistricting which is done every 10 years after a census. Plan at this time is to move join Bridgewater, Pomfret, Barnard and a small portion of Hartford. This move will give Bridgewater a new Representative. Jim thanked constituents for voting for and working with him, has enjoyed his time. Serving on the House Appropriations Committee, looking at using Federal funds for housing, tax reductions, and infrastructure. House is currently meeting in person, expecting Senate to meet in person after Town Meeting. 2 new constitutional amendments will be on the ballot in November, Slavery and Abortion Amendment. Jim thanked everyone for allowing him to serve Bridgewater and encouraged folks to reach out to him if anyone needed anything.

At this time, Lynne turned the meeting over to Bill Berry, Moderator. Bill reviewed the meeting procedures and guidelines. Will read and go through each article. Questions can be asked after each article has been read.

*Article 1-9: Social Service Agencies. Bill read each article. No questions asked.

*Article 10: To authorize the selectboard to appoint the Town Treasurer per 17 V.S.A 2651f? Melissa Spear clarified article; if this article passes the election of the treasurer will be impacted.

*Article 11: To authorize the elimination of Town Listers per 17 V.S.A. 2651c(b)(1) and replace with an Assessor. At this time Lynne asked Town Assessor Spencer Potter to explain the duties of the Lister/Assessor. Spencer spoke of his qualifications and training. Currently working for 6 towns. Just worked with Mendon through a town reappraisal. Fielded questions regarding number of hours he spends on site, sales study/Covid sales which have impacted the towns CLA and COD, Statistical Market update vs full town reappraisal. Discussion of budgeted pay for Listers vs Assessor.

*Article 12: Election of officers. Only- opposed race is for Town Treasurer. Bill allowed all candidates to introduce themselves and to state why they wanted to run for office. William Young spoke about desire for selectboard position, Nancy Robinson spoke about Treasurer position and Anna Spaulding spoke about Lister position.

*Article 13: Collection of Taxes – No questions asked.

*Article 14: Town Budget – \$1,255,703.00 with \$934,536.77 to be raised in taxes. William Young asked about increase of Fire Department Appropriation. No increase since 2017, funds used for truck repairs as the trucks are between 16-30 years old. Bruce Maxham reported that the Fire Department are paying for all of the utilities for the new fire station.

Discussion of Absentee Ballot processing. Concerns raised about ballots being opened prior to Town Meeting Day process. Exterior ballot envelope is only envelope opened to check for certificate signatures. New law that if clerk finds certificate not signed, voter can be contacted to “cure” problem allowing for vote to be counted.

BCA member: Jerry Oppenheimer spoke to the integrity of the elections and election officials.

All absentee ballot envelopes will be opened by BCA members or other officials.

Bruce Maxham ended the meeting by reading a letter that he had prepared regarding town animosity and need to bring town back together.

Being no further business, Lynne moved to adjourn at 7:35 pm. George seconded the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator:

William Berry 2022-2023

Town Clerk:

Nancy Robinson 2022-2025

Town-School Treasurer:

Melissa Spear 2022-2025

Selectboard:

Lynne Bertram 2020-2023*
George Spear 2021-2024
William O. Young 2022-2025
Christopher Southworth 2022-2023**
Bruce Page 2022-2023

Woodstock Unified School District

Matthew Hough 2021-2024*
Lara Ely-Bowers 2022-2023**

Listers:

Anna Spaulding 2022-2025
Kaleb McIntire 2022-2024
Owen Putnam 2022-2023*
Victoria Young 2022-2023**

Cemetery Commissions:

Paul Hutt 2020-2023 (died mid-term)
Roy (Butch) Wardwell 2022-2025
Owen Astbury 2021-2024
Gregory Jenne 2022-2023**

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Joni Kennedy 2021-2024

Town Constable:

David Adams 2022-2023

Trustee of Public Funds:

Mary Oldenburg 2022-2025

*Resigned

**Appointed/Replacement

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Health Officer:

Corey Solitaire 2025

Road Commissioner:

George Spear 2023

Fence Viewers:

Clifford Geno 2023

Andy Bird 2023

Owen Astbury 2023

Tree Warden:

David DiBenedetto 2025

Poundkeeper:

Forest Fire Warden:

Duncan Brettell 2027

Planning Commission: (4-year terms)

Bruce Maxham 2024

Nancy Robinson 2026

Roy Wardwell 2026

Owen Astbury 2023

David DiBenedetto 2023

E 9-1-1 Coordinator:

Justin Wardwell 2023

Emergency Management Coordinator:

Josh Maxham 2023

Representative to TROPIC:

Christopher Southworth 2023

Representative to GUVSWMD:

George Spear 2023

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

Gregory Jenne

Gloria Martin

Jerry Oppenheimer

Justin Wardwell

Donna Williamson

*Resigned

**Replacement

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING
2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Bridgewater, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Bridgewater Fire Rescue Station located at 28 Southgate Loop, in said town on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business:

1. To elect a Moderator for the term of one year.
2. To see if the Town will vote to the sum of **\$24,250.00** to the following social service agencies:

a. Visiting Nurse and Hospice of VT & NH	\$4,900.00	(pg.47)
b. Spectrum Teen Center	750.00	(pg.48)
c. Woodstock Area Council on Aging (Thompson Senior Center)	6,600.00	(pg.49)
d. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	1,000.00	(pg.50)
e. Norman Williams Public Library	5,000.00	(pg.51)
f. Woodstock Recreation Department	3,000.00	(pg.43)
g. Senior Solutions	1,100.00	(pg. 52-53)
h. Ottauquechee Health Foundation	1,500.00	(pg.55)
i. WISE	400.00	(pg.54)
3. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to **\$250,000.00** to purchase a new truck for the Highway Department (to replace the 2017 Western Star) to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund.
4. To see if the Town will vote a budget of **\$ 1,537,175.00** of which **\$1,311,315.00** shall be raised by taxes.
5. To see if the Town will vote to place its taxes or any part thereof in the hands of the Collector of Current Taxes for collection on or before August 2, 2023, and to be paid on or before November 1, 2023 (1st. Wednesday)
6. Shall the Town of Bridgewater elect its town officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2680 (b).
7. Shall the Town of Bridgewater adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2680(c).
8. Shall the Town of Bridgewater vote all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2680 (d).
9. To elect all Town Officers as required by law:
 - a. Selectperson – three years
 - b. Lister – three years
 - c. Cemetery Commissioner – three years
 - d. Town Constable – one year
10. To do any other business that may legally come before this meeting (advisory or discussion only).

Dated at Bridgewater, VT this 31st. day of January 2023

Bridgewater Selectboard:

William Young, Chair George Spear Bruce Page

Selectboard Report 2022

The Selectboard saw a change in members this past spring, with the resignation of Lynne Bertram. The selectboard met with two interested candidates and appointed Chris Southworth to the position in April. Chris resigned in December after buying a home in Pomfret. The board then appointed Bruce Page who will remain in office until the upcoming March Town Meeting election. The board has re-opened meetings to the public as well as continuing to offer Zoom as an electronic option to attend. Nancy Robinson, Assistant to the Board resigned in May and the Board appointed Vicky Young as her replacement. Public meetings are now being conducted in the Selectboard Meeting Room at the west end of the Southgate House. All meetings begin at 4:30 pm unless posted differently. The public is always welcome.

There have been some changes to the General Fund Budget for FY 2024- in past years there were two people in the Town Office. The Clerk who was the assistant to the Treasurer and half of the administrative assistant job, and the Treasurer, who was also the assistant Clerk and half of the administrative assistant job. Now, these jobs have been separated out. Where past years the Clerk's and Treasurer's salaries included all three positions. We now have a Clerk, a Treasurer, an assistant Clerk, an Assistant Treasurer, and an Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard. Over the years- the elected positions have changed, and it was time to hire assistants instead of two people being responsible for the Town's operations, per Auditor suggestions.

The Bridgewater Highway Department was restructured this past year after the leaving of Alex Turco, Taylor McNeil, and Robert Knight. Randy Kennedy has returned to his previous Road Foreman position and is now joined by Randy Squier, and Shawn Davis. Considering the amount of road work and projects that need to be started and completed, the board decided to hire a fourth highway crew member. The town purchased a Roadside Mower this past summer and resumed mowing, which had not been done for a couple of years. The new Kubota tractor was purchased with leftover funds from FEMA, that were generated by the highway department from materials reimbursement, the Equipment Reserve Fund, funds in the Highway budget, as well as designated funds budgeted for Roadside mowing. Stone line ditching projects continue as well as grading and culvert replacement projects. Paving of the lower section of the North Bridgewater Road did not get completed this past year and is expected to be done this coming summer.

The Town Clerk's Office was very busy this past summer with the oversight of 3 elections as well as seeing to the continuation of many property transfers. The March Town Meeting was held by Australian Ballot with Drive Through voting, the August and November elections were held inside. Absentee ballots were offered for all three elections and saw a higher than usual turnout. The tabulator machine was also used for the three elections. The speed and accuracy of obtaining the totals right down to providing write in names is amazing. Land records continue to be scanned and digitized and made available through the town website. Records can now be researched from the early 1930's to 2021. Current records are indexed but lag in being scanned. Nancy can be reached at 672-3334 x1.

The Treasurer's Office - Melissa Spear was elected as Town Treasurer for a term of three years. After Melissa Spear took office, she enlisted Vicky Young to assist with onboarding of the treasurer's role and responsibilities. In July Melissa hired Vicky Young as assistant Treasurer. The financials were reviewed by NEMRC and await final audit of FY 2022 by Pace & Hawley. The Selectboard voted on 12/28/2022 to change the financial reporting from GASB to Modified Accrual accounting. The change was made as the town is not required to do accounting on the Governmental Accounting Processes and to keep in line with NEMRC'S set up. The Treasurer's Office has since been relocated to the west end of the Southgate House (old Library

Rooms) joining the Lister Office. Melissa can be reached at 672-3334 x 2.

We received \$287,865.77 total in ARPA funds from the Federal government that were distributed by the state, which are required to be used for the following: alleviate hardship from the pandemic, used in water quality projects, or any project that enhances or benefits the majority of the population. The Selectboard in 2021 voted to allocate most of the ARPA funds to the Wastewater treatment plant emergency and current renovations. The current Selectboard would like to use the remaining funds, if any are available, to pay off the Fire Station construction overages and some much-needed Southgate house repairs.

March 2022 Town Meeting saw the election of 3 Lister's (Anna Spaulding, Kaleb McIntire, and Owen Putnam) thereby releasing the hired Assessor. Owen Putnam has since resigned, and Vicky Young was appointed to the position until March 2023 Town Meeting. The Lister's are training as well as getting information for a potential town-wide reappraisal. (Note: The article placed on the 2022 Town Meeting warning to change from elected Lister's to appointed Appraiser was defeated by 1 vote). The Lister's/Vicky can be reached at 672-3334 x3.

The new Fire Rescue Station building has been completed and the Fire Department moved into the new station in the early summer. An open house was held in July with the Annual Chicken BBQ (drive through) held in August. Both events were well attended. Three brass lamps were made and donated by Jim Bradley and are hung between the front doors. The town would like to thank the many volunteers that made this project a reality.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project began this past spring and has made great progress. The Pumping Station has been re-configured, main lines flushed, cleaned, and repaired as needed. The main plant RBC wheel has been replaced, a new roof has been put on and interior improvements are expected to be completed this winter/ spring. This work is being done with loan, grant and Rural Development grant funding.

The Recreation Field – The playground equipment and picnic area continue to be used by local families for general use as well as for family birthday parties and gatherings.

The municipal website (www.bridgewater.vt.gov.) remains an important resource for all residents. All meeting agendas, minutes and the town calendar are updated and posted to the site on a regular basis, as regulated by State Statute.

The Bridgewater Area Community Foundation opened the registered day care in June to six children between the ages of 3 months to 4 years. Expansion of the daycare program is expected as well as the future installation of an elevator and other enrichment programs. Grant funds continue to be used for these projects.

The Bridgewater Historical Society, located at 12 North Bridgewater Road re-opened this past summer and provided several interesting and well attended programs. The BHS website can be found at www.bridgewaterhistory.org,

Once again, the Selectboard owes a huge debt of gratitude to all the employees, elected and appointed officials, volunteers, and you, the townspeople that make Bridgewater such a great town.

Respectfully submitted,

William Young, Chair, George Spear Bruce Page

Bridgewater Road Foreman's Report 2022

For those of you who were in town during the 2022 "Mud" Season:

FYI and Fair Warning; I'm sorry to have to tell you that the 2023 "Mud" season is already shaping up to be a difficult one also. Hopefully, the melt-off and warm up will be slow and things will continue to improve on Bridgewater's back roads. For those "New to Town": always remember that Mother Nature is actually the one who is really in charge of road conditions in Bridgewater.....and we all need to be patient sometimes. The Highway department does its best and cares about your safety.

I returned to my old job as your Road Foreman on April 15, 2022. I would like to thank the new Selectboard for their support of the Highway Department and for seeking out my leadership in particular. As many have discovered during my 2 ½ year absence, running the Bridgewater Highway Department and keeping it running is no easy task. Unfortunately, the department, systems, and equipment that took me (with the help of some very good, experienced men) 20 years to perfect, were all but trashed in a few short years. I was pretty discouraged and disheartened at how bad things had gotten and how quickly. Hopefully, this experience will serve as a reminder of how important it is not to get complacent, overly demanding, dismissive, or unappreciative of the daily sacrifices routinely made by your Highway Crew. As you all should have learned by now, it takes a very special person to be a good long term fit for the Highway Crew. We may not yet be extinct, but we are most definitely in short supply. Our town equipment took it extremely hard in my absence, as did the two shop buildings, the 45 miles of dirt roads themselves, and yes, I know, the Highway Dept budget hit your wallets, too. Piece by piece, the new Highway department is working through all of that.

Equipment Report: The manifold gaskets were all gone on the grader and the steering was pouring hydraulic fluid all over a floor that no one ever cleaned up. A double A battery was found wedged down in the shifting lever, bent in a horseshoe, and prevented the thing to shift. That's all fixed now. On the loader, the valve cover gasket was leaking oil all over the motor. The loader batteries were bad. All the backup filters I had left in stock were still there, so obviously no one had ever changed the oil and filters. The loader cutting edge was broken in half and one half was missing entirely. During my absence, the F-250 Ford was replaced. The brand-new truck came to me with the running boards torn off, a broken windshield, mudflaps torn off, and no brakes left on it. The 2017 Western Star dump truck had a bad wheel seal along with a bad brake can. The DEF system was not working. The truck had a reoccurring overheating problem, too. The tow-behind woodchipper had to have a new clutch, pressure plate and rear main seal put in it to become operational again. A new front-mounted York rake for the new Ford was also purchased after I left. It was destroyed completely in the 2022 Mud season. Frankly its loss is only financial in my book. I've never thought that driving a truck through freshly raked mud was a very smart idea. To me, that just defies common sense. I was happy to eventually find the rear mounted York rake I had used for years buried way out in back of the Town Garage. It is now back in service. The backhoe still has an intermittent issue with starting which I hope to resolve in due time.

Sorry to give you so much negative news about all your taxpayer investments, but it's my job to tell you the facts every year, good and bad. Please be happy that things have continued to improve. Just remember that that our town's problems won't disappear overnight. The shop buildings were a royal mess and a fire hazard. There's always some cleanup to be done but at least they're finally safe again now. The machinery that had been perpetually left outside in the elements is now back inside and under cover when not in use. The Selectboard has recently purchased a shipping container for larger Highway Department seasonal tools, so they aren't underfoot in work areas now.

Our most significant Highway Department improvement in 2022 came when the Selectboard finally bought us our own roadside mower, something we have really needed for years. We were able to hit every road in town with at least one pass with the new mower this year, something that has never been done before. The more we are able to keep the brush away from the roads, the less organic contamination gets on the roads, the fewer potholes develop, and the greater visibility is improved for drivers. Owning our own machine is the most economical use of taxpayer funds. In the future, it will help make more miles of roads stay in better shape longer. It also allows us the option of cutting down roadside invasive plants before they go to seed instead of having to wait to fit into a subcontractor's busy summertime schedule.

Last spring into early summer, my focus was on just getting equipment working again, going through and hoeing out, taking stock of things, trying to find missing paperwork (and our maintenance logbook), cleaning up, repairing, servicing, mowing, job training my one full time employee, and grading everything once, some areas twice. After fixing the grader and truck back up, I got most of the roads roughly shaped up somewhat. Then we went to graveling Bridgewater Hill with the added help of Gene Westney driving truck. Goldcoast Road and North Bridgewater Road required major ditching and grading efforts just to be safely passable...basically, it was sort of a triage emergency style time. A pretty big bank slide on Wayside brought us to that part of town for a while. We hired out a day of overhanging tree work to a professional tree outfit. We cleaned out all the culverts on the road and replaced a culvert while we were there, in addition to grading the roads. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of plugged culverts in town, and many ditches need our help, but you can be sure we'll be working on them in 2023 as a priority. The key to a good safe dirt road is maintaining a stable roadbed with working water control systems to keep the erosion from vehicles and precipitation to a minimum. More vehicles making more trips at increasing speed means more wear and tear on our roads. More freezing and thawing cycles, combined with numerous heavy rain and snow events, keep this job never ending year-round.

Before the winter season arrived, the selectboard hired a third full time crew member. Unfortunately, the shortage of experienced applicants has resulted in more training hours and slower service when plowing through storms. The dramatic increase in vehicles and traffic on our back roads in recent years has been trending towards a need for faster more frequent services by highway personnel. In early December, the Selectboard hired a fourth crew member to our department. While the concept was a good one, that particular individual did not work out, so we are now back to a crew of three. We will continue to look for ways to improve our service to taxpayers while keeping a realistic budget and treating everyone fairly. Please be assured that your Highway Department is doing their best despite these many challenges. You can all help us significantly by remembering to do the following:

- Don't rake your leaves or anything else into our ditches.
- You must get a permit before working in the town right of way (25' from centerline)
- Sign up with me if you'd like a load of cleanout material in case we have some to get rid of when working in your neighborhood. No promises on quantity, quality, or timing.
- Most importantly.....PLEASE SLOW DOWN and Be Patient when meeting the town trucks or crew on the road.

Thanks very much for your support....and a big thank you to the rest of the Highway Crew and Gene Westney for their help and hard work this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randall "Randy" Kennedy Bridgewater Road Foreman 802-672-5379

Town of Bridgewater Town Clerk's Report 2022

This past year has been another one of adjusting to the new 'normal'.

The office has been open for researchers (by appointment) and residents to do dog and marriage licenses, notary services, genealogy inquiries and daily calls seeking general information about the town. The recording of land records has also seen a large increase due to the number of property transfers (107), mortgages, discharges, wastewater permits etc.

Since receiving a Covid-19 grant in 2021 for scanning and digitizing land records, I have continued with this project and can report that the land records are available through the town's website going back to the early 1930's to 2021. The current land records (2 books) are indexed but not yet scanned.

2022 was also busy with 4 elections. Town and School meeting, August Primary and November General Election. All elections were held by Australian Ballot and thankfully the town authorized the use of the new tabulator machine.

1. Town & School Meeting vote count – 307 total, 162 in person and 145 by absentee (Drive-thru) Ballot by request.
2. August Primary vote count – 192 total, 128 in person and 64 by absentee (at town office) Ballot by request.
3. November General Election – 433 total, 94 in person and 339 by absentee (at town office). Absentee ballots were sent to all Active Voters by the VT Sec. of States Office.

I would like to thank Cindy Ansardy (Assistant) who has been helping me this past year. She was a tremendous help throughout the elections and has been helping me organize the vault contents of public and land records.

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

Sincerely,
Nancy Robinson,
Town Clerk

2022 REPORT OF THE LISTERS TO THE TOWN

2022 was a busy year for the Listers. Three new Lister's were elected in March of 2022. Anna Spaulding (3-year), Kaleb McIntire (2-year) and Owen Putnam (1-year) stepped up to fill the positions. Owen resigned in May because he didn't have the time to commit to the position. Vicky Young was appointed to fill the position until March 2023. A lot of learning took place in a short time to get the Grand List filed in June of 2022. There were over 100 Transfers between July 01, 2021, and April 01, 2022, that had to be updated in the Grand List and site visits of the whole town in a very short period of time to complete the 2022 Grand List. In June of 2022 - **\$3,048,107.00** was added to the Grand List.

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

The common level of appraisal (CLA) is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and non-homestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402). The non-homestead rate in your town will be the statewide non homestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

The Town is currently waiting to have a Data Quality Study (\$9,800.) done by Vision (VGSI) in the Spring of 2023 that will determine if we qualify for a Statistical Market Update instead of a full Townwide Reappraisal. Since we had a full reappraisal in 2019 – we felt that because of the current market sales-that a Statistical Market Update would be best – since it is the sales that have caused us to need to reappraise. And the Cost of a Statistical Market Update (\$39,500.) is far less than a full Town Reappraisal of probably \$100,000. +/- After the findings of if we qualify for a Market Update – this would allow for enough time to conduct a 2024 appraisal project, either as a statistical update or full revaluation. The 2022 Equalization Study Results have continued in the same direction - CLA fell to 81.15% and COD increased to 27.44%.

Reminder to file your HS 122 Homestead Declarations if you are a Vermont resident as of April 1, 2023. If you own and occupy - than you must file this form every year by April 15th. If you file late there is a penalty -even if you get an extension to your taxes- this form doesn't fall under the extension. It can be filed online at: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Respectfully Submitted: Victoria Young, Anna Spaulding & Kaleb McIntire
Bridgewater Board of Listers

DOG LICENSES

07/01/2021-06/30/2022

92 @ \$ 9.00 (Neutered)	\$ 828.00
-------------------------	-----------

61 @ 11.00 (Late Neutered)	671.00
----------------------------	--------

24 @ 13.00 (Un-Neutered)	312.00
--------------------------	--------

7 @ 17.00 (Late Un-Neutered)	119.00
------------------------------	--------

Totals:

184	\$ 1,930.00
-----	-------------

Sent to State: \$ 920.00

Town Share \$ 1,010.00

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

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

LIQUOR LICENSES

4 @ \$ 70.00	\$ 280.00
--------------	-----------

4 @ \$115.00	460.00
--------------	--------

Totals:

8	\$ 740.00
---	-----------

Vital Statistics

DEATHS

NAME	AGE	DATE
Mae A. Knudsen	102	09/23/2021
Bonnie Payson-Belisle	73	09/18/2021
Daniel J. Bagley	68	12/05/2021
Randall J. Thompson	67	12/09/2021
Randy P. Waters	61	12/21/2021
Horace J. Carr	101	03/11/2022
Harriet Y. Worrell	78	03/16/2022
Jessica B. Willcox	72	04/25/2022
Norman E. Martin	85	05/12/2022

BIRTHS

3 Town Births (Names not listed due to confidentiality)

CIVIL MARRIAGES

NAME	NAME	DATE	PLACE
Flynn, William J.	Quaresima, Peter A.	09/25/2021	Bridgewater

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

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

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

For text of Act 46, go to

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

Budget Summary	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	%
	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Change
General Fund Expenses:	541,766.00	516,875.09	657,328.00	770,625.00	17.23%
Warned Articles:	21,750.00	21,750.00	22,150.00	24,250.00	
Total Expenses:	563,516.00	538,625.09	679,478.00	794,875.00	16.98%
Non-Tax Revenue:	(201,970.00)	(180,417.30)	(206,070.00)	(128,860.00)	
Sub-Total:	361,546.00	358,207.79	473,408.00	666,015.00	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(19,980.14)	(19,232.05)	(30,397.73)	-	
Amount to be raised in taxes:	341,565.86	338,975.74	443,010.27	666,015.00	50.33%
Highway Expenses:	543,315.00	627,350.19	576,225.00	742,300.00	28.82%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,848.22)	14,758.01	10,301.50	-	
Non-Tax Revenue:	(95,000.00)	(200,641.42)	(95,000.00)	(97,000.00)	
Amount to be raised in taxes:	441,466.78	441,466.78	491,526.50	645,300.00	31.28%
Total General & Highway Expenses:	1,106,831.00	1,165,975.28	1,255,703.00	1,537,175.00	20%
Non-Tax Revenue:	(296,970.00)	(381,058.72)	(301,070.00)	(225,860.00)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(26,828.36)	(4,474.04)	(20,096.23)	-	
Town Taxes to be raised:	783,032.64	780,442.52	934,536.77	1,311,315.00	40.30%
Schools:					
Payments to Schools:	1,753,843.79	1,753,843.79	1,847,513.00		
Net to State:	1,022,366.49	1,022,366.49			
Town Retains:	6,410.86	6,410.86			
Total Schools:	2,782,621.14	2,782,621.14			
Tax Rates:	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024 Estimated	Change	
School Tax Rate:	1.6744	1.7421	1.80	.06	
Town Municipal Rate:	0.4251	0.5048	0.7157	.20	
Combined Tax Rate:	2.0995	2.2472	2.515	.26	

General Account	Budget FY 2022	Actual FY 2022	Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	FY - 23/24 % Change
Current Taxes (Gen. Fund)	341,565.86	338,975.74	443,010.27	666,015.00	50.34
Current Use Reimb.	71,000.00	77,175.00	72,000.00	75,000.00	4.17
Current Use LUCT Reimb.	-	6,045.00	-	-	
Interest on Taxes	12,500.00	10,747.50	12,000.00	10,000.00	-16.67
Federal & State PILOT Pym	13,000.00	13,421.60	13,000.00	13,000.00	
Clerk Fees	13,000.00	18,420.00	15,000.00	12,000.00	-20
Traffic Fines	82,000.00	25,813.28	85,000.00	10,000.00	-88.24
Dog Licenses	1,200.00	1,010.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Liquor Licenses	700.00	740.00	700.00	700.00	
Interest on Investments	2,000.00	590.29	1,000.00	500.00	-50
Box Rent	70.00	60.00	70.00	60.00	-14.29
Act 68 -Town Retains	6,500.00	6,410.86	6,300.00	6,600.00	4.76
Prev.Year Deficit/Surplus	19,980.14	19,980.14	30,397.73	-	-100
Misc.	-	3.63	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Revenue:	563,516.00	519,393.04	679,478.00	794,875.00	16.98%

General Account Expenses

WAGES

Clerk Wages	41,860.00	47,893.45	49,140.00	49,140.00	
Treasurer Wages	41,860.00	25,988.70	26,000.00	44,928.00	72.8
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Listers	5,000.00	11,387.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Constable	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	
ASST Clerk/Treasurer	-	4,626.00	15,000.00	23,000.00	53.33
Admin Assistant	-	-	-	11,648.00	100
Health Officer Stipend	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	
Fire Warden Stipend	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	
9-1-1 Coordinator	400.00	400.00	500.00	500.00	
Misc. Wages	250.00	254.14	500.00	600.00	20
Travel Reimbursement	600.00	-	500.00	1,000.00	100
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	94,170.00	94,749.29	124,140.00	163,316.00	31.56%

BENEFITS

FICA-Medi	7,950.00	7,665.03	9,000.00	13,500.00	50
Insurance	39,000.00	17,183.40	20,000.00	41,000.00	105
VMERS -Retirement	2,700.00	928.01	1,625.00	6,200.00	281.54
Training/Seminars	600.00	180.00	500.00	500.00	
Work. Comp. Ins.	500.00	404.00	500.00	500.00	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	50,750.00	26,360.44	31,625.00	61,700.00	95.10%

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	FY - 23/24
OFFICE EXPENSE	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	% Change
Gen. Office Supplies	2,500.00	6,694.16	2,600.00	3,500.00	34.62
Clerk Supplies	2,500.00	1,194.97	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Treasurer Supplies	1,800.00	2,226.31	2,000.00	2,750.00	37.5
Lister Supplies	500.00	560.74	750.00	1,500.00	100
Election Exp.	350.00	1,897.51	1,000.00	600.00	-40
Computer/Copier Contracts	10,000.00	14,074.29	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Tax Mapping	3,500.00	3,200.00	3,400.00	3,400.00	
Telephone/Internet	2,200.00	2,260.04	2,200.00	3,000.00	36.36
Electricity	7,000.00	7,307.07	7,000.00	10,000.00	42.86
Heat	3,500.00	5,031.46	3,500.00	7,500.00	114.29
Sewer Fee-Southgate House	1,590.00	1,650.00	1,710.00	1,650.00	-3.51
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	35,440.00	46,096.55	41,160.00	50,900.00	23.66%
OPERATING EXPENSE					
Advertising	300.00	510.00	300.00	300.00	
Printing/Town Report Exp.	2,000.00	2,106.68	2,200.00	2,200.00	
VLCT Dues & Fees	2,400.00	2,365.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	
Legal Services	3,000.00	4,986.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Professional Services	-	2,610.00	-	-	
Audit Services	9,000.00	10,350.00	9,000.00	11,000.00	22.22
Dog Pound	300.00	-	300.00	300.00	
Property & Liability Insurance	6,500.00	(2,037.00)	6,500.00	9,000.00	38.46
Southgate House Maintenance	6,500.00	5,790.14	7,000.00	7,000.00	
Southgate House Repairs	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	2,500.00	25
County Taxes	13,500.00	12,667.00	13,500.00	14,250.00	5.56
GUVSWD Assessment	10,296.00	10,296.00	9,030.00	9,000.00	-0.33
Recycling Program	10,400.00	10,400.00	10,816.00	12,000.00	10.95
Southgate House Reserved Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	25,000.00	400
Memorial Day Flags	250.00	140.00	250.00	200.00	-20
Two-Rivers Regional Plan.	1,432.00	1,432.00	1,427.00	1,427.00	
Cemetery Fund Appropriation	34,000.00	34,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	
Office Capitol Reserve	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Landfill Monitoring/Testing	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Green Up VT	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
Misc./Bank Fees	550.00	602.15	600.00	600.00	
Over refund expense	-	700.00	-	-	
Reappraisal/Maint. Reserve	7,500.00	7,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	
E-911 - Signs Reserves	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Fire Station Bond Pymt	48,500.00	41,077.84	110,000.00	110,000.00	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	168,978.00	156,045.81	255,373.00	282,227.00	10.52%

Emergency Services	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	FY - 23/24
SHERIFF & CONSTABLE	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	% Change
Constable Exp./Travel	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Sheriff's Dept.	82,000.00	78,932.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	
Police Liab. & Work. Comp.	300.00	259.00	300.00	300.00	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	82,450.00	79,341.00	85,450.00	85,450.00	0.00%
FAST SQUAD					
Fast Squad Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	-	
Fast Squad Liab. & Work Comp.	1,000.00	833.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Woodstock Ambulance Asses	65,520.00	65,520.00	65,520.00	65,520.00	
Ambulance Bills Uncollected	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	12,000.00	140
Dispatch Services	2,808.00	2,808.00	3,160.00	3,612.00	14.3
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	75,328.00	75,161.00	74,680.00	82,132.00	9.98%
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
Fire Dept. Appropriation	12,250.00	12,250.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Fire Dept. Ins.	6,000.00	10,552.00	12,000.00	12,500.00	4.17
Fire Dept. Work. Comp.	1,300.00	1,219.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Fire Truck Improvements	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Dry Hydrant Program	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Fire Warden Supplies	-	-	1,500.00	1,000.00	-33.33
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	34,650.00	39,121.00	44,900.00	44,900.00	0.00%
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Emergency Services:	192,428.00	193,623.00	205,030.00	212,482.00	3.63%
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total General Acct Expense:	541,766.00	516,875.09	657,328.00	770,625.00	17.24%
WARNED APPROPRIATIONS					
Woodstock VNA	4,900.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	
Woodstock Council on Aging	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	
Woodstock Recreation Dept	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Spectrum Teen Center	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	
SEVCA	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Norman Williams Public Library	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	5,000.00	42.86%
Ottauquechee Health Foundation	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Senior Solutions	500.00	500.00	500.00	1,100.00	120.00%
WISE	-	-	400.00	400.00	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Warned Appropriations:	21,750.00	21,750.00	22,150.00	24,250.00	9.48%
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Expenditures:	563,516.00	538,625.09	679,478.00	794,875.00	16.98%

General Fund	Budget FY 2022	Actual FY 2022	Budget FY 2023	Budget FY 2024	FY - 23/24 % Change
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	(19,232.05)	-	-	
HIGHWAY REVENUE					
Current Taxes (Highway)	441,466.78	441,466.78	491,526.50	645,300.00	31.28
St. of VT -Highways	95,000.00	106,035.26	95,000.00	97,000.00	2.11
Grants-Paving & Ditching	-	20,340.00	-	-	
Permit Fees	-	800.00	-	-	
FEMA CD TRANSFER	-	58,910.20	-	-	
Road Inventory Grant	-	7,707.74	-	-	
Prior Year Surplus/(Deficit)	6,848.22	6,848.22	(10,301.50)	-	-100
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Highway Revenue:	543,315.00	642,108.20	576,225.00	742,300.00	28.82%
Payroll & Benefits					
Highway Salaries	153,520.00	123,363.22	170,000.00	250,000.00	47.06
FICA /Medi.	11,750.00	9,316.85	13,000.00	19,125.00	47.12
Benefits	55,000.00	31,772.88	67,000.00	70,000.00	4.48
Sub-Contractors	-	25,810.00	-	-	
Work. Comp. Ins.	16,500.00	10,897.00	16,000.00	12,000.00	-25
Unemployment	650.00	502.00	300.00	500.00	66.67
VMERS (Retirement)	9,595.00	7,611.02	10,625.00	16,875.00	58.82
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	247,015.00	209,272.97	276,925.00	368,500.00	33.07%
GARAGE					
Phone	2,000.00	3,912.52	2,000.00	2,400.00	20
Electricity	1,100.00	1,464.35	1,000.00	1,800.00	80
Heat	5,000.00	5,429.14	5,200.00	6,000.00	15.38
Bldg. & Liab. Ins.	5,000.00	4,518.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Equipment Ins.	6,000.00	5,135.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Prof. Liab. Ins.	1,500.00	1,198.00	1,200.00	1,400.00	16.67
Milage Reimb/Med Test	200.00	115.00	300.00	200.00	-33.33
Misc./Advertising	-	1,824.71	-	-	
MISC	-	280.93	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sub-Total:	20,800.00	23,877.65	20,700.00	22,800.00	10.14%
MAINTENANCE					
Equipment Hired	18,000.00	5,812.15	18,000.00	10,000.00	-44.44
Equipment Fuel	25,000.00	29,075.63	25,000.00	30,000.00	20
Equipment Repairs	12,000.00	26,726.59	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Materials	100,000.00	92,869.28	100,000.00	125,000.00	25
Road Inventory Grant Exp.	-	9,634.67	-	-	

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	FY 23/24 % Change
Equipment Maintenance	12,000.00	22,738.35	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Class 4 Road Maintenance	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Storm Water Regs/Fees	1,500.00	1,550.00	1,600.00	2,000.00	25
Grant Projects	15,000.00	25,425.00	15,000.00	25,000.00	66.67
Capital Equipment	-	118,367.90	-	-	
Sub-Total:	188,500.00	332,199.57	191,600.00	224,000.00	16.91%
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
Yearly Projects	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Sub-Total:	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00%
CAPITOL SINKING					
Building Improv. Reserves	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Equipment Fund Reserves	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	100,000.00	66.67
Bridge Fund Reserves	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Sub-Total:	62,000.00	62,000.00	62,000.00	102,000.00	64.52%
Total Highway Expenses:	543,315.00	627,350.19	576,225.00	742,300.00	28.82%
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	14,758.01	-	-	
SEWER DEPT. REVENUE	-	-	-	-	
Quarterly Fees	83,108.51	84,122.50	84,443.38	90,067.82	6.66%
Delinquent Interest	1,000.00	5,195.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
Previous Year Surplus	6,291.49	6,291.49	6,476.62	2,432.18	-62.44%
Misc.	-	47.54	-	-	
Total Sewer Revenue:	90,400.00	95,656.53	91,920.00	93,500.00	1.71%
SEWER DEPT. EXPENSES					
Plant Labor	63,500.00	63,360.00	65,220.00	65,000.00	-0.33%
Supplies	1,500.00	1,886.50	1,500.00	2,000.00	33.33%
Electricity	4,000.00	4,865.13	4,000.00	4,500.00	12.50%
Heat	1,000.00	827.06	1,000.00	1,500.00	50.00%
Phone	500.00	371.14	500.00	300.00	-40.00%
Administrative Fees	200.00	200.00	500.00	500.00	0
Outside Testing	5,000.00	4,566.75	5,000.00	5,000.00	0
Chemicals	1,000.00	2,069.14	1,500.00	2,000.00	33.33%
Maintenance	4,500.00	7,914.63	4,500.00	4,500.00	0
Sludge Disposal	6,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	FY 23/24 % Change
Property & Liab. Ins.	1,200.00	1,164.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0
Sinking Fund Appr.	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0
Misc.	-	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Sewer Expenses:	90,400.00	93,224.35	91,920.00	93,500.00	1.71%
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	2,432.18	-	-	
Recreation Committee Fund					
Revenues:					
Donations	3,300.00	1,000.00	3,300.00	7,800.00	136%
Change in Investment Value	-	(3,271.94)	-	-	
Interest on Investments	1,000.00	255.84	1,000.00	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	4,300.00	(2,016.10)	4,300.00	7,800.00	
Recreation Committee Exp.					
Rec. Field Electricity	250.00	254.91	250.00	250.00	0
Insurance	50.00	34.00	50.00	50.00	0
Grounds Maintenance	4,000.00	3,921.00	4,000.00	7,500.00	87.50%
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	4,300.00	4,209.91	4,300.00	7,800.00	81.39%
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	(6,226.01)	-	-	
Cemetery Fund Revenues					
Appropriations	34,000.00	34,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	0
Sale of Lots	-	1,700.00	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Cemetery Revenue:	34,000.00	35,700.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00%
Cemetery Fund Expenses					
Mowing / Cleanup	29,000.00	29,000.04	30,000.00	30,000.00	0
Corner Stones	-	-	-	-	
Repairs / Maintenance	5,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Cemetery Expenses:	34,000.00	35,000.04	36,000.00	-	0.00%
				-	
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	699.96	-		

Schools:	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	FY 23/24 % Change
Homestead Education Tax	638,993.86	638,993.86	710,632.36	-	
Non-Residential Education	1,114,849.93	1,114,849.93	1,136,880.64	-	
Non-Resident Ed Liab. to State	1,022,366.49	1,022,366.49	1,080,812.36	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Total School Revenue:	2,782,621.14	2,782,621.14	2,934,929.02	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	
	2,782,621.14	2,782,621.14	2,934,929.02	-	
School Expenses					
Payments to Schools	1,753,843.79	1,753,843.79	-	-	
ACT 68 - Net Pymt to Stat	1,022,366.49	1,022,366.49	-	-	
ACT 68 - Town Retains	6,410.86	6,410.86	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Total School Expenses:	2,782,621.14	2,782,621.14	-	-	

Designated Fund Balances: UNAUDITED

Fund	General Fund	Bal. 7/01/21	Appropriations	Income	Expenses	Balance 06/30/2022
A	Planning Commission	6,363.63				6,363.63
B	Road Signs /911	3,822.70	500.00		837.00	3,485.70
C	Listers/Reappraisal	7,410.91	7,500.00	7,134.50	13,727.09	8,318.32
D	Landfill Reserve	688.96	4,500.00		2,739.50	2,449.46
E	Southgate House Reserve	38,573.35	5,000.00		-	43,573.35
f	Office Capitol	1,633.49	500.00		2,094.00	39.49
G	Fire Truck Improvement	178,621.01	15,000.00	146.95	-	193,767.96
H	TC Records Retention	8,860.00		5,644.00	5,496.28	9,007.72
I	Veterans Monument	1,431.88	-	-	-	1,431.88
N	Grants-WWTP-Mascoma Loan	(10,272.18)		197,917.74	154,015.76	33,629.80
O	Fire Station Construction	1,244,317.20	-	144,616.52	1,399,573.12	(10,639.40)
R	ARPA	-		143,932.88	183,892.69	(39,959.81)
Highway Funds:						
K	Equipment Reserve	45,750.18	60,000.00		105,750.18	-
L	Highway Bldg/Salt Shed	46,808.33	1,000.00		7,462.37	40,345.96
M	Bridge Reserve	55,677.57	1,000.00	-	-	56,677.57
Totals:		1,629,687.03	95,000.00	499,392.59	1,875,587.99	348,491.63

Town Indebtedness:	UNAUDITED
Compensated Absences:	7,760.00
Gen. Obligation Note RF1	4,762.60
2020 Western Star Loan	92,050.50
Bond Payable Fire Station	1,800,000.00
WWTF RF1-213-2.0	30,639.00
Mascoma WW Loan	<u>197,917.74</u>
Total:	2,133,129.84

UNAUDITED

**BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2022
GENERAL ACCOUNT**

ASSETS:

Checking Account	143,197.32
Due to other funds:	-523,425.67
Sweep Transit	210,645.00
Health Equity	36,510.17
Pre-Paid Assets	32,640.00
Judiciary Receivable	4,224.99
Landfill Coupons	382.00
Interest Receivable -Property Tax	39,899.82
ADA-Property Taxes & Int.-Adjustment	-14,118.00
Petty Cash	100.00
AR-Delinquent Taxes due	<u>98,218.23</u>
Total Assets	28,274.16

LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	51,905.57
Bank Reconciliation Issue	1.58
AFLAC Deductions	2.15
VMERS-Retirement	-387.14
Deferred Revenue-Prop. Tax	76,090.10
Pre-paid Taxes	7,292.03
Overpaid Property Tax	58.34
Delinquent Tax Collector	963.61
State of VT-Dog Licenses	<u>115.00</u>
Total Liability	136,041.24

TOTAL FUND BALANCES

Fund Balance Prior Year	-108,515.17
Assigned to Subsequent Year	2,681.00
Total Prior Years Fund Balance:	-88,535.03
Total Fund Balance Current Year	<u>-19,232.05</u>
Total Fund Balance	-107,767.08

Total Liability, Fund Balance	28,274.16
--------------------------------------	------------------

UNAUDITED

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT

Assets:

Due from General Account	76,654.98
Flood-FEMA Reimb.CD	0.00

Total Assets	76,654.98
---------------------	------------------

Liabilities:

Encumbered Project Funds	<u>336.92</u>
--------------------------	---------------

Total Liabilities	336.92
--------------------------	---------------

Fund Balance Prior Year:	58,754.04
---------------------------------	------------------

Undesignated Fund Balance	2,806.01
----------------------------------	-----------------

Total Prior Year Fund Balance	61,560.05
--------------------------------------	------------------

Fund Balance Current Year	14,758.01
----------------------------------	------------------

Total Fund Balance	76,318.06
---------------------------	------------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	76,654.98
---------------------------------------------	------------------

UNAUDITED

SEWER ACCOUNT

Assets:

Due from General Account	36,763.89
ADA-Sewer Fees	-4,972.00

AR-Delinquent Sewer Taxes	22,719.67
---------------------------	-----------

Interest Receivable	9,032.11
---------------------	----------

Capital Assets-Infrastructure	<u>241,868.00</u>
-------------------------------	-------------------

Total Assets	305,411.67
---------------------	-------------------

Liabilities:

A/D Infrastructure	<u>241,868.00</u>
--------------------	-------------------

Total Liabilities	241,868.00
--------------------------	-------------------

Fund Balance:

Fund Balance Prior Year	12,884.54
--------------------------------	------------------

Fund Balance Restricted	<u>48,226.95</u>
--------------------------------	-------------------------

Total Prior Years Fund Balance	61,111.49
---------------------------------------	------------------

Current Year Fund Balance	<u>2,432.18</u>
----------------------------------	------------------------

Total Fund Balance	63,543.67
---------------------------	------------------

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	305,411.67
---------------------------------------------	-------------------

**UNAUDITED
RECREATION COMMITTEE ACCT.**

Assets:		
Due from General Fund		5,281.96
Fidelity Invest.		44,997.28
Recreation Committee CD		<u>32,879.17</u>
	Total Assets	83,158.41
Liabilities:		
None		<u>0.00</u>
Fund Balance:		
Fund Balance Prior Year		87,386.39
Fund Balance- Donations		1,998.03
Total Prior Year Fund Balance:		89,384.42
Current Year Fund Balance		<u>-6,226.01</u>
Total Fund Balance		83,158.41
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance		83,158.41

**UNAUDITED
CEMETERY FUND**

Assets:		
Due from General Fund		35,132.21
	Total Assets	35,132.21
Liabilities:		
Cemetery Reserved-Corner Stone's		<u>790.00</u>
Fund Balance:		
Fund Balance Prior Year		33,642.25
Current Year Fund Balance		<u>699.96</u>
Total Fund Balance		34,342.21
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance		35,132.21

***The numbers presented in this report of FY 2022 have *not* been audited by Pace & Hawley CPA, the Town's contracted audit firm. The complete audit report will be available for inspection at the Treasurer's Office when available.**

**Explanation of 2021 Grand List
Town Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Fair Market and Listed Value of
Real Estate and Personal Property
Taxable Parcels: 768
Acres: 29,394.48

Municipal Grand List: 1,841,445.12
Education Grand Lists: 1,814,968.17

	Municipal	Homestead	Non-Resident	Total Education Listed Value:
Real Property	199,922,700.	55,685,263.	144,237,737	199,922,700.
PP & Cable	3,086,555.		336,200.	336,200.
(-) Vet Exempt.	30,000	30,000		30,000
(-) Vet Exempt >10K	30,000			
Total Veterans	60,000	30,000		30,000
(-) Land Use Exempt.	18,410,043.	2,508,239.	15,901,804.	18,410,043.
(-) Non-Approved Contracts	207,400.			
(-) Special Exemptions (2)	187,300.		187,300.	187,300.
<hr/>				
Total Municipal Grand List:	1,841,445.12			
Total Education Grand List:		531,470.24	1,283,497.93	1,814,968.17

STATEMENT OF CURRENT TAXES

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

Resident Tax Rate: \$2.0995
Non-Resident Tax Rate: \$2.0956

Amounts to be Raised in Taxes:

Taxes Billed:

<u>R.E. & P.P.</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>		<u>Grand List</u>	<u>Taxes Raised</u>
Local Agreement	.0021	+ / -	1,841,445.12	3,867.05
Municipal	.4230	+ / -	1,841,445.12	889,391.43
Homestead Ed.	1.6744	+ / -	531,170.24	1,022,839.40
Non-Residential	<u>1.6705</u>	+ / -	1,281,423.93	<u>2,140,618.77</u>
				3,812,808.70
				<u>1,920.72</u>

State Penalty's- Late Filed HS-122

Total Taxes Raised: 3,814,729.42

Reconciliation of Taxes Paid:

School Taxes:	2,782,621.14
Highway Taxes:	441,466.78
Town Taxes:	<u>338,975.74</u>
Total Taxes Paid Out:	3,563,063.66
Municipal Portion of Credits:	-5,270.74
State Tax Credits	<u>+251,205.86</u>
Net Adjustments – HS122, E&O	+5,730.64
Net Taxes after adjustments:	3,814,729.42

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

Delinquent Tax Collectors Report

January 23, 2023

Dear Bridgewater Residents,

I always like to take a moment to say thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as the Delinquent Tax Collector for the Town of Bridgewater. I thoroughly enjoy working with the taxpayers and community members and always enjoy meeting new people.

I'd like to share with you the progress that has been made in the collection of delinquent taxes. In November of 2021 **\$179,573.89** in property taxes/pp became delinquent for the 2021 tax year and as of January 23, 2023, all but **\$21,854.18** has been collected for that tax year. The balance on the remaining delinquent property taxes is currently at **\$59,565.23**. This is the combined total for tax years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. It is my hope to get these remaining balances paid off.

This past November 2022, the new property tax year 2022 became due. An amount of **\$198,581.88** in property taxes/pp became delinquent. This amount is up **\$19,007.99** from last year's delinquent property taxes 2021 which is listed above. As of January 23, 2023, the balance remaining is **\$76,602.16** for the current tax year 2022. Many of the taxpayers have arrangements or installment agreements to resolve these delinquent accounts. *The figures listed above are based on the principal amount due and does not include interest and penalty.*

I hope to continue to lower the amount of delinquent taxes in our town. If you ever have any questions or if I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joni Kennedy

Delinquent Tax Collector

P.O. Box 372

Bridgewater Corners, VT 05035

672-3402

Delinquent Sewer Report

<u>Delinquent Sewer List</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>PP/*</u>
Blanchard, Brian	22	*
Boisvert, Gerard	22	*
Bruck, Gina	22	*
Caizzi, Lawrence	22	*
Carr, Samuel	22	*
Ferguson, Chas.	21-22	*
Flannigan, Patricia	22	*
Flynn, Lori	22	*
Ford, John	22	*
Helms, Alyssa -02-042	22	*
Helms, J & A - 99-007	22	*
Herdegen, Gillian 99-002	22	*
Herdegen, Gillian99002.001	22	*
Lynds, Arthur	22	*
Mattsson, Claes	15-22	
Reifenberger, Wanda	22	*
Siri, John	22	*
Smith Family	22	*
Stella, Joseph	22	*
Total Due for FY 2015:		1,951.97
Total Due for FY 2016:		618.75
Total Due for FY 2017:		625.00
Total Due for FY 2018:		2,025.00
Total Due for FY 2019:		2,025.00
Total Due for FY 2020		2,025.00
Total Due for FY 2021		3,180.00
Total Due for FY 2022		<u>9,018.94</u>
Total Amount Due as of June 30, 2022		22,719.66

Total Does Not Include Interest & Penalty Charges.

* = Paid in full after June 30, 2022

pp=partial payment

Delinquent Tax Report

<u>Parcel #</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Tax Year:</u>	<u>*/PP</u>
02-059.001	Bivens, Colleen	2017-2019	
06-022	Bixler, Parker, McGonagle	2015-2021	
02-031	Blanchard, Brian	2020-2021	*/pp
03-033	Burton, Bonita	2021	*
01-111.001	Buteux, Julia	2021	*
02-068	Caizzi, Lawrence	2019-2021	pp
07-013.001	Carbino, Theodore Estate	2015 ,2017 - 2021	
05-013.001	Dodge, Benjamin	2021	
05-086	Fleming, Sean A.	2021	*
06-017	Fowler, Nicholas	2021	*
04-060	Gavin, Casey	2021	*
06-067	Geno, Shane	2021	pp
05-092	Joyce, Michael B.	2020-2021	pp
04-043	Kelly, William	2019-2021	
01-113	Lewis, Daniel	2019-2021	pp
01-113.002	Lewis, Daniel	2020-2021	*
02-094	Manning, Michael	2021	pp
02-037	Mattsson, Claes Arne	2014-2021	
07-056	McLeod, Andrew	2021	*
03-045	Prior, David	2015-2021	
02-050	Reifenberger, Wanda	2020-2021	pp
07-001.001	Townsend, Ryan & Jessica	2021	
04-018.002	Spring, Andrew	2018	pp
03-034	Williamson, Patricia	2021	*

2014 - \$ 3,403.65

2015 - \$ 9,996.99

2016 - \$10,310.45

2017 - \$10,834.41

2018 - \$10,750.03

2019 - \$ 7,789.44

2020 - \$ 8,922.42

2021 - \$35,966.34

Total Delinquent Taxes as of: June 30, 2022 - \$97,973.73

Total Does Not Include Interest & Penalty Charges.

* = Paid in full after June 30, 2022

pp = partial payment

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department 2022 Report



The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 74 calls in 2022. Sixty of these calls were in Bridgewater and consisted of 1 structure fire, 1 chimney fire, 1 dumpster fire, 5 brush/grass fires, 6 powerlines down, 21 smoke alarm activations, 1 carbon monoxide activation, 1 sprinkler activation, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 4 agency assist, 1 LP gas leak, 1 snowmobile accident, 1 hydraulic oil leak, 1 water heater malfunction, 3 lock out assist, 3 good intent calls, and 1 welfare check for a total of 288 hours spent on scene. We spent 273 hours on training and 140 hours on maintenance. The BVFD responded to 14 mutual aid calls, 8 were in Woodstock consisting of 2 structure fires, 1 chimney fire, 2 brush/grass fires, 1 agency assist, 1 good intent call, and 1 station coverage for a total of 76 hours. We responded to Killington for 2 smoke alarm activations, 2 structure fires, and 1 chimney fire with a total of 30 hours. We responded to Plymouth for 1 structure fire with a total of 22 hours. We received mutual aid from Woodstock Fire & Rescue, Pomfret-Teago Volunteer Fire Department, and Killington Fire Department.

The BVFD and F.A.S.T. Squad are working on getting settled into the new emergency services building. We are very grateful for the community giving us the means to take a huge step forward in providing the best emergency services that we can. One of our members, Max Elles, is currently taking a combined Firefighter 1 & Firefighter 2 class, an over 300-hour long course. We look forward to all the new techniques he will be able to show us.

The BVFD continues to apply for grants to help ease the burden to our local tax base. We are currently working on our second attempt of the "Assistant to Firefighters Grant" to help fund a new fire truck. This is an extremely competitive nationwide grant that if we are awarded it could potentially cover the entire cost of the truck.

Remember to make sure your 911 numbers, your address numbers, are visible from the road year-round. If we can't find you, we can't help you! Having multiple, working, up to date smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your house is one of the easiest ways to help keep you and your family safe. The BVFD would like to thank our community for their continued support so that we can continue to help support all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Zach Bowley President/Captain

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department 2022

RECEIPTS:

General Donations/Misc.	\$ 11,082.00
Fund Drives	\$ 24,132.00
Fund Raisers	\$ 14,731.00
Interest income	\$ 335.56
Fire extinguishers sales/service	\$ 766.50
Town Appropriation	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
	\$ 66,047.06

DISBURSEMENTS:

Communications	\$ 1,585.68
Fire equip/bunker gear	\$ 10,884.78
Fire extinguishers sales/service	\$ 377.75
Fund raiser expenses	\$ 3,868.65
Insurance	\$ 351.00
Office expense/postage	\$ 1,280.60
Repairs/Maint. -Equip & Bldg	\$ 1,620.25
Supplies	\$ 1,954.89
Telephone	\$ 3,597.35
Truck Expenses- Fuel, repairs	\$ 8,560.75
Electric	\$ 3,744.32
Fuel oil/propane	\$ 4,801.67
Sewer usage	\$ 1,100.00
Trash pick up	\$ 455.12
Memberships	\$ 67.47
Fire warden supplies	\$ 380.20
New Building Equipment.	<u>\$ 30,385.83</u>
Total Disbursements:	\$ 75,016.31

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. 2022

BANK ACCOUNTS:

CHECKING- GENERAL:

Jan 1, 2022 Beg Balance	\$ 66,881.90
Receipts	\$ 66,047.06
Disbursements	<u>\$ 75,016.31</u>
Dec 31, 2022, End Balance	\$ 57,912.65
2023 Operating Expenses	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Balance	\$ 7,912.65

SCBA RESERVE FUND:

\$ 4,000.00

BUNKER GEAR RESERVE FUND:

Jan 1, 2022, Beginning Balance	\$ 21,289.39
Receipts- Interest	\$ 2.13
Disbursements.	<u>\$ 10.00</u>
Dec 31, 2022, Ending Balance	\$ 21,281.52

BUILDING FUND RESERVE:

Jan 1, 2022, beginning balance	\$227,591.52
Receipts- Interest	\$ 327.11
Paid Town of Bridgewater	<u>\$119,437.00</u>
Dec 31, 2022, Ending Balance	\$108,481.63
Reserve f/ Pending projects	<u>\$108,000.00</u>
Balance	481.63

AUXILIARY ACCOUNT:

Jan 1, 2022, Beginning Balance	\$ 7,830.97
Receipts	\$ 8,360.02
Disbursements	<u>\$ 5,807.78</u>
Dec 31, 2022, Ending Balance	\$ 10,383.21



BRIDGEWATER CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioners take this opportunity to ask for remembrance of long time Commissioner Paul Hutt. Paul was first elected to the cemetery commission in March of 1986 and served until his passing this past summer. Over the next 3 and a half decades Paul essentially became the face of the Bridgewater cemeteries, digging graves, witnessing committals, selling lots, and looking out for our cemetery's overall wellbeing with near daily inspections. Paul's presence and dedication will be greatly missed. Greg Jenne has been appointed to fill the vacancy until the next town meeting.

The Commissioners efforts for the past year have continued to focus on maintenance and improvement of our cemeteries. The summer started with a cleanup of the Kellogg Cemetery, including brush cutting last fall and weed whacking this spring. Members from the Vermont Cemetery Association joined Bridgewater volunteers to straighten, clean and repair gravestones in the old cemetery. The day was very successful with much progress made towards restoring this piece of Bridgewater history. Plans were made for the Vermont Cemetery Association to return to Bridgewater in June of 2023 to clean and repair stones in the old part of Mt Pleasant Cemetery.

Mendell Cemetery got some much needed leveling, mostly on the western side along the North Bridgewater Road. The high spots got graded off, the low spots filled, and a few large rocks removed, greatly improving ease for mowing, and accessing the cemetery. Brush cutting continued in several cemeteries with the goal of exposing the stonewalls, improving existing roads and, in some cases, reopening ground where lots have previously been sold and marked. North Bridgewater Cemetery and Baker Hill Cemetery have needed the bulk of the brush cutting. A large piece of an old maple tree in the Mt Pleasant cemetery came down in a summer storm. Minimal damage occurred despite falling on and among several headstones. The Commissioners contracted to have the remainder of the tree removed to avoid further damage.

A new maintenance contract for the cemeteries with Olmstead Property Services began on July first of 2022. The new contract fits well in our budget and services have been excellent. The Commissioners thank Tarleton Property Services for their years of maintaining our cemeteries.

Future plans are to improve the road around Baker Hill Cemetery for easier access and to continue to remove problem trees and push the weeds and brush back out of our cemeteries.

Thank you for your continued support for upkeep and improvement of our cemeteries.

Commissioners:

Roy (Butch) Wardwell Owen Astbury Greg Jenne

AMERICAN LEGION GENO-ROBINSON POST 11, BRIDGEWATER, VT



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

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

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

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

Our thanks to the Martin family for their help in getting replacement flags for the utility poles along Route 4 through Bridgewater and to the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department for placing the flags, a service we began in 2015. Also, we continue our service of placing flags on graves of over 200 veterans in Bridgewater's 13 cemeteries in May and remove them in November. Over 10% of Bridgewater's graves are occupied by veterans. It is our privilege and honor to perform Military Remembrance Burial Services for all Veterans with prayers by our chaplain, our rifle salute and presentation of a folded United States Flag to the next of kin. We were saddened in March to lose our long-time member, past Post Commander and World War II veteran, Horace Carr, two days after his 101st. birthday. Our ranks are thinning due to age, and we would welcome new members in Post 11 to help us be of service to our town and its citizens.

Richard Brackett, Commander



Report to the Town of Bridgewater

March 7, 2023

During 2022, the Historical Society presented the exhibit “Farms and Families of Bridgewater”. Our volunteers were able to produce the exhibit with loans and donations of photographs and objects; and supplemented with items from our own growing collection.

Howard Coffin opened our season again, with an exciting talk on his career as a journalist, which was jumpstarted with his coverage of the Cog Railway Crash on Mt. Washington.

Charlie Shackleton, our local furniture maker, gave an amusing and fascinating talk “Finding the Endurance”, about finding his cousin Ernest Shackleton’s ship, at the bottom of the Antarctic Sea. He also hosted our Board at his shop and showed them his terrific timeline that he has hung in the stairwell.

The annual meeting in October was the venue for Elisha Lee, speaking on the Gold Mines of Bridgewater. All the talks have been held at the Bridgewater Grange. They are available for viewing by going to YouTube and searching under Bridgewater Historical Society or by going to our web site, www.bridgewaterhistory.org, and clicking on the ‘events’ link.

We lost two long time Board members of our Society, Audrey Putnam and Ernest Kendall. In addition to donating interesting items to our collection, Audrey was very helpful in creating fun projects for our school programs. Ernest provided great stories about growing up in Bridgewater as the son of Robert Kendall, Superintendent of the Mill. He also presented programs on the mill to the students at the school and the Senior Center.

Chris Stevens, John Atwood and Sondra Stevens, all Board members, led a hike to the Kellogg Cemetery. While some of the day was spent on names and headstones, there was also running commentary on native plants provided by John Atwood as they walked along the trail.

Membership stayed strong with 97 families. Having maintained careful expenditures during the pandemic, we are happy to state that our fiscal balance is healthy.

We like to take this moment every year to thank our members, both near and far, and the Town of Bridgewater for their continued interest in our projects relating to the preservation of the History of the Town.

Best wishes for 2023 from the Board of the Bridgewater Historical Society.



Bridgewater Area Community Foundation

Dear Bridgewater Community,

Thank you for your generous donations and time dedicated to the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation this past year! It has been a long road and it is wonderful to see the building being revitalized and used by the next generations. During 2022 the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation was thrilled to open the Bridgewater Community Childcare's first classroom, make incredible strides in fundraising, hire staff as well as conclude Phase One and begin on Phase Two of construction. Our mission is to provide a vibrant center where the people of Bridgewater and the surrounding towns can gather as part of a caring, diverse community of people from all ages and walks of life. The BACF fosters education, artistry, commerce, health and wellness, personal growth, and connection. We strive to meet the basic needs of all citizens in a resilient space that will continue to serve and function when it is needed most.

Phase One construction and updates for the Bridgewater Community Childcare, located in the 1991 addition at the rear of building, concluded and opened its doors on June 13, 2022. We are licensed for fourteen students daily ranging in ages from six weeks to thirty-six months. Employing three full time teachers, one part time teacher and Program Director, Kristiana Birmingham. The Bridgewater Community Childcare is also in full swing of fundraising and renovations on its second classroom slated to open December 2023, which will open up an additional twenty-four slots to the surrounding community and employ an additional five staff members. In 2022 the Bridgewater Community Childcare held numerous events ranging from an opening ceremony, open houses, meet your teacher rights, trunk or treat event partnered with the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department and staff trainings.

Phase Two construction on the historical 1914 section started this year utilizing local contracting services. BACF recently signed with Jaynes and Berge Inc. as the general construction manager to complete the construction needs. Phase Two construction and updates include but are not limited to adding updating accessibility, a new sprinkler system, updating heating and air-exchange systems, upgrading bathrooms, energy efficiency, revitalizing rooms, and upgrading electrical. Phase Two will also include the Bridgewater Community Childcare into its second classroom, as well as opening an after-school program to serve children kindergarten through sixth grade from the Windsor Central Unified School District.

Phase Three future plans for the Bridgewater Community Center include a wide variety of programming from our strong list of partners: Artistree Community Arts Center, Thompson Senior Center, Sustainable Woodstock, Ottawaquchee Health Foundation, Norman Williams Public Library, Senior Solutions, Creative Lives, BarnArts, Pentangle Arts, JAG, and Woodstock Community Food Shelf.

The building will also be used for independent businesses, movement classes, yoga classes, and other community wellness activities. It will be viable for events, functions, and as a community resource room. The Bridgewater Area Community Center will also serve as an emergency shelter and town meeting space.

As we reflect upon what an amazing year 2022 was for the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation, we wanted to take a moment and personally express our deep appreciation. The Bridgewater Area Community Board of Directors, with help from our enthusiastic volunteers and employees have made a huge impact on our community this past calendar year. Thank you for your ongoing efforts and support.

Warmly,

Bridgewater Area Community Foundation
Board of Directors
Brian Bontrager, President, Charlie Shackleton, Vice President
Malena Agin, Treasurer, Dalene Washburn, Secretary
Michael Caduto, Collen Doyle

Kristiana Birmingham, BCC Program Director
Michelle Hough, Construction Administrative Assistant

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

- GUV held three special collections in 2022 in West Fairlee, Strafford, and Thetford. We collected 6 tons of tires; 4.6 tons of “covered” electronics; and approximately 7 tons of “big” trash. GUV collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- As of mid-November, the residents and businesses in the GUV District had recycled two tons of batteries. You may recycle your batteries at the A.B.L.E. Waste fast trash locations and at participating hardware stores. Find drop-off locations at <https://www.call2recycle.org/>
- 2022 data for paint recycling was not available at press time.
- 310 GUV residents participated in three household hazardous waste events. Only three (3) Bridgewater residents participated in an event. We encourage people to find non-toxic alternatives for cleaning, fertilizing, and getting rid of “pests.”
- The state law banning food scraps from the landfill went into effect on July 1, 2020. If you are finding it difficult to sort your food scraps for composting, please contact our office. We’re here to help.
- The third annual maple sap line collection event took place at the So. Woodstock Fire Station on November 5. It was organized by the Windsor County Maple Producers Association, with help from the Northwest, Greater Upper Valley, and S. Windsor/Windham Counties solid waste management districts. 9 participants diverted 2,000 lbs. of tubing and spouts from the landfill.
- 2023 GUV collection event dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list servs, and in local newspapers.
- Please check the town list serv for GUV updates and notices about recycling, etc.
- In FY2022, GUV regretted not having an active representative to our Board of Supervisors.
- For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcv.org, or visit www.guvswmd.org.

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION (TRORC)

TRORC 2022 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for tomorrow that has a thriving regional economy and keeps the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2022.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC worked on public health projects with local hospitals, helped towns grapple with new cannabis legislation, and incorporated health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

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

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with funding from Efficiency Vermont. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region getting funding for towns to implement projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Bridgewater this past year, TRORC assisted the town with updating its Local Emergency Management Plan and has been working as project manager for the Sand Shed project. Staff assisted in the Better Roads grant application for 2024 to stabilize a section of streambank on Stevens Road. TRORC provided technical assistance to the Town of Bridgewater in interpreting ARPA regulations and evaluating eligibility of potential expenditures.

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

Respectfully submitted, Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard

Woodstock Recreation Center, INC.

The Woodstock Recreation Center (WRC) is 76 years old in 2023. There have been many positive changes over the years; I will give a brief timeline below:

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

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

The Bridgewater community is a vital part of what we offer here at the Woodstock Rec Center, with a total of 5 Bridgewater resident children signed up for our summer camp program over 9 weeks, in basketball, soccer, baseball, & lacrosse we have 43! total, and numerous families in our swim lesson, swim team, and pool membership program. For adults and teens, we have an average of 30 Bridgewater residents using our fitness center and many participating in Pickle Ball.

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

Current WRC Staff:

Gail Devine – Executive Director

Joel Carey – Assistant Director

Charlotte Caron – Office Administrator

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

Sincerely,

Gail Devine

Executive Director

Current Board members: Chair, –Emma Schmell- Vice, – Barry Mangan, Secretary, Dave Doubleday – Treasurer, Jim

Giller — board members at large: - Tom Emery -Denel McIntire .-Leo Lacroix

GREEN UP VERMONT

www.greenupvermont.org



Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged. Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023. Green Up Vermont initiatives are year-round for further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs. Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement.

Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns. Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org. Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

Windsor County Update
Assistant Judges Jack Anderson & Ellen Terie

County Happenings Fiscal Year 2022-2023

The calendar year 2022 has seen some significant changes in Windsor County; the most significant will have come to pass prior to your reading this; there will be two new Assistant Judges at the helm of the County Government, and a new Sheriff as well as of February 1, 2023. Judge Terie, who had served the County for eight years, decided to step down and pass the torch, and Judge Ricci, who served for over a year after Judge Anderson retired, is also stepping down. In their stead will be newly elected Assistant Judge Alison Johannesen of Taftsville, and former Assistant Judge David Singer of Hartland. Sheriff Ryan Palmer will be replacing Sheriff Michael Chamberlain who had served the County since 1998. Another change is that Windsor County will have a new Deputy Treasurer, as Dianne Bumps will also be stepping down. Pepper Tepperman who is the County Clerk, and Bruce Page who is the Superintendent of our two buildings (the Courthouse, and the County Building) are remaining in their posts. They are *all* to be thanked for their past, and continued years of dedicated service to the constituents of Windsor County.

Other happenings include a slow, cautious re-opening of the Courts to the public for in-person hearings. The Judiciary is aware that Covid is still amongst us, and thus, as of the writing of this report, in-person hearings are still intermittent- some of them are in person, and others are either remote, using Webex, or a hybrid combination. The HVAC system at the Windsor County Courthouse is still in the process of being upgraded to ensure the safety of litigants and staff.

The Windsor County Assistant Judges held the preliminary county budget meeting on December 14, 2022, and the final budget meeting was held January 18th, 2023. The County Budget for fiscal year 2023-24 had to be increased a bit due to the enormous spike in heating oil prices. I'm sure that doesn't come as a surprise to anyone who heats their residence with oil and/or propane. We are all hopeful that by the time a new budget needs to be crafted for the next fiscal year, heating prices will recede a bit so future budget increases can be kept at a minimum. There has also been some work at the County Building to adjust the heating system there. Additionally, the phone system and the Internet services at the County Building have been upgraded, at a *lower* cost! Increases in spending in all other areas have been kept to a minimum.

Another noteworthy occurrence that will take place in 2023 is that this will be the last year that Windsor County Towns will be making payments for the Courthouse Renovation Bond; the renovation to upgrade the Courthouse and make it handicap accessible was completed 2014. The Courthouse, located in the Shire town of Woodstock, serves the needs of the constituents of Windsor Count; it is a historic gem to be admired by all. Do drive by or visit to see what your tax dollars have accomplished!

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

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

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

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, staff responded to thousands of member questions and published guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2022, VLCT began offering additional government finance training and consulting services and launched the new Federal Funding Assistance Program (FFAP). FFAP offers communities advice on complying with federal rules surrounding pandemic funding, provides direction and insight on accessing billions of dollars in federal infrastructure funding, and provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law. The League provided training via webinars, onsite classes, and during the hallmark annual event, Town Fair, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. VLCT's Equity Committee also published an online equity toolkit that assists municipalities in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2022 includes securing \$45 million in funding to help municipalities make energy improvements in their buildings, securing \$250,000 for VLCT's Federal Funding Assistance Program, increasing Municipal Planning Grants to \$870,000, securing \$250,000 for the Vermont Office of Racial Equity to launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Program, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs**. The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also provides members with the option to purchase life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products at a competitive price. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

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

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

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

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

Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, VNH made 899 in-home visits to 32 residents. This included approximately \$7,712 in unreimbursed care to residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 491 home visits to 23 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services:** 390 home visits to 5 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Skilled Pediatric Care:** 18 home visits to 4 residents for well-baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

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

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

Sincerely,

Anthony Knox

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager



January 10, 2023

The Spectrum Teen Center
70 Amsden Way
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Dear Members of the Town of Bridgewater,

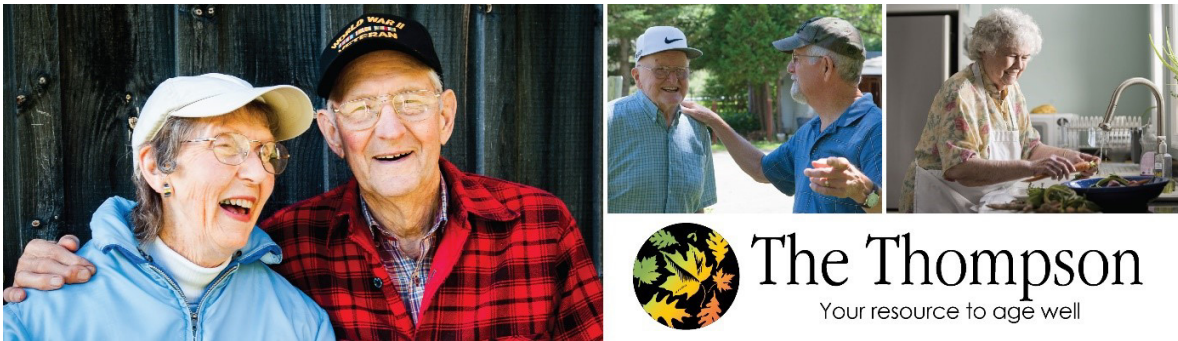
The Spectrum Teen Center would like to once again thank the town of Bridgewater for their generous support that we received last year. We are very grateful for the continued support we have received from you over the years.

The Spectrum Teen Center has been serving teens for 28 years in grades 7-12. Our program serves teens from the six sending towns that make up the Windsor Central Supervisory Union. We are under the umbrella of the WCSU.

In 2022, we provided over 15 FREE events for teens! We hosted outdoor pizza nights, art events at Artistree, movie nights at Pentangle and some local hikes. Thank you again for your support!

The Spectrum Teen Center Director
Heather Vonada

The Woodstock Area Council on Aging



Getting back to *normal* seemed to be the theme of our year, and what a rewarding year it has been! "You make our lives better" is a phrase that we hear often, and we're so thankful to know we help make aging in our communities better for so many.

A few highlights of the year include expanding our Aging at Home support program, Homesharing facilitation, a new chef and exciting updates to our menu, themed lunches and virtual travel, more rides provided, and many in-person events like mahjong, cribbage, writing and art classes, language tables, exercise classes, dinner programs, and holiday celebrations.

We also completed our Aging at Home community survey and newly updated five-year strategic plan that includes our exciting building expansion project that will help us keep up with the critical needs we are facing. Our region's demographics show that people over age 65 still represent the fastest-growing age group. With the anticipated growth of our older population expected to more than double in the 70 – 85+ age groups over the next 10 years, it is more important than ever to be successful in supporting our community members to age well. We plan to meet these growing needs, but need the support and continued input from each of the towns we serve in order to do so.

Home-delivered Meals on Wheels grew significantly this year, from just over 11,000 meals last year to nearly 18,000 meals this year. Our dining room was busy throughout the year and continues to be a welcoming and fun place for friends to gather and enjoy a delicious meal. The growth in our nutrition program along with ever increasing food and supply costs, followed by a significant 25% cut to our nutrition funding, creates even more need for your support.

Critical rides, free medical equipment, hundreds of referrals to services (caregivers, housekeepers, handymen, legal aid), and hundreds of opportunities for wellness and socialization were provided.

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

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

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

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

In the community of Bridgewater, we provided the following services during FY2022:

Weatherization: 2 households (2 people) received weatherization services. Tax Preparation: 1 household (1 person) received tax preparation services. Family Services: 7 households (11 people) received 20 services, (crisis resolution, financial counseling, nutrition information, forms assistance, referral to & assistance with accessing needed services)

Fuel & Utility Assistance: 3 households (5 people) received 3 assists for emergency fuel or assistance with utility disconnects.

Housing Assistance: 1 household (4 people) received assistance to obtain or remain in sustainable housing.

Emergency Rental Assistance: 5 households (8 people) received assistance to pay past-due rent or mortgage payments.

Thrift Store Vouchers: 1 household (2 people) received vouchers to obtain goods or clothing from SEVCA's Good Buy Thrift Stores to meet basic household needs at no cost.

The combined value of services provided for Bridgewater residents during 21-22 exceeded \$13,232.

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

Kevin Brennan Executive Director

91 Buck Drive, Westminster, Vermont 05158 802-722-4575 or 800-464-9951

Email: sevca@sevca.org Website: www.sevca.org



Annual Report to the Town of Bridgewater - January 2023

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

The Norman Williams Public Library is a non-profit corporation. It relies on funding from the Towns of Bridgewater and Woodstock (less than 40% of the library's budget) and the generosity of many donors. We also hold fundraising programs throughout the year. We have been forced to cancel our largest and most important annual fundraising event, the Ex Libris-Gala for 3 consecutive years. However, backed by the loyal generosity of our donors and the taxpayers of Woodstock and Bridgewater, the library has weathered the challenges of the past years, emerging as strong as ever.

This year we assessed the condition of our historic building and developed a capital budget for maintenance and improvements needed in coming years. Always with an eye toward safety we installed a handrail on the lower steps of the outside entrance and replaced a cracked and uneven concrete path at the building entrance with a beautiful new stone walkway. We received a grant from the State of Vermont to assist with the now completed renovation of our building's historic windows.

All library programs are offered free of charge. We adapted our regular services in response to COVID-19, installing a new Wi-Fi access point to broadcast our free internet access outside the building. Our library signal is now accessible on the library lawn, parking lot and on the Village Green. This service has proven invaluable to patrons with slower or less consistent home internet connectivity. During the pandemic, we significantly expanded our online services, including e-learning courses, digital apps, audiobooks, eBooks, and a movie-streaming service, and continue to offer many of these popular services.

Our children's librarians provide weekly Storytime's for preschoolers, and they continue to hold monthly book discussion groups for older children. We are back to offering programs and services at the same rate as we were prior to the pandemic and attendance is very strong. Our weekly newsletter and website now include both information on our in-person programs as well as wonderful online resources and include links for our always popular virtual programming.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Clare McFarland, Library Director



Detailed Report to the Town of Bridgewater from SENIOR SOLUTIONS

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

Our mission and vision have guided us throughout the COVID crisis. All our programs except group wellness and group dining activities have remained operational subject to reasonable precautions. Throughout this public health emergency, we expanded our cohort of volunteers helping people with groceries, food distributions and other needs. We continue to collaborate closely with local aging-in-place, Cares and Mutual Aid groups to help assure needs are being met in local communities.

Supporting caregivers is an important part of our work. We partner with local and statewide organizations to promote and operate programs that provide financial resources, rest, and relief for those taking care of dementia patients and older adults with serious health conditions. We encourage counseling for caregivers and host memory cafes where caregivers and their loved ones can relax and socialize in a safe and supportive setting. This year, Senior Solutions obtained a Public Health AmeriCorps grant to train and support volunteers who will provide respite to families caring for individuals with conditions such as Parkinson's Disease and dementia.

As we all know, the population of older adults in Vermont is increasing, as are the costs of goods and services across the board. For Senior Solutions, this means that both the cost of each service and the total number of people requesting each service is going up. Although we continually seek funding from new sources, financial support from the towns we serve is critical to enabling us to do more for the older Vermonters we serve.

We work to develop programs to meet evolving interests and needs. Our Friendly Visitor program continues to provide older Vermonters with companionship and assistance with meal preparation, light housekeeping, errands, and more—all of which are often unmet needs of families caring for loved ones with serious health conditions. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches older veterans with volunteers who are also veterans.

This past year, we trained volunteer instructors in Tai Chi for falls prevention. We offered the HomeMeds program that screens older adults for medication problems such as drug interactions or harmful side effects. We provided financial support for training volunteers interested in teaching classes in their community or starting new evidence-based wellness programs. Wellness programs remain available to anyone 60 and over in Bridgewater and throughout our service area of greater Windsor and Windham counties.

This is a summary of services provided to Bridgewater residents in the last year (7/1/2021-6/30/2022).

Information and Assistance: 22 Calls or Office Visits. Our Helpline (1-802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376 toll-free) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-

solve, plan, locate resources, and obtain assistance with benefits. We also provide assistance completing applications. Callers were assisted with applying for benefits, health insurance

problems, housing needs, fuel assistance, and many other services. Extensive resources are also on our website at www.seniorsolutionsVT.org.

Medicare Assistance: Five (5) Bridgewater residents received assistance with Medicare issues through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and assistance in enrolling in Part D or choosing a drug plan.

In-Home Social Services: We provided ten (10) seniors with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 77.75 hours) to enable them to remain living safely in their homes. Often minimal services can prevent nursing home placement. A case manager works with adults in their home to create and monitor a plan of care, centered on the individual's personal values and preferences. Many people would not be able to remain in their homes if not for these services. Senior Solutions also investigates reports of self-neglect and assists those facing challenges of abuse, neglect, or exploitation using a community collaboration approach.

Nutrition services and programs: 23 residents received 2,682 Meals on Wheels provided by The Thompson Center. We financially supported these home-delivered meals. We have also supported community meals at The Thompson Center and other meal sites in our region, but please note that most community senior meal sites have been closed since the advent of COVID-19.

Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds that we provide to local organizations to help them operate senior meals programs and provide food safety, quality monitoring and oversight. However, these funds do not cover the full cost of providing meals, so local meal sites must seek additional funding. Senior Solutions does not use town funding to support the senior meals program and does not benefit from any funds given by the town to support local Meals on Wheels. Senior Solutions provides the services of a registered dietician to older adults and meal sites. Assistance is also provided with applications for the 3SquaresVT (food stamp) program.

Volunteer Visitors: Senior Solutions provides volunteers who serve isolated older Vermonters through home visits, telephone reassurance, and help with shopping and other errands. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

Caregiver Respite: We provide respite assistance through grants for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia or other chronic diseases.

Transportation: Senior Solutions provides financial support and collaborates with local and regional transit providers to support transportation services for older Vermonters, that may include a van, a taxi, or a volunteer driver. Special arrangements can be made for individuals without Medicaid who require medical transportation.

Special Assistance: Senior Solutions provides flexible funds that can help people with one-time needs when no other program is available.

Other Services: Senior Solutions supports a variety of other services including health, wellness and fall prevention programs, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, and home-based mental health services.

Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Bridgewater.

Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director



WISE FY22 Bridgewater Annual Report

Mission Statement:

WISE leads the Upper Valley to end gender-based violence through survivor-centered advocacy, prevention, education, and mobilization for social change.

Since 1971, WISE has provided crisis advocacy and support for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking within 23 Upper Valley communities including Bridgewater. WISE offers a confidential and free 24-hour crisis line, support groups and workshops, emergency shelter, safety planning and accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, court houses and other social service agencies. WISE services are available to every resident, and we strive to meet the needs of every individual how and when is best for them. This may mean meeting survivors at police stations to secure emergency protective orders or going to the emergency department and holding their hands while evidence of violent crimes is collected. It may mean helping survivors navigate a housing crisis, or it may be listening to a survivor share their experiences over the phone in the middle of the night.

In FY22 (7/1/21-6/30/22), WISE provided advocacy and other critical support services to a total of 1434 people, 69% accessed WISE services for the first time. Among the advocacy responses sought from WISE, safety planning, legal advocacy, and crisis counseling were the most common.

WISE advocates are available every hour, every day at 866-348-WISE, or chat online at wiseuv.org.

Program Center · 38 Bank Street · Lebanon, NH 03766
every hour, every day · 866-348-WISE
tel: 603-448-5922 · fax: 603-448-2799 · www.wiseuv.org



The Ottauquechee Health Foundation respectfully submits this allocation request for funding from the town of Bridgewater for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Request for Support from the Town of Bridgewater (\$1500):

The Ottauquechee Health Foundation respectfully requests support in the amount of \$1500 to be used to support our Good Neighbor Grants program for 2023-24.

Who We Are:

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

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

OHF's backbone programs, Good Neighbor and Homecare Grants continue to be utilized extensively by those in need. These programs accommodate the increased and diverse needs of the communities OHF serves. Year-to-date, the foundation has received 206 grant inquiries totaling over \$247,000 in funding requests from residents of its nine core towns.

About OHF's Good Neighbor Grant (GNG) program

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

In 2022, OHF provided 27 grants to Bridgewater residents totaling over \$27,000. This equates to approximately 17% of our overall granting budget. Your support is invaluable to us and allows us to serve the Bridgewater Community better. Thank you!

Together we can indeed create stronger and healthier communities.
Thank you for your review and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Tayo Kirchhof
Executive Director
Ottauquechee Health Foundation
802-457-4188
| www.ohfvt.org | director@ohfvt.org
PO Box 784
30 Pleasant Street, Woodstock, VT 05091



White River Junction Local Health Office

118 Prospect St., Suite 300

White River Junction, Vermont

Toll free: 888-253-8799 | Main line: 802-295-8820

E-mail: AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

Local Health Report for BRIDGEWATER

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is in White River Junction at the address and phone number above. We provide a wide range of resources and services to 22 Vermont towns of the Upper Valley to promote health and wellness for all Vermonters. For example, in 2022 we:

Supported health for everyone in the community: We worked on a variety of projects and programs in partnership with schools, worksites, town offices, and local providers. Though we did not serve individuals and families in our office due to COVID, we look forward to in-person services starting in 2023. Our focus is on health equity because all people should have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: We served more than 700 residents of our district with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program including 52 percent of infants and children under 5 on Medicaid in Bridgewater. WIC provides individual nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables.

Ensured emergency preparedness: We worked with local partners, including schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel for an effective pandemic response and to be sure we are prepared to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during any future public health emergency.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In our district we responded to 74 reports of COVID-19 in congregate care settings including 21 outbreaks and 132 reports of COVID-19 in schools. In collaboration with community partners, we hosted 46 COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the district. In addition to COVID-19 we also investigated enteric and tickborne diseases and delivered presentations about preventing tickborne illnesses to 6 area senior centers.

Student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 58 percent of students in Windsor County agree or strongly agree that they “believe they matter to people in their community.” Regionally, we see efforts like mentoring and afterschool enrichment programs helping to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Substance misuse and abuse: Regional substance abuse prevention consultants worked with community groups, schools, human service agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement.

Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction>

Join us on www.facebook.com/vdhwrij/

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law at six months of age.** By statute, unlicensed dogs can be confiscated. Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont, and it IS deadly.

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 still needs immediate medical attention}.
3. Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
4. Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For a VSNIP Application and a List of Participating Offices, send a 10" SASE: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if your request is for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, please mail it back. If approved, you will receive a Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pays the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog licensing. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit, or you will be charged for treatment. Pain medication is highly recommended **after** the surgery but would be your responsibility. It is also wise to buy an "E" collar to avoid having sutures pulled out. These are the right choices!

Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. **These altruistic veterinarians are the backbone of the program!** If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they have made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the routine means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIP (1-844-448-7647)

**JOAN JENNE MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Balance July 1, 2021		\$788.17
----------------------	--	----------

Interest Earned	\$0.12	
CD Interest	\$262.50	
Donations	\$0.00	
Withdrawal from CD	\$0.00	
Total Receipts	\$262.62	\$262.62
		\$1,050.79

Disbursements	
21/22 Scholarships	\$600.00

Balance Jun 30, 2022	\$450.79
----------------------	----------

Assets:

Certificate of Deposit	\$25,000.00
1.05% Int.	

Joan Jenne Memorial Scholarship Committee Members
Greg Jenne
Nancy Robinson
Justin Wardwell

**WARNING FOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WINDSOR CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARCH 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District, comprising the voters of the Towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock, are hereby **WARNED** and **NOTIFIED** to **VOTE**, in accordance with H.42 of the 2023 Legislative Session and signed by the Governor on January, 25, 2023, by **AUSTRALIAN BALLOT** either via mail as provided by their respective Town Clerk or at their respective Town polling places hereinafter named for the above-referenced towns on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**, during the polling hours noted below.

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

Barnard Town Hall located at 274 Barnard Road, Barnard, VT 10:00AM- 7:00PM
Bridgewater Town Clerk's Office located at 45 Southgate Loop, Bridgewater, VT 8:00AM-7:00PM
Killington Town Hall located at 2706 River Road, Killington, VT 7:00AM-7:00PM
Woodstock Town Hall located at 31 the Green, Woodstock VT 7:00AM- 7:00PM
Plymouth Municipal Building located at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, VT 10:00AM-7:00PM
Pomfret Town Office located at 5218 Pomfret Road, North Pomfret, VT 8:30AM-7:00PM
Reading Town Hall located at 799 VT-106, Reading, VT 7:00AM-7:00PM

ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT- MARCH 7, 2023

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

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend **Twenty-Five Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Forty-Eight Dollars (\$25,836,048)**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$23,135 per equalized pupil.

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

ARTICLE 4: To elect a Treasurer who shall enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor is elected and qualified.

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

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

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

ARTICLE 6: To fix the salary for District Treasurer in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 2023-2024.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters authorize the financing of the design, bidding, permitting, and document development for the proposed new middle/high school in an amount not to exceed **One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,650,000)**, subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters authorize public school building improvements to convert the steam heating system to a forced hot water heating system at the Woodstock Union Middle High School in an amount not to exceed **One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000)**, subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters authorize public school building improvements to replace the roof and implement an energy conservation project at the Killington Elementary School in an amount not to exceed **One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,750,000)**, subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, to be financed over a period not to exceed five (5) years?

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

The legal voters of the Windsor Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 26th day of January 2023 in Woodstock, Vermont.

Windsor Central Unified Union Board of School Directors

Keri Bristow, Chair
Bryce Sammel, Director
Elliot Rubin, MD, Director
Lara Bowers, Director
Lydia Locke, Director
Anna Sessa, Director
Adam Ameele, Director
Todd Ulman, Director
Patricia (P.J) Eames, Director

Ben Ford, Vice Chair/Clerk
Carin Ewing Park, Director
Jay Moore, Director
Bob Crean, Director
Katie Reed, Director
Jim Haff, Director
Matt Stout, Director
Sam DiNatale, Director

WCSU Superintendent's Report

by Superintendent Sherry Sousa

What is remarkable about this school year is how unremarkable it is. After more than 2 years of being impacted by Covid, we were able to return to school without the dark cloud of Covid. While students and educators are forever changed, their desire to be in school together, to return to our rituals and annual events, and to invite parents back into our classrooms has brought great joy to all.

Educators' efforts continue to focus on the social and emotional needs of students, as their behavioral presentation is much different than in prior years. In addition, teachers and administrators made a significant commitment to alleviate inequities in academic achievement with yearlong professional development in literacy through LETRS training, and mathematics by forming agreements on math practices and instruction. If we think of addressing learning gaps through math and literacy best practices as a stool, the third leg is maximizing our daily schedule. The Leadership Team will review how we distribute time and resources with a national expert so that a students' day has the highest probability of meeting their needs and engaging their minds.

Our school buildings also require great attention as we witness the decline of our largest and one of our oldest schools. Woodstock Union Middle and High Schools' building continues to have significant systems challenges. The heating system failed on multiple days last winter and temporary adjustments were made. The sewage pumping station will be replaced next year, and the other major operations are monitored daily. As we see the building age, the Leadership Team has set as a priority to support the goal of a new facility for WUHS/MS.

Finally, it is important to note the change of name for the Windsor Central Unified Union School District and the Windsor Central Supervisory Union in July of 2023. After great efforts to gather input from community members and students, the Board supported the recommendation of the Configuration and Enrollment Working Group to change the district's name to the Mountain Views School District, with the supervisory union becoming the Mountain View Supervisory Union. The students who presented this recommendation noted that Mountain Views originated from a Killington Elementary student, is politically and socially neutral, is a unique district name in Vermont, is inclusive of all towns in our district, and is accurately representative of our geography.

WUHSMS Principal's Report

by Principal Garon Smail

I am so grateful to share with you some of the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School from the 2021-22 school year. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to this community for supporting our school.

We offer personalized, authentic, and student-driven learning experiences for our students. During the 2021-22 school year, our enrollment was 486 students in grades 7-12. To meet student needs associated with the impacts of the pandemic, we added a social-emotional learning specialist to the faculty and small group academic support. At the middle school level, we created a club and activity program providing students with more choices and opportunities to interact and build a middle school identity. The eighth-grade team created an end-of-the-year overnight experience celebrating students transitioning to high school. At the high school level, we continued to enhance our academic program by expanding offerings including the AP program, with 105 students taking 209 AP exams, STEM and design classes, and student-designed experiences via the Center for Community Connections, C3.

We launched teacher initiatives including the C.R.A.F.T. program, which integrates science, technology, and agriculture to promote deep learning about climate resiliency. The C3 Department created the Trailblazer Series, which hosted presentations and workshops by alums for current students. The modern and classical language department partnered with the international organization Soliya allowing students to engage in cross-cultural virtual dialogues with peers in Tunisia and Lebanon.

We are proud to recognize achievements and awards earned by members of our school community. The Social Action Club hosted the Leadership Summit for Social Justice. Participants considered barriers to inclusion experienced by students at WUHSMS, reviewed a draft of the WCSU proposed Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Education Policy, and inspired each other to take action for positive change. The Vermont Humanities Council awarded librarian Susan Piccoli the Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award. Students had their work published in the VT Digger and Vermont Standard, broadcast on Vermont PBS, displayed in regional art galleries, and recognized by organizations including the University of Vermont Mathematics Department, American Junior Academy of Science, Future Business Leaders of America, and Vermont Holocaust Memorial.

We saw energy and enthusiasm in athletics and extracurricular activities with more than 70% of students participating and our biggest turnout of fans and audiences in recent memory. The Yoh Players performed four amazing shows, the Unified Sports soccer team won gold at the state tournament, and the girls' ice hockey team made school history by winning the state championship!

I am deeply grateful for the support of our generous community, and I look forward to another successful year at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School

WCSU & WCUUSD Board of Directors Report

by Chair Keri Bristow and Vice Chair Ben Ford

2022 has been a year of resilience, change and achievement for our school district. In this report to our communities, we present an overview of the past year.

First, we are proud of student-led efforts to provide a new name for the district. As part of the Configuration and Enrollment Growth Working Group, our student representatives Owen Courcsey and Aiden Keough-Vella completed a project to find a name emblematic of our identity. After consulting with a team from Dartmouth's Tuck Business School and considering a number of names, the Working Group proposed a particularly apt suggestion submitted by students at Killington Elementary School, the "Mountain Views School District." Unanimously accepted by the School Board, it is the culmination of 18 months of information gathering, discussion, and public input.

Several building projects were advanced in 2022 to invest in the conditions of our schools. Led by District Buildings & Grounds Manager Joe Rigoli and Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair Jim Haff, these projects included:

- Completion of renovations to the Prosper Valley School to facilitate its continued use by fifth and sixth grade students;
- Installation of solar panels on the roofs of Prosper Valley, Woodstock, and Reading Elementary Schools to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Prosper Valley and Woodstock received new roofs prior to solar panels being installed.
- Our energy conservation projects this year included: new propane boilers in Reading, Killington, Barnard, and Prosper Valley Elementary Schools. New propane burners in the Woodstock Elementary School. District wide building control systems for improved energy efficiency, new windows in part of Woodstock Elementary, LED lighting in all buildings, low flow plumbing fixtures and new/additional weather stripping and insulation in all buildings.
- Prosper Valley, Barnard, and Woodstock Elementary had their underground oil storage tanks removed and remediated as needed. Woodstock Elementary received a new parking lot after the oil tank under its parking lot was removed.
- Prosper Valley and Reading Elementary had the buildings' exterior painted and repaired as needed. Prosper Valley also received a completely new fire alarm system with addressable detection and a voice evacuation system.

The effort to replace our Middle School and High School buildings also took new direction and made significant progress in the past year. Recognizing the need for additional funding sources beyond our communities' taxpayers, the New Build Working Group enlisted help from Marlena McNamee, who has spent her career in public school fundraising. The Working Group has launched a fundraising campaign entitled "Breaking New Ground", producing a video (found on the WCSU website at <https://www.wcsu.net/breaking-new-ground>), to show the critical need of the project. In its early stages, the campaign has raised nearly \$3M to reduce tax impacts and to help achieve project sustainability goals. In 2023, district communities will be asked to approve funding for hiring a Construction Manager, completing the permitting process, and taking other steps leading to a school bond vote in 2024.

In a win for the district and the environment, Director of Finance and Operations Jim Fenn secured \$1.2M in competitive grant funding from the US EPA's Clean School Bus Program, which will put three all-electric school buses into service for our district next school year. Our school bus provider Butler Bus partnered with WCUUSD to be awarded this grant. We look forward to continuing working toward more sustainable practices.

We continue to see changes to our enrollment patterns, with an increase in demand for Public PreK access as more and more working families seek to enroll young children in our elementary schools. To meet this demand, three new PreK classrooms were added between WES and Killington Elementary School. Overall, school enrollment was impacted by the graduation of a very large senior class in the spring as compared to a smaller grade 7 class entering the Middle School.

In response to COVID-19 challenges, a new leadership model was implemented at the Middle School and High School this fall with a new Assistant Principal and an additional social and emotional coach. Staff and students report that it has made many positive changes in the school community as we returned to full time in-person learning and dealt with the social and emotional aspects of the pandemic.

The Policy Committee was quite active this year in proposing policy revisions and new policies. In May, a new policy “Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity in Education” was approved by the school board following more than two years of consultation, revision, and public input. Currently the faculty and staff are working on implementing the policy and what it looks like at the school level.

Throughout this year several new members have joined the School Board as others stepped down. We thank all of our communities and their representatives for their service to the School Board and for your efforts to bring thoughtful leadership to our schools. With 18 members representing 7 communities, we take particular pride in being recognized by the Vermont School Board Association, which awarded the 2022 Award for Exceptional School Board Leadership to the WCCUSD Board this fall. The Board was recognized for its responsiveness to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstration of leadership within the school community, among other achievements consistent with our Strategic Plan Goals.

School Board work is challenging, complex and gratifying. We appreciate public attendance at our meetings, as well as opportunities to talk with community members about concerns. As we look to the future, we are committed to moving all of our students and schools forward educationally, with social and emotional needs being addressed one child at a time. We thank you for your continued support of our schools.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING

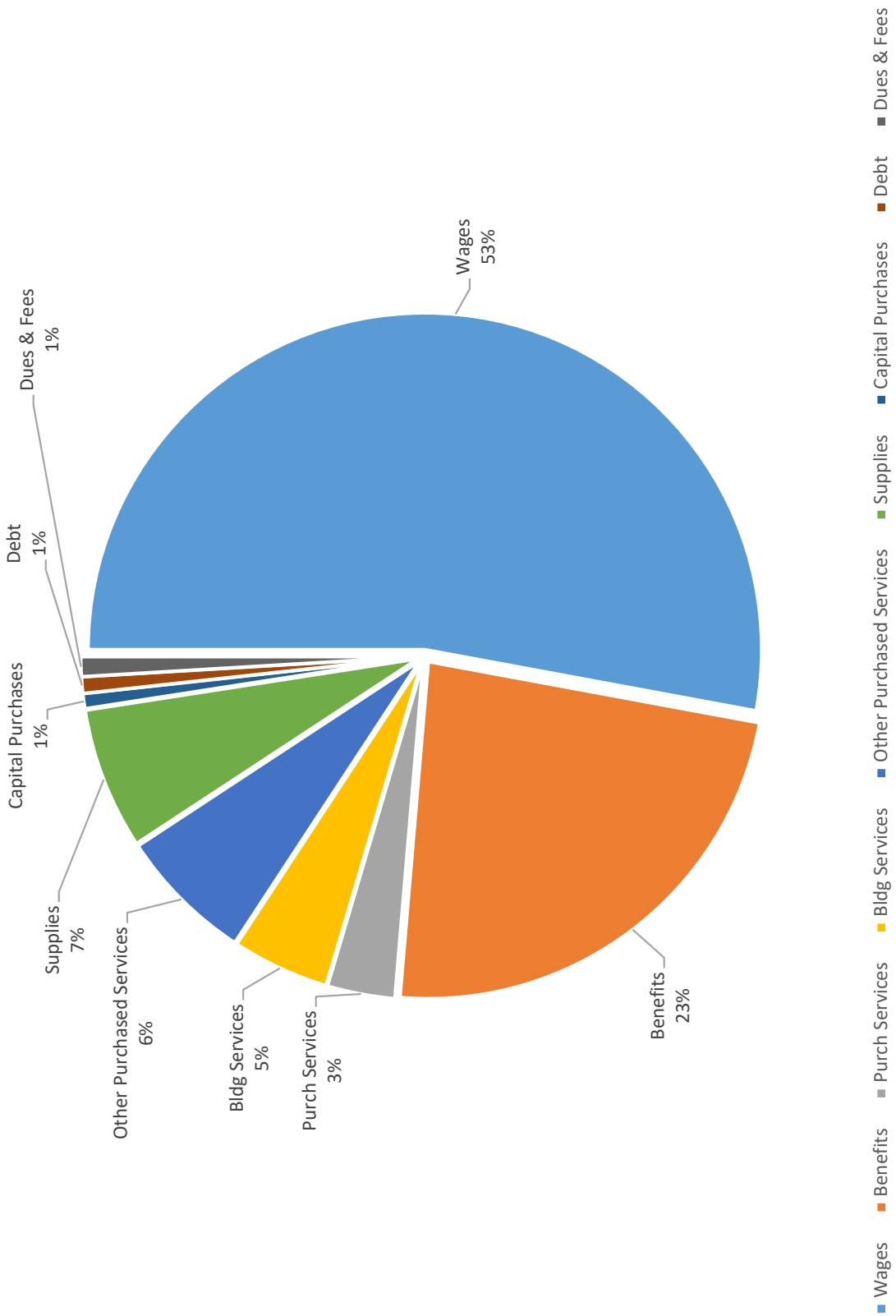
The legal voters of Windsor Central Unified Union School District are warned and notified that an **Informational Hearing** will be held at the Woodstock Union Middle and High School library on **Thursday, March 2, 2022**, commencing at **6:30 P.M.**, “to discuss the Australian Ballot articles of the 2023 Annual Unified Union District Meeting Warning”. Additionally, the public Informational Hearing will be accessible through electronic means, link can be found on the WCSU website at www.wcsu.net

Financial details for:

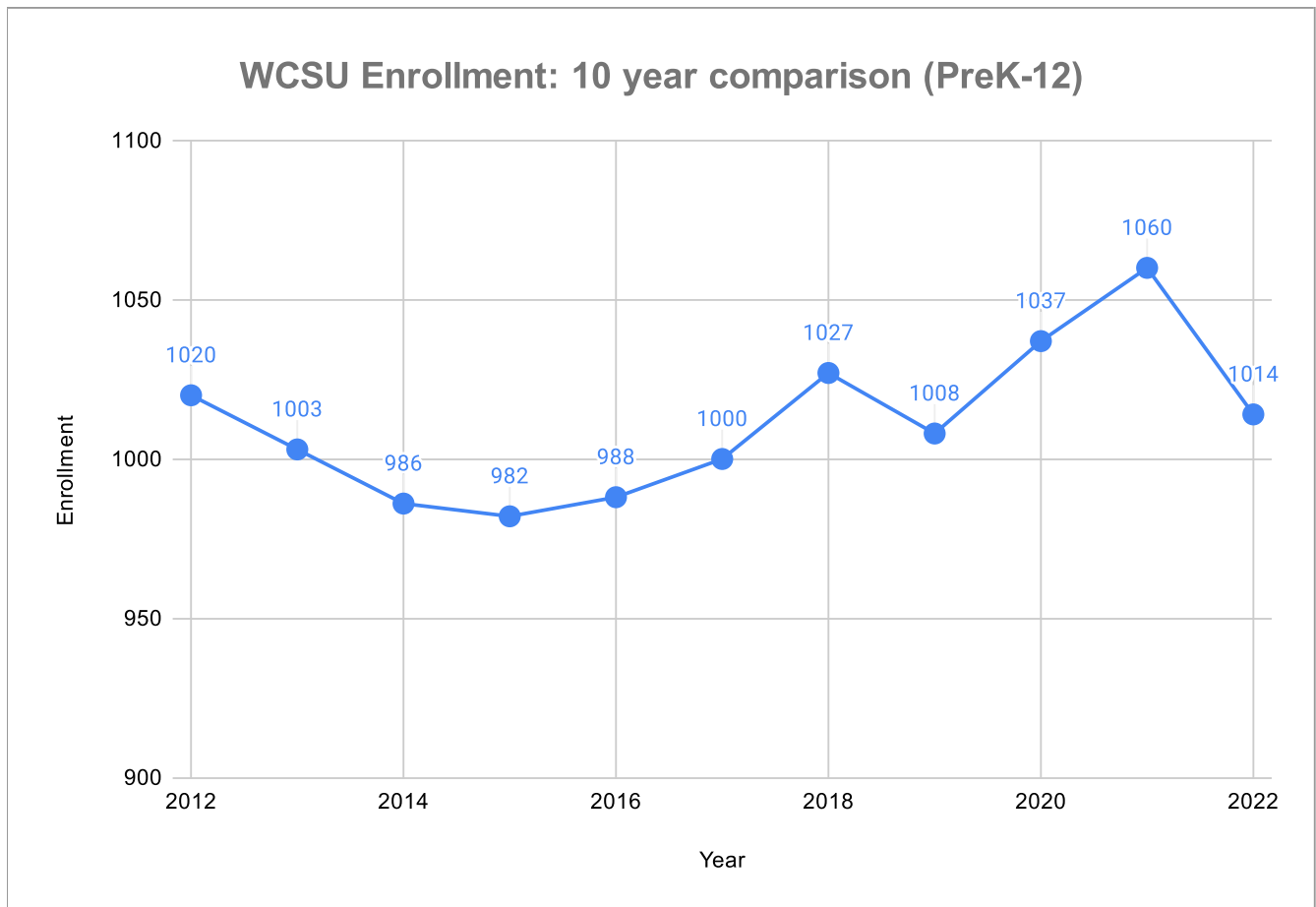
- the Windsor Central Supervisory Union, and
- the Windsor Central Unified Union School District

budgets will be posted on our website at **www.wcsu.net** as documents become available.

WCUUSD FY24 Budget by Object Code



Windsor Central Supervisory Union													
Enrollment Report as of October 31, 2022													
Elementary School Enrollment	On-Site PreK	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total PreK-6				
Barnard Academy	19	6	5	7	15	5	10	5	72				
Killington Elementary School	25	9	17	8	20	12	11	9	111				
Reading Elementary School	7	6	4	3	8	5			33				
The Prosper Valley School							47	45	92				
Woodstock Elementary School	64	27	35	49	47	32	0	2	256				
TOTAL ELEMENTARY	115	48	61	67	90	54	68	61	564				
Secondary School Enrollment -WUHSMS													
Grade 7	72	MS TOTAL 141		WCUUSD resident students = 923 Tuition students from sending towns = 89 Act 129 VT High School Choice = 2 State Placed = 1									
Grade 8	69												
Grade 9	87	HS TOTAL 309											
Grade 10	77												
Grade 11	83												
Grade 12	62												
TOTAL SECONDARY	450	TOTAL WCSU ENROLLMENT							1014				



Killington Elementary School Principal's Report

by Principal Mary Guggenberger

The 2021-2022 school year was shaped by a mindset to maintain and grow programs to best meet the needs of the KES school community. Current enrollment for grades Prekindergarten through grade six is 118 with students coming from within the school district and from Pittsfield.

KES increased capacity in prekindergarten by adding another teacher in order to meet the growing needs of the community. KES now has two classrooms of prekindergarten students who are eager to learn foundational skills socially, emotionally and academically.

Parents and Educators Aligned for Killington Students (PEAKS) continued their mission to support the playground expansion project. During the summer of 2022, excavation work and landscaping were completed in order to install the anticipated embankment slide. KES and PEAKS look forward to finalizing the multiple phases of the playground and recognizing the numerous donors who contributed to make this project possible.

KES continues to promote a multitude of educational opportunities for learning including: Instrumental Music Lessons and Band, Four Winds Nature Program, Student Leadership, Starbase, Trailblazers Ski Program, Literature Lunch Club, and writing and art contests. KES partners with the Town of Killington to offer a state-licensed after school program available to PreK - 6 students Monday through Friday, 3 PM - 5:30 PM, allowing qualifying families to apply for subsidized payments for the program.

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

The Prosper Valley School Principal's Report

by Principal Aaron Cinquemani

The 2022-2023 school year kicked off with great energy and anticipation as a new class of 47 5th graders arrived and became TPVS Dragons. This year we had a total of 94 5th and 6th grade students.

Our very active Student Advisory collaborated with the entire student population to create the first TPVS Dragons Community Contract.

Dragons believe in:

- ↪ Being Safe, Physically, Verbally, Emotionally
- ↪ Being “Kempathetic”: Kind, Empathetic
- ↪ Being Patient, With Self, With Others

We continue to focus our programming on ensuring a nature or place-based context for all academic and social curriculum goals. To help realize this vision, staff and students have access to the Horizons Observatory, greenhouse, sugar shack, the hiking trails, and both Barnard Brook and Cloudland Brook, which are on our campus. To bolster and add to our programming, TPVS sought a grant that allowed us to install both an outdoor and indoor challenge course. The challenge course consists of a variety of low and high ropes course elements designed to directly engage students in collaborative problem solving, teamwork, strategy, and resilience.

This past summer the exterior of TPVS received a new coat of paint and solar panels were installed on the roof.

While it appeared that the pandemic was in the rear view mirror, we continued to be vigilant in our health and safety protocols by ensuring both staff and students stayed home when sick. To ensure a safe and healthy work and learning environment, we thank all TPVS families and community members for joining us in this endeavor. We are blessed to have such an involved and supportive learning community.

Go Dragons!

Woodstock Elementary School Principal's Report

by Principal Maggie Mills

During the 2021-2022 school year, there were 251 PreK-4 students enrolled at Woodstock Elementary. This was the first year that Woodstock Elementary operated as a PreK-4 school, with our students in grades 5-6 attending the reopened Prosper Valley School in Pomfret. As a result of the shift in configuration for WES, the school was able to expand its PreK program to house three PreK classes, for a total of 54 PreK students! Following work and input from staff and families over the summer and fall of 2021, WES adopted a new mission: *to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging*, as well as a new vision statement: *cultivating compassionate, empowered learners*. The 2022-2023 school year opened with an enrollment of 257 students in grades PreK-4. At the close of the 2022-2023 school year, we will say goodbye to our retiring 2nd grade teacher, the beloved Christine Halik.

Here are some programmatic highlights for the 2021-2022 school year:

- In the fall of 2021, WES was able to resume mixing students across classrooms and grade levels for intervention and enrichment opportunities beyond their homeroom classes.
- Typical in-person art, music, STEM, and PE classes resumed in person for grades K-4.
- Before the snow flew, WES participated in the VT DOT Name a Snowplow program. Penguin the Plow, driven by a WES grandparent, visited in November.
- December was “respect and celebrate differences month” at WES. Our school-wide celebration theme was the uniqueness of each snowflake, and families shared their various winter holidays and traditions via a slideshow.
- In the spring, our 4th grade students partnered with Northern Stage’s BridgeUp theater program to produce an entertaining rendition of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*.
- Parents and guardians were thrilled to begin volunteering in the school again in the winter and spring. We had many volunteers turn out for our book fair, teacher appreciation luncheon, and field day. We had missed the active involvement of parents within the school during the pandemic restrictions, and the 2022-2023 school year is allowing for further rebuilding of relationships.
- Throughout the limited opportunities of 2020-2021, the dedicated members of the WES PTO played an integral role in sponsoring projects including the annual bake sale, assisting with the book fair, and coordinating teacher appreciation week.

Thank you as always to our broader community for your support and commitment to our children.

FYI
- Phone Numbers –

Town Office (802) 672-3334

Town Office Fax (802) 672-5395

Town Highway Garage (802) 672-5379

Health Officer-Corey Solitaire (210) 243-9573

Bridgewater Corners Post Office (802) 672-5345

Bridgewater Village Post Office (802) 672-5166

Town Fire Warden – Duncan Brettell (802) 672-8096 – Cell (802)291-2466

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

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Fire, Police, Ambulance 911

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

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

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
WHT RIV JCT, VT
PERMIT NO. 73

**Town Meeting Day - March 7, 2023
Location: Fire Station
28 Southgate Loop
9:00 A.M.**