

Part III
Other Agencies & Organizations

ACORN (Aids Community Resource Network)

ACORN's mission is "to support and assist those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV) to live fully and with dignity and to stop the spread of these diseases through education, information and understanding." With the help of contributing towns such as Norwich, it provides:

- Case management services to our clients infected with HIV/AIDS or HCV, with a crucial link to assistance programs and access to funds in support of their medical needs, as well as aid in day-to-day expenses such as food, heat, medications, transportation, electricity, and housing;
- Support groups for those living with HIV/AIDS and HCV;
- A home-delivery food assistance program;
- HIV/AIDS and HCV education and prevention programs at local high schools, methadone clinics and other social service agencies;
- A prison outreach program providing HIV/HCV education, counseling and testing;
- Free HIV and HCV counseling and testing services to any individual in the community with past risk factors;
- A needle exchange program in conjunction with the Good Neighbor Clinic.

Our services remain confidential. Each individual consumes approximately \$3,000 per year in financial assistance. ACORN is the only agency in the Upper Valley area that helps the community remain aware that both HIV and HCV are real health concerns that all of us must pay attention to and help eradicate.

Paul E. Brogan, Interim Executive Director (603-448-8887)

Advance Transit

Advance Transit, Inc. is a bi-state regional nonprofit public transportation system headquartered in Wilder. Our services include FREE regularly scheduled fixed route bus service, park-and-ride shuttles, and the Upper Valley Rideshare carpool matching service. In Norwich, 9,391 passenger trips were boarded in FY 2006. This is up 8% from the previous year. Ridership in Norwich has increased several years in a row. Norwich passengers now enjoy a second bus shelter, which has been erected at the bus stop behind the Library.

The Federal Transit Administration is requiring that, starting in January, 2007, Advance Transit begin to offer ADA Complementary Paratransit service. This will be an on-demand service for individuals who have a disability that prevents them from using fixed route bus service. The service will be offered during the same hours that the fixed route service operates and will be limited to within ? of a mile of the fixed route.

Information on routes and schedules, as well as the Upper Valley Rideshare program, can be obtained at the town offices or by phone 8-4:30 Monday through Friday (295-1824) or visit our website at www.advancetransit.com. It is our pleasure to serve you and to help meet your transportation needs.

Van Chesnut, Executive Director (295-1824)

American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post #8

The American Legion is a national veterans' organization that promotes individual obligation to community, state and nation. Membership is open to all veterans, of all services and the merchant marine from WWI through to today, including the National Guard who are called up by the federal government. Our Post has 17 service star personnel in the service.

Memorial Day is truly a memorable day for the town and the Legion. The Post puts out over 300 grave flags in the seven town cemeteries, ranging from the Revolutionary War to the present time. Post #8 has sponsored the Norwich Cub Scout Pack 253 since 1952 (the Boy Scouts are sponsored by the Norwich Lions Club). This year the Post sponsored a boy to boys' state and a girl to girls' state.

To keep the Post financially sound, we rent out the Hall at \$15.00 an hour; we held a food sale, sell Legion calendars, and every Thursday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. have cribbage evenings at \$3 per person. We also put up the street flags for holidays and special events.

Peter Batson, Commander, Earl Thompson, Adjutant (649-1322)

Child Care Center in Norwich

The Child Care Center in Norwich is a nonprofit organization founded in May, 1971 as The Day Care Center Inc. for the purpose of providing high-quality, affordable child care services for families of the Upper Valley. The Center provides year-round, comprehensive child care to 70 children ages six weeks through six years. The Center has been accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1996. In addition to the regular child care program, the Center offers inclusive programming for children with special needs who are referred by local school districts. Tuition is on a sliding fee scale based on family income. The Center also offers need-based scholarships. Tuition subsidies are also available through the state of Vermont for low income working families. The Center receives funding from the Upper Valley United Way.

Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, the Center served 45 children from the town of Norwich. Three Norwich children received partial scholarships totaling \$2,582.

Our goal is to provide an appropriate, enriching environment for a diverse group of children with a variety of family experiences, both culturally and economically. We believe that, to a large extent, the strength and quality of our program is derived from the broad experiences of our families and staff.

Allison Colburn, Executive Director (649-1403)

The Family Place

Mission: The Family Place supports the positive growth and development of all parents by offering services that encourage families to build upon their strengths.

We continue to serve 22 towns in Vermont as well as numerous NH towns in the Upper Valley. Our commitment is to promote the healthy growth and development of families with children aged birth to five, although some of our programs serve clients through the age of 17. We serve all families, believing that parenting is the most important role in the community. At the same time, we strive to ensure that our services are available to those families who face significant challenges. We know that the earlier we reach children and their families, the better the chances are for them to lead successful, healthy lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Some of our programs include child care payment assistance, Home Visiting programs, Playgroups, Family Fun Events, Parent Education, Holiday Assistance for individuals in need, Child Advocacy and therapy, information and referral services, a lending library, and a wonderful on-site program to assist young mothers with parenting skills, knowledge of child development, job readiness and life skills.

The Family Place served 254 Norwich residents last year with our many programs and events. In addition, many Norwich residents participated in our Gingerbread Festival at Tracy Hall (which attracted over 850 people), and utilize our lending library and referral services. For more information on programs and activities, please call 649-3268.

Elaine Guenet, Executive Director (649-3268)

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Norwich is a charter member of the District, which was created in 1990 to plan for member towns' long-term waste management needs and to provide supplemental waste management services to members. Direct services to Norwich and its residents in 2006 included working closely with the town to audit and reduce costs incurred by the transfer station/recycling center, and recycling and disposal of hard-to-manage materials collected at the transfer station including fluorescent light bulbs, car batteries, computers, used motor oil, tires, packing peanuts, and propane tanks. In all, 165 Norwich residents participated in district-sponsored events including special collections of household hazardous waste, used motor oil, electronics, bulky trash, tires, books, clothing, scrap metal, and compost and recycling bin sales; and 161 Norwich residents purchased windshield permits to use the Hartford waste and recycling facility under the District's agreement with Hartford.

In long-term planning, on November 7, 2006, residents of Norwich, along with the rest of the member towns, took the next-to-last step toward gaining long-term control over their solid waste disposal costs by passing a bond issue to construct an access road and bridge over I-91 to reach GUV's fully permitted future landfill site in North Hartland. The \$1.5 million bond issue, which is to be paid for by user fees (future landfill tipping fees), not property taxes, will finance the bridge. The 40-acre landfill, if it also receives a successful bond vote in the not-too-distant future, will provide a 50-year regional solution to trash disposal.

An events calendar and Green Guide will be available in the spring at Town Meeting, the Town Clerk's office, and on the web at www.guvswd.org. Stephen J. Soares continues to be Norwich's representative to the District Board of Supervisors, with Nancy Kramer as the alternate.

Fred Moody, Executive Director (296-3688)

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center is part of a nation-wide program for people aged 55 and older who wish to have a positive impact on the quality of life in their communities. Through meaningful and significant use of their skills and knowledge, they offer their volunteer service to non-profit and community organizations. Last year in the Town of Norwich, GMRSVP created partnerships with the Marion Cross Elementary School, Norwich Initiative, Norwich Public Library, Vermont Earth Institute, Upper Valley Presents and the Senior Action Council. The GMRSVP volunteers help children in the classroom, restock the shelves at the library, take tickets at Upper Valley Presents, work with seniors, deliver meals and fill a need wherever one exists. We look forward to expanding the impact of GMRSVP in the Town of Norwich by adding more non-profits to our list and signing up more volunteers. Please contact our Windsor office at 802-885-2083 if you would like to become a volunteer or work at an organization with a need for volunteers.

Patricia M. Palencsar, Executive Director (802-447-1545)

Headrest

Over the past year, while maintaining all of our current programs, Headrest started several new programs. The Community Outreach Program places several substance abuse counselors in local communities to address the unmet needs of individuals who have financial, physical and/or mental limitations and are otherwise unable to utilize our existing substance abuse services. The goal of this program is to help clients live a more vibrant and productive lifestyle, enabling them to assume their day-to-day responsibilities and reducing the likelihood of homelessness. The Adolescent Peer Program consists of several youth groups that meet on a regular basis with a substance abuse counselor to discuss an array of concerns from substance usage issues, problems associated with peer pressure, family relationships, responsibilities, school/education, etc. Attendance for this program is growing at a fast clip and the need for this service is becoming more apparent with each passing day.

Some other programs that were started in 2006 involved placing a counselor at the Grafton County Jail, the Claremont Homeless Shelter and in some local Senior Centers. All these programs are funded by local communities like the Town of Norwich and private donations, and we thank you for your support.

Michael Cryan, Executive Director (603-448-4872)

Health Care & Rehabilitation Services

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. These services are provided through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment programs, a community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternatives and emergency services programs.

During FY06, HCRS provided 647 hours of services to 20 residents of the Town of Norwich. These services involved included all of HCRS' programs, resulting in a wide array of support for the residents of Norwich.

George Karabakakis, Chief Operating Officer, (802-463-3947)

Montshire Museum of Science

The Montshire Museum of Science is a nonprofit, community-owned and operated institution serving Norwich and surrounding communities since 1976. This year the Montshire completed the final phase of work on improvements to the Museum's entrance road and parking. These upgrades provide safer access for families and schoolchildren. The new sidewalk is especially valuable for our visitors walking from various Norwich locations. The Montshire has continued to offer several benefits exclusively to Norwich residents, including free admission to the Museum for Marion Cross School classes. In collaboration with Marion Cross, the Montshire again provided summer program scholarships to Norwich residents.

The Museum donated complimentary passes to the Family Place, to the Fresh Air Fund for use by Norwich host families, and to numerous other non-profit agencies serving Norwich residents. The Museum also subsidized access to the Montshire for the Norwich Child Care Center. Many local non-profit organizations serving Norwich benefited from free use of the Montshire's Community Room including the Norwich Lions Club, the Ford K. Sayre Memorial Ski Council, and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission. Montshire also serves as an official emergency evacuation site for the Marion Cross School and for the Norwich Child Care Center. Over 300 Norwich individuals or families are members of the Museum and many other residents take advantage of the Montshire's proximity by regularly visiting. As one of the most popular attractions in northern New England, the Montshire brings important tourist revenues to Norwich businesses. We are pleased to be a part of the Norwich community.

David Goudy, Director (649-2200)

Norwich Happenings

Norwich Happenings is a town newsletter that appears three times a year. In addition, we publish a page in the *Norwich Times* four times a year for town committees and officers to report on their activities.

In each issue of the newsletter, members of the *Happenings* committee write about issues affecting Norwich – from after-school pressure on the Norwich Public Library to road and parking issues, to changes at institutions in our community. We also publish a town calendar, requests from organizations in town for volunteer help, and profiles of people and institutions that affect life here. The town funds that support *Happenings* go entirely to printing and postage costs. Committee members are: Ken Cadow, Vicky Fish, Alicia Green, Warren Thayer and Jim Walsh.

Rob Gurwitt, Editor (649-2766)

Norwich Historical Society

The Norwich Historical Society offered a host of educational programs, exhibits, and activities this year as we continued our mission to collect, preserve, and exhibit material relating to the history of Norwich. We are very grateful to the many individuals who have enriched our collections through their gifts, which include scrapbooks, photographs, journals, family papers, and works of art. Lectures, a kitchen junket, the Second Annual Norwich Antiques Show, and a tour of the historic Joseph Hatch House were just some of the programs we offered.

Four grades from the Marion Cross School came to the Lewis House for educational programs. The sixth graders in particular are to be commended for the excellent book they published under the guidance of their teacher, Marguerite Ames, *World War II Memories from Home and Abroad: Essays by Marion Cross School Sixth Graders Based on Interviews with Our Neighbors, Friends, and Families*, and for the exhibit they mounted at the Historical Society honoring those who served from Norwich both at home and abroad.

In addition to the exhibits at the Historical Society and at the Vermont History Expo, we were busy as stewards of the Lewis House. To ensure that we are proceeding in accordance with best preservation practices, we are following a well-reasoned, prioritized plan to address the remaining building issues. We have hired preservation architect Tom Keefe of Middlebury and, after several meetings, we now have preliminary drawings detailing the restoration work that must be done to secure the fabric of the Lewis House and make it accessible. We look forward to raising the necessary \$200,000 to complete this work so that the Lewis House becomes an inviting and suitable place for our collections, exhibits, and community gatherings, and a true asset for the community.

Nancy Osgood, President (649-3416)

Norwich Public Library

The Norwich Public Library is a private, nonprofit corporation operating under 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. It receives funds for operations primarily from the annual town appropriation and annual contributions. The Library serves Norwich and also neighboring towns (with a small charge).

We offer high-quality adult and children's books, audio/video materials, periodicals, and a variety of online databases. Circulation continues to climb, increasing 10% last year (61,099 to 67,352). NPL has the highest per capita circulation (16.92) of any library serving a community of 2,500 to 4,999 residents in Vermont! Last year over 7,300 people used our public computers and free Wi-Fi. Our Community Room hosted fifty local organizations; 3,250 people attended the 171 programs sponsored by the Library, twenty-one of which were held in cooperation with other groups. Last fall, Norwich participated in its first One Town, One Book project, Vermont Reads Seedfolks. A similar project is scheduled for 2007.

We were the grateful recipients of a Norwich Women's Club Community Grant to upgrade our public computers and a Resource Sharing Grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries in support of our interlibrary loan program. The Friends of the Library provided funds to expand our audiobook collection and underwrote our successful summer reading program. It was another busy and great year!

None of this would be possible without the generous support from Norwich residents, our dedicated volunteers, Friends members and our patrons. On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees and library staff, we thank you.

Lucinda H. Walker, Director (649-1184)

Norwich Special Places

Norwich Special Places has been transformed into three new bodies. At its Annual Meeting on May 23, 2006, the board and advisory council dissolved its structure and formal relationship with the Upper Valley Land Trust. New forms emerge as:

1. **Norwich Special Places**, an informal network of people who come as often as they'd like, to monthly breakfasts at the Norwich Inn to share new or old ideas on conservation and the environment and to enjoy each other's company. Some of the ideas may be developed or carried further. They are linked by e-mail. They currently meet the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 8-9 a.m.
2. **The Norwich Open Space Committee**, an ad hoc advisory committee to the Conservation Commission, helping implement the Open Space Priorities, Informal Plan, in part by identifying and nurturing priority projects, and in part by serving as a clearing house for people who would like to conserve land with various options.
3. **An Upper Valley Land Trust Committee** of Norwich volunteers that will help fundraise to conserve significant parcels in town and may hold neighborhood meetings.

This report is also an invitation to our friends and neighbors who are interested in conservation to join.

Sarah Drew Reeves, Chair (649-3827; sdreeves@tpk.net)

Norwich Women's Club

The Norwich Women's Club, founded in 1907, promotes the cultural, educational, civic, and charitable aspects of life in Norwich. Membership is open to all residents of Norwich and other interested persons, and stands at this time at just under 190 members.

2006 marks the beginning of the Centennial Celebration of the club. A Fall Gathering honored a dozen of our past presidents and highlighted the history of the club. A town sign, installed at the gateway to the village in October, is the NWC's centennial gift to Norwich. Centennial activities will continue in 2007, including a winter cocktail reception at the Norwich Historical Society to open a historic show on the club, and a barn dance in the fall.

Much of the club's work is fundraising. Each fall and spring the NWC sponsors the Nearly New Sale, where gently used clothing is sold. Nearly New Sales fully fund scholarships for college-bound Norwich residents in the amount of about \$35,000 in 2006. In March the NWC stages Floribunda, a show and sale of flowers and plants. Proceeds from this event, \$15,500 in 2006, were awarded to Norwich individuals and organizations for community projects that enhance the lives of all Norwich residents. Grants awarded this year included funding for the Norwich Historical Society's Lewis House, the Norwich Public Library, the visiting authors program at the Marion Cross School, the Starlake Village Homeowners Association, Norwich Senior Housing, the Family Place and the Montshire Museum.

In 2006 the NWC had a winter book and author luncheon and a spring trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The club, which is governed by a 22-person board, hosts a fall and spring meeting, as well as a holiday gathering, and sends out six newsletters to its membership each year.

Sue Pitiger, President (649-1684)

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 (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), crisis intervention, parent education, micro-business development, individual development accounts, and four thrift stores.

In the community of Norwich we provided the following services during FY06:

- **Family services (outreach):** 5 families (9 individuals); 15 services (including crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)
- **Fuel/utility assistance:** 4 assists totaling \$492.00.

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private, and town funding allows us not only to maintain, but also to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Norwich for their ongoing support.

Stephen Geller, Executive Director (722-4575)

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission

During 2006, TRORC provided technical expertise and resources for municipal officials as well as advocated for members' needs with the State Legislature and with state and federal agencies. Major accomplishments for the past year included:

Regional and Local Transportation Planning - TRORC began work on the Safe Routes to School program, a collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee worked with member municipalities on numerous local transportation projects. Two Rivers' staff wrote many Transportation Enhancement Grants and assisted our towns in procuring design engineers, processing requisitions for payment, and organizing public meetings for local input.

Local Technical Assistance - During the past year, we began to assist towns in reviewing and updating Flood Hazard Area Regulations. TRORC continued to provide advice and support to town officials on a wide range of activities, including grant writing and administration, assistance on town plan revisions, ordinance development, GIS mapping, transportation planning, and Act 250 development review. TRORC staff assisted the Norwich Business Council and the Town of Norwich in preparing an application for Village Center Designation by the Vermont Downtown Board.

Emergency Planning Activities - The Regional Commission's emergency management planning program continued to be funded by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Projects focused on all-hazards planning associated with natural and man-made disasters. Our staff provided administrative support to Local Emergency Planning Committee #12 and assisted in a number of Emergency Response exercises conducted in 2006 by Vermont Emergency Management.

Economic Development Planning - In 2006, the Regional Commission continued working on a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to assess the level of contamination on many sites throughout our Region. An additional \$200,000 was received by TRORC this year, further strengthening this initiative. In addition, TRORC spent considerable time maintaining the eligibility of our Region for federal Economic Development Administration money.

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director (457-3188)

Upper Valley Community Grange #581

Upper Valley Community Grange remains active in the community. The monthly breakfast that we hold not only provides income for us to do repairs to our hall and to make donations to the different groups but it also provides a meeting place for the people of Norwich. They come to breakfast and stay to visit with neighbors and friends.

We have donated to the Norwich Public Library and Norwich Historical Society; we gave a donation to the town to help provide flags to be used on the Main Street. For the fourth year, we have provided a dictionary to every third grader in the Marion Cross School. We made donations to the Haven, David's House, and Hannah's House. The Senior Housing used the hall for their Christmas Party. Our hall is used by the Boy Scouts, and once each month by a church for services. The hall is used each year for the Halloween Party by the Town of Norwich. The Christmas Pageant uses the hall for rehearsals and as a part of the pageant setting.

Our membership continues to grow and become more diversified. We are fortunate to have the Master and Lecturer of the Vermont State Grange as members and the State Grange Junior Director and State Grange Home Ec. Chairman as members also.

We feel proud to be apart of Norwich and pleased that we are able to provide services to the people of the community and beyond.

Clyde Berry, Secretary (295-2091)

Upper Valley Land Trust

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the people of the Upper Valley permanently protect the land they care about most, including working farms and forestland, water resources, wildlife habitat, trails and scenic views. Since 1985, UVLT has conserved 320 parcels, 35 of them in Norwich. Some of these properties, such as Cossingham Road Farm, the Milton Frye Nature Area, and the recently conserved McLaughry property along Burton Woods Road are open to the public for hiking and skiing.

UVLT is guided by local conservation priorities and works with individuals, community groups, and towns to protect land in perpetuity under legally binding conservation agreements. UVLT's stewardship program monitors and defends these agreements. UVLT is supported by over 1,200 contributing households. Its staff of 11 is assisted by over 100 volunteers.

The Upper Valley Land Trust completed three conservation projects in Norwich during the year ending June 30, 2006:

- Charlotte Metcalf's 27-acre "Thorburn Farm" property on Kerwin Hill Road;
- A 44-acre parcel owned by Bruce and Susan McLaughry next to Burton Woods Road;
- Eighty acres belonging to Judy Bowen on Pattrell Road.

The Norwich Conservation Commission helped cover the costs of conserving the Bowen property with a \$3,400 contribution from the Norwich Conservation Fund.

UVLT also worked with several Norwich landowners considering conservation options, and made annual monitoring visits to all UVLT-conserved properties in Norwich.

For information contact me or visit UVLT's website at www.UVLT.org.

Patricia Crawford, Community Relations Director (603-643-6626)

Upper Valley River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

This year the Upper Valley River Subcommittee updated the water resources chapter of the Connecticut River Management Plan, focusing on the many environmental and economic benefits of keeping floodplains open, shorelands protected from development, and vegetated riparian buffers growing along riverbanks to keep them stable and to filter pollutants from water running off the land into the river. The Subcommittee continues to carry out our obligation to provide information and assistance to the states, towns, and local landowners on projects near the river. We encourage towns to consider our Management Plan and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances.

The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. A second Norwich representative is currently needed. Those interested in representing the town should contact the Selectboard. The public is welcome to join our meetings, on the third Monday evening of every other month at the Thetford Bicentennial Building. A calendar, advice on bank erosion and obtaining permits for work in or near the river, and a summary of the Connecticut River Management Plan are on the web at www.crjc.org/localaction.htm.

Jeff Mathias, Norwich Representative (649-3927)

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Through “Upper Valley Trails for Life,” the Upper Valley Trails Alliance enhances the health of residents and the community by promoting active living via trails. Our accomplishments during 2005-06 include:

- In partnership with White River Family Practice and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, expanding prescription walking programs to educate more patients about the health benefits associated with incorporating moderate physical activity into their daily lives.
- Publishing the first edition of our *Passport to Winter Fun*, aimed at engaging youth and families of Norwich and other communities in increased physical activity during the winter.
- Initiating discussions with landowners and the town about building a pedestrian/bike path to the new athletic fields adjacent to Rt. 5 south in Norwich.
- Organizing the first Upper Valley Trails Fair at Tracy Hall in Norwich to help people learn about nearby trails and trail groups.
- Completing the third Upper Valley Bike/Walk to Work Day in collaboration with Upper Valley Rideshare.
- For the first time, maintaining ice skating loops/trails on both Dewey’s Pond in Quechee and Lake Morey throughout the winter for use by residents of Norwich and other communities.
- Assisting the Norwich Trails Committee in obtaining a grant to improve the Gile Mountain Trail.

The Trails Alliance thanks Norwich residents for continuing to support Upper Valley Trails for Life. For more information, contact me at trails@valley.net, or visit www.uvtrails.org.

Wally Elton, Executive Director (649-9075)

Vermont Department of Health

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) works to protect, improve and promote the health of Vermonters. The following are some of the Department’s services that are available to residents of Norwich.

- **Emergency Preparedness:** The department works with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to public health threats or emergencies.
- **Food & Lodging Inspections:** National surveys show that more people are eating out. VDH public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food-borne disease outbreaks. Of the six establishments in Norwich, six inspections were completed by a VDH sanitarian during 2005. For the most recent inspection scores in your area, go to <http://healthvermont.gov/>.
- **Reportable Disease Investigations:** The VDH investigates all cases of reportable infectious disease to determine their source, recommend control measures, and prevent further spread. In 2005, the department investigated 138 cases of disease in Windsor County.
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and**

Children (WIC): During 2005, 23 women, infants and children living in Norwich received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program.

- **Town Health Officer Program:** Town health officers work on a variety of environmental and health issues and respond to calls on diverse public health concerns, including animal bites, West Nile virus, rental code complaints and septic systems. In FY'06, the Health Department assisted Norwich's health officer and residents eight times.
- **Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:** During 2005, the Health Department distributed childhood vaccines to healthcare providers in the White River Junction district valued at \$229,909.
- **West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance:** In 2006 West Nile virus surveillance activities ended on October 20, 2006. Of 13,701 mosquitoes tested, none was positive for WNV.

Margaret Caudill-Slosberg, M.D., M.P.H., District Director (295-8820)

Vermont League of Cities And Towns

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member board of directors. Its mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 147 other municipal entities, including villages and fire districts.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, so that they may provide their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

- **Legal, consulting and education services.** In the past year, VLCT responded to over 3,000 inquiries for assistance from municipal officials. Our Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) conducted 15 workshops that attracted over 1,200 people, as well as 15 on-site trainings. MAC distributed more than 200 handbooks to municipal officials and debuted a new, electronic Resource Library.
- **Advocacy representation** before the state and federal governments to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority they need to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate, in land use discussions, and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.
- **Purchasing opportunities** to provide needed services at the lowest cost. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to municipal employees. The value of the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) is realized daily as members take advantage of loss prevention training and assistance, as well as reasonable insurance rates. These two trusts, with the VLCT Unemployment Trust, were responsible in 2006 for \$60 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services.

Individuals interested in finding out more about the VLCT, including reviewing its audited financial statements, can visit our website at <www.vlct.org>.

Stephen Jeffrey, Executive Director (800-649-7915)

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire

Surrounded by memories, familiar furnishings, and family photographs, people almost always wish to confront the issues of illness, accident or aging, and dying in the comfort of their homes. Our core programs are homecare, hospice, and family health. Town funding ensures that these medically necessary and supportive services are provided to all Norwich citizens, including the uninsured and under-insured.

The VNA & Hospice's ability to provide care at home helps keep patients out of emergency rooms and hospitals. Thus, the need for town emergency services is reduced.

Thanks to advances in medical technology, treatments including wound imaging, pain management, chemotherapy, and antibiotic and nutrition infusion may now be administered by a home health nurse.

Family members and other caregivers receive direction and guidance, making their care more effective and less stressful. This results in significant health, social and emotional benefits for both the patient and the caregiver.

Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, VNA & Hospice staff provided 1,091 home visits to 61 Norwich residents. These individuals were cared for by nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, medical social workers, home health aides, parent aides, or personal care attendants, and in some cases, a hospice physician. Hospice volunteers provided additional visits. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your continued confidence.

Susan H. Larman, President and CEO (295-2604; 800-858-1696)

White River Council On Aging

The White River Council on Aging, Inc. a.k.a. Bugbee Senior Center was incorporated in 1976. This year we celebrated our 30th Anniversary! The Bugbee Senior Center seeks to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value, and affirms the dignity and self worth of older adults. This is achieved through our comprehensive network of services and opportunities.

Our goal is to offer programs that enhance physical and mental health, provide an opportunity to develop creativity, assist with benefits such as: food stamps, social security, housing assistance, Medicare, medical insurance, social security and more. Additionally, financial aid for respite care and paralegal support services are available. We also have a lending library and computers with internet access. Our recent offerings include exercise classes, a walking program and yoga at the center.

During FY 2006 we served 133 Norwich residents aged 60 and older. We sent 1,428 newsletters to 119 Norwich homes. Twenty-one individuals received a total of 176 meals at the center and we provided 1,436 home-delivered meals. Four Norwich residents were given a total of 70 rides, and 21 participated in our educational and recreational programs. Nineteen Norwich residents volunteer at the center.

Please join us as we enter our fourth decade of service to our older friends and neighbors. We are open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Kathleen W. Avery, Executive Director (802-295-9068, bugbeecenter.org)

Windsor County Court Diversion

Windsor County Court Diversion offers community-based court alternatives and educational programs for juveniles and first-time adult offenders. We work for our communities by providing an alternative to the criminal justice system.

Through our community-based restorative justice programs, our staff and dozens of volunteers work to restore the harm caused by crime. Our programs hold offenders accountable and work to restore a sense of safety to the community through restitution, letters of apology, research projects, community service and other restorative activities.

Our programs include: court diversion, juvenile restorative panel for adjudicated youth, a much lauded alcohol safety program and a cannabis program. In the future we hope to offer additional programs relevant to our communities, such as educational courses related to shoplifting and anger management.

From July, 2005 through June, 2006, we heard 217 diversion cases and had 260 referrals to our alcohol safety program. Fourteen of these cases were residents of Norwich.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regina Rice, Executive Director (295-5078)

Windsor County Partners

In our 33rd year of operation, Windsor County Partners continues to help local youth by providing them with adult role models who give them the support they need to achieve greater success in life.

Last year Windsor County Partners supported mentoring partnerships for 39 children aged 10-17 throughout the 24 towns in Windsor County, including three Norwich residents. In addition to the seven partnerships that have been together for over 5 years, 18 were in their second to fourth years of friendship, and 15 of these special friendships were new ones. Our corps of committed senior partner volunteers spent over 4,322 hours with their young friends sharing new experiences, providing encouragement and guidance, and modeling a healthy lifestyle. As one young boy's mother reported, "My son's senior partner is the best thing that ever happened to him. Thanks to him, my son is doing better in school and has more hope for the future."

The organization also sported a new logo and publicity materials to revive its solid statewide reputation in the mentoring field, completed a WCPartners commercial to be aired on Public Access Television, and will be airing radio spots about our program beginning in the spring of 2007. We are well poised to increase our mentor recruitment efforts, thereby meeting the needs of additional youth by broadening our outreach to currently underserved areas.

To learn more about our program, or to volunteer to become a mentor, contact me at 674-5101, 800-491-5101, or via e-mail at vanessa@wcpartners.org.

Vanessa C. Stern, Executive Director (674-5101)

WISE (Women's Information Service)

WISE has been a nonprofit organization serving the needs of the Upper Valley for the past 36 years. In that time, it has evolved from an educational and career exploration center for women into a center providing community education, crisis counseling, advocacy, and intervention for men, women and children affected by domestic and sexual violence. Since 1976, WISE has offered three programs: The Domestic Violence Program, The Sexual Violence Program and The Community Outreach and Education Program. All services are free and confidential and include a 24-hour crisis hotline, medical and legal advocacy, support groups, transitional housing, school presentations, community workshops and many others.

Over the past year, WISE has served 19 Norwich residents. Our services also extend to the high school students residing in Norwich, attending Hanover High School, through The WISE Education Program. WISE reached over 10,000 members of our community last year alone, with a 30% increase in the number of clients using the Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs. We anticipate an increase of Norwich clients over the next year of 20-25 residents.

We appreciate the ongoing support from the Town of Norwich. A collaborative relationship with Norwich residents will continue to help make the Upper Valley a safer place for families to live.

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

Youth-In-Action

Since March of 1983, Youth-In-Action (YIA) has served the Upper Valley by providing opportunities for high school aged young people to be involved in meaningful community service. This past school year more than 275 students enrolled, over a third of whom were Norwich residents.

Youth-In-Action is a non-profit organization that has the leadership of a paid Director in addition to a dedicated and active Board of Directors. At the beginning of the school year interested students indicate their interests, strengths, and abilities, which the YIA Director uses to maintain contact with the volunteers throughout the year. YIA projects can typically be grouped into one of the following categories: working with children, intergenerational projects, assisting with the economically disadvantaged, working with people with special needs, and environmental projects.

Last year, YIA contributed almost 3,000 hours of service through our own projects and volunteering for local charities, agencies, private citizens and organizations. Student volunteers have helped at: Norwich Library, Norwich senior housing, Norwich Fair, recycling and Marion Cross School events. They provide child-care during Norwich functions and give direct help to the elderly in their homes. Upper Valley agencies we help include LISTEN, Family Place, The Haven, Recycling groups, trail and conservation groups, The Hostel, David's House, ChaD, DHMC, Out Reach House, Project Linus, ACTS, etc.

YIA provides healthy outlets for high school-age youth, and works with them in the areas of character and citizenship. We offer an opportunity for adults to interact with high school students in community service.

Jessica Eakin, YIA Director (603-643-4313; yia@dresden.us)