

Part III

Other Agencies &
Organizations

Advance Transit (AT)

The 2014 Town report discussed the planning and financing behind Advance Transit's improvement of the Green Route service in Norwich and Hartford and surrounding communities that began on July 1, 2014. This helped contribute to a new annual ridership record for AT's total fixed route network in FY15 – 593,097, and a record for all services combined, including shuttles and ADA paratransit service, of 925,747. In Norwich, Green Route boardings nearly doubled in 2015 compared to 2014, but because of a decline in Brown Route ridership, total boardings in Norwich dropped 4% compared to FY14. The reasons for the decline are not evident, but a glance at the July-September quarter of 2015 indicates strong increases in both Brown and Green Route ridership in Norwich.

In May of 2015 a passenger survey was conducted on AT's fixed routes. The results showed 64% of riders use the bus to travel to/from work; 52% reported they had a car available. We asked passengers to evaluate our services: 98% said that bus drivers are usually or nearly always polite, helpful, and safe, and that the buses were clean; 96% said that buses were usually or nearly always comfortable. Many passengers took the time to express their views about the service. A Norwich rider commented, "The drivers are great, very friendly and helpful. I appreciate the reliability. Not requiring payment of a fare makes it easy to board quickly and not to have to worry about whether I have change, etc. greatly increases the convenience." Another Norwich rider wrote, "It's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, and also provides more flexibility for people who can't drive."

Advance Transit's services include FREE scheduled fixed route bus service, ADA Complementary Paratransit service, and park-and-ride shuttles. Visit our website at www.advance-transit.com or call 295-1824 8-4:30 Monday-Friday with service questions. Be sure to visit the "Where's My Bus" page to see real time bus arrival information. Need help navigating the AT bus system? We offer travel training services to groups or individuals free of charge. Let us know if we can help you learn how to travel independently on Advance Transit.

Thank you, Norwich, for your support and thanks for riding Advance Transit!

Van Chesnut, Executive Director

Aging in Place in Norwich

Aging in Place in Norwich (AIPN) has been serving Norwich elders since 2009 as a non-profit volunteer organization. We provide free services to Norwich residents who wish to remain in their homes as they age. AIPN is funded by individuals, charitable groups and local businesses, not from Town funds.

We held two events this year in addition to our ongoing monthly service programs. In May, we hosted an educational program, "Before We Go: Planning our Last Days." Among others, two Norwich residents helped conduct panels: Dennis McCullough, MD, Geriatric Specialist, and Mary Brownlow, Pastor of the Norwich Congregational Church. The over 60 attendees included residents from surrounding Upper Valley towns.

This December, we observed our 50th Volunteer Service Day. Judy Pond has successfully put together volunteers and seniors who could use some help. Judy's work has been a backbone of AIPN's work. Bob Pitiger coordinates our rides program, which helps elders to get to hospital appointments, shopping and other destinations. The small chores that our volunteers do make a great difference in our elders' lives. We celebrated their work with a small reception in October at the Norwich Historical Society.

AIPN also learns from others, as when our Board attended a session in Lyme whose aim was to get people thinking about needed planning for the future as they age. We hope to host

a similar program in spring, 2016, as well as another more general educational session later. More information is on our website: aginginplacenorwich.org.

*Charlie Buell, President • Jean Lawe, Secretary
John Lawe, Treasurer • Judy Pond, Volunteer Coordinator*

American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post 8

Lyman F. Pell, Post 8, The American Legion, Department of Vermont is a 501C nonprofit Veterans organization. The Legion membership is made up of eligible Veterans whose dates of service are controlled by Congress. Post 8 also has numerous members who are currently serving on active duty in the US Military. We actively support Veterans' issues such as access to the Veterans Hospital, Veterans' employment rights, end of life care and funerals. In the town of Norwich we insure each Veteran's grave has an American flag displayed next to the headstone during the summer months. We actively support Scouting and "Children and Youth" programs. Our Rifle Team is certified to conduct ceremonies at Veterans' funerals.

We are a dynamic, but very unique, Post in that our income is derived from food sales, donations and small cribbage tournaments every Thursday night. We are available to assist with schools educating people on Flag etiquette, Military History and Veterans' issues. We organize and participate in the annual Memorial Day observance. We also support The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies. We are also partnering with the Norwich Historical Society to document local Veterans' military service.

For more information on our organization feel free to contact any of our members. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 19:00 hours.

Lyle G. Favreau, Commander

Child Care Center in Norwich

The Child Care Center in Norwich is a nonprofit organization founded in May 1971 for the purpose of providing high quality, affordable, childcare services for families of the Upper Valley. In 2009 the program expanded to provide after-school care for Norwich children. The Child Care Center is a social service agency as described in 24 V.S.A. § 2691.

The center provides childcare to 60 children ages six weeks through six years and 28 after-school children in grades kindergarten through sixth. We have been accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1996. The center also offers inclusive programming for children with special needs who are referred by local school districts, and partners with the Marion Cross School to provide 10 hours/week of public preschool. Tuition for preschoolers is on a sliding scale based on family income; need-based scholarships are also available. Tuition subsidies are available through the state of Vermont for low-income families. The center receives funding from the United Way. In FY15, the center served 85 children from the town of Norwich. Four Norwich children were awarded partial scholarships totaling \$6,620. The center awarded \$20,845 in scholarships in total. 60% of Norwich families receive discounted tuition because of the organization's sliding fee scale.

The staff and board are committed to a center rich in diversity of families and children, both culturally and economically, and the strength and quality of our program is derived from the broad experiences of our families and staff.

Allison Colburn, Executive Director (649-1403)

Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC)

CRJC's mission is to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership. Five local river subcommittees carry out this work with a corps of over 100 volunteers. We have continued to educate and engage citizens about the River and the economic and environmental health of the entire region in Vermont and New Hampshire.

During FY15 the CRJC meetings offered a series of educational presentations:

- Misha Cetner and Kevin Burke of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources briefed Commissioners and the public on the new Vermont Shoreland Protection Act.
- In February of 2015 Commissioners engaged in a day-long retreat facilitated by Michele Tremblay of Naturesource Communications to update the Joint Commissions Strategic Plan.
- Glenn English of the Connecticut River Byways Council presented that organization's new tourism brochure and website at <http://www.ctriverbyways.org>. The Byways Council and Joint Commissions explored opportunities for additional collaboration in the future.
- Ann Ingerson, Program Coordinator with Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) briefed Commissioners on the work of the WUV including water quality monitoring, river cleanup, and riparian buffer plantings in the watershed.

*Jason Rasmussen, President (VT); Rick Walling, Vice President (NH)
Mary Sloat, Treasurer (NH); Kurt Staudter, Secretary (VT)*

Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC): Upper Valley Local River Subcommittee

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the CRJC consists of appointed volunteers from the Vermont towns of Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, and Bradford, and the New Hampshire towns of Lebanon, Hanover, Lyme, Orford, and Piermont. We meet every two months in Thetford to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues.

The subcommittee reviewed and commented on a wide range of regulatory applications, including river shoreline stabilization, wetlands activity, stormwater management, utility and solar projects, and private waterfront structures. We also participated in the Wilder Dam federal relicensing process. We issued the Update of the Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan for the Upper Valley Region. This publication reports on existing and future recreation opportunities in the valley. We also reviewed the proposed Conservation Management Plan for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses the entire Connecticut River Watershed. In the Upper Valley area, we commented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on proposed conservation areas in the Mascoma and Ompanoosuc river watersheds.

The Upper Valley Subcommittee held a joint meeting with the Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee. We discussed issues of mutual concern, including the restoration of the eroding banks by the K-Mart Plaza in Lebanon. Our current chair Jim Kennedy, and our planning coordinator Tara Bamford, attended the CRJC Retreat in Wilder. Goals discussed were strong and active membership, implementation of the Connecticut River Management Plan, and community outreach and education.

We will continue our coordination with other river conservation and planning organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the New Hampshire Rivers Council, the Connecticut River Paddlers, the White River Partnership, the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

ECFiber (East-Central Vermont Telecommunications District)

Reliable high-speed Internet connectivity has become essential to business and education on every scale and at every level. ECFiber is a non-profit joint venture of 24 towns, originally formed by Town Meeting votes in 2008 and reorganized in 2015 as the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District (ECVTD). Its mission is to provide true, future-proof broadband service to every residence, business, and civic institution in our member towns – especially where commercial providers have chosen not to go. The District is jointly owned by its member municipalities, but under Vermont law it cannot be funded from local taxes.

Network construction began in 2011, financed mainly through the sale of tax-exempt promissory notes. To date we have raised \$7.3 million from 479 distinct investors, more than 95% of them local to the area. During 2015 we connected 254 additional homes and businesses, finishing the year with 1206 customers, including 225 in Norwich.

ECFiber delivers symmetrical, consistent-speed Internet service no matter how far from town, at a choice of speeds ranging from 7 to 400 Mbps. Most subscribers also take ECFiber's telephone service, with toll-free long distance calling throughout continental US and Canada, and no extra charge for features such as caller ID. For a map of ECFiber's current service area, please visit <www.ecfiber.net>.

In May of 2015, the state Dept. of Public Service (DPS) awarded \$340,000 of Connectivity Grants to ECFiber, to extend broadband to unserved locations in Norwich, Pittsfield, Randolph, and Royalton. Together with eighty additional cable-miles now being completed by the DPS, those projects will allow us to reach parts of seven more member towns in 2016. Throughout our territory, however, roughly 10,000 homes and businesses (including many here in Norwich) still lack access to modern broadband. To reach them more quickly, the District's Governing Board is now reviewing a proposal for large-scale financing to finish building almost the entire network before the end of 2019.

The ECVTD Governing Board meets monthly, and meetings are open to the public. More information is available at www.ecfiber.net or contact your local delegate.

Irv Thomae, Chair

The Family Place

As one of 15 Parent Child Centers in Vermont, The Family Place supports families with young children through comprehensive programs designed to strengthen positive relationships, teach essential skills, and promote enduring, healthy growth for our families and our community. Families come through the doors of The Family Place for many different reasons. Sometimes, it's to make connections with other families through playgroups or events. Often, it's for assistance finding or paying for child care. Sometimes, it's because a parent or other adult recognizes that a child is behind in meeting developmental milestones or has special medical needs. Other times, parents engage with us for support in meeting education or employment goals, or to enhance their parenting skills.

Our work helps children get off to a healthy start and promotes long-term family well-being. We provide "wrap around" services – working with families to identify all the potential areas for support and assistance and connecting them with the resources that are most appropriate for their needs, circumstances and goals. We partner with local agencies and providers, working together on behalf of families to coordinate services, facilitate clear communication and, ultimately, support families to move in the direction of positive outcomes and growth.

The Family Place served approximately 37 families from Norwich last year, through both on-site and home-based services. Other residents took advantage of our special events, lending library, website information, and referral services.

We could not do this vital work without the support of the Norwich community and our community partners. We are keenly aware of the importance of the early childhood years and the challenges to healthy outcomes for the children in our community, including the growing epidemic of substance abuse. The parenting skills that we teach help not only the current generation of young families and children, but will impact generations to come.

We invite you to review the work and outcomes highlighted in our Annual Report which you can find on our website. For more information, please view our website at www.Family-PlaceVT.org or call 649-3268.

Nancy Bloomfield, Executive Director

Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley

Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley's mission is to serve local families with new babies by providing hands-on support, education and community outreach. Good Beginnings provides both an in-home volunteer visitor program, and an education/support program to families of babies six months and under, including adoptive and foster families. An in-home volunteer visits a family for 2-3 hours/week for approximately 12 weeks, to provide respite, community connection and support. Additionally, Good Beginnings provided education/support to 154 families, with 32 families receiving emergency assistance diapers, formula, gas cards for doctor's appointments and other necessary baby items, such as clothing and car seats. Good Beginnings programs are simple, yet powerful, and unduplicated. Good Beginnings is in its twenty-ninth year of service to families with new babies and the programs continue to thrive.

This year, Good Beginnings served over 274 families, including 453 children and 491 adults through both the in-home volunteer visitor program, and the education/support program. 134 families received in-home volunteer visitors, with an average of 30 hours of visits by their volunteer. These services were provided by more than 100 devoted and caring volunteers, as well as three part-time staff.

In the town of Norwich, between July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015, 9 families were served by Good Beginnings, with 7 families receiving in-home volunteer visitors. For more information, contact Karen Morton at the Good Beginnings' office: 603-298-9524.

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District (GUVSWD)

The GUVSWD is composed of 10 Upper Valley towns. The District was established in 1992 for the purpose of providing an integrated system for waste management for both solid waste and unregulated hazardous waste through the establishment of recycling and reuse programs, composting and food diversion, and special collections for bulky wastes. In addition to these programs, the District provides outreach and education to area businesses and schools and technical assistance to member towns. In our 23-year history, thousands of tons of recyclables and hazardous waste have been removed from the waste stream through these education and diversion programs. The programs and services the District provides include special collection events for household hazardous waste, paint, electronics, tires, fluorescent bulbs, and other hard-to-dispose-of items.

In FY15, the GUVSWD provided the following direct services to Norwich and District residents:

- The District assisted in the recycling and disposal of hard-to-manage materials collected at regional events including: fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil, tires, and paint.

- 312 greater Upper Valley residents participated in District-sponsored Household Hazardous Waste events held in Hartford in June and Thetford in September, in which over 20,000 lbs of hazardous material was disposed of.
- District residents also recycled 2,367 tires and over 20,000 lbs. of electronics at our collection events.
- The District held collections in Bridgewater, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, and Ver-shire where it collected bulky trash, fluorescent bulbs, books, and scrap metal.

In FY15, Neil Fulton and Bryan McMullan were Norwich's representatives to the GUVSWD Board of Supervisors. We thank them for their service.

The District's Green Guide will be available at Town Meeting. After Town Meeting, the Green Guides can be picked up at your Town Clerk's office, District office or on the District's website. Note that the next household hazardous waste day will be Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Hartford Recycling Center.

Contact the GUVSWD by email at guvswd@valley.net; call us at 296-3688 or visit us on the web at www.guvswd.org.

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

Green Mountain RSVP is a volunteer recruiting and matching program for people age 55 and over. We are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service Senior Corps, a nationwide program. Our senior population is our most valuable asset in keeping our communities strong. We are responsive to local communities and meet the call of local non-profit and civic organizations by placing volunteers to meet vital community needs. We serve Windham, Windsor and Bennington Counties.

Green Mountain RSVP's goal is to ensure that volunteers contribute their time and talents to programs that have a significant, positive impact on the quality of life in Windsor County. We currently have one volunteer station in Norwich, the Norwich Historical Society, where 62 hours of service was donated by an RSVP volunteer last year. In the past, we've had volunteers serve at area schools, Norwich Public Library, and Norwich Women's Club.

In all of Windsor County, we had 44 volunteers contribute 4,846 hours, with an economic impact of \$106,176. For every \$1 dollar invested by Windsor County towns, Green Mountain RSVP volunteers reinvest \$13 dollars. In all three of our counties, we served 2,217 people in the community with food delivery, companionship, transportation, mentoring, tax assistance, and food pantry support.

RSVP will continue to build programming around support of Aging in Place and Healthy Futures in Windsor County in the upcoming year. Please contact Corey Mitchell in our Ascutney office at (802) 674-1742, for more information.

Sunny Leporati, Director

Headrest, Inc.

The mission at Headrest has always been to assist those who are addicted, in crisis, or without support by developing, maintaining and delivering effective programs. Headrest Inc. has been located on Church Street in Lebanon, NH since the early 1970's. In that time we have been offering drug and alcohol services to the surrounding communities. In addition to outpatient counseling, we also provide a low-intensity residential alcohol/drug treatment program, as well as a 24/7 crisis hotline. Our mission is to help those with a limited income, so that no person is ever turned away.

In the reporting period for this appropriation request we have had 18 crisis calls from Norwich residents. While this may not sound like a large number in a town of under 3500, having 18 people commit suicide would have an enormous impact on Norwich. In the same timeframe we have also had 3 residential clients from Norwich. Each of these clients stay for an average of 90 days during which time we only ask for a minimal amount of rent once they begin working. Until that point we cover all of their costs from light, heat, food and transportation to weekly counseling with a licensed clinician.

If anyone needs more information about the programs here they can call 603-448-4872 and follow the prompts. However if someone is in crisis and needs immediate help they should call 603-448-4400 and someone will answer the phone 24/7/365 to help them.

Suzanne Thistle, Executive Director

Montshire Museum of Science

The Montshire Museum of Science is a nonprofit, community-based institution serving Norwich and the surrounding communities since 1976. January 10, 2016 marks the Museum's 40th anniversary.

More than 268 Norwich households are members of the Museum and several members of the Montshire Board of Trustees reside in Norwich. Many other Norwich residents and their guests are regular visitors. The Montshire offers several benefits exclusively to Norwich residents including free Museum admission for school groups visiting from Marion Cross School and for groups visiting from the Child Care Center in Norwich. Montshire Summer Camp scholarships are offered to Norwich students through a partnership with the Marion Cross School. The Montshire also serves as an official emergency evacuation site for the Marion Cross School and for the Child Care Center in Norwich.

Montshire Museum has a commitment to ensuring that learning opportunities are accessible to people of all income levels. Donors to the Museum help to underwrite every visit. 3,808 Museum visits were subsidized through complimentary admission passes provided by the Montshire and issued by Upper Valley Social Service agencies. In January 2014, Montshire launched the Warm Welcome program offering greatly reduced admission and membership rates for low-income individuals and families in New Hampshire and Vermont. Thirteen households in Norwich became members, and many other Norwich residents visited the Museum, as a result of this heavily subsidized program.

Norwich-based nonprofits and civic organizations including High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program, Norwich Business Council, Norwich Energy Committee, and the Norwich Fire Department, as well as other organizations serving the Norwich community benefit from free use of Montshire's Porter Community Room. The Norwich Fire Department also uses the facility as a training site.

During the year, more than 157,000 people visited the Montshire and the Museum served more than 17,000 students. The Montshire is one of the most popular attractions and edu-

cational resources in northern New England, and is recognized nationally as one of the best science centers in the country.

We are pleased and proud to be a part of the Norwich community.

Marcos Stafne, Executive Director

Norwich Historical Society & Community Center

We were saddened in January 2015 by the death of our long-time president Nancy Hoggson, but we are committed to advancing her vision of the Norwich Historical Society as the Town's official museum, historical research resource and vibrant community center. In addition to maintaining our collections of local documents and objects for research and exhibit, we promote the appreciation of history through programs and events for children and adults. We are open, free of charge, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-4 pm, and Saturdays from 10am-noon during the summer. The Lewis House is available free to local groups as a meeting place. This year we hosted over 3,000 visitors; 23 local groups used our space, many regularly.

Our farming exhibit provided the springboard for workshops to help residents research the history of their own property, identify historical features on the landscape, and learn about traditional methods of preserving and celebrating the harvest. We initiated summer walking tours of Main Street and Lewiston. With support from the Lions Club we offer educational programs for Marion Cross students. We continue to co-sponsor with the Norwich Public Library the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays Lectures. We accepted stewardship of the Town's horse-drawn hearse, to the delight of Halloween trick-or-treaters.

We are grateful to our scores of volunteers who curate collections, field research inquiries, help to maintain Lewis House, help with school programs and run our popular House and Garden Tour and Antiques Show fund-raisers. Thank you, Norwich!

Judy Brown, Director (649-0124)

Norwich Lions Club

The Norwich Lions Club's Mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities and meet humanitarian needs. This year the Club sponsored the Christmas Memory Tree on the bandstand and participated in the Memorial Day Parade and a tree planting on the Green. Our members volunteered for Meals on Wheels, the Haven, and Children's Reading Programs; monthly we sponsored a dinner meal at Listen for over 100 individuals. We help support Norwich families with special needs for eyeglasses and eye exams.

The Norwich Fair is the Club's largest annual fund-raising event and annually we raise and distribute to community organizations between \$18,000 and \$20,000. This year charitable gifts ranged from \$250 to \$2,500 and were made to: COVER; Marion Cross School; Dismas House; Everybody Wins, VT; Habitat for Humanity; Hanover High School (Scholarships); Upper Valley Haven; Headrest; High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program; Holiday Helpers; Listen; Red Logan Dental Clinic; Norwich Historical Society; Norwich Nursery School; Norwich Public Library; Town of Norwich; Root District Schoolhouse; SAVES; SEV-CA; SPARK; Willing Hands; Windsor County Partners; Twin State Soccer; Upper Valley Special Olympics; and Needy Veterans.

The Club meets bimonthly on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. from September to June in the Norwich Public Library Community Room. If you are interested in learning more, volunteering or joining the Norwich Lions Club and participating in our tradition of community service, please contact Demo Sofronas (802-649-1536) or Gary De Gasta (802-649-3533).

Gary De Gasta, President (King Lion)

Norwich Public Library

The Norwich Public Library (NPL) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Operating funds come from the Town appropriation, charitable gifts and library fees. We primarily serve the residents of Norwich; out-of-town patrons pay an annual fee equal to Norwich's per capita tax support. We have 3,500 patrons and circulate over 57,000 items annually.

2015 was a year of expanded services and collaborations. We debuted *OneCard*, which enables NPL patrons to borrow from selected other Vermont libraries. A new collaboration with the Norwich Bookstore led to the creation of additional monthly programs (*2nd Saturdays* and *I Read YA.*) Digital collections (audio and ebook) exhibited an impressive 57% increase in usage. Our Community Room hosted 469 programs and meetings – with many enjoying our upgraded audio/visual equipment.

The Library was the grateful recipient of grants from the Norwich Lions Club for audio-books and the Norwich Women's Club for renovation of the kitchenette. In addition, the Friends of the Library provided funding for our summer reading program, adult audiobooks, children's award books and 1st Wednesdays.

The Library's new strategic plan (adopted September 2015) will provide a blueprint for enhanced services in the future. Building on past excellence, we look forward to maximizing the use of our building and grounds, offering rich and varied library experiences for all patrons, and providing access to high-quality physical and digital collections.

The Library is grateful for the generous support of the Norwich community, our dedicated volunteers, our energetic Friends group, and our patrons. Thank you.

Lucinda H. Walker, Director (649-1184, Lucinda.Walker@norwichlibrary.org)

Norwich Public Library FY15 Income & Operating Expenses

FY15 Income	Budgeted	Actual
Town Appropriation	250,000.00	250,000.00
Annual Appeal/Fundraising	74,200.00	72,857.00
Investment Income	0.00	5,094.00
Library Income (fees/fines)	2,600.00	5,047.00
Grants & Gifts	<u>19,370.00</u>	<u>24,084.00</u>
Grand Totals for Income	346,170.00	357,082.00

FY15 Operating Expenses	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries & Taxes (<i>FTE 4.61</i>)	208,864.00	206,718.00
Health Insurance	25,000.00	21,886.00
Building & Ground Expenses	39,800.00	37,277.00
Books (<i>includes processing costs</i>)	15,700.00	14,887.00
Audio/Visual (<i>includes processing costs</i>)	5,000.00	4,764.00
Electronic Databases & Periodicals	3,420.00	3,450.00
Library Sponsored Programs (<i>all ages</i>)	1,700.00	1,238.00
Technology (<i>hardware/software/ECFiber/website</i>)	4,766.00	4,929.00
Contracted Services (<i>bookkeeping, janitorial, tax prep</i>)	13,800.00	12,755.00
Insurance (<i>property/casualty & worker's comp</i>)	10,250.00	9,401.00
Administrative Expenses (<i>office supplies, copier contract</i>)	6,670.00	6,845.00
Postage (<i>including interlibrary loan expenses</i>)	2,400.00	2,538.00
Promotions (<i>fundraising, advertising, printing, mailings</i>)	6,800.00	4,539.00
Professional Development (<i>dues, conferences, mileage</i>)	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,330.00</u>
Grand Total Operating	346,170.00	332,557.00

Restricted Funds*

Restricted Funds Income	Budgeted	Actual
Restricted - Collections	250.00	9,025.00
Restricted - Grants	1,450.00	2,688.00
Restricted - Memorial Funds	0.00	26,127.00
Restricted - Programs	3,570.00	5,970.00
Restricted - Repairs & Capital Reserve	50,000.00	50,000.00

Restricted Funds Expense	Budgeted	Actual
Restricted - Collections	250.00	13,163.00
Restricted - Grants	1,450.00	2,688.00
Restricted - Memorial Funds	0.00	0.00
Restricted - Programs	3,570.00	5,307.00
Restricted - Repairs & Capital Reserve	0.00	0.00

**Restricted Funds are specially designated and may not be used for regular operating expenses.*

Norwich Women's Club

The Norwich Women's Club (NWC) is a philanthropic and social organization with over 275 members from Norwich and surrounding towns. The NWC, which raises a substantial amount of money used for the benefit of the Town, is run entirely by volunteers.

Each spring and fall the NWC conducts a clothing consignment sale, the Nearly New Sale, proceeds of which go to the Club's Scholarship Fund for post-secondary school scholarships for Norwich residents. The successful Sales, plus donations from its members and other sources, enabled the Club to award scholarships totaling \$36,000 to twenty students for the 2015-16 academic year. The NWC is the largest single not-for-profit provider of student scholarships in Vermont, through the VSAC program.

In March, the NWC presented its fourth annual Norwich Citizen of the Year award jointly to Marty James and Dan Fraser at the Spring Gala. Net proceeds from this event plus donations from Club members and others provided \$30,000 that was awarded from the Community Projects Fund to benefit Norwich and its residents. Recipients of the 2015 community projects grants include Norwich's Public Library, Recreation Department, Historical Society, the Marion Cross School, and the Family Place. The full list is on the NWC website: www.norwichwomensclub.org. Community Project funds support the Club's summer concerts on the Norwich Green and the plantings for the triangle garden next to Tracy Hall.

Annually, the NWC holds a number of cultural, educational and social events including museum trips, monthly Coffee and Conversation gatherings on Monday mornings at the Norwich Inn, a candidate forum, book and author luncheon, fall and spring membership meetings, as well as a December holiday party.

Membership is open to interested parties and new members are always welcome. For more information about the Club and becoming a member, please see our website and Facebook page.

Sue Kaufman, President

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with, and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Services/Crisis Intervention (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts, Tax Preparation, VT Health Connect Navigator, Emergency Home Repair, and Thrift Stores.

In the community of Norwich we have provided the following services during FY15:

- **Emergency Services:** 10 households (27 people) received 41 services, valued at \$533 (including fuel, utility & housing assistance; financial counseling; nutrition education; referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)
- **Fuel/Utility Assistance:** 8 households (21 people) received 13 fuel/utility assists & services valued at \$5,800
- **Housing & Other Assistance:** 2 households (6 people) received 2 housing assists & other support services valued at \$3,473
- **Tax Preparation:** 11 households (14 people) received services & tax credits totaling \$9,520
- **Thrift Store Vouchers:** 2 households (5 people) received goods & services valued at \$90.

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

Stephen Geller, Executive Director

Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG)

Cold Climate Heat Pump Forum – SERG organized a forum in May, at the Montshire Museum in Norwich, on cold climate heat pumps. More than 200 people attended. Numerous Norwich residents and Norwich Energy Committee representatives attended this free forum.

Modern Wood Heat Forum – SERG worked with Vital Communities to organize a forum in September, at the Montshire Museum in Norwich, on high efficiency modern wood pellet heating systems. More than 90 people attended. Norwich and Thetford residents and Norwich Energy Committee representatives attended this free forum.

Energy Class for Real Estate Professionals – SERG presented the accredited class it developed about energy issues in existing homes to real estate professionals in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Community Renewable Projects – SERG consulted with the Norwich Energy Committee and town manager on developing a community solar array on the I-91 cloverleaf.

Energy Committees and Public Education – SERG formed the first town energy committees (TECs) in Vermont and New Hampshire in 2002 – there are now more than 100 TECs in each state. We continue to help provide information, programs and networking services to TECs. In 2015, we helped one town form a new TEC and we helped organize our annual Upper Valley networking roundtable attended by 100 energy advocates representing 37

TECs. We also helped organize last December's annual Vermont statewide TEC conference at Lake Morey Inn attended by 280 energy organizers. We continue educating more than 2,100 Vermont and New Hampshire residents through our free informational email updates. More than 150 Norwich residents receive this free information.

SERG Merger with Vital Communities – SERG decided to merge its program into the energy program of our long-time organizing partner, Vital Communities. Vital Communities is an Upper Valley nonprofit organization located in White River Junction, Vt that runs a variety of innovative programs focused on the long-term development of a sustainable and vibrant region. You can learn more at VitalCommunities.org. SERG's merger into Vital Communities will be effective as of December 31, 2015. Future correspondence regarding SERG activities or the Vital Communities energy program should be directed to Energy@VitalCommunities.org or 802-291-9100.

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC)

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our member towns, we seek to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. Our staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's citizens, non-profits, and businesses. The following are highlights from 2015:

Our LEPC #12 efforts with local emergency response and town officials continue across the region. With TRORC's help, all thirty member towns successfully completed annual updates to Local Emergency Operations Plans, which are critical components to disaster response efforts. Further, we have been working diligently with numerous TRORC towns to update Hazard Mitigation Plans, often in tandem with the remaining Tropical Storm Irene property buy-outs in the region.

TRORC is committed to projects that preserve and protect our region's natural, scenic, and economic heritage. We continually seek to find a healthy, equitable balance between development and conservation that will both secure the region's future vitality and prosperity while ensuring effective stewardship of our landscape. To this end, we assisted in completing a new Economic Development Action Plan, since approved by the East Central Vermont Economic Development District. In addition, TRORC applied for and received \$400,000 in federal funding to assess contaminated properties leading to redevelopment and tax payments on delinquent properties.

Specifically in Norwich this past year, we assisted with updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and managing the Highway Timesheet Program. As part of a regional effort, we were able to update the Local Emergency Operations Plan. We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

Upper Valley Community Grange #581

The Upper Valley Community Grange, located on Main Street, Norwich has had a busy year. The old gas stove in the kitchen was retired and a Garland – over 70 years old – was replaced by a new-to-us Garland. The kitchen was cleaned, repainted and two new toilets were placed in the two bathrooms.

Our monthly pancake breakfasts continue to be a popular venue for local families. The breakfasts, along with our yearly Pie Sale afford us the ability to fund many of the local charities. They include the Norwich and Hartford Historical Societies, the Norwich Library, Holiday Basket Helpers, and State Grange Departments. We donate dictionaries to all third grade students in Norwich, White River Junction, Wilder, Hartford, Quechee, and Pomfret.

The building is used by the Revels, Boy Scouts, Farmers' Market (winter), Norwich Christmas Pageant and Halloween Haunted House and is available to rent for private family functions.

Annah Dupuis, Secretary

Upper Valley Land Trust

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) is your regional land conservancy helping people protect farmland, forests, waterways, wildlife habitat, trails, and outdoor educational spaces. Since 1986, UVLT has protected 46,386 acres in 45 towns in VT and NH, including 2,600 acres and 48 properties in Norwich. To uphold its permanent responsibility to these lands, UVLT staff visit with landowners, field questions, monitor properties, and train dedicated volunteers who assist with this vital work. More than 950 households and businesses participated in UVLT's conservation work in our fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, contributing money, time, goods and services to conserve 10 new conservation projects and steward the 483 properties we have conserved.

This year UVLT worked with Norwich residents and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to raise funds to conserve 9.7 acres of forest, wetland, and brook frontage on Hopson Road. Following a successful public campaign, the Rosemary Littledale Rieser Trail and Sample's Hill area offer residents access on a trail through the woods and meadow that border Blood Brook at Hopson Road. Also, UVLT has purchased 352 acres of conservation land on Turnpike Road adjacent to a 9-acre farm complex now owned by Vermont Technical College. The two groups are working cooperatively to develop conservation stewardship and agricultural education programs on-site. UVLT is organizing field trips and workshops related to creating a long-term conservation plan for the property. Both of these projects were encouraged by the Conservation Commission and received financial support from the Town's Conservation Fund.

Easements with two landowners abutting the Appalachian Trail in Norwich and farmland along the Ompompanoosuc are among the projects that UVLT is pursuing for FY16. UVLT looks forward to continuing discussion with Norwich residents about options for conserving land throughout Town, exploring opportunities to protect trails and natural areas for educational and public use. Learn more about UVLT-conserved land, events in and around Norwich, and support the lasting work of UVLT by visiting: www.UVLT.org.

Jeanie McIntyre, President (603-643-6626; www.UVLT.org)

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

During the past year (2014-2015) we worked to enhance the health of residents and quality of life in Norwich through trail connections, events, programs, and other trail improvements. This year:

- We offered the 2015 Passport to Winter Fun program to all Marion Cross School children. Using an innovative package of incentive prizes, outdoor fun and personal achievements, the program encourages youth and their families to adopt healthy and active lifestyles. 200 students participated this year.
- We continued the coordination of volunteers to maintain the King Arthur Trail, a ¾ mile multi-use trail, providing a safe route for bike and pedestrian access from Mill Rd. to the Dresden Athletic Fields. Due to ball field construction, we have a temporary reroute in place and will plan for and build a permanent reroute after construction is complete.
- We supported Town trail building efforts with staff expertise and tools.
- We manage the Vermont Recreation Trails Fund grant to continue the restoration of the Gile Mountain Trail in Norwich. The Phase 3 grant of nearly \$20,000 has been implemented during spring and summer of 2015. We coordinated hundreds of volunteer hours on that project in this fiscal year.
- We consulted with the Norwich Trails Committee on potential trail reroutes of the Ballard Trail and the Hazen Trail and brought volunteers to assist with those projects. In addition, we work to maintain the newly conserved Rosemary Rieser trail on Hopson Road.
- We actively participate with Norwich Trails Committee members.
- Our staff cleared blowdowns on a number of roads and trails in Norwich to open trails for hikers and skiers.

For more information, contact me at Russell.Hirschler@uvtrails.org or visit www.uvtrails.org

Russell Hirschler, Executive Director (649-9075)

Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (UVTMA)

The UVTMA is a program at Vital Communities that works to reduce reliance on driving alone. During our eleven years, we and our partner organizations have shown that our rural area can grow four transit companies, develop biking and walking trails, increase park-and-rides, and promote mobility options at the workplace. Volatile gas prices, environmental concerns, and a local commitment to public transit all demonstrate the need for our work.

2015 has been busy. We continue to help Vermont towns, including Norwich, with projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, promote transit and carpooling, and advance electric vehicle infrastructure. We provide one-on-one consulting to area schools and workplaces on ways to give people more travel options to job sites and classrooms. Additionally, we hold monthly forums that help town officials, planners, transit companies, and interested citizens coordinate sustainable transportation efforts.

These projects, coupled with our advocacy for transit and park-and-rides, will no doubt lead to another successful year. Thank you for your support.

*Aaron Brown, Transportation Program Manager
(802-291-9100 ext. 111, or aaron@vitalcommunities.org)*

Vermont Department of Health Report for Norwich

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 2015 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: Health Connections was awarded \$45,000 in order to reduce the use of tobacco.

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: We served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age five with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support, home-delivered foods, and a debit-like card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Norwich, 17 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month. Families served by WIC are now able to shop for WIC foods themselves, increasing choice (a change from home delivery).

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2015, we responded to 227 cases of infectious disease in Windsor County. In 2014, \$13,916,297 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers statewide, \$917,954.11 of which was in your District's area.

Aided communities in emergency preparedness: In 2014/15, \$10,000 was contributed to fund training for Windsor County's Emergency Medical Services and Medical Reserve Corps.

Your local Health District Office is in White River Junction at 118 Prospect Street, Suite 300, phone #: 802-295-8820. Come visit or give us a call!

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprising municipal officials from across the state, elected by the membership. VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 136 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions and fire districts.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, to assist them in providing their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

Legal, consulting, and education services. VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) provides training, information and assistance to municipal officials to help them carry out their roles and responsibilities. In 2015, attorneys and staff responded to nearly 3,500 inquiries from municipal officials about their statutory duties and about best practices in municipal governance. More than 1,300 people attended 16 workshops on topics ranging from municipal budgeting to solid waste management, and training for selectboard members, auditors and land use officials. Additionally, MAC conducted 10 on-site workshops at municipal offices covering Open Meeting Law compliance, financial fraud prevention, effective property tax appeal hearings as well as other topics. Attorneys provided 28 municipalities with legal review of ordinances and policies, financial assistance, and other specialized consulting services. Many municipalities have received technical assistance on water quality and stormwater management related to the recent passage of Vermont's Clean Water Act. All handbooks, technical papers, model documents and past newsletter articles - more than 1,000 documents - are available on VLCT's website.

Advocacy. VLCT offers advocacy representation at the state and federal levels to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority needed to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education property tax debate, enhancing local voter authority in governance decisions, helping municipal efforts to clean up Vermont's lakes and rivers, and securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs. Municipalities will face significant challenges in the 2016 legislature as limited financial resources at the national and state level continue to force more demand for services at the local level. VLCT also provides a Weekly Legislative Report that details legislative issues affecting municipal government. It is available free-of-charge on the VLCT website.

Opportunities to provide purchasing of needed services at the lowest cost. Members may purchase municipal unemployment, property, casualty and workers' compensation insurance coverage for town operations. The VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit (VERB) Trust continued to assist towns navigate their way to Vermont Health Connect and, where appropriate, to secure health insurance through the marketplace. When substantial municipal damages occur as a result of weather events, the value to our members of VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) is quite clear, as members benefit from the broad coverage, excellent re-insurance, and prompt service and claims payments provided. The two Trusts are responsible for \$24 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services in 2015.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website at www.vlct.org.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH

The Visiting Nurse & Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

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

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, VNH made 1,277 homecare visits to 50 Norwich residents. We provided approximately \$41,750 in unreimbursed – or charity – care to Norwich residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 985 home visits to 41 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Long-Term Care:** 208 home visits to 4 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in the home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- **Hospice Services:** 35 home visits to 1 resident who was in the final stages of life.
- **Maternal and Child Health Services:** 49 home visits to 8 residents for well-baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Norwich's annual appropriation to the VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Jeanne McLaughlin, President & CEO (1-888-300-8853)

White River Council on Aging Bugbee Senior Center

The White River Council on Aging, also known as the Bugbee Senior Center, is a non-profit agency committed to providing services to older community members and their families. The Center serves residents from towns that include Norwich, Hartford, Hartland and Thetford. We provide a range of social, transportation, nutrition, enrichment and education programs and activities. All of these programs have the goal of enhancing the health and independence of our older citizens. If you would like more information about these services, I invite you to give us a call at 295-9068, or stop in to the Center during our hours of operation, 8:00-4:00, Monday through Friday.

During the last year, our agency served just over 27,000 meals. Twenty-eight Norwich people participated in our meal program. We provided social service to 25 different residents and 29 participated in enrichment programs. The Center provided services of one kind or another to more than 100 Norwich residents, including Home Delivered Meals, Transportation, Enrichment Programs and Social Services, including tax preparation.

Our agency has requested and received from the citizens of Norwich an annual appropriation of \$5,300. This is the same amount requested for a number of years.

We thank you.

Len Brown, Executive Director (295-9068)

Windsor County Partners (WCP)

Studies show that children's lives are vastly improved by consistent interaction with caring adult role models. Unfortunately, modern day lifestyles often limit children's interaction with adult mentors. Mentoring programs can help: teaching children new skills, improving school performance, and reducing risky behaviors.

WCP provides mentoring across the county, creating partnerships where mentors are matched with a mentee (aged 8-17). These mentoring partnerships then meet 2 hours a week for at least a year, with many partnerships continuing on for additional years. Last year, WCP served and supported 28 community-based partnerships from 9 of the towns in Windsor County, including 1 in Norwich. Collectively, these partners spent over 2,000 hours together. Mentored youth learn life skills, provide community service and participate in cultural and athletic activities.

Let's Do Lunch (LDL), our school-based program, currently serves youth ages 5-18 in the Springfield district, with measures underway to expand to other districts. LDL mentors meet with students to do crafts and play games or sports. In the most recent school year, 16 LDL partnerships spent more than 500 cumulative hours together.

To ensure the well-being of children and the success of mentoring matches, there are costs associated with creating and supporting each match. Town funding is critical to helping WCP stay viable. For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website www.windsorcountypartners.org, contact us at ProgramsWC@outlook.com or call 802-674-5101. WCP thanks the voters of Norwich for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Jennifer Grant, Executive Director

WISE (Women's Information Services)

WISE is the Upper Valley's sole provider of crisis intervention and support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. It provides free and legally confidential services 24 hours of every day, including a crisis line, safety planning, emergency shelter, transitional housing assistance, legal aid, victim in-person advocacy at local emergency rooms, police stations, and courthouses, and a variety of support groups. WISE assists over 1,000 victims each year and also reaches survivors, in creative ways: writing groups; yoga classes; sobriety meetings; and a therapeutic riding program.

WISE's Safe Home houses victims of violence since opening in 2015. This home offers a respectful environment that protects women and allows for peaceful concentration on regaining independence, working on legal and logistical issues, and nurtures healthy parenting. WISE's website (www.WISEuv.org) has many resources to identify intimate partner violence, increase safety, and support a victim of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or stalking. WISE trains law enforcement and medical professionals on a Lethality Assessment screening to identify victims at high risk of intimate partner homicide who are immediately referred to WISE.

WISE is also a leading educator on healthy and safe relationships, in 21 communities through structured curriculums, regular trainings to teachers, medical, legal, and law enforcement professionals, and through a presence at farmer's markets, hospitals, and local events. WISE educators present workshops in each area high school and middle school, and many elementary schools, on healthy relationships, media literacy, bullying, dating violence, and consent. Research shows that students receiving prevention education classes across their K-12 years evidence greater respect in dating relationships and friendships. WISE also offers educational programs to interested community groups.

Supporting people in crisis, in confidence, and educating citizens is crucial to eliminating domestic violence and abuse. WISE remains grateful for support to assure WISE services are available 27/7.

Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director (603-448-5922, ext. 110)

Youth-In-Action Norwich/Hanover

Youth-In-Action (YIA) is in its 32nd year of providing valuable community service opportunities for high-school aged young people in the Upper Valley. Student enrollment has continued to increase. In the current 2014-15 school year, there are 534 students enrolled, over a third (around 150) of whom are Norwich residents.

YIA projects are driven by student interest as well as community need. In addition to the projects YIA creates, our volunteers are valuable assets to other Upper Valley organizations. YIA projects can typically be grouped into one of the following categories: community building events (Santa's elves, 4th of July activities, Street Fest, Winter Carnival), helping other area nonprofits (such as The Family Place Gingerbread Festival, High Horses, Listen Community Services, The Haven, Alzheimer's Association, The Special Needs Support Center) and YIA-generated projects (such as mentoring events like Kids in Motion, Trail Kids, Elves Workshop).

We have provided volunteer support for CHaD and DHMC. Our volunteers have assisted the Montshire Museum, Norwich Animal Hospital, Child Care Center in Norwich, Norwich Historical Society, the Norwich Library and programs at the Marion Cross School including the Gift Making Festival, Giving Bowls and Back to School Night. We have worked the annual Road Race, The Gingerbread Festival, Wood Bee, Nearly New Sale, have helped at the Family Place, assisted Norwich residents with emergency snow removal with our Snow Corps and will return as Santa's elves at the Norwich Inn.

Last year, YIA completed over 1300 hours (412 students and other community members contributing to our efforts) of service through our own projects and volunteering for local charities, agencies, private citizens and organizations. We believe that through our service to local agencies and our projects that we serve the needs of many Norwich residents by improving the quality of life in the Upper Valley.

For more information please contact Chris Lord @ yia@dresden.us or 603- 643-4313.



Welcome to Huntley Meadow.



The Norwich Historical Society’s walking tours series includes this one to Waterman Hill Cemetery.