

LEICESTER, VERMONT 2017 TOWN REPORT

January 2017 – December 2017

**TOWN MEETING: MONDAY,
MARCH 5, 2018 at 7:00PM**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU



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

TOWN INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

(802) 247-5961 x 3
LEICESTERV.T@COMCAST.NET

Monday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Other times by appointment

AUDITORS

LEICESTERAUDITORS@COMCAST.NET

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

(802) 247-5961 x 2
LEICESTERLISTERS@COMCAST.NET

Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

(802) 247-5961 x 1
LEICESTERZONING@COMCAST.NET

Monday 9:00am - 12:00pm

RECYCLING: 1st & 3rd Saturday of month 09:00am - 12:00pm at Town Garage

REGULAR MEETINGS

Held at Town Office

SELECTBOARD

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

ZONING BOARD

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

CEMETERY COMMITTEE (Apr - Oct)

2nd Thursday of month at 6:30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

(AS OF 1/1/2018)

Julie Delphia	Town Clerk/Treasurer	247-5961	Beth Ripley	Del. Tax Collector	247-0075
Diane Benware	Selectboard Chair	247-3786	Jeff McDonough	1 st Constable	247-5212
Tom Barker	Selectboard Member	247-3160	Mike Rakowitz	2 nd Constable	247-3281
Brad Lawes	Selectboard Member	465-8065	Ricky Nicklaw	Fire Warden	247-8357
John Rouse	Selectboard Member	247-3135	Diane Benware	Health Officer	247-3786
Ron Fiske	Selectboard Member	247-4856	Mary Anne Sullivan	Zoning Admin	247-5961
Arlan Pidgeon	Road Foreman	247-6361	John Chandler	Animal Control	345-8673
Brad Lawes	Road Commissioner	465-8065			
Dianne Harvey	Assessor Assistant	247-5961			

A **Drop Box** is located under the bulletin board on the front of the Town Office. Payments and correspondence may be placed in the **Drop Box** after office hours.

44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733 Tel: (802) 247-5961 WWW.LEICESTERV.T.ORG

FRONT COVER: Leicester-Whiting Road *Photo by Julie Delphia*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN INFORMATION	FRONT COVER
CHANGES TO THE TOWN REPORT	1
LEICESTER TOWN OFFICIALS	2
LEICESTER TOWN WARNING	3
NOTICE TO VOTERS	4
LEICESTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY	5
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED	6
BUDGET	7
COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT	14
AUDITORS' REPORT	14
RESTRICTED FUNDS	15
HELP WANTED	15
COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES	16
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT	16
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S POLICY	16
DELINQUENT TAX LIST	17
GRANT SPENDING	17
SELECTBOARD REPORT	18
ROADS MAINTENANCE POLICY	19
DATES TO REMEMBER	19
CLERK & TREASURER REPORT	20
DOG SUMMARY	21
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT	21
NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS	21
FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT	21
FIRE CHIEF ENGINEER REPORT	21
LISTER'S REPORT	22
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	23
CEMETERY REPORT	23
HEALTH OFFICER REPORT	23
VITAL STATISTICS	24
LEICESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY	24
2017 TOWN MEETING OVERVIEW	25
ADDISON COUNTY COURT DIVERSION	27
ADDISON COUNTY HOME HEALTH	27
ADDISON COUNTY PARENT/CHILD CENTER	27
ADDISON COUNTY READERS	28
ACRPC	28
ACTR	30
AGE WELL FORMERLY CVAA	30
AMERICAN RED CROSS	31
BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	31
BLSG INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT	33
COUNCELING SERVICE OF ADDISON COUNTY	34
ELDERLY SERVICES	34
FRONT PORCH FORUM	35
GREEN UP VERMONT	35
HOPE (ACCAG)	36
HOSPICE VOLUNTEER SERVICES	36
JOHN W. GRAHAM EMERGENCY SHELTER	37
LAKE DUNMORE FERN LAKE ASSOCIATION	37
OTTER CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES	38
OPEN DOOR CLINIC	39
RSVP	39
RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT-CHILD CENTER	40
VERMONT ADULT LEARNING	40
VERMONT CARES	41
VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING	41
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT	42
VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE	43
WOMENSAFE	43
 <u>OVUUSD SCHOOL REPORTS</u> 	
RNESU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	44
RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION	45
OV UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT	46
NOTES	47

CHANGES TO THE TOWN REPORT

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

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

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

LEICESTER TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Term Expires

Auditors

Dot D'Avignon	March 2020
Deb Miner	March 2018
Donna Pidgeon	March 2019

Delinquent Tax Collector

Elizabeth Ripley	March 2018
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Justices of the Peace

Cheryl Morrison	February 2019
Diane Benware	February 2019
Peg Oliver	February 2019
Thomas Barker	February 2019
Greg Bernhardt	February 2019

Moderator

Richard Reed	March 2018
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Town Agent & Grand Juror

Mike Rakowitz	March 2018
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Town Clerk

Julie Delphia	March 2020
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Town Treasurer

Julie Delphia	March 2020
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Selectboard

Diane Benware, Chair	March 2019
Ron Fiske	March 2018
Brad Lawes	March 2018
John Rouse	March 2020
Thomas Barker	March 2019

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS Term Expires

Administrative Assistant to the Assessor

Dianne Harvey	Hired
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Cemetery Sexton

Donna Pidgeon	March 2018
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Emergency Management Coordinator

John Rouse	May 2018
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Energy Coordinator

Jeremy Gildrien	May 2018
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First Constable

Jeff McDonough	March 2018
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Forest Fire Warden

Richard C. Nicklaw	June 30, 2018
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Regional Planning Representative

Diane Benware	June 30, 2018
Alexis Caswell	June 30, 2018

Road Commissioner

Brad Lawes	March 2018
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Road Foreman

Arlan Pidgeon	Hired
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Second Constable

Mike Rakowitz	March 2018
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Solid Waste Representative

Richard Reed	March 2018
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Tree Warden

Arlan Pidgeon	March 2018
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Health Officer

Diane Benware	August 2018
Kathy Eastwood - Deputy	April 2018

Town Services Manager

Kathy Eastwood	April 2018
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Zoning Administrator

Mary Anne Sullivan	Hired
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Zoning Board of Adjustment

Peter Fjeld - Chair	November 2018
Donna Swington	November 2019
Suki Fredricks	November 2019
Jeff McDonough	November 2020
Bill Shouldice	November 2020

Planning Commission

Peter Fjeld	November 2018
Donna Swington - Chair	November 2019
Suki Fredricks	November 2019
Jeff McDonough	November 2020
Bill Shouldice	November 2020

LEICESTER TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Leicester Meeting House in said Town on Monday, **March 5, 2018** at **7:00 pm** to transact the following business:

1. To hear the auditor's report.
2. Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$638,224.47** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 281,274.47	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 194,445.05
Highway Expenses	\$ 356,950.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 278,172.36

Note: The amount to be raised may increase based on the result of the vote on Article 3. The Selectboard will set the tax rate at a later date.

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester approve an additional sum of \$40,000 for road paving?
4. Discussion of articles to be voted by Australian ballot.
5. To do any further business that is proper to be done when met.

The Town Meeting shall adjourn until 10 AM Tuesday, March 6, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are further warned and notified to meet at the **Leicester Town Office** in said Town on **March 6, 2018** between the hours of **10 AM and 7 PM** when the polls will be open to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year

A Moderator for a one (1) year term
A Selectboard Member for a three (3) year term
A Selectboard Member for a two (2) year term
An Auditor for a three (3) year term
A Delinquent Tax Collector for a one (1) year term
A Town Grand Juror for a one (1) year term
A Town Agent for a one (1) year term

Leicester Selectboard:

Diane Benware – Chair (2019) Tom Barker (2019) Brad Lawes (2018)
John Rouse (2020) Ron Fiske (2018)

NOTICE TO VOTERS

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 4, 2018. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by February 24, 2018.

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

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on March 5, 2018. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.

Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerks office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail. Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days proceeding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO PERSON SHALL:

Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.

Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.

Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.

Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.

Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

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

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Paper Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

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

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

CHECK OUT:

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

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

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

LEICESTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOWN RECEIPTS

Balance, Jan. 1, 2017		37,656.66
Selectboard Loans		
Transfers	7,400.00	
Total Loans & Transfers		7,400.00
Current Taxes for Town & School	2,153,898.31	
Delinquent Taxes, Interest & Penalties	80,352.09	
Zoning Fees	2,100.00	
Licenses & Fines	3,279.50	
Tax Allocation	90,000.00	
Grants	50,236.00	
Other	10,134.21	
Total Income		2,430,024.06
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS		2,475,080.72

TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

Loan Repayment	0.00	
Transfers to Restricted Funds	24,824.00	
Schools	1,874,187.91	
Tax Allocation for State	200,000.00	
Payments covered by Restricted Funds		
Selectboard Orders & Appropriations	298,327.39	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		2,397,339.30
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017		77,741.42

LEICESTER HIGHWAY SUMMARY

HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

Balance Jan 1, 2017		48,597.57
Transfers to Highway Funds	50,000.00	
Current Taxes for Highway	254,487.43	
State Aid - Highway	66,357.02	
Reimbursement Income	3,312.00	
Allocation	25,000.00	
Total Income		399,156.45
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS		447,754.02

HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

Transfer to Restricted Funds	90,000.00	
Allocation	20,000.00	
Selectboard Orders	322,226.38	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS		432,226.38
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2017		15,527.64

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Tax Rate:	Homestead			Non-residential
Town	0.1357			0.1357
Town Highway	0.1459			0.1459
Veteran Exemption	0.0014			0.0014
Education	1.2401			1.3723
Total Tax Rate	1.5231			1.6553
Grand List	1,744,523.63			
Taxes billed:				
Town	1,744,523.63	x	0.1357	236,732.18
Highway	1,744,523.63	x	0.1459	254,525.90
				491,258.08
Education Taxes:				
Veteran's Exemp.	1,744,523.63	x	0.0014	2,442.52
Homestead	762,870.00	x	1.2401	946,035.08
Non-Residential	985,815.39	x	1.3723	1,352,834.57
				2,301,312.17
Total Taxes Billed				<u>2,792,570.25</u>
Less State Rebates				293,795.03
Balance to be collected				<u>2,498,775.22</u>
Taxes Accounted for as Follows:				
2017 Current Taxes				2,408,385.74
2017 Payments from Previous Year				3.48
2017 Delinquent Collected				35,685.88
2017 Delinquents Outstanding				54,700.12
Total				2,498,775.22

NOTE: Tax amounts vary from 2017 budget requirements due to Grand List changes for late homestead declarations and tax credit submissions.

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

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Town & Highway	18.5%	19.2%	15.9%	15.7%
Education Homestead	81.5%	80.8%	84.1%	84.3%

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

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Town & Highway	17.0%	18.4%	15.8%	15.1%
Education Non-Residential	83.0%	81.6%	84.2%	84.9%

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD ORDERS RECEIPTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in General Fund	28,372.72	28,372.72	37,656.66	37,656.66	77,741.42	After receivables/payables
Loans and Transfers:						
Selectmen's Loans		20,000.00		0.00		Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfer from Audit Fund				7,400.00		
Transfer from Cemetery Fund						See Funds Page 15
Tax Account Allocation Refund		95,000.00		90,000.00		Allocated for State Ed pmt
Grants & State Direct Deposits						
Milfoil Grant		17,000.00		50,236.00		Grant Spending - See Pg 17
State DD Reappraisal Fund		6,885.00		6,894.00		See Funds Page 15
TOTAL LOANS AND TRANSFERS	0.00	138,885.00	0.00	154,530.00	0.00	
Fines, Fees & Licenses:						
Civil Fines from Sheriff Patrol		577.00		377.50		Register your dog by April 1st See report page 21
Dog Licenses / Fines	2,500.00	3,072.00	2,500.00	2,837.00	2,500.00	
License - Liquor / Junkyard	45.00	65.00	45.00	65.00	65.00	
TOTAL FINES, FEES, & LICENSES	2,545.00	3,714.00	2,545.00	3,279.50	2,565.00	
Taxes:						
Current Taxes - Town		237,573.43		236,654.07		
Current Taxes - Education		1,793,567.41		1,917,244.24		
Tax prepayments		3.48		14,611.63		
Current Use		8,944.00		9,554.00		
Delinquent Taxes, Interest, Penalties		135,183.95		80,352.09		Penalty pays DTC
Education Tax True-Up/Municipal Adj		7,215.09		8,277.56		
Railroad Tax	100.00	23.91	100.00	23.91	23.00	
Fed Bureau Land Mgt - PILOT	6,500.00	7,475.78	6,500.00	7,556.85	6,500.00	
TOTAL TAXES	6,600.00	2,189,987.05	6,600.00	2,274,274.35	6,523.00	
Zoning:						
Zoning Permit Fees		2,525.00		2,100.00		Fees offset Zoning expense
TOTAL ZONING	0.00	2,525.00	0.00	2,100.00	0.00	
Other Income:						
Reimbursement: Insurance				818.00		
Reimbursement: Postage		1.88				
Interest on Checking		1,466.75		2,305.21		
Rental of Town Hall/Meeting House		280.00		105.00		
Other		6.03		12.00		
TOTAL OTHER	0.00	1,754.66	0.00	3,240.21	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	9,145.00	2,197,980.71	9,145.00	2,282,894.06	9,088.00	
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS	37,517.72	2,365,238.43	46,801.66	2,475,080.72	86,829.42	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD ORDERS DISBURSEMENTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans:						
Loan Payments		20,000.00		0.00		Tax Anticipation Loan
Transfers:						
Transfer to Records Restoration	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Clerk Education/Software		825.00		930.00		See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Cemetery Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Professional Audit Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Reappraisal Fund	5,000.00	11,885.00	5,000.00	11,894.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Allocated Funds:						
Transfer to Tax Account		90,000.00		200,000.00		State Education Tax Pmt
Payments covered by Restricted Fund Transfers:						
Cemetery - Cleaning						See Funds Page 15
Audit - Professional Audit				7,400.00		See Funds Page 15
LOANS AND TRANSFERS TOTAL	17,000.00	134,710.00	17,000.00	232,224.00	17,000.00	
Auditing:						
Salaries	1,000.00	354.00	1,000.00	252.00	1,000.00	
AUDITING TOTAL	1,000.00	354.00	1,000.00	252.00	1,000.00	
Selectboard:						
	4,000.00		4,000.00		4,000.00	Rate set by Auditors
Diane Benware, Chair		1,000.00		1,000.00		
Brad Lawes		750.00		750.00		
Ron Fiske		750.00		750.00		
Ken Young/John Rouse		750.00		750.00		
Tom Barker		750.00		750.00		
Selectboard Secretary	2,000.00	1,800.00	2,100.00	2,040.00	2,100.00	
SELECTBOARD TOTAL	6,000.00	5,800.00	6,100.00	5,290.00	6,100.00	
Listing:						
	6,000.00		4,000.00		4,000.00	
Salaries		2,397.50		1,849.25		
Consulting	4,500.00	5,250.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Contract with NEMRC
Tax Map Update	4,000.00	1,527.50	4,000.00	1,300.00	2,500.00	Update & Maintain Maps
LISTING TOTAL	14,500.00	9,175.00	14,000.00	9,149.25	12,500.00	
Recycling:						
Solid Waste	8,400.00	8,384.08	8,400.00	8,386.08	8,750.00	Solid Waste Fee Increase
RECYCLING TOTAL	8,400.00	8,384.08	8,400.00	8,386.08	8,750.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD ORDERS DISBURSEMENTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Buildings Expenses:	10,500.00		10,500.00		10,500.00	
Meeting House		3,289.96				
Town Office		6,643.44		469.75		
Town Hall		95.00		187.50		
Fuel:						
Meeting House	3,000.00	1,340.29	3,000.00	1,942.84	2,500.00	
Town Hall	2,000.00	1,340.43	2,000.00	1,163.45	1,500.00	
Grounds Care:						
Cemetery	5,500.00	7,321.99	5,500.00	6,590.00	6,000.00	
Office ,Town Green, Fern Lake Access	5,000.00	4,860.00	5,000.00	6,270.00	6,500.00	
TOTAL BLDGS & GRNDS EXPENSES	26,000.00	24,891.11	26,000.00	16,623.54	27,000.00	
<i>Note: Clerk fees for recording, vault usage, and licenses are set by State Statute. Depending upon the types of transactions, total fees collected can vary greatly year to year. These fees are paid by individuals or firms based on the statute fee schedule posted at the Town Office. Fees collected in 2017 not otherwise identified in this report, were \$13777.86.</i>						
Town Clerk / Treasurer / Assistant:						
Town Clerk, Julie Delphia	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	
Treasurer, Julie Delphia	9,500.00	9,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Clerk / Treasurer Training	1,000.00	175.00	1,000.00	70.00	1,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Assistant	4,000.00	3,779.75	4,000.00	4,083.76	4,250.00	
CLERK / TREAS / ASSIST TOTAL	23,500.00	22,454.75	24,500.00	23,653.76	24,750.00	
Office Expenses:						
Cleaning Services	600.00	599.00	600.00	599.00	600.00	
Cleaning Supplies	200.00	50.22	200.00	80.54	200.00	
Computer Tech Support / License	3,000.00	2,255.00	3,000.00	2,445.44	3,000.00	
Copier	1,500.00	1,477.42	1,500.00	1,441.78	1,500.00	
Office Supplies	3,000.00	2,951.83	3,000.00	3,008.36	3,000.00	
Postage	2,500.00	2,388.11	2,500.00	2,412.56	2,500.00	
Printing	2,500.00	2,949.75	2,500.00	2,342.12	2,500.00	
Records Restoration & Maintenance						Moved to transfers page
Town Web Page	400.00	375.00	400.00	645.00	400.00	
Disaster Recovery / Maintenance:						
NEMRC Disaster Recovery Contract	1,300.00	1,159.26	1,300.00	1,194.08	1,300.00	Annual Contract
Server Monthly Maintenance	1,800.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	Annual Maintenance Contract
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	16,800.00	15,855.59	16,800.00	15,818.88	16,800.00	
Insurance:						
Property & Casualty	14,901.00	14,893.00	14,592.00	14,418.00	13,443.00	Figures are actuals for 2018
Workman's Comp	5,346.00	5,346.00	5,997.00	6,197.00	5,343.00	Figures are actuals for 2018
INSURANCE TOTAL	20,247.00	20,239.00	20,589.00	20,615.00	18,786.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD ORDERS DISBURSEMENTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Zoning:	1,500.00		1,500.00		1,500.00	
Zoning Administrator		2,549.17		2,276.25		Partial Offset by zoning fees
Recording Fees		240.00		240.00		
Printing	1,000.00	163.31	1,000.00	802.14	1,000.00	
Secretary	1,500.00	801.50	1,500.00	705.00	1,500.00	
ZONING TOTAL	4,000.00	3,753.98	4,000.00	4,023.39	4,000.00	
Utilities:						
Electricity	5,600.00	5,326.20	5,600.00	5,187.15	5,600.00	
Telephone	1,600.00	1,604.44	1,600.00	1,609.06	1,600.00	
Water - Rent	5.00	0.00	0.00			
UTILITIES TOTAL	7,205.00	6,930.64	7,200.00	6,796.21	7,200.00	
Public Safety:						
Addison County Humane Society Contract	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	Annual Contract
Law Enforcement Expenses	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	No Contract 2017
Animal Control	2,000.00	720.00	1,900.00		1,900.00	
Dog Census						
<i>Dog Licenses - Tags</i>				144.78		<i>Covered by Dog Income</i>
<i>Dog Licenses - State Fees</i>		1,285.00		1,210.00		<i>Covered by Dog Income</i>
<i>Dog Licenses - Clerk Fees</i>		514.00		484.00		<i>Covered by Dog Income</i>
Fire Protection Contract - BFD	32,000.00	32,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	44,000.00	See Report Page 21
Fire Warden - Richard Nicklaw	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	
Health Officers	250.00		250.00	0.00	250.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	35,900.00	35,269.00	47,900.00	46,588.78	47,900.00	
Other Expenses:						
Trash Removal - Bullock Rd	150.00	104.32	150.00	28.00	150.00	
<i>Delinquent Tax Collector - Beth Ripley</i>		9,169.79		5,661.05		<i>Covered by DTC penalty</i>
Elections / Payroll & Supplies	1,500.00	1,949.30	1,500.00	472.50	1,500.00	
Grants:						
Milfoil Grant to LDFLA		17,000.00		50,236.00		See Grant Info Page 17
Planning Grant						
Writing & Research Grant	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Interest / Bank Fees	500.00	182.21	500.00	135.34	500.00	
Legal Fees	4,000.00	1,089.62	4,000.00	124.33	4,000.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00		200.00	7.95	200.00	
Town Moderator	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Payroll Liability:						
Payroll Tax Liability - FICA / Medicare	10,000.00	7,748.91	10,000.00	8,379.77	10,000.00	
Abatements						
Workshops / Training - Town Officers	1,000.00	120.00	1,000.00	60.00	500.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	18,000.00	38,014.15	18,000.00	65,754.94	17,500.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD ORDERS DISBURSEMENTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Assessments:						
Addison County Humane Society	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Animal Holding Facility
Addison County Regional Planning	1,364.07	1,364.07	1,376.37	1,376.37	1,403.64	On per capita basis
Addison County Tax	10,000.00	6,574.48	10,000.00	6,008.83	10,000.00	County tax
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	See report on page 31
Brandon Area Rescue Squad	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	Emergency Services
Brandon Library	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	See report on page 31
Green - Up Vermont	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	See report on page 35
BLSG Insect Control District	17,017.00	17,017.00	17,702.28	17,702.28	17,121.75	See report on page 33
Lake Dunmore / Fern Lake Assoc	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	See report on page 37
Vermont League of Cities & Towns	2,102.00	2,102.00	2,207.00	2,207.00	2,282.00	Municipal Assistance Center
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	58,208.07	54,782.55	59,010.65	55,019.48	59,032.39	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	239,760.07	245,903.85	253,499.65	277,971.31	251,318.39	
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Appropriations						
						Requests on file at TC
Addison Country Court Diversion	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	See report on page 27
Addison Country Readers	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	See report on page 28
Addison County Home Health Care	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	See report on page 27
Addison County Parent/Child Center	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	See report on page 27
Addison County RSVP	0.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	See report on page 39
Addison County Transit Resources	0.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	See report on page 30
Agewell formerly CVAA	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	See report on page 30
Counseling Service of Addison County	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	See report on page 34
Elderly Services Inc.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	See report on page 34
Foxcroft Harvest Program	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No request for 2018
HOPE formerly ACCAG	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	See report on page 36
Hospice Volunteer Services	250.00	250.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	See report on page 36
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	725.00	725.00	725.00	725.00	725.00	See report on page 37
Maple Leaf Farm	625.00	625.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Open Door Clinic	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	See report on page 39
Otter Creek Natural Resources	113.08	113.08	113.08	113.08	113.08	See report on page 38
Rutland County Parent/Child Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	See report on page 40
Vermont Adult Learning	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	See report on page 40
Vermont CARES - Aids Research	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	See report on page 41
VT Center for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	See report on page 41
Women in Crisis - Women Safe	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	See report on page 43
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	16,096.08	18,331.08	12,956.08	12,956.08	12,956.08	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	255,856.15	264,234.93	266,455.73	290,927.39	264,274.47	
OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STATE EDUCATION TAX		1,771,013.00		1,616,326.00		
		157,623.84		257,861.91		
TOTAL TOWN DISBURSEMENTS	272,856.15	2,327,581.77	283,455.73	2,397,339.30	281,274.47	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY RECEIPTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in Highway Fund	17,227.61	17,227.61	48,597.57	48,597.57	15,527.64	
Transfers and Loans						
Transfer From Culvert Fund						See Funds Page 15
From Allocation				25,000.00		
Transfer From Equipment Fund						See Funds Page 15
Transfer from Highway Fund				50,000.00		See Funds Page 15
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND LOANS	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.00	
Agency of Transportation Highway Aid	63,000.00	66,080.63	63,000.00	66,037.02	63,000.00	
State Highway Grant		146,796.00				
Current Taxes to Highway Fund		281,857.39		254,487.43		
Reimbursement - Highway				3,312.00		
Road Permits	250.00	325.00	250.00	320.00	250.00	
TOTAL INCOME	63,250.00	495,059.02	63,250.00	324,156.45	63,250.00	
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	80,477.61	512,286.63	111,847.57	447,754.02	78,777.64	
TOWN OF LEICESTER						
SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS						
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans and Transfers:						
Transfer to Highway Fund		30,000.00		50,000.00		See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Culvert/bridge	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Allocate for Shed Roof & Furnace		25,000.00		20,000.00		
TOTAL TRANSFERS	40,000.00	95,000.00	40,000.00	110,000.00	40,000.00	
Equipment Repairs:						
Loader	10,000.00	1,031.50	10,000.00	378.03	10,000.00	
Plow & Wing - Shoes/Blades/Parts		3,376.01		1,096.85		
Sander		321.30		45.98		
Truck		1,056.64		951.77		
Other Parts & Labor		51.90		41.79		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	10,000.00	5,837.35	10,000.00	2,514.42	10,000.00	
Highway Purchases:						
Chloride Truck				3,500.00		
TOTAL HIGHWAY PURCHASES	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00	
Equipment Rental:						
Other	80,000.00		80,000.00		90,000.00	
Arlan Pidgeon		62,158.00		95,610.00		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL	80,000.00	62,158.00	80,000.00	95,610.00	90,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER		SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS				
ACCOUNT	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Materials:						
Chloride	5,000.00	7,120.00	5,000.00	7,437.73	5,000.00	
Salt	40,000.00	27,931.10	40,000.00	37,059.31	40,000.00	
Sand, Stone & Gravel	20,000.00	14,964.46	20,000.00	22,007.38	20,000.00	
Winter Sand	25,000.00	4,886.00	25,000.00	12,436.00	25,000.00	
TOTAL MATERIALS	90,000.00	54,901.56	90,000.00	78,940.42	90,000.00	
General Highway Expenses:						
Bridge Drain Cleaning	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	
Culverts	1,500.00	2,042.64	1,500.00	200.00	1,500.00	
Fuels, Oil, Antifreeze - Loader	2,500.00	471.78	2,500.00	161.51	2,500.00	
Green-up Removal	525.00	550.00	525.00	550.00	550.00	
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	211.21	1,000.00	31.99	1,000.00	
Resurfacing	70,000.00	183,714.30	70,000.00	69,623.75	50,000.00	2016/7 \$20K voted at Town Mtg
Roadside Mowing	7,810.00	4,950.00	7,810.00	7,672.50	8,400.00	
Roadside Mowing - Brush removal	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	
Signs	1,000.00	1,999.25	1,000.00	297.60	1,000.00	
Town Shed Furnace Fuel	3,500.00	1,772.85	3,500.00	3,904.81	3,500.00	
Town Shed Furnace Repair	250.00	198.67	250.00	4,077.37	250.00	
Town Shed Repair / Electricity	1,500.00	10,828.45	1,500.00	846.01	1,500.00	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	92,335.00	206,739.15	92,335.00	87,365.54	72,950.00	
Payroll:						
	50,000.00		54,000.00		54,000.00	
Arlan Pidgeon		18,161.00		23,911.25		
Gregory Bianchi		120.00				
Steven Morrison		5,902.50		8,976.00		
Jason Disorda		75.00				
Scott Pidgeon		14,794.50		21,408.75		
TOTAL PAYROLL	50,000.00	39,053.00	54,000.00	54,296.00	54,000.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENSE	322,335.00	368,689.06	326,335.00	322,226.38	316,950.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS	362,335.00	463,689.06	366,335.00	432,226.38	356,950.00	

BUDGET COMPARISON

	2018	2017	Difference	
Budget Town	281,274.47	283,455.73	-2,181.26	
Appropriations		500.00	-500.00	
Budget Highway	356,950.00	346,335.00	10,615.00	Equipment Rental
Paving Article	40,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Warning Page 3
Culvert Article	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total	678,224.47	650,290.73	27,933.74	Difference
			4.30%	% Difference

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	TOWN		HIGHWAY	
	1/1/2017	12/31/2017	1/1/2017	12/31/2017
ASSETS:				
Checking	41,416.77	83,258.18	48,597.57	15,527.64
Total Delinquent Taxes	127,913.22	149,843.74		
Accounts Receivable				
Restricted Funds	187,734.15	207,819.39	351,078.77	393,669.93
Allocated Funds	90,000.00	200,000.00	25,000.00	20,000.00
Equipment				
Buildings & Improvements	57,577.00	57,577.00	30,300.00	30,300.00
Land & Improvements	605.00	605.00		
Highway/Culverts/Bridges			4,040,889.00	4,110,327.00
TOTAL ASSETS	505,246.14	699,103.31	4,495,865.34	4,569,824.57
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATIONS				
Equipment			40,339.00	43,940.00
Buildings	22,802.00	24,202.00	30,300.00	30,300.00
Highways/Culverts/Bridges			1,956,225.00	2,173,463.00
	22,802.00	24,202.00	2,026,864.00	2,247,703.00
Assets less Depreciation	482,444.14	674,901.31	2,469,001.34	2,322,121.57
LIABILITIES:				
Loans, short term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans, long term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	3,760.11	5,516.76	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,760.11	5,516.76	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	478,684.03	669,384.55	2,469,001.34	2,322,121.57

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, the elected Auditors for the Town of Leicester, in accordance with VSA 24 § 1681, have examined the accounts and records of the Town for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. To the best of our knowledge and belief, these records present a fair and accurate accounting of Leicester's financial activities.

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

Dot D'Avignon
 Deb Miner, Chair
 Donna Pidgeon

RESTRICTED FUNDS

TOWN	Balance 01/01/17	Deposits 2017	Interest 2017	Withdrawn 2017	Balance 12/31/17
Savings:					
Building Repair Fund	4,073.86		33.75		4,107.61
Cemetery Fund (1)	16,400.97	6,150.00	141.42		22,692.39
Clerk Training & Software (2)	14,647.19	930.00	120.04		15,697.23
Glebe Land Fund	6,113.36		36.72		6,150.08
Honor Roll Fund	109.38		0.88		110.26
Lister Education Fund	2,792.25		21.30		2,813.55
Professional Audit Fund (5)	8,816.59	2,000.00	38.77	7,400.00	3,455.36
Reappraisal Account (4)	105,882.76	11,894.00	878.36		118,655.12
Record Rest/Maint Fund (3)	28,364.37	5,000.00	235.67		33,600.04
Solid Waste Fund	533.42		4.30		537.72
Town Total	187,734.15	25,974.00	1,511.21	7,400.00	207,819.36
HIGHWAY					
Savings:					
Culverts	2,555.10		21.16		2,576.26
Ditching Fund	13,627.42		104.01		13,731.43
Equipment Fund (6)	134,726.93	20,000.00	1,118.93		155,845.86
Land/building Acquisition - Garage	56,297.17		458.45		56,755.62
Road/Highway Fund (8)	121,860.26	50,000.00	888.61	50,000.00	122,748.87
- Bridge/Culvert Reserve (7)	20,000.00	20,000.00			40,000.00
- Paving Reserve	2,011.89				2,011.89
Highway Total	351,078.77	90,000.00	2,591.16	50,000.00	393,669.93

Explanation of changes to Restricted Funds:

- 1 \$5,000 from budget, \$1,050 lot donation, \$100 donation
- 2 Transfer budget balance from GF
- 3 Transfer budget from GF
- 4 \$5,000 from budget, \$6,894 from state
- 5 Transfer budget from GF
- 6 Transfer budget from GF
- 7 Transfer budget from GF
- 8 Transfer to GF/reimburse to cover highway expense



HELP WANTED

We need individuals to fill various positions in town government:

- Alternates for the Planning Commission
- Alternates for the DRB

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

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Total</u>
2008	250.00	-	-	250.00
2009	-	-	-	-
2010	18.24	113.52	14.66	146.42
2011	78.58	205.14	13.27	296.99
2012	81.59	-	-	81.59
2013	-	-	-	-
2014	317.95	1,471.04	131.12	1,920.11
2015	1,329.92	5,415.68	453.67	7,199.27
2016	2,599.03	26,703.89	2,173.74	31,476.66
2017	420.58	35,685.88	2,874.59	38,981.05
TOTAL	5,095.89	69,595.15	5,661.05	80,352.09

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

It is important to remember that the Town needs to collect all of the tax dollars owed to run smoothly. When tax dollars are not collected, the Town must borrow money to cover the shortfall. To avoid this, I am planning to hold a tax sale. If you are currently delinquent, please take this into consideration and contact me to make acceptable payment arrangements at (802) 247-0075.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Swington Ripley

Delinquent Tax Collector

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S POLICY

Town of Leicester

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

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

Black, Beatrice & Hart, Joseph	Martin, Carol
Brown, Richard	Mussaw, Oscar & Cynthia Estate
Cameron, Michael & O'Neil-Gittens, Joan	Newton, Nora
Carroll, Richard & Veronica	Nicholson, Kenneth
Carroll, Veronica	O'Neil-Gittens, Joan
Carter, Robert & Witherbee, Michelle	Orum, Samantha
Clark, Timothy & Shelly	Palmer, Helen & Lanphere L.
Corbett, Helen	Quelch, John & Deborah
Cram, Leonard & Sandra	Severy, Robert
Cram, Walter	Sherwood, Geanine
Currier, Scott	Smith, Paul
Demand, Heidi	Smith, Richard & Donna
Disorda, Jesse & Johanna	Strickholm, RG Revocable Trust
Foley, Donald	Taylor, Jess & Tina
Foley, Jacqueline	Tebbetts, Michael
Forrest, Joseph	Trombley, Susan
Forrest, Leon	Wilson, Peter & David
Forrest, Robert (Estate)	
French, Ralph, Jr.	
Friend, James & Cathrine	
Fyles, Michelle	
Gearwar, David & Melissa	
Hector, Eric	
Hope, Lisa	
Isabelle, Barbara Estate	
Johnson, Tammy	
Lafave, Scott	
Lanpher, Larry Jr	
LaPorte, Donald	
Lee, Paul	
Lopez, Juan	
Lounsbury, Daniel	
Maloy, Peter & Tammy	
Maranville, James	
Marcoux, Roger	

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

**Total Delinquent Taxes:
\$149,843.74**

**Total Delinquent Interest:
\$32,477.70**

**Total Delinquent Penalty:
\$11,935.53**

**Total Delinquent Due:
\$194,256.97**

GRANT SPENDING

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued \$33,000 of an awarded \$50,000 Milfoil grant in 2016. The money was directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued \$17,236 of an awarded \$43,090 Milfoil grant in 2017. The money was directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Vermont Tax Department issued the following grants funds to the Town during 2016: Equalization - \$811; Hold Harmless - \$9,554; Reappraisal - \$6,894.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

2017 was a year devoted to matters of municipal governance. In April, we completed a seamless transition to a Development Review Board, as a way to handle zoning/development matters in the town. The Zoning Regulations and By-laws were completed and approved by the Selectboard in March. In December we completed the rewrite and approval of the Leicester Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan. All together, these documents provide guidance and stipulations for orderly maintenance and development in town. As we pause to catch our breath, we keep an eye on the calendar as these documents must be reviewed every five years to be in compliance with Vermont statutes or mandates.

The Selectboard is grateful to Planning Commission members for their dedication and commitment. We also appreciate the efforts of our Energy Coordinator Jeremy Gildrien, who worked closely with Addison County Regional Planning in the writing of the Enhanced Energy Plan, the first of three to be written in Addison County.

The Selectboard is also deeply grateful to Town Clerk Julie Delphia for the cheerful manner in which she helped us interpret statutory requirements to provide language that is well-defined and helpful. This lengthy process requires individuals to work together and remain committed to the task. Leicester is very fortunate to have such individuals serving their town.

As you review the accompanying budget, bear in mind that the Selectboard attempts to make decisions in a fiscally responsible manner, while responding to the needs of our citizens and mandates imposed by the state. We have attempted to limit budgetary increases wherever possible.

We are working to understand the financial implications of implementing the components of Act 64, the Clean Water Act. One provision calls for the upgrade of roadways/ditches in areas of hydrological impact, which are most roads in Leicester.

This spring we are participating in a grant administered by ACRPC to "pilot" a small segment of roadway to bring it up to AOT standards. We are also working with AOT to determine the most cost-effective way to replace the large culvert on Old Jerusalem Road, which is now rated poor and unsalvageable.

As of July 1, 2017 the town volunteered to implement the Solid Waste bill, Act 148, requiring food waste to be separate from other trash. Van Denton has a small container for food scraps at the twice monthly trash/recycling collection. Persons interested in separating their food scraps should speak to Van directly.

The Selectboard deeply appreciates the service and commitment of our elected and appointed officials. We are fortunate that all concerned in the Town Office: Town Clerk/Treasurer Julie Delphia, Zoning Administrator Mary Anne Sullivan, Selectboard Clerk Sandy Trombley, Administrative Assistant to the Assessor Dianne Harvey, our Auditors Donna Pidgeon, Deb Miner and Dot D'Avignon and Delinquent Tax Collector Beth Ripley work well together to meet the needs of the residents. The Selectboard wishes to acknowledge and thank Arlan and Scott Pidgeon and Steve Morrison for their efforts to keep our roads safe, no matter the weather. Cal Loven, Gus Letourneau, and Lem Palmer have consistently provided outstanding service in maintaining the more public areas in town. We thank Tom Drew and Alexis Caswell for their willingness to serve as delegates to

ACRPC. We also thank Ray Lalumiere for his years of service as Energy Coordinator and Emergency Management Coordinator. Richard Reed has been a faithful representative to ACSWD for many years-thank you!

The Selectboard meets the first and third Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. We welcome your participation and ask that you consider how you might use your time and talent to make Leicester an even better place to live.

Diane Benware, Chair
Tom Barker
Ron Fiske
John Rouse
Brad Lawes

ROADS MAINTENANCE POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH 5, 2018	Town Meeting, Meeting House, 7pm
MARCH 6, 2018	VOTE – Town Office 10am - 7pm
MARCH 20, 2018	Rabies Clinic, Town Office, 5 - 6pm, \$15
APRIL 1, 2018	Dog Licenses Due (see page 21)
MAY 5, 2018	Green Up Day
NOVEMBER 15, 2018	Taxes Due

CLERK & TREASURER REPORT

Thanks to everyone for making 2017 another great year! I consider myself very fortunate to serve such an amazing community.

Some changes are coming our way in regard to Vital Records. If you look below you will see a summary of the changes. Please keep this in mind if you will be needing a vital record after July 1, 2018.

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, 2018.

The most notable changes are:

- Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.
- An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.
- Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.
- Access to noncertified copies (previously called “informational” copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.
- Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2018.

Julie Delphia

Town Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 247-5961 x 3
leicestervt@comcast.net

Office Hours

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

DOG SUMMARY

Female Spayed	\$1,221.00
Male Neutered	\$1,166.00
Female	\$135.00
Male	\$240.00
Fines	\$0.00
Farm Dog Fees	\$5.00
Late Fees	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$2,837.00</u>



ALL dogs must be registered by April 1, 2018 Spayed/Neutered \$11 Unspayed/Unneutered \$15	
Clerk Fees	\$484.00
State Fees	\$1,210.00
Animal Control Officer	\$0.00
Dog tags / Paper	<u>\$144.78</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$1,838.78</u>

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

If you have questions or concerns regarding animal control, please contact John Chandler by phone at (802) 345-8673.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

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

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

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

If anyone wishes to burn in the winter – if there's snow on the ground, you don't need a permit. In the summertime, you do. I can be reached at my home at 247-8357 or my cell at 558-9031.

Richard C. Nicklaw – Fire Warden

FIRE CHIEF ENGINEER REPORT

I am proud to report to the members of the Brandon community that the men and women of the Dunmore Hose Company continue to be prepared and ready to serve the emergency needs of the areas that we cover. The members of the Dunmore Hose Company are members of the community, maybe some are your friends, maybe some are your neighbors. They have dedicated themselves to answering the call for help regardless of time of day, regardless of weather. Without them the Brandon Fire Department would not be able to function. In this year's report I will focus on the people rather than the numbers that are the usual mainstay of this annual report.

The Dunmore Hose Company is currently comprised of thirty members. Over the past year these members have spent thousands of hours training and answering calls. They also give many additional hours of their time being involved in everything from fire prevention activities to fund raising events. The members range in age from 16 to our most senior but still active member Charlie Rivers who is 85 plus years young. The one thing that they all share is their never ending dedication to helping their community.

The fire company is like a family. Like a family there are good times and there are bad times. Unfortunately this year we have experienced some of the bad. We mourn the loss of four retired members, Francis Murray, Shannon Murray, Don Severy and Gene Pagano. Though they may have been retired they remained important members of our fire family. They may be gone but will not be forgotten.

This year also saw a first for the Brandon Fire Department. In an attempt to grow our ranks we moved to accept members from Goshen and Leicester. Prior to this membership was limited to residents of Brandon. I can proudly report that our first member from outside of Brandon is Ethan West from Goshen. He is a welcomed addition to our membership.

As training remains a mainstay of the fire service I can report that we currently have three members enrolled in Firefighter 1. This is an intensive two hundred plus hour class designed to bring new members into the fire service. Our members currently taking Firefighter 1 are Randy Disorda, Cody Taylor and Ethan West.

To be able to do the job as chief engineer I rely heavily on the assistance of not only the officers and members of the Brandon Fire Department but of others as well. I would like to acknowledge our working partnership with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Department. Also the help and support that is received from the officers and members of the Pittsford Fire Department and our other mutual aid companies. Lastly the help and support of the Prudential Board and Ray Counter make all of this possible. They are the people behind the scene that make it all happen.

The Fire Department is always looking for new members. Please stop by the fire station to discuss becoming a member. We are here on the second and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and we welcome visitors. Don't forget you can follow us on our Facebook page to see what your Fire Department is doing.

Respectfully submitted,
Roman Wdowiak, Chief Engineer

LISTERS' REPORT

This past year there were 37 changes of appraisals in the town with four filing grievances and heard in June. There were also 33 property transfers from April 1, 2017 until December 31, 2017.

This past summer we welcomed Theresa Gile from NEMRC, which is the company that does the assessing for the town, to help out as needed.

The results of the Property Valuation and Review's equalization study determined that the CLA or Common Level of Appraisal for the town is currently 109.66% which is down from 2016 which was 111.86%. The COD or Coefficient of Dispersion is currently 19.89% which is slightly higher than in 2016 which was 19.44%.

Overall it was a fairly quiet year for the Lister's Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Harvey, Administrative Assistant to the Assessor

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In 2017, 22 requests were logged in the Leicester Zoning Permits index:

- 6 Standard Building Permits
- 5 Accessory Buildings Permits
- 2 Accessory Dwelling Permits
- 2 Dwelling Permits
- 2 Single Lot Subdivisions
- 1 Boundary Line Adjustment
- 1 Sign
- 1 Conversion
- 1 Replacement of Dwelling Permit
- 1 Waiver of Setbacks Permit Approved by DRB

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

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

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

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

As another reminder, almost all land development in Vermont requires town and/or state permits. It is the responsibility of the landowner, **not the contractor**, to apply for them. Please contact me before beginning any project. I am in the town office from 9 to 12 on Mondays and by appointment. My email address is: leicesterzoning@comcast.net.

Mary Anne Sullivan, Zoning Administrator

CEMETERY REPORT

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

Respectfully submitted:

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

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

The Town Health Officer is responsible for investigating and addressing public health concerns in town. In consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, the officer is to take steps necessary to enforce orders issued pursuant to 18 VSA ch. 3. For water testing kits and info, call 1-800-660-9997. For Rental Housing concerns, issues call 1-802- 864-0099. I can be reached at home at 247-3786 for other concerns.

Diane Benware

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

LANE MICHAEL BROWN
CHAD & KATELYNN BROWN

WILLIAM ALLEN CRAM JR.
LINDSEY INEZ HOWARD

RUTH ANN DISORDA
JASON & HEATHER DISORDA

AMELIA GRACE GODDARD
SCOTT & ARIEL GODDARD

KAYLEE ELIZABETH NICKLAW
MELISSA & RODNEY NICKLAW

BLAKELY MAE ROBTOY
ALISSA BERRY &
JOSHUA ROBTOY

TIMBER HAYDON SAXE
ZACHARY SAXE &
LAUREN HAYDON

CORA ROSE STACKHOUSE
COPPER J SMITH STACKHOUSE &
FAYE MARIE MURPHY

**MAVERICK HARVEY
QUENNEVILLE**
JESSICA & CORY QUENNEVILLE

JOHN MATTHEW QUESNEL
PAUL & AMANDA QUESNEL

MARRIAGES

WHITNEY, DIANA LEE &
HOWARD, WILLIAM THOMAS

WITTE, JENNIFER COURTNEY &
O'KEEFE, SEAN PATRICK

LITCH, JENNIFER LYNN &
PARKER, MICHAEL WAYNE

BERRY, ALISSA MORGAN &
ROBTOY, JOSHUA LANDON

JACKSON, KRISTEN LEE &
ROLLASON IV, H. DUNCAN

MITCHELL, ERICA ELIZABETH &
QUENNEVILLE, MATTHEW ROBERT

CORDOVA, CRISTINA S &
VANAMBURG, MARK O

DEATHS

DANIELLE R AUSTIN
ROBERT LEE BAILEY
EDWIN HARRIE CONSTANTINE
JEANNE ANN LAPORTE
LOIS E. LANGILLE
GRACE S. MAKOVEC
JOHN S. MCLAUGHLIN
ARCHIE VENTSON PECOR, JR
ELAINE MARY PECOR
LORRAINE GAIL QUENNEVILLE
KATHLEEN TRINCI
ALBERT L WATSON

LEICESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Leicester Historical Society is looking for photos or other memorabilia to be added to our collection. Contact Diane Benware at 247-3786 if you have items you would allow to be scanned or donated.

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

2017 TOWN MEETING OVERVIEW

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Leicester Meeting House in said Town on Monday, **March 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm** to transact the following business:

Richard Reed, the Moderator called the Town of Leicester Meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The Moderator welcomed the 32 voters in attendance to the 256TH Annual Town Meeting.

The Moderator explained that Non-residents cannot vote. Town meetings will be run according to VT State Law and Roberts Rules of Order, all motions, remarks and questions should be directed to the Moderator. Articles must be moved, seconded and restated by the Moderator before debate can begin.

- To hear the auditor’s report.

D. Miner stated the auditor’s report was on page 14. No further discussion.

- Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$629,915.73** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 283,580.73	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 236,779.07
Highway Expenses	\$ 346,335.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 234,487.43

Note: The amount to be raised may increase based on the result of the vote on Article 3 and Australian ballot articles. The Selectboard will set the tax rate at a later date.

A motion was made (C. Reed) and seconded (C. Morrison) to accept Article 2.

A motion was made (J. Delphia) and seconded (C. Reed) to amend Article 2 to remove the \$625 appropriation for Maple Leaf Farm (that has closed). Article 2 shall read “Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$629,290.73** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 282,955.73	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 236,154.07
Highway Expenses	\$ 346,335.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 234,487.43

Note: The amount to be raised may increase based on the result of the vote on Article 3 and Australian ballot articles. The Selectboard will set the tax rate at a later date.

Article 2 amendment was passed by unanimous voice vote.

No further discussion.

Article 2 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester approve an additional sum of \$20,000 for road paving?

A motion was made (D. Callum) and seconded (W. Shouldice) to accept Article 3.

Article 3 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Shall the voters of the Town change the date due for property taxes from October 15th to November 15th (in office, postmarks not accepted) to allow for State approved late homestead/tax credit filers changes?

A motion was made (C. Carroll) and seconded (G. Moore) to accept Article 4.

Article 4 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Shall the voters of the Town authorize the Selectboard to appoint a first and second constable in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2651a?

A motion was made (D. Snyder) and seconded (W. Shouldice) to accept Article 5.

Article 5 was passed by paper vote: 26 Yes, 5 No

- Shall the voters prohibit the town constables from exercising any law enforcement authority, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1936(a)(1), [*in which case the constable is only able to serve civil and criminal process, destroy animals when required by law, kill injured deer in accordance with law, assist the health officer in the exercise of his or her duties, serve as a district court officer, remove disorderly people from town meeting, and collect taxes if no tax collector is elected.* 24 V.S.A. § 1936a(b)]?

A motion was made (C. Reed) and seconded (H. Sessions) to accept Article 6.

Article 6 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Discussion of articles to be voted by Australian ballot.

R. Reed reviewed the items to be voted. D. Benware explained that Hospice was on the ballot because they were asking for more money.

- To do any further business that is proper to be done when met.

D. Benware thanked Ken Young for his years on the Selectboard. She thanked the elected and appointed town officials and discussed opportunities to serve. She thanked the auditors for their hard work over the years and indicated the very positive result of professional audit was thanks to the Auditors and the Town Treasurer’s diligent work. She thanked the road crew for their great work.

A motion was made (C. Reed) and seconded (G. Moore) to adjourn Town Meeting.

Leicester Town Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

**Results of those elected by Australian Ballot Voting: (Ballots and results attached)
Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

Of the 708 registered voters – 117 cast votes

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are further warned and notified to meet at the **Leicester Town Office** in said Town on **March 7, 2017** between the hours of **10 AM and 7 PM** when the polls will be open to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year

OFFICE	CANDIDATES	TERM
MODERATOR	RICHARD REED	1 YEAR
SELECTBOARD	JOHN ROUSE	3 YEAR
SELECTBOARD	TOM BARKER	2 YEAR
SELECTBOARD	RON FISKE	1 YEAR OF 2 YEAR TERM
AUDITOR	DOT D’AVIGNON	3 YEAR
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	BETH RIPLEY	1 YEAR
GRAND JUROR	MIKE RAKOWITZ	1 YEAR
TOWN AGENT	MIKE RAKOWITZ	1 YEAR
TOWN CLERK	JULIE DELPHIA	3 YEAR
TOWN TREASURER	JULIE DELPHIA	3 YEAR

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to appropriate \$500 for Hospice Volunteer Services to be taken from Town funds for the purpose of helping pay part of the cost of providing home Hospice care for terminally ill patients in this town?

YES: 101 NO: 9 BLANK: 7

ADDISON COUNTY COURT DIVERSION

ACCDCJP provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender. The goal is to help the offender develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation of loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in either the Court Diversion programs or the Community Justice Projects has a chance to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way and learn from the experience.

Our website: www.courtdiversion.com

ADDISON COUNTY HOME HEALTH

Addison County Home Health & Hospice (ACHHH) is a community-focused non-profit home healthcare agency. We provide an array of services that enable our neighbors to receive care in their own home where they are most comfortable and often experience the best quality of life. Our services are offered to all individuals in need of home care, including those who do not have the financial means to pay for their care. To ensure the future of these vital programs, we turn to our community for support.

Now with drastic changes in healthcare, our services are even more important in keeping the residents of Addison County safe and at home. Patients are experiencing shorter hospital stays and going home with more complex health issues than ever before. These people may require extensive care in their home such as intravenous therapy for infection or cancer treatment, or physical, occupational and speech therapy for joint replacement, injury or stroke. Many are coping with chronic illnesses such as congestive heart failure, COPD or diabetes. And some are embracing life-limiting illnesses, striving to focus on the greatest quality of life until the end. In many cases, these people cannot afford the additional care needed at this critical time in their lives. To be there, ACHHH depends on and greatly appreciates funds received from the town of Leicester.

Your support of ACHHH will help provide critical funding for charitable home health and hospice care services in Addison County. It makes it possible for our expert team of nurses, clinical specialists, therapists, social workers, home health aides and personal care attendants to provide quality compassionate care to ALL of our patients and their families.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Maureen Conrad
Director of Development

Number of Vermont towns served: 22
Total number of people served: 1485
Total number of Leicester residents served: 39 individuals/1491 visits

Route 7 North. PO Box 754. Middlebury, VT 05753. (802) 388-7259. www.achhh.org

ADDISON COUNTY PARENT/CHILD CENTER

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

NUMBER OF TOWN OF LEICESTER RESIDENTS THAT REC'D YOUR SERVICE 28 ESTIMATED

Our website: www.addisoncountrypcc.org

ADDISON COUNTY READERS

Free Books For Young Children. A local organization, Addison County Readers, Inc., through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, is helping families have more books at home that their children love to look at and have their parents read. Preschoolers who are registered for the program have a free book mailed to their homes each month. There is no cost to the family and the books are the children's to keep. Any child (birth to five years of age) living in Addison County can participate. Pick up a registration brochure at the school or Town Office or you can enroll online at: www.addisoncountyreaders.org.

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2017

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2017 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting local regulations implementing their municipal plan.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials concerning municipal government.
- Represented the region in the Act 250 process and at the Public Service Board in Section 248 hearings.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops, Zoning Administrators Roundtables and monthly public meetings on a wide variety of planning topics, including water quality, open meetings and planning essentials.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County's Emergency Planning Committee and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning efforts.
- Hosted Local Emergency Managers Quick Training to train new Emergency Managers and hosted a Tier II workshop for municipalities and businesses required to report hazardous chemicals.
- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management to exercise local and statewide disaster plans.
- Assisted in development of hazard mitigation plans for the towns of Ferrisburgh, Monkton, Panton, Salisbury, Starksboro, Goshen, New Haven, Shoreham, Ripton, Bristol and Orwell.
- Confirmed ERAF status and assisted communities in attaining compliance.

Energy Planning:

- Assisted three pilot towns, Leicester, Ripton and Weybridge in strengthening their energy plans by adding concrete goals, strategies and policies for solar siting.
- Worked to create the Regional Energy Plan to comply with Act 174, providing more voice to municipal and regional plans in the Section 248 process.

Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee's regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Addison County Transit Resources by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to produce highway structures inventories of all local roads in the region.
- Assisted Towns with enhancement, park and ride and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Weybridge.
- Sponsored town transportation studies, planning and supported municipal capital budget development
- Facilitated Regional Walk/bike council meetings/outreach

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
 - Worked with municipalities to support forest stewardship resource planning.
 - Participated on the Lake Champlain Basin Program technical advisory committee.
 - Provided educational outreach regarding the Vermont Clean Water Act and tactical basin planning,
 - Performed storm water planning projects and Vermont Environmental Restoration Program projects
-

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 20 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate from each of the member municipalities. The Board meets on the 3^d Thursday of the month at 7PM at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT. The public is invited to attend.

District Mission

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

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333 **Fax:** (802) 388-0271 **Website:** www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org

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

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

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

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. The **Reuse It or Lose It!** Centers are open for accepting reusable household goods and building materials. A complete list of acceptable items and prices is posted on the District's website.

2017 Highlights

Act 148. The District has devoted most of its resources in 2017 toward public outreach in preparation for expansion of food scrap collection in 2017. District staff spent months gathering data for the annual Implementation Report required by the State Materials Management Plan. The District also assisted haulers, member towns and businesses in implementing the new deadlines of Act 148. Facilities had to begin offering food scrap collection on 7/1/17. The deadline of 7/1/17 for commercial waste haulers to begin offering collection of food scraps was extended to 7/1/18. However, most of the haulers that offered drop-off services for trash in the District began offering the collection of food scraps on 7/1/17. Using a grant from the High Meadows Fund, the District was able to purchase educational materials, signage and totes for the new food scrap collection sites at town drop-offs. The District also provided 5-gallon food scrap buckets to those customers interested in participating in the program. The District began offering compost workshops to community members who wanted to learn about backyard composting. With a grant from the VT Agency of Natural Resources, the District provided compost bins and Green Cone solar digesters at a reduced price for workshop attendees. **Product Stewardship.** As a member of the VT Product Stewardship Council, the District has helped to lead efforts to adopt new extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws for mercury thermostats, electronic waste (E-Waste), fluorescent light bulbs, waste paint, and primary cell batteries, whereby manufacturers of those materials take over the costs of transporting and recycling their products once they are discarded. The District Transfer Station serves as a Collection Site for these programs. **Recycling.** As of September, the Transfer Station received 1,306 tons of single stream recyclables. All generators are required by District ordinance and State law to separate Mandated Recyclables from their waste. A list of Mandated Recyclables is posted on the District website. In 2017, 19 member municipalities had access to town or private recycling drop-off centers, and one – Goshen – provided a curbside program. A list of the drop-off centers can be found on the District website. **Illegal Burning/Disposal.** The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff's Department to enforce its Illegal Burning & Disposal Ordinance. As of 9/1/17, the Sheriff's office investigated 19 illegal burning/disposal complaints. The District served once again as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, Vermont's annual litter clean-up event. The District subsidized the disposal of 15.99 tons of roadside trash, 8.8 tons of tires, 2 auto batteries, 2 fluorescent bulbs, 22 E-Waste items, 7 appliances, and various other hazardous items, for a total economic benefit to its member towns of \$3,023.

2018 Budget

The District adopted a 2018 Annual Budget of \$2,992,908, a 0.12% increase over the 2017 Annual Budget. The Transfer Station tip fees will remain at \$123/ton for MSW and C&D. The District Fee of \$33.40/ton on all waste destined for disposal, and \$10/ton on contaminated soils approved by ANR for use as Alternative Daily Cover at the landfill will remain the same. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2018.** For a copy of the full 2017 Annual Report, please give us a call, or visit the District website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

ACTR

Thank you for the Town of Leicester's generous support last year. **During the past year, your support helped us provide 3,074 free trips for Leicester residents** either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles, including ACTR owned vehicles operated by Elderly Services, Inc. ACTR's Dial-a-Ride and Shuttle Bus systems provided a total of 174,989 rides for the year. All ACTR's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-A-Ride System – Focuses on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. **In Leicester, Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis and substance abuse treatment.**

Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. **Leicester residents can also use the park-and-ride lot at the Town Offices on Leicester-Whiting Road to access bus services south to Brandon and Rutland; north to Salisbury, Middlebury, New Haven, Bristol, Vergennes, Hinesburg and Burlington; or east to East Middlebury, Ripton and the Snow Bowl.**

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

Our website: www.actr-vt.org

AGE WELL Formerly CHAMPLAIN VALLEY AGENCY ON AGING

For more than 40 years, Age Well (formerly CVAA) has provided services and support that allow seniors to stay independent, and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. We excel at integrating community resources, health services and wellness programs to enhance and improve quality of life for all seniors in the Northwestern Vermont.

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

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

Attached is a report on Age Well services provided in Leicester during FY 2017 (October 1, 2016- to September 30, 2017). We are writing to request continued support in the amount of \$1,100.00 from the Town of Leicester. As a non-profit, most our services are provided at no charge and we rely on donations and town funding to continue to help our aging population access services and receive the support they deserve. We thank you for your past support for our programs and services.

If there are any questions regarding our programs or services, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Helpline:1-800-642-5119
agewellvt.org

Sara Wool,
Director of Development & Communications
P 802-865-0360 F 802-865-0363
76 Pearl Street, Ste. 201 Essex Junction, VT 05452

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to helping local communities prepare for, respond to and recover from local disasters, most commonly home fires.

We also provide several other services which include supplying blood and blood products in the United States, emergency communication services for Military Service Members and their families, training courses for emergency preparedness, as well as certification courses for Licensed Nurse Assistants, babysitting, and First Aid/CPR. These services, amongst the other services and campaigns outlined below, help thousands of residents each year, and would not be possible without the generosity of donors and hundreds of local volunteers working together 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

We provide all of our services free with no support from federal or state governments. In order to be able to provide these services, the American Red Cross reaches out to partners in the community like the Town of Leicester for funding. It is for this reason that the American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont respectfully requests a donation of \$500.00 for the upcoming fiscal year.

This past year, the American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont provided the following services throughout the region:

- Every 17 hours, on average, we assisted a local family, helping over 1,134 people.
- We installed 2,871 smoke detectors in homes through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Every day, approximately 87 people were trained in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills.
- We collected 95,196 units of blood from 65,728 donors. All 40 hospitals in NH and VT depend on Red Cross collections.
- In NH/VT, 13 families who were separated from their families were reconnected with the help of our Service to the Armed Forces department.
- We currently have over 1,300 volunteers throughout the two states that help to make these services happen.

As you know, a disaster or emergency can strike at any time without warning, and the American Red Cross is committed to being in the Leicester community to help your residents in times of need. Your donation will go a long way in ensuring that your citizens receive the support they need when confronted by a disaster or emergency.

On behalf of the volunteers and staff throughout the two states, thank you for your consideration of this request to support the humanitarian work that we do. While we hope that no disasters hit your area, rest assured that the American Red Cross will be there to help if they do.

Sincerely,
Emily Poirier
Regional Development Specialist

New Hampshire Headquarters • 2 Maitland Street, Concord, NH 03301 • 1-800-464-6692 (p) Vermont Headquarters • 29 Mansfield Ave, Burlington, VT 05401 • 1-800-660-9130 (p) www.redcross.org/nhvt

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Brandon Free Public Library respectfully requests an appropriation amount of \$2500 for the fiscal year 2018 from the Town of Leicester. The Library's total annual budget is \$180,000.00. There are currently almost 300 patron accounts at the Library from Leicester. \$2500 represents an annual fee of about \$8 per account (which could be household or individual) annually.

We have recently completed a building-wide electrical upgrade to make our building safer and more energy efficient. Our upcoming projects include a lift to bring us into compliance with ADA guidelines and to make our 2nd floor meeting room and Nonfiction/History/Young Adult collections accessible to all our patrons as well as repair to our ancient slate roof, among other necessary upgrades to our 100+ year-old building. We are constantly striving to keep our collections of books and DVDs current and meet the demand for engaging and relevant programming. Attached is a list of our services, always free to the public.

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide free, equal and easy access to information in all forms to the Brandon community and surrounding area. Approximately 50% of the Library's income is derived from the Town of Brandon.

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

The Library employs one full-time and two part-time librarians as well as cleaning and maintenance personnel. The doors are open more than 42 hours a week and except for copy/print/fax, every service provided is totally free. The Brandon Free Public Library is not exclusive -- every member of the community is welcome and encouraged to access its offerings, services and resources.

General Library Services

- Books, DVDs, programming, magazines, daily newspapers, audio COs, interlibrary loan, Friday film series (every Friday at 1:30pm), and Brandon Sits, a mindful meditation (Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm).

Children's Services

- Children's room with books for all age groups, a separate Young Adult section upstairs, DVDs, audio COs, magazines, popular summer program every July/August, weekly story hours on Tuesdays (9:30am) and Fridays (3:00pm), 'Magic the Gathering'/'O&O drop-in gaming on Wednesdays (3:30pm), Crazy 8s Math Club (weekly, November-February), Family Game Night (every 4th Friday, January-May), general monthly programming.

Outreach Services

- Monthly delivery of book bins to 4 residential/senior buildings and biweekly delivery of themed book bags (complete with a story time, if desired!) to local daycares.

Library Building is a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups: Here's a short list: Brandon Planning Commission, AI-Anon, local mental health organizations, tutors, VT Council on Reading, Italian Conversation Group, Farmer's Market, Republican and Democratic caucuses, 4-H Club, Estabrook Award, Home Owner's Association, Child Care Providers Organization, Italian Club, PTO, Scouts. Local artists display their work with someone new featured monthly. Collaboration with local elementary schools to feature student artwork.

Computer & Digital Services

- The Library has six computers for general use. In today's world, it is nearly impossible to do homework or apply for a job, unemployment, food stamps, or other benefits without a computer. The Library's public computers are in use just about every minute the doors are open. The librarians assist patrons and offer tech help.
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees in order for patrons to access the Vermont Online Library (an electronic database), Listen-Up Vermont (downloadable audio and e-books), and Universal Class (non-credit Continuing Education classes) at no cost to our patrons.
- Print, Copy, Scan, and Fax machine for public use. Wireless printing also available.
- Personalized computer help: free one hour sessions by appointment.

Board of Trustees: Carl Phelps, President; June Bohler, Treasurer; Carol Fjeld, Recording Secretary; Phoebe Chestna, Sharron Kenney, Janet Smith, Charles (Trip) Willis III, Stacey Doucette, & Stephanie Choma

BLSG INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

P.O Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733

We thank the citizens of BLSG district for their support during the 2017 season. Joint multi town efforts are economical and efficient for all. Communication and cooperation with property owners, residents and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture are critical components in the effort to reduce and control mosquito populations. The BLSG is dedicated to improving the quality of our efforts through training, program development, and continuing education.

Larviciding is one of the most economical ways to control and eliminate mosquito populations. Our staff is able to target certain areas of high density, mosquito breeding pools by larvicide applications. July 5th-7th marked the largest aerial treatments that the district has ever done treating 5500 acres. This is in addition to another treatment that took place on May 12, covering an additional 2400 acres; both treatments were a success, with a 95 percent kill ratio.

Our operations budget for this year was \$94,750. The District received an initial \$70,000 towards the larvicide program from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. We received an additional \$238,000. To this date we have expended \$402,750 towards mosquito control. We are extremely grateful for their cooperation and assistance.

The BLSG insect control district provides larvicide and adult surveillance during the months of April through October. The weather was not in our favor this season. It was an extremely wet spring and early summer, and the weather remained warm well into the fall months. This resulted in the BLSG team performing numerous site visits where we found multitudes of larvae throughout the district, resulting in numerous emergence of adult mosquitoes requiring adulticide treatments.

Adult surveillance serves as a critical part of the BLSG's Integrated mosquito management program. By understanding population levels within the district, we can determine the level of nuisance mosquitoes, genus and species, and the location where the mosquitoes are breeding. Light traps are placed near established mosquito breeding habitats. Critical sites are located along the Otter Creek watershed. As conditions change the BLSG has the capacity to apply the correct larvicide to control outbreaks, when this fails adulticide treatments are necessary. While safety to humans and wildlife is paramount, this flexibility minimizes the environmental impact and increases the safety of an already safe program.

The BLSG insect control district provided aerial larvicide treatments for the town of Pittsford. Sites treated were located along the Otter Creek watershed. These sites were continually monitored, inspected and treated on a routine basis throughout the mosquito season. During the summer months the BLSG received numerous calls from Pittsford residents requesting an adulticide application. The town of Pittsford contracted with BLSG to provide adulticide treatment for Pittsford day, and the school and fire department areas were treated, which greatly reduced the mosquito populations. The residents of Pittsford will have the opportunity to vote at March town meeting to become full members of an expanded BLSG for the 2018 mosquito season.

The BLSG again thanks the citizens of the district for their support and reminds them to take the necessary precaution against mosquitoes. Mosquitoes transmit pathogens that cause some of the worst diseases known to man, including malaria, west Nile virus, yellow fever, dengue fever, zika, and encephalitis. Recall that in 2012, two residents of the district died from Equine encephalitis, which was mosquito borne. Dr. Ben Lawton became involved with the BLS, when his wife became ill in the spring of 1989. Due to a mosquito bite she laid unconscious for a week at the Rutland hospital. She was one of the lucky ones and after extensive physical therapy made a complete recovery. This is when Dr. Lawton petitioned the town of Goshen and BLS to have the town join the district, hence BLSG!

We have lost some well-qualified members of the board: Pete Hare, Steve Kellogg and Dave Bishop. We want to thank all of our board members for their service. Especially Wayne Rausenberger- Treasurer, Jeff Whiting – Vice Chair, Jeff Smith, Brad Lawes, and our book keeper Eloise Crane. We need new board members with the "fire in the belly". There is one opening in Brandon and two in Salisbury. If interested please contact BLSG or your local select board.

If you wish to opt out of the adulticide spraying please send a written request annually to BLSG PO Box 188, Brandon, Vermont, 05733. Please provide your 911 address and a property map, which delineates your property boundaries on the public right-of-way. A representative from the district will contact you to assist in marketing your property as a no spray zone. Opting out needs to be renewed annually. Don't forget the five D's: drain/ditch, dress appropriately, defend and avoid dusk to dawn outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active. Please visit the BLSG website for spray routes and updated information during the season: <https://blsgmosquito.wordpress.com/>

Sincerely,

Will Mathis & Dr. Ben Lawton

COUNSELING SERVICE OF ADDISON COUNTY

I am writing to request town funds for the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC). The amount requested for the year 2018 is \$1,050. This request has not been increased since 2007.

During our fiscal year 2017, the Counseling Service provided 28,986 hours of service to residents from the town of Leicester who had mental health, substance abuse or developmental disability needs.

The Counseling Service provides a broad array of services to:

- Children, adolescents, adults, and families facing challenges and crises in their lives.
- Individuals living with developmental disabilities and also their families.
- People with severe and persistent mental illness.
- People dealing with substance abuse problems.
- Elderly people suffering from depression, anxiety and other mental health issues.
- The entire community, through educational programs and special events.

CSAC's Emergency Service, (802) 388-7641, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are a non-profit organization. Although we receive support from the state and third party payors, almost all of our funding is designated and doesn't allow us to fully meet the many needs of the people we serve. We are committed to making our services available to people regardless of their ability to pay. We will send an Annual Report when it becomes available in November.

With appreciation,

Robert S. Thorn, Ph.D. Executive Director

ELDERLY SERVICES

*The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elderly Services
112 Exchange Street, PO Box 581, Middlebury, Vermont 05753*

Addison County's Daytime Home Away From Home

*Drivers and welcoming staff make the trip to Project Independence a fun part of the day.
Getting out is good for you!*

Project Independence is an adult day program for elders providing safe, medically oriented daytime care that includes:

- Fun social activities,
- Specialized van transportation to and from home,
- Hot, delicious meals tailored to the dietary needs of our participants, Individualized nursing care,
- Personal care including toileting assistance and hygiene,
- Educational programs and entertainment,
- Coordination with other health care providers and social service agencies, and
- Daytime respite for family caregivers.

In addition to daytime care services, our staff also provides caregiving education and emotional support to family members whose elderly relative attends our center. Our monthly *Caregiver Support Group* is open to all caregivers and takes place on the third Friday of each month.

Serving Leicester and Addison County

In the past year 221 elders from Addison County and nearby towns were served at Project Independence Adult Day Center, 3 of whom were residents of Leicester. Leicester residents received a total of 2,246 hours of care, 879 hot meals, and approximately 620 van rides. These hours of care cost the agency \$36,154 for direct services to Leicester residents. In addition, Leicester seniors were students at our ESI College Lifelong Learning Center, Leicester residents volunteered for us, and 6 family caregivers received respite and peace of mind.

In 2017 we wound up a quiet \$1 million capital campaign, *Innovations in Eldercare*, to raise money for building improvements and upkeep, including the building of a van shed to house our fleet of handicapped accessible vans, an initiative to fund our next generation of nursing and social work staff, and a fund to strengthen our endowment.

Approximately 44% of all participants received Medicaid funding (Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Day Health, and Mental Health funding), 29% were private pay or scholarship, 11% received Veterans Administration funding and 15% received Moderate Needs funding. On any given weekday Project Independence served 70-80 participants, with approximately 150 participants served each week. The 19,516 days of care provided included 38,489 individual meals (breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner) and approximately 39,032 van rides!

FRONT PORCH FORUM **Neighbors are talking on Front Porch Forum**

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

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

GREEN UP VERMONT

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

Green Up Day marked its 47th Anniversary, with over 22,000 volunteers participating! Green Up Vermont, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, continues to proudly carry on this tradition of Green Up Day. **Green Up Vermont is not a State Agency.** Seventy-five percent of Green Up Vermont's budget comes from corporate and individual donations. People can now choose to donate to Green Up Vermont by entering a gift amount on Line 29 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form. As a result, Green Up Vermont has been able to significantly increase the percentage of individual giving, thus making Green Up Day more stable for the long-term.

With your town's help, we can continue Vermont's unique annual tradition of taking care of our state's lovely landscape and promoting civic pride with our children growing up with Green Up. Our East Montpelier coordinator reports "Green Up Day is an excellent teachable moment for our children." Green Up Day is a day each year when people come together in their communities to give Vermont a spring cleaning! Green Up Vermont also focuses on education for grades K-2 by providing two free activity booklets to schools and hosts its annual student poster design and writing contests for grades K-12. To learn more please visit www.greenupvermont.org.

Support from cities and towns continues to be an essential part of our operating budget. It enables us to cover sixteen percent of the operating budget. All town residents benefit from clean roadsides! Funds help pay for supplies, including over 50,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and the services of two part-time employees.

Mark your calendar: May 5, 2018 Green Up Day, 48 years of tradition!

**Join with people in your community to clean up for Green Up Day,
Always the first Saturday in May.**

HOPE (ACCAG)

John V. Craven Community Services Center
P.O. Box 165 282 Boardman Street Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-3608 Fax: (802) 388-0756
HOPE is a United Way Member Agency

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

During the twelve month period ended September 30, 2017, HOPE provided assistance to 141 Leicester residents. Many of these households were served multiple times with large amounts of funds.

HOPE respectfully requests that the voters of the Town of Leicester allocate the sum of \$1,300.00 to help defray the costs of providing assistance to town residents in the coming year. Thank you for your consideration.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Hospice Volunteer Services (HVS) is a non-profit agency providing free hospice programs and bereavement support services to town residents since 1983. Our primary commitment is to provide the support of trained hospice volunteers to people with terminal illnesses and their families. HVS is a separate but collaborating organization from Addison County Home Health and Hospice; we provide the federally mandated volunteer component of the certified hospice program in Addison County. We provide services to families free of charge. We do not bill patients, families, their insurance carriers or receive federal dollars. We rely on some funding from the United Way of Addison County and raise a considerable percentage of our budget through our own fundraising efforts. The people of Addison County sustain us by their generous gifts to our annual appeal, memorial donations, and support of our fundraising. We are optimistic that important sources of financial support can be maintained, which will continue to enable our modest reliance on town funding.

To put a perspective on our funding request from your town, it costs \$500 for the training, placement and support of one hospice volunteer. Our current volunteer roster carries the names of 189 remarkable and dedicated people providing comfort to 334 terminally ill patients. It costs \$200 for one person to attend a bereavement group. Fifty-three people came to us for bereavement groups and another 75 for individual support last year. It costs \$100 for the training, resources and support for one Wellspring singer. Singers dedicated 4,396 miles crisscrossing the county and spent 572 hours with patients, families and caregivers.

For more information on Kid's Kit, resource materials and classroom presentations, please see our website: www.hospicevs.org

Shirley Ryan, Administrative Director

Hospice Volunteer Services provided the following hospice services, bereavement programs and educational opportunities to the residents of the town of Leicester during the past year, at no cost to individuals:

Provided 4 hospice or palliative patient(s) with volunteer(s)
Invited 2 families to the annual Service of Remembrance
Provide 3 people with bereavement support
Total sessions: 3 Total hours of grief support: 5

JOHN W. GRAHAM EMERGENCY SHELTER

This year the John Graham Shelter located on Main Street in Vergennes, marks 37 years of service to Addison County's homeless families and individuals. We are writing to ask for your continued support at Town Meeting 2018 in the form of a \$725 allocation. Mindful of the impact on property taxes, we have not increased our request for many years.

In 2017, with generous help from Addison County municipalities the John Graham Shelter:

- Provided more than 16,000 bed nights of food, shelter, services and hope to more than 300 people, many of whom were children;
- Provided rapid rehousing to families at our own buildings in Vergennes, Middlebury and Bristol and at many scattered sites;
- Helped dozens of households find permanent housing and employment;
- Provided counseling, case management and support services that help people take the next step in their lives.

Who are Vermont's homeless? It used to be a single man, out of work and down on his luck, struggling to overcome alcohol or drug addictions.

But today the face of homelessness is a beautiful young woman, striving to balance a job while caring for her young children. Nearly everyone we work with at John Graham is working!

In Vermont, the number of homeless school-aged children increased making families with children one of the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. We see each day at the John Graham Shelter how homeless children are more likely to be sick, hungry, exposed to violence and at risk of school failure. The John Graham Shelter provided housing to more than 100 families with children this year. Now, in these difficult financial times, your ongoing support is needed more than ever!

Elizabeth Ready
For the Residents, Board and Staff of the John Graham Shelter

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

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

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

Invasive species control is by far the largest program operated by the Association. The uncontrolled spread of milfoil can limit or make impossible boating, fishing and swimming. The shallow areas of Lake Dunmore (the shore line and approximately half the surface area) and all of Fern Lake are particularly at risk. In 2016 we made an initial application of herbicide targeting only Eurasian milfoil which was quite successful, but our fleet of suction harvesters (4 of them) still needed to be manned for the summer of 2017 to continue managing the areas of the lakes where milfoil continued to grow. Without the boats continuing the hand-pulling and suction harvesting, the milfoil would quickly get out of control again.

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

Milfoil control program costs and funding for 2017 were \$186,497. These costs were met as follows:

LDFLA In-Kind Personnel & Services	\$ 36,000
State Grant	\$ 43,000
Town Support-Leicester	\$ 19,000
Town Support-Salisbury	\$ 19,000
LDFLA Cash Support	<u>\$ 69,497</u>
	\$ 186,497

In the face of volatile State Grant support, the Association has successfully reached the Capital Campaign goal to generate an endowment to pay a portion of the budget beginning in 2018. The contributions by the towns still represent approximately 20% of the revenues used to support operations. Without this we would certainly rapidly lose control and see degradation in water quality, recreational value, and finally property value without such support.

Respectfully submitted:

James Foley, Jr., President

OTTER CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES

The **Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District** contracts the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, holds public and sector meetings for the Lake Champlain Direct watershed Plan, holds Natural Resource Workshops for horse owners and sponsors a Tree Seedling Sale and maintains a listing of local contractors. The District supports Conservation Field Days for an average 250 Addison County 5th and 6th graders, supports scholarships for up to 6 area students to attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp, supports Envirothon and continues that outreach at Addison County Fair and Field Days and the Addison County Tour and Annual District Meeting. The District supports a technical staff of three employees who work in Land Treatment Planning, drinking water risk assessment and testing, and nonpoint source reduction. OCNRCD hosts three Skidder Bridges for forest owners to use as stream crossings during logging operations. Our ever popular contractors list was updated this year and is available at our office in Middlebury. The Long Range Plan addresses continuing to support all existing programs, expanding them where feasible and supporting the capacity needed to do that.

In 2018 the District will be looking to continue to support rain garden installation. Rain gardens will recharge groundwater and reduce stormwater surges in streams and rivers following storm events. They are planted with a variety of flowering shrubs, bulbs, and perennials. Visit them in the spring, note how this method of landscaping differs from the traditional and read the informational sign. It is landscaping that has measurable water quality benefits. See the Rain Garden at Marbleworks and at St. Stephen's Church on the Green in Middlebury installed in 2006 with renovations begun in 2013; the Robbins' residence installed in 2008, and 8 installed in 2009 in Middlebury, Bristol, Ripton and Starksboro. Cornwall and Bridport School have installed rain gardens with the support of OCNRCD and United Ways Days of Caring.

Annually 250 Addison County students participate in this conservation education event.

The OCNRCD Annual Meeting was held as a bus tour highlighting cover crops, grazing and manure management implementation throughout Addison County in the Lake Champlain Direct watershed. Nea Tocht Farm was awarded the OCNRCD Conservation Farmer of the Year.

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

Envirothon is an opportunity for high school students to test their knowledge of conservation issues and compete in Vermont and nationally. This year a team from Addison County participated in this event.

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

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$300.00 from the Town of Leicester for the fiscal year 2018-2019 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Leicester and Addison County in general. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our dynamic clinic; and continued support will be especially appreciated in this turbulent environment which has resulted in the loss of two significant grants.

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

YTD Report: Between January 1 and November 8, 2017, the clinic has provided 1,061 medical visits to 625 unduplicated patients, including 288 new patients. This represents a 4% increase in new patients and a 17% increase in medical visits as compared to this time last year. We have served three Leicester residents. Additionally, we have held 27 dental clinics, and our hygienist and volunteer dentists have seen 104 patients over 410 procedures!

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely solely on the expertise and efforts of 128 volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical director, dental director, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, EMTs, PTs, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, drivers and general volunteers. We provide chronic and acute care and refer our patients to a variety of specialists when needed.

Help with Health Insurance: This year, our highly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped more than 251 individuals (through 952 interactions) learn about health insurance plans, and enroll in Vermont Health Connect. She is the only navigator left in Addison County and is available to meet with any member of our community – not only our patients. Her services are also free of charge.

Outreach and Services: Our outreach program has grown very significantly over the past nine years, and we have established relationships with over 40 local farms and 8 orchards where we provide health information and free flu clinics on an annual basis. We are always looking at ways to fill unmet need in the community and are currently exploring how we can increase our mental health services. We hold 7-10 health and dental clinics per month in Middlebury and Vergennes.

RSVP

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

RSVP also oversees several signature programs that benefit local residents. These include free Bone Builders osteoporosis prevention classes offered twice per week at 22 different locations in Addison County; the Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program which places volunteers in our schools; the Warm Hearts/Warm Hands initiative which distributes clothing items to local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, social service agencies; the RSVP Tax Program which provides free income tax return preparation services to low income residents; and Days of Caring an event which mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to support local needs. RSVP also facilitates the Helping Hands Program which distributes needed staples to area food shelves. These programs strengthen communities through service and volunteering, and allow Addison County residents to stay healthy, engaged, and financially stable.

Services Provided to Leicester Residents:

In FY'17, Leicester residents took advantage of RSVP programs such as our free income tax return preparation services, and our free osteoporosis prevention classes. Overall, 344 Addison County residents benefited from attending the free Bone Builders strength training and osteoporosis prevention classes and 654 community members took advantage of the free income tax preparation services provided by RSVP Tax Advisers. During Days of Caring, 675 Addison County volunteers mobilized to complete 75 projects at 50 local social service agencies, libraries, schools, museums, farms, shelters, nursing homes, churches and town offices. Several projects were accomplished at Leicester Central School.

In addition, any Leicester resident who received assistance from a local service organization benefited from the work RSVP volunteers do throughout the area. Examples include community members at risk of hunger who received free nutritious meals at meal sites where our members volunteer, or residents who received free transportation services from volunteers who drive for Meals on Wheels and ACTR. Addison County residents also donated thousands of hours to support the community. In total, RSVP members volunteered 68,000 hours to 120 local social service agencies, libraries, schools, town offices and other non-profits. These volunteer contributions equaled \$1.6 million dollars in donated labor to our community.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help defray the increased costs of providing volunteer placements, support, insurance, transportation, and recognition. As financial constraints affect non-profit organizations, the need for volunteers increases. With your help, RSVP will continue to respond to this need.

On behalf of our volunteers and non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Leicester for their continued support of RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 388-7044.

Sincerely,

Lynn Bosworth
RSVP Program Coordinator, Addison County

RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT-CHILD CENTER

The Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) is a private, community based, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and meeting the needs of children and families throughout Rutland County. RCPCC's mission is to "nurture strengths, and independence of all children and families." RCPCC provides all services at no cost, with the exception of child care for families ineligible for subsidy.

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is requesting funds in the amount of \$300.00 from your town in order to continue RCPCC's efforts to support families with young children in your community. In 2017 the Rutland County Parent Child Center provided service to approximately 3 families of the Leicester Community.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Mary Zigman, Executive Director

www.rcpcc.org
61 Pleasant Street, Rutland, VT 05701 p. 802.775.9711 f. 802.775.5473
Brandon, VT 802.247.8251
Chaplin Avenue, Rutland, VT 802.773.8397

VERMONT ADULT LEARNING

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

VAL also offers WorkKeys® certification, a nationally recognized career readiness certificate based on "real world" skills that employers look for in employees. In addition, we are contracted by the Vermont Department of Children and Families to place and support Reach-Up participants in unsubsidized work experiences. Our programs are free and confidential.

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

Our website: www.vtadultlearning.org

VERMONT CARES

Vermont CARES has been providing support services to Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for more than 30 years thanks to support from the Town of Leicester. Vermont CARES also works to prevention new HIV infections by educating and training Vermonters on how to stay safe and reduce their risks. In fact, we aim, through our campaign called "On the Road to Zero," to lead Vermont to zero new infections by 2020, which would be a first in the nation if achieved. A generous donation of from Leicester could help us continue focused excellent service for people living with HIV/AIDS, expand HIV-prevention education presentations at area schools, and increase access to free rapid-result HIV tests. Those we work with are often the most needy, those most ill, and those most in poverty.

Vermont CARES Programming for People Living with HIV/AIDS:

- Emotional support for HIV care ranging from diagnosis to persistent medical and related issues
- Advocacy with doctors, landlords and other social service organizations
- Residential facility in Colchester, plus additional scattered-site subsidized apartments across Vermont
- Referral to mental health services and substance use treatment
- Transportation to and from medical appointments, the pharmacy & grocery store
- Emergency financial assistance for food and nutrition, access to local food shelves
- Support groups and social events

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

- Rapid HIV tests, including risk reduction planning and counseling around HIV prevention medication (called "PrEP")
- Community education events for high schools, colleges, community groups, and employers
- One on one education and support to reduce future HIV risks
- Syringe exchange services based out of our Rutland, Addison, Franklin, Grand Isle, Washington, Caledonia, and Orleans Counties, now including a mobile van which provides all these services in smaller communities as requested.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Municipal funding from towns such as the town of Leicester is crucial to continuing these broad services. If you need or have any questions, please call (802)863-2437, ext. 18.

With sincere appreciation,
Peter Jacobsen, Executive Director

Our website: www.vtcares.org

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

Final numbers for our FY'17 (10/2016-9/2017) show VCIL responded to over **3,000** requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **358** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **13** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **165** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **84** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **98** individuals with information on

assistive technology; **45** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **534** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **49** people and provided **22** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '17, **1** resident of **Leicester** received services from the following program:

- Meals on Wheels (MOW)

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

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Middlebury District Office
156 So Village Green, Set 102
Middlebury, VT 05753

[phone] 802-388-4644
[fax] 802-388-4610
[toll free] 1-888-253-8804

Your local health district office is in Middlebury at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2017 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: The Health Department's 3-4-50 initiative aims to engage multiple sectors – business, education, municipalities – in implementing policies and strategies that will reduce the three (3) behaviors of tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor diet that lead to four (4) chronic diseases of cancer, heart disease and stroke, diabetes and lung disease that result in more than 50% of death in Addison County. The local office is working to get these sector partners to sign-on to 3-4-50 and make a commitment to take action that will help to reduce the chronic disease in our state.

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: We served 1,005 women and children in Addison County with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support. We partner with grocery stores across the state to enable participants to use a debit-like card to access nutritious foods. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2017 we responded to 11 cases of infectious disease in Addison County. In 2017, 16,751 doses of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers in Addison County.

Aided communities in addressing substance abuse and misuse: Regional Prevention Partnerships statewide worked to increase state and community capacity to prevent underage and binge drinking, and reduce prescription drug misuse and marijuana use. The United Way of Addison County is our local Regional Prevention Partner. United Way staff have been working with local law enforcement agencies to increase the number of prescription drug take back locations as well as other proactive efforts to address underage drinking and binge drinking.

For more information, news, alerts and resources: Visit us on the web at www.healthvermont.gov.
Join us on [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VDHMIDDLEBURY](https://www.facebook.com/vdhmiddlebury) and follow us on
www.twitter.com/healthvermont.

VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE

Last year, Secretary of State Jim Condos announced the launch of VT's new Elections Management Platform. This streamlined the elections administration process, providing voters with greater access to voter specific information. Over 25,000 Vermonters registered to vote online in 2017. For the November General Election, nearly 6,500 Vermonters requested an absentee ballot through the My Voter Page.

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

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

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

Registered Voters can log in at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

Online registration can be found at: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

WOMENSAFE

WomenSafe, Inc. Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Executive Director

Last year WomenSafe staff and volunteers provided the following services:

- o 4,142 in-person meetings and phone calls to 468 women, children and men who accessed services.
- o Worked with relatives and caregivers of a total of 337 children affected by the violence in their lives.
- o 433 supervised visits and monitored exchanges through The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe.
- o WomenSafe's Transitional Housing Program funded through the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped 40 families find and maintain secure, stable housing.
- o The Training & Education Program reached 1,477 adults and youth through 171 presentations, trainings and community outreach events that covered healthy relationships, preventing child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and consent.
- o Seventy-five community volunteers contributed 9,382 hours by providing services such as: staffing the 24-hour hotline, in-person office support, court accompaniment and administrative support.
- o WomenSafe assisted Middlebury College in their response to stalking, dating and sexual violence by assisting with the training of on-campus volunteer advocates (MidSafe).

Leicester: WomenSafe provided direct services to at least 7* people including the parents of at least 6 children exposed to violence.

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

Contact Information:

Advocacy services are Free and Confidential. 24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205 or 800-388-4205 The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe: 802-388-6783 Business: 802-388-9180 Fax: 802-388-3438 E-mail: info@womensafe.net Web: www.womensafe.net

RNESU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dear Residents of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting

As Otter Valley Unified completes its first merged year of service, we have focused our lens on the equity of opportunities for all students and fiscal sustainability. In our first year, we have a few highlights of our progress in both areas.

Beginning in the fall of 2017, Sudbury and Whiting merged to create a PreK - 6th grade program over 2 campuses. Whiting now serves grades Pre-K through second while Sudbury serves grades third through sixth. This change allowed for class sizes that are slightly larger with peer groups that are appropriate for every grade. In recent years, it was common to have four or five students in a grade level at each school; combining the grades across schools allows for a better peer group and class size. We can focus support at each setting based upon the grades served, such as early literacy at Whiting only. Using staff attrition and looking at opportunities, we were also able to move teachers from one building to another at their request and to share staff across buildings rather than reduce employment. This led to less turnover and greater staffing stability as we started to right size our district in the face of declining enrollment.

Our middle school model also has gotten a deep review this past year, bringing consistency to grades five and six across the district as students prepare for Otter Valley Union High School. Summer school programs also made changes for consistency and equity of opportunity. Neshobe partnered with the Brandon Town Rec to give students a more enriching, longer day program and Leicester did the same as it also opened its doors to children from Whiting and Sudbury. Lothrop continued its summer program and we served 95 students across the elementary schools this summer.

In district elementary school choice began in the fall of 2017. Twenty-three students chose a different elementary school in the district. The opportunity for choice helped families for a variety of reasons and met family needs and student learning styles.

RNESU spent this year updating the Compact into a current Mission and Vision as the administrative team set goals for the coming future. The goals include a focus on early literacy, with the introduction of SuperKids reading program in all kindergarten classrooms in the district. The goals also include ensuring all students get what they need to learn and all classroom instruction is of the highest quality.

This year RNESU says farewell and thank you to Kay Pelletier, Administrative Support for Special Education and Medicaid Clerk. Kay has been a mainstay for families and services for 25 years and we thank her for her service. Beth Ripley, currently of OVUHS, will replace Kay as of July, 2018.

Overall, we are pleased with the results of the first year in the new Otter Valley Unified Union School District and look forward to many more years of growth to come.

Sincerely,

Jeanné Collins

Jeanné Collins
RNESU Superintendent

RNESU Vision/Mission Statement

(pending final approval)

VISION: The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union empowers all students with the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to be successful and contributing members of a global society through the development of character, competence, creativity and community.

MISSION: By way of the resources invested by our communities, RNESU students will have the knowledge, skills and tools to be prepared for the next stage of their lives.

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

As continues to be the case, this year has been a challenging budget year. We worked hard to produce a fair and comprehensive budget, holding costs down as much as possible. You, the voters, saw that work and passed the budget last March, for which we are grateful. Then, before the Legislature recessed in the spring, they voted to take more money from the education fund to pay the state's other expenses, underfunding OVUU and BUU. In addition, we were told that in order to keep the education fund solvent, taxes need to cover an anticipated 39 million dollars Governor Scott moved to the general fund. All this means that we had to find a way to cover this year's "state imposed budget shortfall", find our portion of the 39 million and absorb the planned 2 cent reduction in merger incentive. This would mean reducing the budget by about \$1,600,000 before we even looked at the needs of our students, staff, and buildings.

We were in contract negotiations with the paraprofessionals and bus drivers again this year and also with the teachers. We tried to be fair and equitable knowing that the taxpayers had limits that had been perhaps already approached. Fortunately, we were able to reach settlements for both. In each contract, both sides compromised.

We continue to struggle with declining enrollment and smaller class size numbers. Our goal continues to be to provide the very best quality of education that our young people need and deserve. We have required our superintendent, Jeanné Collins, to bring in a budget that does more with less. We have publicly discussed plans of reconfiguration of grades, eliminating positions, combining classes, repurposing buildings, and cutting costs in all of our facilities. We held two public forums and many open board meetings. We know that change causes angst. But change must happen if we are to continue to provide affordable quality education for all of our district's students.

Our ultimate goal is to provide the very best quality education for all students. We know that the communities and the students count on our board to guarantee high standards, quality education, multiple opportunities to learn, a high degree of safety, and highly qualified teachers and staff to educate our children and get them ready to be outstanding citizens. We work hard to achieve those goals.

We thank you for the confidence you place in us and the great opportunity you give us to serve all of our children. It is our hope that you will see that the budget we present to you will meet all the needs of our students at a cost we can afford.

Sincerely,

Richard White

Richard A. White
Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Board Chair



OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Otter Valley Unified Union School District Board, comprised of representatives from the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting has had a busy year. The Board, organized into three committees: Student Achievement, Finance/Building and Grounds, and Policy and Advocacy, has focused on offering a rigorous academic program to our students while containing costs.

Our student population continues to decline. The small number of students in some of our schools make it difficult to offer cohesive, effective instruction. The Board charged the Superintendent to recommend a school configuration plan to address this challenge, while expanding educational opportunities for students where possible. At the same time, the Board directed the Superintendent to develop a budget that level funds spending. This was a difficult but necessary process. It is believed that our student population will continue to decline. To plan for this, the Board has decided to organize a committee to look at the long term needs of our communities and make recommendations to the Board for how to best meet the educational needs of our students.

In its first year, the Board adopted a school choice policy that is being used by 23 students. This policy gives parents the opportunity to choose a school that best fits their child's needs.

The budget for the operation of our schools will be explained in detail at the Otter Valley Unified Union School District annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Otter Valley Union High School. During budget development, it was necessary to make difficult reductions in order to reach a responsible level of spending. It is clear to the Board that our communities are in difficult fiscal times. The development of future budgets will require us to be ever more collaborative and creative as we strive to offer to all students the educational opportunities that will prepare them to be engaging and productive citizens.

We encourage all residents of our member towns to actively participate in the activities of the board. If you are unable to attend a meeting but have a question to ask, idea to share or concern to raise, please use the *Let's Talk* link on any school website.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bourne

Bonnie Bourne
Otter Valley Unified Union School Board Chair



NOTES

**TOWN OF LEICESTER
44 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
LEICESTER, VT 05733**

**Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brandon, VT 05733
Permit No.33**

Please bring this report with you to:

**TOWN MEETING
ON
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018**

AT 7:00PM