

NORWICH  
CELEBRATES

250  
YEARS



# Declaration of Celebration Norwich, Vermont 1761-2011

*...to whom this Present shall come.*

*We, the Special Paces herein currently occupying the space allocated for educational endeavors students and faculty of the Marion Cross School (former Public School), do with all trust, declare that our town, Norwich, Vermont, is and has joyfully celebrated for being duly granted its formal charter 250.*



## Town Report of Norwich, Vermont

Fiscal Year 2011

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

*This report is dedicated to Jerome (Jerry) Hickson.*



### **Jerome (Jerry) Hickson**

Jerry Hickson died on April 9, 2011, aged 95. During his long life, he contributed to the life of Norwich in ways that most Norwich residents may not know. For, example, the Norwich Swimming Pool: in 1944 he helped plan the pool, clear the land of trees, and prepare the area for the dam and beach. And the Skating Rink: he worked with the group that first flooded the Green for ice skating, coordinating with his father-in-law Ernest Fitzgerald, who was Norwich Fire Chief at the time. He coached baseball on the Green: the Norwich Midgets and Norwich Juniors, and allowed girls to play on the teams for the first time. He was one of those who re-established the Boy Scouts in Norwich, which had been in abeyance for some time. For many years, Jerry was chairman of the Parade at the Norwich Fair. He was also involved in founding the Norwich Senior Center in 1978, joined the Recreation Council (then the Norwich Development Association) in 1968, and served as a volunteer firefighter.

Jerry was born in Miami, Florida in 1915. He came to Hanover in the summer of 1935, and worked for Ford K. Sayre, then manager of the Hanover Inn, who saw ski lessons as stimulating the Inn's winter business. Jerry helped collect used ski equipment and they offered free ski lessons to rural children, one of the earliest ski schools in the country. In 1942, Jerry was one of the first ski instructors to be certified by the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association (his certificate is at the U.S. Skiing Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan).

After Ford Sayre was tragically killed in an airplane crash in 1944, the Ford Sayre Memorial Ski School was formed, and in 1950 the Council was organized. Jerry became their first professional instructor, teaching children to ski and parents how to teach skiing. Weekly in winter, lessons were held for many Norwich children on Booth Hill, Elm Street. Jerry was later head instructor at Okemo for 8 years, also taught at Ascutney and the Dartmouth Skiway. He was still downhill skiing at 92.

Jerry Hickson and Hazel Fitzgerald were married by Father Leslie Hodder at the Fitzgerald home in 1940 – a marriage that lasted 70 years. They raised four children in Norwich. During World War II he was a corporal in the Civil Air Patrol. Besides their family, Jerry's interests were in gardening, watercolor painting, classical music and history. Hazel still enjoys poetry, writing, genealogy and needlework. Both loved to travel. Both were extremely active in Grange, Jerry as Master of the University Grange and President of the State Past Masters Association, and Hazel as chaplain of the State Grange and on the National Women's Grange Activity Committee. Both served as deacons of the Norwich Congregational Church, and Hazel sang in the choir. Both were very involved in the annual community Minstrel Show.

As with so many long, giving marriages, the Hicksons worked as a team, happy to help their friends and the community in so many ways. For a person who never sought elective office, Jerry had a profound effect on Norwich for at least 75 years.

---

*On the Cover: Norwich's 250th anniversary banner designed by Lufkin Graphic Designs; fragment of announcement of the celebration held on September 17, 2011; people gathering on the Green for the celebration; Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and Congressman Peter Welch attending the ceremony. Photos by Stephen Flanders. More of his photos of this event appear throughout this report.*

# Town Report of Norwich, Vermont

*Fiscal Year 2011*  
*July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011*

## Table of Contents

In Memoriam – Jerome (Jerry) Hickson .....	Inside front cover
Warning of Annual Meeting, March 6, 2012 .....	.6
Voter Information .....	.9
Candidates for Office – March 6, 2012 .....	.9
In Memoriam – Mike & Lois McGeen .....	.10
Telephone Contacts • Office Hours / Contacts • Meeting Schedules .....	Last page
General Information .....	Inside back cover

### Part I – Town of Norwich

Norwich Town Officers & Committees for 2011 .....	.I-2
Minutes of The Annual Meeting, March 1, 2011 .....	.I-4
Ballot Results .....	.I-8
Minutes of the September 9, 2010 Special Town Meeting .....	.I-9
Ballot Results .....	.I-11
Norwich Finance Committee Budget Statement .....	.I-11
Graphs:	
Town and School Homestead Tax Rates .....	
Norwich Town and School Expenditures .....	.I-12
Town of Norwich and Norwich School District Summary .....	.I-13
Norwich School District 2012-2013 Estimated Tax Rate Calculation .....	.I-14
Proposed Town of Norwich Budget:	
Revenue Report .....	.I-15
Expenditure Budget/Report .....	.I-19
Designated & Special Purpose Funds .....	.I-40
Norwich Trust Funds .....	.I-41
Town Treasurer's Report .....	.I-42
Independent Auditor's Report .....	.I-43
Top Payees FY11 .....	.I-87

### Part II – Town Boards, Commissions, Committees & Departments

Selectboard .....	.II-2
Town Manager Report .....	.II-2
Collector of Delinquent Taxes .....	.II-3
Town Clerk .....	.II-4
Vital Records for 2011 .....	.II-4
Boards of Abatement and Civil Authority .....	.II-5
Cemetery Commission .....	.II-5
Conservation Commission .....	.II-6
Development Review Board .....	.II-7
Emergency Management .....	.II-7
Energy Committee .....	.II-8
Finance Committee .....	.II-8
Finance Office .....	.II-9
Fire Department .....	.II-9
Health Officer .....	.II-10
Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) .....	.II-11
Land Management Council .....	.II-11
Listers .....	.II-12
2011 Grand List .....	.II-13
Milton Frye Nature Area Committee (MFNAC) .....	.II-14
Planning Commission .....	.II-14
Police Department .....	.II-15
Police Department Statistics FY11 .....	.II-16
Public Works Department .....	.II-16
Recreation Department .....	.II-17
Senior Action Council .....	.II-18
Transfer Station/Recycling Center .....	.II-18
Trustees of Public Funds .....	.II-19
Zoning and Planning Office .....	.II-19
Permit Activity (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) .....	.II-19

### Part III – Other Agencies & Organizations

Advance Transit .....	.III-2
Aging in Place in Norwich .....	.III-2
American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post #8 .....	.III-3
Child Care Center in Norwich .....	.III-3

ECFiber .....	III-4
The Family Place .....	III-5
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District (GUVSWD) .....	III-5
Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center .....	III-6
Headrest .....	III-6
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) .....	III-6
Montshire Museum of Science .....	III-7
Norwich Historical Society & Community Center .....	III-7
Norwich Lions Club .....	III-8
Norwich Public Library .....	III-8
Norwich Public Library - FY11 Income & Operating Expenses .....	III-9
Norwich Women's Club .....	III-9
Southeastern Vermont Community Action .....	III-10
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) .....	III-10
Upper Valley Land Trust .....	III-11
Vermont League of Cities and Towns .....	III-12
Upper Valley Community Grange #581 .....	III-12
Upper Valley Trails Alliance .....	III-13
Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (UVTMA) .....	III-13
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire .....	III-14
White River Council On Aging Bugbee Senior Center .....	III-14
Windsor County Partners .....	III-15
WISE (Women's Information Services) .....	III-15
Youth-In-Action .....	III-16

#### **Part IV – Norwich Fire District**

Norwich Fire District .....	IV-2
Norwich Fire District 2012 Annual Meeting Warning .....	IV-2
Prudential Committee Annual Report .....	IV-3
Treasurer's Report .....	IV-4
Delinquent Tax Report - December 31, 2011 .....	IV-4
Fire District Auditor's Report .....	IV-4
Norwich Fire District Revenue, Expenditure And Budget Reports .....	IV-5

#### **Part V – Norwich School District**

Norwich School District Officers .....	V-2
Superintendent's Report .....	V-2
Norwich School Board Annual Report .....	V-3
Marion Cross School Principal's Report .....	V-4
Norwich Finance Committee School Budget Statement .....	V-4
Norwich School District Proposed Revenue Report .....	V-5
Norwich School District Expenditure Budget Report .....	V-6
Independent Auditor's Report – Excerpts .....	V-9
Three Prior Years Comparisons .....	V-13
Comparative Data for Cost Effectiveness .....	V-14

#### **Part VI – Dresden School District**

Dresden School District Officers .....	VI-2
Warrant for Annual Meeting of the Dresden School District .....	VI-3
2012 Dresden District Warning Article Descriptions .....	VI-4
Minutes of the Dresden School District Annual Meeting, February 24 and March 1, 2011 .....	VI-6
Results of Australian Balloting on March 1, 2011 .....	VI-8
Dresden School Board Annual Report .....	VI-9
Marion W. Cross School Comparative Yearly Enrollments .....	VI-10
Dresden School Districts Comparative Yearly Enrollments .....	VI-10
Norwich Students in Dresden School District .....	VI-10
Dresden School District Instructional Staff, 2011-2012 .....	VI-11
Frances C. Richmond School .....	VI-11
Hanover High School .....	VI-12
Frances C. Richmond School Principal's Report .....	VI-14
Hanover High School Principal's Report .....	VI-15
Dresden Finance Committee .....	VI-16
Dresden School District Proposed Revenue Report .....	VI-17
Dresden School District Expenditure Budget Report .....	VI-18
Independent Auditor's Report – Excerpts .....	VI-25
Hanover High School Class of 2011 .....	VI-31

**Town of Norwich, Vermont and  
Norwich Town School District  
Warning of Annual Meeting, March 6, 2012**

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont and the Norwich Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet in Tracy Memorial Hall, Norwich, Vermont at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 5, 2012, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

**Article 1.** Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

**Article 2.** Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2012.

**Article 3.** Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

**Article 4.** Approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$3,936,364 plus state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

**Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$95,000 to match federal and state funds to repair damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene to be available until June 30, 2014?

**Article 6.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich establish a designated fund for road paving and appropriate \$75,000 to the fund on July 1, 2012?

**Article 7.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich establish a Town-wide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District and authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement with Efficiency Vermont to operate the PACE home energy improvements program for interested homeowners as provided by 24 VSA Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.)?

**Article 8.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$10,160 to Advance Transit to be used to help cover operating costs and providing matching funds for grants, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of providing public transportation services to benefit Town residents?

**Article 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$500 to the Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community through volunteer service, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?

**Article 10.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest to be used for operation of the hotline, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of Norwich callers using the 24-hour hotline?

**Article 11.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,093 to the Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeast Vermont in support of community services provided to Norwich, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?

**Article 12.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$45,000 to recreate a revolving fund to initiate contracts to acquire land suitable for affordable housing, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents? This money will be returned to the General Fund at the end of five years.

**Article 13.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,500 to the Norwich American Legion, to be used for the Legion's Memorial Day observance, such amount being reasonably necessary to provide a dignified event honoring those Town residents who gave all?

- Article 14.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$15,000 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA § 5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries?
- Article 15.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$4,348 to The Child Care Center of Norwich to be used for income sensitive scholarships to Norwich children, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 16.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$8,000 to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to assist with general operations, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 17.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to the Norwich Lions Club to be used to underwrite the fireworks for the Norwich Fair, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 18.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$180,000 to the Norwich Public Library Association, to be used for the operating expenses of the Library?
- Article 19.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$750 for the support of Sustainable Energy Resource Group, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 20.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,750 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) to be used for emergency needs, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services, financial counseling and food and nutrition education, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 21.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to The Family Place to be used for general program support, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Norwich children?
- Article 22.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to be used for trail planning and work, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$15,600 to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 24.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging to be used for home delivered meals, transport and social services, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit senior citizen Town residents?
- Article 25.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Partners to be used for mentoring youth, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town youth?
- Article 26.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service) to be used to support WISE's crisis intervention and support services and prevention education, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?



- Article 27.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,000 to Youth-In-Action to be used for operating expenses, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs to benefit Town residents?
- Article 28.** In light of the United States Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Norwich vote on March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States’ consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the Town send its resolution to the Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?
- Article 29.** Require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before 4:30 pm August 17, 2012 and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 pm February 8, 2013. Property tax adjustments from the State of Vermont will be applied to tax installments equally. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% per month for the first three months and 1½% per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 8, 2013. All taxes, interest and collection fees will be paid into the Town Treasury.
- Article 30.** Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.
- Article 31.** Authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).
- Article 32.** Authorize the Norwich Town School District to appropriate \$25,000 for the reduction and elimination of the District’s fund deficit.
- Article 33.** Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?
- Article 34.** Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District appropriate \$4,902,189, necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013?
- Article 35.** Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School Board.

Norwich Selectboard	Norwich School Board
Christopher Ashley	Linda Addante
Roger Blake	Carey Callaghan
Edwin Childs	Anne Day
Linda Cook	Neil Odell
Stephen Flanders	Lauren Morando Rhim



## **Voter Information**

**Registration:** To be eligible to vote in this election, people must register to vote and applications to the checklist must be received by the Town Clerk by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

**Absentee Ballots:** All requests for absentee voter ballots must be made prior to 4:30 pm on Monday, March 5, 2012. There are three ways you may vote by absentee ballot:

1. Voters may vote in person in the Town Clerk's Office. 17 VSA §2537.
2. Ballots may be delivered by teams of Justices of the Peace to voters who are absent due to illness or physical disability. The Town Clerk must receive notice no later than three days in advance. 17 VSA §2538.
3. Ballots may be mailed to absent voters if a valid application has been filed with the Town Clerk. 17 VSA §2539.

**Curbside Voting:** Election Officials are permitted "to carry a ballot to a handicapped or elderly person in order to permit that person to mark his ballot while in a motor vehicle adjacent to the polling place." 17 VSA, §2502(b).

Tracy Hall is handicapped accessible. Any person needing additional assistance should contact the Town Clerk at least four days before Town Meeting.

## **Candidates for Office – March 6, 2012**

### **For MODERATOR**

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

- THAYER, WARREN

### **For Dresden-Norwich SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- ODELL, NEIL

### **For NORWICH SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

For two years

Vote for not more than ONE

- RHIM, LAUREN MORANDO

### **For LISTER**

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- CICCOTELLI, ERNIE

### **For LISTER**

Unexpired one-year term

Vote for not more than ONE

- LINDBERG, CHERYL A.

### **For SELECTMAN**

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

### **For SELECTMAN**

For two years

Vote for not more than ONE

- FLANDERS, STEPHEN

### **For GRAND JUROR**

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### **For AGENT TO PROSECUTE & DEFEND SUITS**

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### **For CEMETERY COMMISSIONER**

For five years

Vote for not more than ONE

### **For CEMETERY COMMISSIONER**

For an unexpired four-year term

Vote for not more than ONE

- VAN ARMAN, JAY

### **For TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

### **For TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

For an unexpired two-year term

Vote for not more than ONE

- REXFORD, DOUGLAS R.



### **Mike & Lois McGean**

The recent passing of J. Michael “Mike” McGean at his home on Pine Tree Road closes the book on an extraordinary story of community service by a Norwich couple – Mike and his late wife, Lois. For well over a half-century, they gave generously of their time and energy to a wide variety of civic activities in Norwich, Hanover and the Upper Valley, inspired to a large extent by their shared passion for figure skating, gardening, education, and land conservation.

Both Mike and Lois developed a life-long love of figure skating from an early age, he growing up in Cleveland, she in Baltimore. They met at Lake Placid, New York and later became ice dance partners. Skating to live orchestral music in Wembley Stadium outside London, the pair won the first ever world Ice Dance Championship in 1950. They married two years later. Legions of McGean skating pupils remember well the rigorous drills on the ice at the former Davis Rink, Champion Rink, and Thompson Arena in Hanover ~ under the steady but patient guidance of Mike and Lois. For many years they choreographed the annual Dartmouth Winter Carnival ice show at the Skating Club at Dartmouth. It was a stellar event, first held on a flooded rink on the Dartmouth Green, and later at Thompson.

A Dartmouth graduate, class of 1949, Mike was called back to the College in the early 1950s and served as the Secretary of the College and its Alumni Director for almost 40 years. Following in the footsteps of Lois, who was an ardent environmentalist and conservationist, Mike also believed fervently in land preservation and was a strong supporter of the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Hanover Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, and The Trust for Public Land.

The McGeans initially took up residence on McKenna Road in Norwich and in the early 1960s designed and built their unique home on Pine Tree Road, highlighted by a large indoor solarium which they planted with palm trees, camellias, ferns, and other plants, all tended by Mike and Lois, along with their three children, Loren, Betsy and Geoff. In warmer months, gardening became the passion. Passersby on Norwich’s well-known walking loop, often marveled at the determination of the petite blonde Lois, accompanied by Mike, digging gardens and planting annuals and perennials in the triangular community garden at the intersection of Hopson and Pine Tree Road or on the smaller triangle outside Tracy Hall.

Both McGeans loved the beauty of the large open meadow on Hopson Road near Blood Brook leading up to their house. So concerned were they about possible development, that they joined several other residents in organizing neighbors to purchase shares of the land to keep it protected. A less successful initiative was Lois’ effort to block the I-91 interchange at the entrance to Norwich and so save Lewiston village.

Mike and Lois are laid to rest next to each other in a family plot on the upper end of the Hillside Cemetery in Norwich. The sweeping, unobstructed view of the town, Connecticut River Valley and Dartmouth College’s Baker library are a fitting panorama for the couple who loved and served the community so well.