



LEICESTER, VERMONT
2024 TOWN REPORT
January 2024 – December 2024

TOWN MEETING &
TOWN INFORMATIONAL HEARING:
MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2025 7PM

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU

TOWN MEETING AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING:
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 10AM – 7PM

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CHANGES TO THE TOWN REPORT

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

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

FRONT COVER: Leicester, VT Photo by Julie Delphia

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

TOWN INFORMATION
OFFICE HOURS

Julie Delphia
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER
(802) 247-5961
TOWNCLERK@LEICESTERTV.GOV

By Appointment
Monday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am - 2:00pm
Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

A Drop Box is located under the bulletin board on the front of the Town Office. Payments and correspondence may be placed in the **Drop Box** at any time.

Dianne Harvey
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
(802) 465-4079
LISTER@LEICESTERTV.GOV
Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Keith Arlund
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
(802) 465-4079 (OFFICE)
(802) 465-8098
ZONING@LEICESTERTV.GOV
By Appointment

RECYCLING: 1st & 3rd Saturday of month 9:00am - 12:00pm at Town Garage**
***In the winter, recycling will be by the Town Office*

REGULAR MEETINGS
Held at Town Office

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

PLANNING COMMISSION
2nd & Last Tuesday of month at 6:00pm
As required

ZONING BOARD
2nd & Last Tuesday of month at 6:00pm
As required

CEMETERY COMMITTEE (Apr - Oct)
2nd Thursday of month at 6:30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION
(AS OF 1/1/2024)

Diane Benware
Selectboard Chair
(802) 247-3786

Arlan Pidgeon
Road Foreman
(802) 247-6361

Ricky Nicklaw
Fire Warden
(802) 247-8357

Tom Barker
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3160

Brad Lawes
Road Commissioner
(802) 465-8065

Chree Perkins
Health Officer
(802) 465-8335

Brad Lawes
Selectboard Member
(802) 465-8065

Beth Ripley
Del. Tax Collector
(802) 247-0075

Robbie Devoid
Animal Control
(802) 349-6163

John Rouse
Selectboard Member
(802) 247-3135

Jeff McDonough
1st Constable
(802) 343-0788

Diane Randall
Selectboard Member
(802) 558-8885

Mike Rakowitz
2nd Constable
(802) 247-3281

LEICESTER TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Auditors

Lyndsay D'Avignon	March 2026
Deb Miner	March 2027
Donna Pidgeon	March 2025

Delinquent Tax Collector

Elizabeth Ripley	March 2025
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Justices of the Peace

Cheryl Morrison	February 2027
Diane Benware	February 2027
Hilary Hatch	February 2027
Thomas Barker	February 2027
Greg Bernhardt	February 2027

Moderator

Richard Reed	March 2025
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Town Clerk

Julie Delphia	March 2026
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Town Treasurer

Julie Delphia	March 2026
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Selectboard

Diane Benware, Chair (3)	March 2025
Diane Randall (2)	March 2026
Brad Lawes (3)	March 2027
John Rouse (3)	March 2026
Thomas Barker (2)	March 2025

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Jay Michael (3)	November 2026
Donna Swington (3)	November 2025
Lyndsay D'Avignon (3)	November 2027
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2026
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2025

Planning Commission

Jay Michael (3)	November 2026
Donna Swington - Chair (3)	November 2025
Suki Fredricks (3)	November 2027
Jeff McDonough (3)	November 2026
Bill Shouldice (3)	November 2025
Lyndsay D'Avignon - Alternate	

Otter Creek Watershed Mosquito District

Doug Perkins
Lynne Peck
Brad Lawes - Alternate

HIRED TOWN OFFICIALS

Administrative Assistant to the Assessor

Dianne Harvey	Hired
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Road Foreman

Arlan Pidgeon	Hired
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Zoning Administrator

Keith Arlund	Hired
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Animal Control Officer

Robbie Devoid	Hired
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APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS Term Expires

Cemetery Sexton

Donna Pidgeon	March 2025
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Emergency Management Coordinator

John Rouse	May 2025
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Energy Coordinator

Jeremy Gildrien	May 2025
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First Constable

Jeff McDonough	March 2025
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Forest Fire Warden

Richard C. Nicklaw	June 2026
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Regional Planning Representative

Diane Benware	June 2025
Tom Barker	June 2025

Road Commissioner

Brad Lawes	March 2025
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Second Constable

Mike Rakowitz	March 2025
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Solid Waste Representative

Richard Reed	March 2025
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Tree Warden

Arlan Pidgeon	March 2025
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Health Officer

Chree Perkins	August 2025
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LEICESTER TOWN MEETING WARNING & INFORMATIONAL HEARING NOTICE

LEICESTER TOWN MEETING WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Leicester Meeting House in said Town on Monday, **March 3, 2025**, at **7:00 pm** to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1: To hear the auditor's report.

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of **\$825,215.68** to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year, divided as follows:

General Town Expenses	\$ 349,400.68	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 300,579.78
Highway Expenses	\$ 475,815.00	Amount to be raised by taxes: \$ 340,400.71

Note: The Selectboard will set the tax rate at a later date.

The Town Meeting shall adjourn until 10 AM Tuesday, March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are further warned and notified to meet at the **Leicester Town Office** in said Town on **March 4, 2025**, between the hours of **10 AM and 7 PM** when the polls will be open to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

Article 1: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year

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

Article 2: Shall the Town of Leicester vote to appropriate \$1,000 for the support of Whiting Community Food Shelf (serving Leicester and Addison Country) for the purpose of supporting its continuing mission to serve individuals and families with food insecurity?

Article 3: Shall the Town of Leicester adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)(1) beginning 2026?

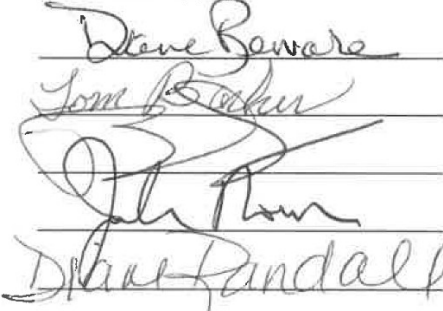
LEICESTER TOWN MEETING INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The legal voters of the Town of Leicester, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Leicester Meeting House in said Town on Monday, **March 3, 2025**, at **THE CONCLUSION OF TOWN MEETING (FLOOR VOTE)** to discuss items to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2025.

1. Discussion of articles to be voted by Australian ballot.
2. To do any further business that is proper to be done when met.

Leicester Selectboard:

January 20, 2025



Diane Benware – Chair (2025)

Tom Barker (2025)

Brad Lawes (2027)

John Rouse (2026)

Diane Randall (2026)

NOTICE TO VOTERS

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by **February 2, 2025**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. SAMPLE BALLOTS will be posted by **February 22, 2025**.

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

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Town Clerk's office on **March 3, 2025**. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

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

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633. If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office. If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Australian Ballots

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

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

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

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

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.

LEICESTER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOWN RECEIPTS

Balance, Jan. 1, 2024		52,823.04
Allocated Funds Education		519,000.00
Transfers	215,119.50	
Grant Income	28,616.51	
Fines, Fees, & License Income	4,333.21	
Property Taxes	3,430,438.18	
Zoning Income	1,425.00	
Other Income	<u>6,041.87</u>	
Total Income	3,685,974.27	<u>3,685,974.27</u>
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS		<u>4,257,797.31</u>

TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

Allocated Funds Education		500,000.00
Transfers to Restricted Funds	221,701.50	
Payments covered by Restricted Funds	23,070.00	
Selectboard Orders	222,037.59	
Assessments & Appropriations	105,599.58	
As Voted	25,000.00	
Education Taxes	<u>3,131,682.74</u>	
Total Expense	3,729,091.41	<u>3,729,091.41</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>4,229,091.41</u>

Ending Balance Dec 31, 2024

28,705.90

LEICESTER HIGHWAY SUMMARY

HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

Balance Jan 1, 2024		70,681.72
Highway Tax Receipts	361,908.28	
Highway Grant	10,000.00	
Highway Aid	74,987.96	
Weight Permits	645.00	
Reimbursement Income	2,739.00	
Transfers from Restricted	1,319.49	
Total Income		<u>451,599.73</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS		<u>522,281.45</u>

HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

Transfer to Restricted Funds	40,000.00	
Selectboard Orders	<u>382,467.16</u>	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS		<u>422,467.16</u>

Ending Balance Dec 31, 2024

99,814.29

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Tax Rate:	Homestead			Non-residential
Town	0.1386			0.1386
Town Highway	0.1959			0.1959
Veteran Exemption	0.0019			0.0019
As Voted	0.0135			0.0135
Education	1.8056			2.0110
Total Tax Rate	2.1555			2.3609
 Grand List	 1,846,932.00			
 Taxes billed:				
Town	1,846,932.00	x	0.1386	255,984.48
Highway	1,846,932.00	x	0.1959	361,814.07
As Voted	1,846,932.00	x	0.0135	24,933.66
				642,732.21
Education Taxes:				
Veteran's Exemp.	1,846,932.00	x	0.0019	3,509.34
Homestead	859,587.00	x	1.8056	1,552,070.26
Non-Residential	990,848.18	x	2.0110	1,992,595.81
				3,548,175.41
Late Filer Penalty				1,637.55
Total Taxes Billed				4,192,545.17
Less State Rebates				403,275.10
Balance to be collected				3,789,270.07
 Taxes Accounted for as Follows:				
2024 Current Taxes				3,669,064.98
2024 Payments from Previous Year				4,860.66
2024 Delinquents Collected				56,540.52
2024 Delinquents Outstanding				58,803.91
 Total				 3,789,270.07

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Town & Highway	15.5%	17.4%	19.1%	18.8%
Education Homestead	83.9%	82.6%	80.9%	81.2%

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

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Town & Highway	14.2%	15.5%	17.0%	16.4%
Education Non-Residential	85.3%	84.5%	83.0%	83.6%

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in General Fund	120,217.87	52,823.04	52,823.04	28,705.90	After receivables/payables
Loans and Transfers:					
Transfer from Restricted Funds	183,221.40		215,119.50		See Funds Page 15
Tax Account Allocation Refund	512,000.00		519,000.00		Allocated for State Ed pmt
Grants & State Direct Deposits					
Grant Income	33,758.00	12,500.00	21,884.51		See Grant Info Page 15
State DD Reappraisal Fund	6,689.50		6,732.00		See Funds Page 15
TOTAL LOANS AND TRANSFERS	735,668.90	12,500.00	762,736.01	0.00	
Fines, Fees & Licenses:					
Civil Fines from Sheriff Patrol	836.50		1,280.21		Register your dog by April 1st See report page 19
Dog Licenses / Fines	2,379.00	2,200.00	2,923.00	2,200.00	
License - Liquor / Junkyard	65.00	65.00	130.00	65.00	
TOTAL FINES, FEES, & LICENSES	3,280.50	2,265.00	4,333.21	2,265.00	
Taxes:					
Current Taxes - Town	202,638.79		281,057.68		
Education Tax True-Up/Municipal Adj	7,227.50		7,807.00		
Current Taxes - Education	2,641,661.99		3,026,099.02		
Delinquent Taxes, Interest, Penalties, Tax Sale Principal & Penalty Revenue	108,356.67		93,579.85		Penalty pays DTC, Tax Sale Principal & Penalty Included
Tax prepayments	4,860.66		663.85		
Current Use	10,439.00	10,000.00	11,561.00	10,000.00	
Fed Bureau Land Mgt - PILOT	8,748.17	7,500.00	9,288.17	7,500.00	
Railroad Tax	381.61	350.00	381.61	350.00	
TOTAL TAXES	2,984,314.39	17,850.00	3,430,438.18	17,850.00	
Zoning:					
Zoning Permit Fees	4,360.00		1,425.00		Fees offset Zoning expense
TOTAL ZONING	4,360.00	0.00	1,425.00	0.00	
Other Income:					
Reimbursement	71.50		106.00		
Maple Broadband Easement			4,500.00		
Interest on Checking	1,377.46		1,400.87		
Rental of Town Hall/Meeting House			35.00		
Other	588.45				
TOTAL OTHER	2,037.41	0.00	6,041.87	0.00	
TOTAL TOWN RECEIPTS	3,849,879.07	85,438.04	4,257,797.31	48,820.90	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Town Meeting Vote:					
Brandon Library Restoration Fund			25,000.00		Voted at Town Meeting
Transfers:					
Transfer to Building Repair Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Cemetery Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Clerk Education/Software	965.00		920.00	965.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Municipal Expense Fund	180,009.44		192,049.50		See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Professional Audit Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Reappraisal Fund	11,689.50	5,000.00	11,732.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Records Restoration	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Allocated Funds:					
Transfer to Tax Account	519,000.00		500,000.00		State Education Tax Pmt
Payments covered by Restricted Fund Transfers:					
Reappraisal			21,150.00		See Funds Page 15
Records Restoration	3,211.96		1,920.00		See Funds Page 15
LOANS AND TRANSFERS TOTAL	731,875.90	22,000.00	769,771.50	22,965.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Auditing:					
Salaries	611.25	1,000.00	723.75	1,000.00	
AUDITING TOTAL	611.25	1,000.00	723.75	1,000.00	
Selectboard:					
		4,000.00		4,000.00	Rate set by Auditors
Diane Benware, Chair	1,000.00		1,000.00		
Brad Lawes	750.00		750.00		
Diane Randall	750.00		750.00		
John Rouse	750.00		750.00		
Tom Barker	750.00		750.00		
Selectboard Secretary	2,160.00	2,200.00	1,710.00	2,200.00	
SELECTBOARD TOTAL	6,160.00	6,200.00	5,710.00	6,200.00	
Listing:					
Consulting	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Contract with NEMRC
Salaries	2,156.25	2,500.00	2,043.75	2,500.00	
Software	299.49	300.00	235.00	300.00	
Tax Map Update	1,675.00	2,000.00	1,800.00	2,000.00	Update & Maintain Maps
LISTING TOTAL	10,130.74	10,800.00	10,078.75	10,800.00	
Recycling:					
Solid Waste	15,400.56	15,862.56	15,862.56	16,510.44	1st & 3rd Sat 9am-12pm
RECYCLING TOTAL	15,400.56	15,862.56	15,862.56	16,510.44	
Buildings Expenses:					
		10,000.00		10,000.00	
Meeting House			18.00		
Town Hall	335.00		510.00		
Town Office	1,646.25		4,951.71		
Fuel:					
Meeting House	4,386.08	4,400.00	2,041.12	4,400.00	
Town Hall	1,012.17	1,100.00	901.66	1,100.00	
Grounds Care:					
Cemetery	6,100.00	6,000.00	5,700.00	6,000.00	
Office ,Town Green, Fern Lake Access	5,450.00	6,000.00	4,940.00	6,000.00	
TOTAL BLDGS & GRNDS EXPENSES	18,929.50	27,500.00	19,062.49	27,500.00	
<p>Note: Clerk fees for recording, vault usage, and licenses are set by State Statute. Depending upon the types of transactions, total fees collected can vary greatly year to year. These fees are paid by individuals or firms based on the statute fee schedule posted at the Town Office. Fees collected not otherwise identified in this report, were \$11,409.</p>					
Town Clerk / Treasurer / Assistant:					
Town Clerk, Julie Delphia	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,750.00	
Treasurer, Julie Delphia	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,750.00	
Clerk / Treasurer Training	35.00	1,000.00	80.00	35.00	See Funds Page 15
Office Assistant	1,323.75	4,000.00	2,013.75	4,000.00	
CLERK / TREAS / ASSIST TOTAL	24,358.75	28,000.00	25,093.75	28,535.00	
Office Expenses:					
Cleaning Services	599.00	600.00	599.00	600.00	
Cleaning Supplies	200.99	200.00	98.78	200.00	
Computer Tech Support / License	1,927.44	2,000.00	2,586.68	2,600.00	
Copier	1,977.20	2,347.32	2,347.32	2,347.32	
Office Supplies	2,701.67	3,000.00	2,994.85	3,000.00	
Postage	2,639.39	2,900.00	2,901.26	3,900.00	Bulk Postage Permit Req'd
Printing	2,606.00	2,600.00	2,728.50	2,800.00	
Town Web Page	604.20	800.00	641.09	800.00	
Disaster Recovery / Maintenance:					
NEMRC Annual Support	5,425.00	5,500.00	5,642.00	5,700.00	NEMRC Contract
NEMRC Disaster Recovery Contract	1,397.68	1,500.00	1,439.62	1,500.00	NEMRC Contract
Monthly IT Maintenance & Security	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	Annual IT Contract
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	23,378.57	24,747.32	25,279.10	26,747.32	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Insurance:					
Property & Casualty	10,877.04	11,030.00	11,525.75	12,365.36	Figures are actuals for 2025
Workman's Comp	4,554.00	5,772.00	5,886.25	5,365.28	Figures are actuals for 2025
INSURANCE TOTAL	15,431.04	16,802.00	17,412.00	17,730.64	
Zoning:					
Recording Fees	450.00		435.00		Paid by Zoning Permit Fees
Secretary	1,275.00	1,500.00	712.50	1,500.00	
Zoning Administrator	1,420.00	500.00	1,337.50	500.00	Partial paid by Zoning Fees
Printing	576.00	500.00	304.10	500.00	
ZONING TOTAL	3,721.00	2,500.00	2,789.10	2,500.00	
Utilities:					
Electricity	3,887.95	4,000.00	3,781.99	4,000.00	
Telephone	3,393.43	3,500.00	3,751.24	4,000.00	
UTILITIES TOTAL	7,281.38	7,500.00	7,533.23	8,000.00	
Public Safety:					
Addison County Humane Society	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	Annual Contract
Animal Control					Covered by Dog Income
Dog Licenses - Tags	156.22		166.33		Covered by Dog Income
Dog Licenses - Clerk Fees	374.00		432.00		Covered by Dog Income
Dog Licenses - State Fees	930.00		1,080.00		Covered by Dog Income
Fire Protection Contract - BFD	44,000.00	48,000.00	48,000.00	48,000.00	
Fire Warden	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	
Health Officer	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Law Enforcement Expenses	5,343.86	4,000.00	7,823.44	6,000.00	Partial pd by Ticket Income
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	51,854.08	53,050.00	58,551.77	55,050.00	
Other Expenses:					
Trash Removal - Bullock Rd	0.00	150.00	40.00	150.00	
Delinquent Tax Collector - Beth Ripley	7,553.69		6,739.95		Covered by DTC penalty
Elections / Payroll & Supplies	519.33	2,500.00	2,078.13	600.00	One election in 2025
Grants: Milfoil Grant to LDFLA	29,758.00				See Grant Info Page 15
CTCL Grant			5,013.29		
Planning Grant LHMP	2,073.26	464.24	3,832.98	1,500.00	Part/Offset by Grant Income
MERP Grant			4,000.00		Offset by Grant Income
Grant Administration	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Legal Fees	4,147.73	5,000.00	1,420.67	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous	134.52	200.00	511.05	200.00	
Town Moderator	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	
Payroll Liability:					
Payroll Tax Liability - FICA / Medicare	9,951.20	10,440.32	9,645.02	10,500.00	
Tax Sales Legal & Recording Fees	586.00				Offset by Sale Income '22
Workshops / Training - Town Officers	48.00	500.00	10.00	200.00	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	55,421.73	19,904.56	33,941.09	16,800.00	
Assessments:					
Addison County Humane Society	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Animal Holding Facility
Addison County Regional Planning	1,366.20	1,366.20	1,336.50	1,366.20	On per capita basis
Addison County Tax	11,520.00	12,434.00	12,434.00	15,834.00	County tax
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Brandon Area Rescue Squad	19,800.00	19,800.00	19,800.00	19,800.00	
Otter Creek Watershed Insect CD	25,314.00	25,997.00	25,997.00	25,975.00	Reports can be found starting on page 24.
Brandon Library	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Green - Up Vermont	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Lake Dunmore / Fern Lake Assoc	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Vermont League of Cities & Towns	2,402.00	2,476.00	2,476.00	2,531.00	Municipal Assistance Center
TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	89,502.20	91,173.20	91,143.50	94,606.20	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD TOWN DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Appropriations					Requests on file at TC
Addison County Economic Development	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Reports can be found starting on page 24.
Turning Point Center	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Addison County Restorative Justice	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Addison County Readers	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Addison County Home Health Care	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	1,138.00	
Addison County Parent/Child Center	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
RSVP of Addison County	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Tri-Valley Transit	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00	
Age Well	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
Counseling Service of Addison County	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Elderly Services Inc.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
HOPE	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	
John W. Graham Housing & Services	725.00	725.00	725.00	725.00	
Open Door Clinic	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Otter Creek Natural Resources	113.08	113.08	113.08	113.08	
Rutland County Parent/Child Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Vermont Adult Learning	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	
Vermont CARES - Aids Research	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	
VT Center for Independent Living	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	
Atria Collective formerly WomenSafe	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	14,456.08	14,456.08	14,456.08	14,456.08	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	336,636.88	319,495.72	327,637.17	326,435.68	
OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL	1,723,642.00		2,107,516.00		
STATE EDUCATION TAX	1,004,901.25		1,024,166.74		
TOTAL TOWN DISBURSEMENTS	3,797,056.03	341,495.72	4,229,091.41	349,400.68	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY RECEIPTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Balance in Highway Fund	12,309.95	70,681.72	70,681.72	99,814.29	Includes Accts Receivable
Accounts Receivable - Highway Grant					Highway Grant Revenue
Transfers and Loans					
Transfer from Bridge/Culvert Fund	2,790.98		1,319.49		See Funds Page 15
Transfer From Equipment Fund	34,500.00				See Funds Page 15
Transfer from Highway Fund					See Funds Page 15
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND LOANS	37,290.98	0.00	1,319.49	0.00	
Agency of Transportation Highway Aid	108,163.38	35,000.00	74,987.96	35,000.00	Early payments to help with flood relief in '24
State Highway Grant			10,000.00		
Current Taxes to Highway Fund	389,680.05		361,908.28		
Reimbursement - Highway	600.00		2,739.00		
Road Permits	670.00	600.00	645.00	600.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY RECEIPTS	548,714.36	106,281.72	522,281.45	135,414.29	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Loans and Transfers:					
Transfer to Highway Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
Transfer to Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	See Funds Page 15
TOTAL TRANSFERS	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	

TOWN OF LEICESTER

SELECTBOARD HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS

ACCOUNT	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	COMMENTS
Equipment Repairs:		10,000.00		10,000.00	
Chains & Miscellaneous Parts	15.99				
Loader	1,200.55		379.32		
Plow & Wing - Shoes/Blades/Parts	9,275.46				
Sander	175.57		104.60		
Truck	0.00				
TOTAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	10,667.57	10,000.00	483.92	10,000.00	
Highway Purchases:					
Sander	34,500.00	0.00		0.00	See Funds Page 15
Fenders					
TOTAL HIGHWAY PURCHASES	34,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Highway Grants:					
OJR Bridge/Culvert Match	2,790.98		1,319.49		See Funds Page 15
TOTAL HIGHWAY GRANTS	2,790.98	0.00	1,319.49	0.00	
Equipment Rental:		115,000.00		115,000.00	
Other					
Arlan Pidgeon	101,575.00		99,209.00		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL	101,575.00	115,000.00	99,209.00	115,000.00	
Materials:		95,000.00		105,000.00	
Chloride	6,900.00		11,210.00		
Sand, Stone & Gravel	39,502.42		31,519.54		
Salt	30,577.03		40,720.25		
Winter Sand	18,741.70		19,449.32		
TOTAL MATERIALS	95,721.15	95,000.00	102,899.11	105,000.00	
General Highway Expenses:					
Bridge Drain Cleaning	300.00	300.00	600.00	300.00	
Culverts	2,263.80	2,500.00	1,783.60	2,500.00	
Town Shed Repair / Electricity	676.43	1,000.00	475.81	1,000.00	
Fuels, Oil, Antifreeze - Loader	1,219.59	3,000.00	2,961.05	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous	2,400.34	2,500.00	1,384.04	2,500.00	beavers, mulch, etc.
Fuel Surcharge	2,737.10	4,000.00	983.60	1,500.00	
MRPG Annual Fee	1,765.00	1,590.00	1,350.00	1,590.00	Annual Fees
Resurfacing	99,783.20	100,000.00	93,241.74	100,000.00	
Green-up Removal	625.00	650.00	677.00	675.00	
Roadside Mowing	7,888.00	8,900.00	8,959.00	9,000.00	
Signs	1,925.09	1,000.00	796.04	1,000.00	
Town Shed Furnace Fuel	2,324.39	2,500.00	1,968.70	2,500.00	
Town Shed Repair	0.00	250.00	251.06	250.00	
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	123,907.94	128,190.00	115,431.64	125,815.00	
Payroll:		80,000.00		80,000.00	
Arlan Pidgeon	29,670.00		26,790.00		
Scott Pidgeon	23,370.00		23,145.00		
Steven Morrison	4,370.00		9,029.00		
Terry Muzzy	8,600.00		495.00		
Cameron New	2,640.00		2,489.00		
Robert Charbonneau	220.00				
Tom Barker			1,176.00		
TOTAL PAYROLL	68,870.00	80,000.00	63,124.00	80,000.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS	478,032.64	468,190.00	422,467.16	475,815.00	

	2024	2025	Difference
Town	341,495.72	349,400.68	7,904.96
Highway	468,190.00	475,815.00	7,625.00
	809,685.72	825,215.68	15,529.96
			1.92%

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	TOWN		HIGHWAY	
	1/1/2024	12/31/2024	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
ASSETS:				
Checking	52,823.04	28,705.90	70,681.72	99,814.29
Total Delinquent Taxes	81,234.38	113,868.21		
Restricted Funds	628,403.43	636,043.13	371,830.45	411,256.29
Allocated Funds	519,000.00	500,000.00		
Equipment			237,005.00	237,005.00
Buildings & Improvements	94,402.00	94,402.00	51,975.00	51,975.00
Land & Improvements				
Highway/Culverts/Bridges			4,912,169.00	5,005,410.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,375,862.85	1,373,019.24	5,643,661.17	5,805,460.58
 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATIONS				
Equipment			141,632.00	167,518.00
Buildings	33,219.00	38,132.00	33,219.00	33,775.00
Highways/Culverts/Bridges			3,595,150.00	3,848,233.00
	33,219.00	38,132.00	3,770,001.00	4,049,526.00
 Assets less Depreciation	 1,342,643.85	 1,334,887.24	 1,873,660.17	 1,755,934.58
 LIABILITIES:				
Loans, short term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans, long term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	5,813.79	6,570.88	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,813.79	6,570.88	0.00	0.00
 TOTALS	 1,336,830.06	 1,328,316.36	 1,873,660.17	 1,755,934.58

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, the elected Auditors for the Town of Leicester, in accordance with VSA 24 § 1681, have examined the accounts and records of the Town for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. To the best of our knowledge and belief, these records present a fair and accurate accounting of Leicester's financial activities.

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

Deb Miner
Donna Pidgeon
Lyndsay D'Avignon

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

The State of Vermont has recently enacted new requirements regarding delinquent taxes and tax sales. Here are a few of the most important changes:

A taxpayer must be made aware they may be able to receive a reduction of charges, penalties, or interest through municipal abatement.

A tax sale warrant cannot be extended until a delinquent taxpayer is given an opportunity to enter a written reasonable repayment plan.

A property must be delinquent for a period longer than one year before it can go to tax sale.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about abatement or to make a payment plan at (802) 247-0075.

Respectfully submitted, *Beth Swington Ripley*, Delinquent Tax Collector

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR’S POLICY
TOWN OF LEICESTER**

1. All payments made on or before November 15 will be timely. After November 15, they will be considered delinquent and subject to interest and fees.
2. It is requested that all back taxes be paid before current taxes are paid.
3. **Partial payments will be taken. Payments will be applied to interest and fees first, and the remainder on the tax.**
4. Bills will be sent out on a monthly basis.
5. No post-dated checks will be accepted.
6. All bad checks will be prosecuted, if not made good in ten (10) days.
7. **Accounts 12 months delinquent can be sold at a tax sale at the discretion of the delinquent tax collector.**
8. All payments must be paid to the delinquent tax collector or the treasurer.
9. All taxpayers must notify the town of a change of address, in state or out of state, in a timely manner.
10. No mobile home can be sold or moved unless all taxes are paid and a transfer filed at the town office. The owner and mover can be fined.

COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Total</u>
2021	\$190.22	\$95.74	\$670.03	\$955.99
2022	\$1,947.73	\$470.09	\$6,414.74	\$8,832.56
2023	\$1,404.79	\$1,641.57	\$19,085.31	\$22,131.67
2024	\$586.56	\$4,532.55	\$56,540.52	\$61,659.63
TOTAL	\$4,129.30	\$6,739.95	\$82,710.60	\$93,579.85

DELINQUENT TAXES DUE

**Total Delinquent Taxes:
\$113,868.21**
**Total Delinquent Interest:
\$16,962.55**
**Total Delinquent Penalty:
\$9,000.08**
**Total Delinquent Due:
\$139,830.84**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 01/01/24	Deposits 2024	Interest 2024	Withdrawn 2024	Balance 12/31/24
TOWN					
Savings:					
American Rescue Act Fund (5)	42,049.50			42,049.50	0.00
Building Repair Fund (1)	17,222.67	5,000.00	34.53		22,257.20
Cemetery Fund (1)	51,862.52	5,000.00	103.87		56,966.39
Clerk Training & Software (1)	17,236.58	920.00	34.51		18,191.09
Glebe Land Fund	6,452.62		12.91		6,465.53
Honor Roll Fund	115.89		0.23		116.12
Municipal Expense Fund (5)(6)	286,479.44	192,049.50	457.29	150,000.00	328,986.23
Professional Audit Fund (1)	6,837.64	2,000.00	13.71		8,851.35
Reappraisal Account (1)(2)	153,985.04	11,732.00	308.19	21,150.00	144,875.23
Record Rest/Maint Fund (1)(4)	46,161.53	5,000.00	92.46	1,920.00	49,333.99
Town Total	628,403.43	221,701.50	1,057.70	215,119.50	636,043.13
HIGHWAY					
Savings:					
Equipment Fund (1)	143,368.29	20,000.00	287.78		163,656.07
Land/building Acq - Garage	58,668.05		117.44		58,785.49
Road/Highway Fund (1)	90,631.61	20,000.00	340.11		110,971.72
- Bridge/Culvert Reserve (3)	79,162.50			1,319.49	77,843.01
Highway Total	371,830.45	40,000.00	745.33	1,319.49	411,256.29

Explanation of changes to Restricted Funds:

- 1 Transfer budget/budget balance from GF
- 2 Transfer State reappraisal payment
- 3 Offset Culvert/Bridge replacement Old Jerusalem Road
- 4 Offset RecordHub cost, Land Record supplies
- 5 The Selectboard has worked diligently with the advice of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to use American Rescue Plan Act funds in a way to best benefit the Town. The Selectboard used funds in 2024 to cover payroll with an equal amount deposited in the Municipal Expense Fund.
- 6 Funds from the Municipal Expense Fund were used in lieu of a tax anticipation note. The Municipal Expense Fund will allow the Town to plan for future expenses without having a direct effect on taxes.

GRANT ACTIVITY

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation awarded \$35,772 for a Milfoil grant (2024). The money will be directed to the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association.

The Vermont Tax Department issued the following grants funds to the Town: Equalization - \$792; Hold Harmless - \$11,561; Reappraisal - \$6,732.00.

The Municipal Energy Resilience Grant issued \$4,000 for the MERP Mini Grant in 2023. Funds were expended in 2024 to support the Energy Navigators Program. The Town was awarded a MERP Grant for \$200,805.25 to use toward energy improvements for Town buildings.

The Town spent \$1,319.49 as a 5% match for work done on the VT Agency of Transportation culvert/bridge replacement project on Old Jerusalem Road. BO 1445(37) Bridge 4.

The Town received \$4429.68 in federal funds for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) grant. The work is being conducted by Addison County Regional Planning.

The Town received \$11,322.88 from the State of Vermont for repair of Hydrologically Connected Road Segments.

The Town received \$5,000.00 from CTCL for the benefit of elections. Among other things, it paid for the Sheriff's Department during the November Election as well as purchase of a safe.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The Selectboard strives to keep a lid on costs while attempting to provide needed services for residents and seasonal guests. We continue to be as transparent and accurate as possible. Education related costs are the big drivers of the tax rate.

In 2024 the town was a recipient of a mini-MERP (Municipal Energy Reduction Program) grant for \$4,000 which we forwarded to the Addison County Climate Economy Action Center to promote the Energy Navigator Program. This is a free program to assist residents in making energy plans, locating contractors, and where possible, finding sources to reduce energy costs and improving the function of one's home. Thus far, six residents have worked with the Energy Navigator program. For more information about this free program, see page 31.

The town also received a \$200,000 MERP grant (no match required) to provide improvements to the building envelope of one of the historic buildings in the center of town. At this time the decision as to which building has not been made.

Maple Broadband has been steadily building out all year and it is anticipated that all of Leicester will have broadband connection options by 2025. See page 34 for more information.

The Selectboard continues to include a \$100,000 line item in the highway budget for paving. In 2024, a portion of Lake Dunmore Road was re-paved. We did not secure a highway grant last year but will apply this year. The location of paving will be determined in the spring.

In 2025 the town will be reviewing its Town Plan. This document is intended to be a guide for future growth and development in town. We will be working with personnel from ACRPC. Public comment will be sought from residents at upcoming meetings, not yet scheduled.

Green Up Day is May 3. Last year we had outstanding community participation in an effort to help Vermont achieve a Guinness World Record for the most pledges to collect trash in a 24-hour period. Vermont was successful in achieving this distinction, and we hope we can have a repeat of resident participation in 2025. As usual, there will be a potluck and raffle sponsored by the Historical Society at the Four Corners that day. More details to follow. For more information, contact Diane Benware at 802-247-3786.

The Selectboard is deeply grateful for the support Julie provides as Town Clerk and Treasurer. Other Town Office personnel work well together and provide consistent and timely responses to questions and concerns. Animal Control Officer Rob Devoid and Town Health Officer Chree Perkins field your calls and work to keep animals and residents safe.

The Selectboard wishes to thank Arlan, Scott, Steve and crew for their consistent hard work to keep roads clear in winter and safe year-round. Also, Lem Palmer and Gus Letourneau work diligently to maintain the roadsides and green and cemetery respectively.

Changes in municipal personnel are limited. Jenei Rossigg, our Maple Broadband representative is moving. We thank her for her support of the last year. We welcome Lyndsay D'Avignon as an alternate to the Planning Commission.

We continue to seek land upon which to build a new town shed and covered sand/salt pile that meets state expectations. If you, or someone you know, has land for sale that might meet your needs, contact a Selectboard member.

Reminder to pet owners: Your dogs need to be registered by April 1. To avoid penalties and fines for not being registered in a timely manner, please make arrangements as soon as possible. A rabies clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 5pm – 7pm.

The Selectboard meets the first and third Monday of each month, at the Town Office, at 6:30 p.m. We welcome your participation.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Benware (C), Tom Barker, John Rouse, Brad Lawes, Diane Randall

ROADS MAINTENANCE POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- FEBRUARY 26, 2025 OVUUSD INFORMATIONAL MEETING - *CONTACT RNESU FOR INFO*
- MARCH 3, 2025 TOWN MEETING FLOOR VOTE & INFORMATIONAL HEARING
MEETING HOUSE 7PM
- MARCH 4, 2025 TOWN MEETING BALLOT VOTE - *TOWN OFFICE 10AM - 7PM*
- MARCH 11, 2025 RABIES CLINIC \$20 - *TOWN OFFICE 5PM - 7PM*
- APRIL 1, 2025 DOG LICENSES DUE (SEE PAGE 19)
- MAY 3, 2025 GREEN UP DAY
- NOVEMBER 15, 2025 TAXES DUE



CLERK & TREASURER REPORT

2024 was a challenging year. Perhaps it is a sign of the times, but due to some difficult situations, the Town Office is currently By Appointment Only on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9am – 2pm. The Selectboard installed security equipment to better safeguard town employees and residents who enter the office. Despite these difficulties, we look forward to an exciting 2025.

LAND RECORDS

If you need some records, go to our website, www.leicestervt.org. Clicking “HERE” under the yellow highlighted line will bring you to our research page. You can find tax bills, lister cards, indexes, daybook, etc. We also provide a link to RecordHub, an online system to access our land records. If you are unable to find what you need there, or just hate technology, give me a call and we’ll make an appointment for you to come in and search at the office.

ELECTIONS

2024 was a year full of elections! We had Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary in March, the State Primary in August, and the General Election in November. Voter turnout was great and the elections staff, as always, were amazing. We were able to have the Addison County Sherrif in town during the August and November elections to provide security if needed.

We received a CTCL grant for \$5,000 for the benefit of elections. We were able to purchase a safe, technology, election supplies, and paid for the Sherrif during the November election.

TAXES

The housing sales in 2024 again continued to come in well above assessment. This had a direct impact on the Town’s common level of appraisal (CLA*) which the State uses to determine our properties ‘equalized’ values for education taxes. Education taxes (which are completely separate from municipal taxes) increased accordingly. With education taxes accounting for over 80% of our tax bills, we all saw an increase in the bottom line even though the municipal taxes stayed nearly level with 2023. **CLA is the amount the Town is assessed compared to the fair market value from sales. For instance, if your house is assessed at \$100,000 and the CLA is 70%, the State will equalize your fair market value to be ~\$143,000. The State then adjusts the education tax rate so the total amount of education taxes you pay on a \$100,000 assessment would equal the amount that would be due for a \$143,000 fair market value assessment.*

The Selectboard works hard to control costs for Town services. Unfortunately, with the municipal portion of the tax bill being less than 20% of the total tax amount, their efforts have little impact on our final amount due.

We are scheduled to have a State mandated town wide reappraisal in 2026. The Selectboard was proactive in scheduling the reappraisal in anticipation of the State mandate. Due to the housing market changes, a vast number of towns are under the mandated reappraisal requirement and many towns are scheduled out until 2028 or later.

Tax bills are generally mailed out in mid to late August. Taxes become delinquent at midnight on November 15th. We do not accept postmarks. Please keep this in mind when mailing your payments to accommodate any USPS delivery delays. The delinquent taxes are then turned over to the Delinquent Tax Collector who assesses an 8% penalty and 1% interest. They then receive another 1% interest on the base amount on the 15th of every month they continue to be delinquent. For more information, contact the Delinquent Tax Collector, Beth Ripley, at 802-247-0075.

If you need to drop something *off*, please use the **drop box** located under the bulletin board.

If you need to come into the office, please call or e-mail me and we can schedule an appointment.

I want to thank Dianne Harvey, my Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer, who is a great resource and Lyndsay D'Avignon, who in addition to being an Auditor and member of the DRB, has been helping with clerical and organizational projects at the office.

I am profoundly grateful to serve this amazing Town and all its remarkable people! ***I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2025!***

Julie Delphia,
Town Clerk & Treasurer
townclerk@leicestervt.gov

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday by appointment 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

VITAL STATISTICS

Upon the advice of Vermont Vital Records, we will no longer be printing names for vital records. We understand that this change is a sign of the times, but it does sadden us not to celebrate our new residents, cherish our lost residents, and congratulate our new unions.

Births **3** Deaths **12** Marriages **2**

DOG SUMMARY

Male Neutered	\$1,033.00
Female Spayed	\$1,000.00
Female	\$312.00
Male	\$465.00
Prepayment	\$13.00
Fines	\$100.00
Total Income	\$2,923.00

ALL dogs must be registered by
April 1, 2025
Spayed/Neutered \$11
Unspayed/Unneutered \$15

Dog tags/Paper	\$166.33
Clerk Fees	\$432.00
State Fees	\$1,080.00
ACHS Contract	\$600.00
Total Expense	\$2,278.33



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

If you have questions or concerns regarding animal control, please contact Animal Control Officer Robbie Devoid at (802) 349-6163 or rdevoid@msn.com.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

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

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

VSNIIP

DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka "VSNIIP"!

Pursuant to: 20 VS.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized per state statute.

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: AnimalAidVT@gmail.com or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka "VSNIIP"

VSNIIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: VSNIIP.VERMONT.GOV

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

2024 GREEN UP REPORT

2024 was a record year for Leicester as well as the State of Vermont. Vermont achieved a Guinness World record for the most pledges to collect roadside trash in a 24-hour period! In Leicester we had record participation, with several residents "adopting" a road with the objective to keep it trash-free year-round. Our outstanding volunteers collected over 1.20 tons of roadside trash and 1.16 tons of tires. Thank you all for your support!

In 2025, Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3. We hope we can clean 100% of the roadsides for the third year in a row. As usual, there will be a free lunch for volunteers, 11:30 to 1:00, at the Four Corners that day. Lunch tickets will double as raffle tickets.

Bags and gloves will be available at the Town Office all week before Green Up Day. Given the unpredictability of the weather, you can clean up through the week and bags will be collected over Green Up Day weekend.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 802-247-3786.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Another busy year in the assessor's office for property transfers. We had a total of 67 property transfers from 4/1/23 to 3/31/2024, just one less than 2023.

We had 31 changes of appraisal and heard 2 grievances. At our hearing on June 11, 2024.

Based on the results of the 2023 Equalization Study the COD (coefficient of dispersion) in Leicester was outside the acceptable parameters so therefore an order to reappraise is required. The municipal CLA (common level of appraisal) was 69.17% and the COD was 27.72%.

Just a reminder that we have Lister Cards available online for easy access. See instructions on page 18 under "Land Records".

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Harvey, Admin Asst to the Assessor

CEMETERY REPORT

The Cemetery Committee works to maintain and improve Leicester's Brookside Cemetery. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm from April to October.

In 2025, we will be cleaning stones and adding blue stone to one of the drives. Both will be paid for by the Cemetery Fund.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Barker, Donna Pidgeon, Donna Swington, Pam Gates

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

If anyone wishes to burn in the winter – if there's snow on the ground, you don't need a permit. In the summertime, you do. I can be reached on my cell at 802-377-0272.

Richard C. Nicklaw – Fire Warden

**BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT
2024 REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF**

I am proud to report that the members of the Brandon Fire Department continue to be prepared and ready to respond to the emergency needs of the three towns that we cover, Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. There are currently twenty-six (26) members of the fire department. Last year we logged 1371 man hours of training. Along with that, we put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to keep our equipment ready to respond. We do have a new truck on order, a custom-built rescue pumper. Production of this apparatus began at the end of October 2024 and is due to be delivered in Jan. 2025.

For FY23 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), the Brandon Fire Department responded to 151 calls for assistance.

114 in Brandon; 23 in Leicester; 8 in Goshen; and 6 in other Mutual Aid towns.

Motor Vehicle Accidents	29
Fire in a Structure	6
Other Building Related Emergencies	4
Alarm Activations	33
Rescues of Person or Animal	2
Assistance to EMS & Police	30
Outdoor fires & Other Calls	20
Other Good Intent & Cancellations	21
Mutual Aid to Another Department	6

I would like to acknowledge our working relationship with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Department, along with our mutual aid departments from Pittsford, Salisbury, and Whiting. Thank you to the Town of Brandon, which has graciously allowed the fire department to utilize the properties that have been acquired through FEMA buyouts, for us to use for training. I also want to thank the Prudential Board, the district treasurer, and the Water Superintendent.

Not everyone is capable of going into a dangerous situation to aid others, it takes a whole team. From the firefighters entering a burning building, to the operators of the apparatus pumping them water, the support staff working on the outside, and the officers making the plan and decisions, it is a team effort for every different call. The Brandon Fire Department is looking for new members willing to join this team. We currently are accepting applications from residents of Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester.

Please stop by the fire station to discuss becoming a member. We are normally here on the second and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You also can contact me via email at chief@dunmorehose.org or by leaving a message on the non-emergency line 802-247-3400.

A huge THANK YOU goes to our firefighters, who respond at any hour of the day or night, to aid those in need in our community, and their families that support them with this.

Respectfully submitted. Thomas Kilpeck, Brandon Fire Chief

TOWN HEALTH OFFICER

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

The Town Health Officer is Chree Perkins. She can be reached at 802-465-8335 or 802-377-1991.

LEICESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Leicester Historical Society seeks old photos and related information that could be used to create an on-line resource for community members and others interested in town history. If you have old photos/documents we could borrow to scan, they would be promptly returned to you. Contact Diane at 802-247-3786 for more information.

Members of Leicester Historical Society look forward to once again sponsoring Prize Bingo at the Senior Center the second Saturday of each month, Sept to Dec and April to June. Refreshments are served. All are welcome and we appreciate the support.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

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

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

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

As another reminder, almost all land development in Vermont requires town and/or state permits. It is the responsibility of the landowner, **not the contractor**, to apply for them. Please contact the Zoning Administrator before beginning any project.

The Zoning Administrator is Keith Arlund. He can be reached at 802-465-8098 or at zoning@leicestervt.gov. Zoning hours are by appointment.

TOWN MEETING RESULTS 2024

FLOOR VOTE

Article 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of \$809,685.72 to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year

Amendment: Amend the Town budget for this year to add a one time donation to the Brandon Free Public Library in the amount of \$25,000 earmarked for the library's ongoing building renovation project. **Passed 20-19**

Article 2 with amendment: Shall the voters of the Town of Leicester vote to approve a sum of \$834,685.72 to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the town for the ensuing year. **Passed by voice vote.**

BALLOT VOTE

Article I: The election of Town Officers for the ensuing year:

A Moderator for a one (1) year term	RICHARD REED
A Selectboard Member for a three (3) year term	BRAD LAWES
A Selectboard Member for a two (2) year term	DIANE RANDALL
A Delinquent Tax Collector for a one (1) year term	BETH RIPLEY
An Auditor for a three (3) year term	DEB MINER
An Auditor for REMAINDER OF three (3) year term	LYNDSAY D'AVIGNON

ADDISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ACEDC)

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) is Leicester’s economic development resource, serving the community for over 25 years. We appreciate that the voters of Leicester approved our initial request for FY25, and respectfully request that continued support in the amount of \$1,000 be included on the ballot for the Town of Leicester for fiscal year 2026.

We offer expertise and resources to businesses throughout Addison County. We not only serve businesses located in your community; we also serve the businesses in neighboring communities where your citizens work or may own a business. Our mission is to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment, nurturing businesses to launch, grow, and thrive. We do this through direct assistance and through our networks of partners and collaborators locally and at the state and federal levels.

ACEDC also provides services to municipalities to advance economic and community development. These services include information and application assistance for state and federal grant programs and convening action groups to address issues such as housing, workforce development and childcare. In addition, we are constantly working with the entrepreneurs of Addison County in our efforts to increase the number and quality of available jobs.

If you have questions, need additional information, or would like our assistance with economic or community development projects in Leicester, please do not hesitate to contact me at fkennedy@addisoncountyedc.org or (802) 388-7953. Thank you for your consideration of this request.
Sincerely, Fred Kenney, Executive Director

ADDISON COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ACRJP provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the program participant. The goal is to help the program participant develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation of loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in our programs is supported to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way, and learn from their experience so as not to reoffend and cause harm to yet another person.

We have expanded our programs beyond Court Diversion and the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program to include the Driving with License Suspended Program, Safe Driving Program, Reparative Restorative Panels, Reentry Navigation and Circles of Support and Accountability for those reentering the community from incarceration, and Pretrial monitoring and Tamarack for those community members. who have committed a crime and have a mental illness or substance abuse problem. All Programs have the goal for the participant of instilling a sense of belonging and commitment to contribute to the Addison County Community as positive, proactive member and to not create any more victims, essentially decrease crime in the county.

Thank you for your continued support. Our website: www.acrjs.org

Residents of Leicester Served in FY23-24	
Court Diversion Adult	3
Court Diversion Youth	1
Youth Substance Abuse Safety Programs	
Reparative Restorative Panels	2
COSA	
Driving with License Suspended	1
Re-Entry Navigation	1
Pre-Trial Services	3
Tamarack	
Safe Driving	5

ADDISON COUNTY HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven, VT 05472
PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753
802.388.7259 www.achhh.org

Addison County Home Health and Hospice (ACHHH) is a community-focused non-profit home health care and hospice care agency that has been providing care for Addison County residents for more than fifty years. We provide an array of services that help our neighbors receive care in their own homes where they are most comfortable and where they often experience the best quality of life. Our services are offered to all Addison County residents who need them, regardless of their ability to pay. To ensure the future of these vital programs, we turn to our community for support.

Our clinicians provide skilled nursing; medical social work; rehabilitative therapies including occupational and physical therapy; hospice and palliative care; maternal-child health care; IV therapy; Telemonitoring; Chronic Care Management and care of complicated wounds. We have opened two Outpatient Therapy Practices, providing physical therapy and occupational therapy services for our community members close to their homes. Our Personal Care Attendants and Homemakers help patients with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and cooking.

ACHHH serves many patients who are coping with chronic illnesses such as congestive heart failure, COPD and diabetes. Some patients face life-limiting illnesses including cancer, ALS and Alzheimers. ACHHH strives to help patients and families enjoy the best quality of life possible, in all life stages. We serve patients from birth to end-of-life.

We appreciate the long-time support from the Town of Leicester. Your financial support makes it possible for our expert team to provide high-quality compassionate care to ALL of our patients and families.

Best Regards, Maureen Conrad, Director of Development

Number of Vermont towns served: 22
Total number of people served: 2328
Total number of Leicester residents served: 53 individuals/527 visits

ADDISON COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

126 Monroe St, Middlebury, VT 05753
802.388.3171

The support the Addison County Parent Child Center (the "PCC") receives from local communities is a critical part of our budget in that it allows us the flexibility to provide services to all families with young children who request assistance. Last year your financial support helped us to provide services to an estimated 22 residents of Leicester.

While the PCC is probably best known for its work with adolescent families and young children, our services are intended for any family who needs and wants them.

The PCC helps families to assess their children's physical and cognitive development and provides support services if needed. We also offer consultation and support to families and childcare providers around young children's social, emotional and behavioral development. Playgroups are offered around the county to promote social interactions for children and parents. All families with newborns are offered Welcome Baby bags and visits to introduce them to available services in the county. Follow up supports are available for those who request it.

Learning Together, our intensive in-house training program builds parenting and job readiness skills and serves as an alternative education site for Addison County high schools. The program focuses on young parents and other teens at risk of parenting too young. To complement our programs the Center also provides high-quality childcare to infants and toddlers.

The Center has renovated a nine-resident boarding house in Middlebury which is the cornerstone of a "First Time Renters" program for youth to learn and practice the skills necessary to be successful tenants in our community.

All of these services are free and can be accessed by calling the Center at 802-388-3171.

Sincerely, Donna Bailey, Director
Estimated Leicester Residents Served: 22

ADDISON COUNTY READERS, INC.

Affiliated with United Way of Addison County
Contact Karen Straim, karenstraim@gmail.com

Free Books For Young Children. A local organization, Addison County Readers, Inc., through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, is helping families have more books at home that their children love to look at and have their parents read. Preschoolers who are registered for the program have a free book mailed to their homes each month. There is no cost to the family and the books are for the children to keep. Any child (birth to five years of age) living in Addison County can participate. 28 Leicester preschoolers are currently enrolled, but most recent US Census data indicates 46 Leicester Children under 5 who could benefit from this valuable literacy program. In FY 2023-24, a total of 307 books were sent to Leicester children.

Studies show that reading is an essential gateway for children on the path to success in school and later in the workplace. It is the mechanism through which many other vital life skills are acquired and improved. Reading to children even before they can hold a book on their own is one of the smartest choices that parents and caregivers can make. Our Books at Birth program, in cooperation with Porter Birthing Center, gives parents of newborns a free book and information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This has been very successful in registering children as early as possible across Addison County.

Pick up a registration brochure at the school or Town Office or you can enroll online at: www.addisoncountyreaders.org.

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (ACRPC)

14 Seminary St, Middlebury, VT, 05753
Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038
www.acrpc.org

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2024

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following services during its 2024 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Worked with Waltham, Ferrisburgh and Addison on Municipal Planning Grants and Starksboro on its village center.
- Worked with Bristol, Lincoln, Shoreham and Salisbury on Bylaw Modernization projects focused on housing.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities with Town Plan updates; New Haven, Ripton, Lincoln, Bridport, Addison.
- Supported Middlebury, Vergennes and Ferrisburgh in the Transit Oriented Design (TOD) master plan process.
- Assisted municipalities with housing studies; Shoreham, Bridport, Cornwall.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops on planning topics, including housing, planning essentials and flood resiliency bylaws.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.
- Participated in Bridport's Community Visit.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County's Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Helped all communities update Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs)
- Completed 2 municipal Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) and initiated plans with 5 additional municipalities
- Updated Mutual Aid agreements for municipal Public Works Departments.
- Completed two Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grants.
- Administered one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant with GMP in Pantton
- Assisted Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA with summer flooding response and assistance.

Energy Planning:

- Helped all tons access capacity grants and energy assessments through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Began work rewriting the Regional Enhanced Energy Plan with the Energy Committee.
- Developed an online map of renewable energy resources and siting.

Transportation Planning

- Updated the Addison County Transportation Plan with the guidance of the Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to reduce road erosion from local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for projects in Middlebury, Weybridge, Bridport, and Ferrisburgh.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian studies and hosted the regional Walk/bike council meetings.
- Administered a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for Vergennes and surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Served as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin, providing funding for 14 projects.
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

Brownfields Planning

- Administered EPA-funded Community Wide Assessment grant for 10 brownfield sites

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (ACSWMD)

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the member municipalities. The Board holds hybrid meetings on the 3d Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly 8 days prior to the Board at 4:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public.

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

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org

Transfer Station Hours:

M-F, 7 AM-3 PM & Sat, 8 AM-1 PM

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM-4 PM

HazWaste Center Hours:

M-F, 8 AM-2 PM & Sat, 8 AM-1 PM

New Haven Transfer Station Hours: Fri 7 AM-2 PM & Sat, 7 AM-12 PM Noon

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off various other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. A complete list of acceptable items and prices can be found on the District's website. The ACSWMD Regional Residential Transfer Station is located at 100 Kings Way off of 65 Campground Road in New Haven. This facility accepts residential bagged waste and single stream recyclables, as well as food scraps and leaf & yard waste.

2024 Highlights

New Regional Residential Drop-off. On August 16, 2024, the ACSWMD opened a new regional residential solid waste transfer station at 100 Kings Way off of 65 Campground Road in New Haven, VT. This regional facility will serve residents from all 21 member towns of the District. This regional facility, open on Fris. and Sats., can accept a variety of recyclables along with residential bagged Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). While not intended to replace the small-town drop-offs, this facility will offer a sustainable system to provide more comprehensive and accessible service for residents. The District contracted with Champlain Construction for Phase 1 construction, completed in August. JR and Sons will provide a mobile collection system at the site during Phase 1. In Phase 2, the new regional residential transfer station will be constructed and fully staffed, and will accept residential single stream recyclables, food scraps, leaf & yard debris, scrap metal, electronics (E-Waste), MSW, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, books, plastic film/bags, and confidential documents for shredding/ recycling. A new regional HazWaste (HHW) Center on an adjacent lot is planned for Phase 3 to accept HHW and Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) hazardous waste. Design & permitting of the HazWaste Center is in progress.

HHW Extended Producer Responsibility Law. In 2023, Vermont enacted the first-in-the nation Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility Law. H.67 requires producers of hazardous household products to safely collect and dispose of them. It is the eighth Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law enacted in Vermont. EPR is a legislative tool that extends a manufacturer's responsibility for its product throughout all lifecycle stages. Under an EPR program, financial and management responsibility for products is shifted away from local governments and back to the manufacturers. The District will continue to participate in numerous planning sessions to implement the new EPR law for HHW along with the VT Agency of Natural Resources and other solid waste planning entities to ensure the success of this critical program. The program goals include a reduction in public sector costs for managing HHW, increased public outreach, and incentives for producers to design products that are less toxic.

2025 Annual Budget

The ACSWMD Board of Supervisors adopted its 2025 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for CY2025, on Nov. 21, 2024. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. As with prior years, the 2025 Annual Budget will be funded by a combination of: (1) tip fees collected at the Transfer Station; (2) a per-ton District Fee on all waste generated within the District and destined for disposal; (3) donations or fees at special events sponsored by the District; (4) the sale of items such as compost bins; (5) grants, if available; (6) profit sharing of scrap metal; and (7) manufacturer EPR reimbursements. There will be no assessments to member municipalities in CY2025. The new tip fee for Municipal Solid Waste & Construction/Demo Debris at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury will be \$156/ton, an \$8.00/ton increase primarily due to an increase in vendor prices. Rates on a few other items will have nominal changes. For a copy of the 2024 Annual Report and/or adopted CY2025 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at acswmd@acswmd.org. Both documents are also available on the District's website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

AGE WELL

875 Roosevelt Hwy, Ste 210, Colchester, VT 05446
Phone: 802.865.0360 Fax: 802.865.0363
HELPLINE: 1.800.642.5119

Since 1974, Age Well has provided support and services to Leicester's aging population, helping them to stay independent and remain healthy at home, where most wish to be. Whether it's Meals on Wheels, in-home care coordination, caregiver support, or wellness programs, we know that health can happen at home and are here to enhance and improve the quality of life for Leicester residents.

Age Well continues to see a rise in those needing support in Leicester and beyond and as our aging population continues to grow, there will be even more demand. In Fiscal Year 24, between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024, we provided services valued at over **\$21,636** to **19** Leicester residents. As a nonprofit, these services are provided at no charge, and with your support, we will continue to ensure that our aging neighbors receive the support they have come to rely upon.

We are writing to request continued support from the Town of Leicester in the amount of \$1,100.00; last year, you were able to allocate \$1,100.00 to Age Well. Your partnership ensures that our vast array of supports, including; care & service coordination, Meals on Wheels, Grab & Go meals, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation services, expertise on Medicare, insurance, long and short-term care options, and the Helpline will continue to be available to residents in need.

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

Sincerely, Emma Kaplan, Development & Communications Associate

MISSION: To provide the support and guidance that inspires our community to embrace aging with confidence.

Last year, Age Well served **19** people from Leicester, services included:

- 30 calls to the Helpline
- 29 hours of Case Management
- 805 Meals on Wheels delivered
- 62 Congregate Meals served
- 38 Grab & Go Meals served
- 7 hours of Options Counseling



MEALS ON WHEELS CAN SERVE A PERSON FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR FOR ABOUT THE SAME COST AS JUST 1 DAY IN A HOSPITAL OR 10 DAYS IN A NURSING HOME

8 Leicester residents volunteered over **465** hours

IMPACT: Our wide array of programs enhance the quality of life and improve health outcomes for older Vermonters by:

- Increasing food security
- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Improving quality of diet
- Reducing health care costs

AMERICAN RED CROSS

www.redcross.org/nne
32 N Prospect St, Burlington, VT 05401 Phone: 802.497.5995

As we look ahead to the new year, we take a moment to reflect on our profound gratitude to the municipal partners who help us deliver our lifesaving mission in our community. With your support, we are able to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness of our friends and neighbors throughout Northern New England.

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the region:

- We made **626** homes safer by installing **1,907** smoke detectors and educating **730** families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained **39,492** people in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills. (training data for county level)
- We collected over **131,800 units of blood**. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over **3,400** service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

Your American Red Cross remains committed to providing relief and support. We do this with the help of our incredible volunteers and donors, including you, our friends in Leicester. *This year, we respectfully request a municipal appropriation of **\$500.00**.* These funds will directly benefit individuals and families right here in our region, who benefit from our unique services at no cost.

Warmly, Lauren Jordan, Development Coordinator

ATRIA COLLECTIVE formerly WOMENSAFE

PO Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.388.9180 Website: atriavt.org Email: info@atriavt.org
24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205

Mission: Advocacy, education, & social change to end gender-based violence

Atria Collective is a nonprofit serving people across the gender spectrum who have experienced dating, domestic, sexual violence, and stalking. We are dedicated to empowering and safeguarding communities through our advocacy services, education and prevention work, and social change.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, Atria Collective staff and volunteers provided advocacy services to at least **16** Leicester residents, adults and children, affected by violence. *PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, some individuals do not share their town of residence

In Addison County:

- **599** total adults and children were provided services through **8,937** total direct contacts.
- Worked with the parents/caregivers of a total of **281** children exposed to violence.
- Provided **775** presentations and outreach events as part of our Education & Prevention programming, reaching over **8,368** individual youth and adults.

BRANDON AREA RESCUE SQUAD

1338 Franklin St, Brandon, VT 05733 • Ph 802-247-3231 • Fax 802-247-3916

Brandon Rescue responded to a total of 924 calls in 2024, an increase of about 40% from as little as 2 years ago.

We strive to remain a mainly volunteer run organization which currently saves the community \$300,000 or more per year. Those volunteers have given more than 25,000 hours of their time over this past year to help ensure emergency medical coverage for Leicester and surrounding towns. As needs and availability of volunteers change, we've added additional paid staff to our roster to supplement our volunteer staff. We currently have 21 volunteer providers and 5 paid staff.

As always, if anyone is interested in the medical field or coming on as a driver, we always have room and need for more. Thank you for your continued support and if there are any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely, Andrew Jackson
Chief of Operations andy@brandonrescue.org



BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the corner of Franklin and Park Streets, Brandon, VT
Phone: 802-247-8230 brandonpubliclibrary.org

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe environment in which patrons of all ages may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The BFPL pledges quality service, demonstrating respect for all individuals and our community.

Under half of the BFPL's annual operating budget is from voter-approved appropriations from the towns of Brandon (including Forest Dale), Goshen, Leicester, and Sudbury, our service towns. Each year we must meet the remaining budgetary needs through several fundraisers, donations from the Friends of the Library, direct donations from our patrons, grants, and apartment rents.

At the 2025 Town Meetings, our towns' voters will be asked to approve their town's appropriation for the Library. Without these essential appropriations, the BFPL could not sustain the volume of services that it currently offers.

After moving the entire library back to our 1830s building following a comprehensive ADA renovation, we are at full operations, serving our community. The BFPL is a busy place, with an average door count of 200 people/day; here are some things that our friendly and helpful Librarians do for you:

General Services

- Books, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, audio CDs, interlibrary loan, myriad programming, 2 monthly book discussions, drop-in tech help with Librarian Carey Bunker, Indoor Kid League run by Librarian Eric Drzewianowski (Pokemon, Magic the Gathering, D&D) & tax forms

Children's/Teen's Services

- Books, dedicated teen area, DVDs, audio CDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hours on Thursdays & Saturdays, Teen Advisory Group, board games, and a safe space for kids after school

Outreach Services

- Tables at local events (Harvest Fest, Spooksville, Fairy Tale Festival)
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons

Building as a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups including school tutors, Farmer's Market, Political Party Caucuses, Child Care Providers, homeschoolers, Pins & Needles crafting group, Brandon Publishing Club, Forget-Me-Not grief group, and more

Computer/Digital Services

- We offer 5 laptop computers, 1 Chromebook, iPads, 2 preloaded Kindles, 3 preloaded kids' tablets, 3 programmable robots, 1 Android tablet. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, and other critical needs
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for patrons to access Vermont Online Library, Udemy, Listen-Up, Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class, all free to our patrons
- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- 3-D printer
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment and scheduled digital literacy workshops
- Free Wi-Fi in the building

Non-traditional Services

- The BFPL Seed Library offers free seeds and sustainability education
- The Library is an outlet for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Free/reduced-price passes available for Vermont museums and parks
- Weekly free bread distribution site
- Free COVID tests
- Free harm reduction bags
- Free cable gun locks

Library of Things

- Snowshoes, moisture meter, projectors, backup power supply, sewing machine, serger, Cricut, games, ukuleles, microphone, green screen set-up, lawn games, e-bikes, Toolship E-Tool Lending, & puzzles

Elderly Services

- Extensive Large Print selection
- Home delivery for housebound patrons. The Library is often one of the few links someone might have to our community
- Various programming
- Free rides to the polls
- Digital Literacy classes

Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department- Quiz night, Trivia Championship, Spooksville, Harvest Fest
- Neshobe School- Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Energy Committee – E-Bikes, Toolship
- ReBHS – Toolship

As you can see, the BFPL is about *much* more than books, and is a Community Center for all! Appropriations from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen that YOU approve will allow all of these valuable services to continue.

It is critical for citizens to vote "Yes" for Library appropriations, and we thank you in advance for supporting one of Brandon's gems - your local Library. Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. 802-247-8230 or brandonpubliclibrary.org

Thank you! Librarians: Molly Kennedy, Joni Osterhaut, Eric Drzewianowski, Eva Fillion, Carey Bunker, & Dan Fox

BFPL Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; John Peterson, Recording Secretary; Jeff Haylon; Nancy Iwanicki; Beate Jensen; Harry McEnery; Gary Meffe; Bruce Ness; Cecil Reniche- Smith; and Courtney Satz

COUNSELING SERVICE OF ADDISON COUNTY

89 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.388.6751 Website www.csac-vt.org

The Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) is dedicated to enhancing the mental health and well-being of individuals and families in our community. We provide a comprehensive array of services in mental health, substance use, and developmental support. Our core values include honoring client choice, safety, collaboration, innovation, equity, and belonging.

CSAC envisions a compassionate and resilient community that recognizes and nurtures everyone's potential.

In FY24, CSAC served 1,891 individuals, totaling 686,553 service hours (including 24/7 residential services). The Town of Leicester accrued 36,888 service hours.

Requests for mental health services in both adults and children as well as developmental, substance use, and 24/7 emergency services continue to be high. CSAC's commitment to Addison County is not just important but *vital*.

Thank you, Rachel Lee, Executive Director

ELDERLY SERVICES

Project Independence

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elderly Services

112 Exchange Street, PO Box 581

Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Phone: (802) 388-3983 ~ Fax (802) 388-0427

mail@elderlyservices.org ~ www.elderlyservices.org

The Board and staff of Elderly Services would like to thank you and the citizens of Leicester for your generosity in supporting our programs over the last 40 years, and request your renewed support in the amount of \$500. Currently, we have 4 participants from your town (and their families) who directly benefit from our services.

For more than 40 years, Elderly Services has been caring for some of the most vulnerable members of our community through our nationally-recognized adult day program (Project Independence) with nursing oversight, social work support, care coordination, transportation to our center, delicious homemade hot meals, and therapeutic activities in a beautiful home away from home on Exchange Street in Middlebury. In this joyful setting, participants feel like themselves again.

Social isolation and loneliness have a devastating impact on mental and physical health, as we learned during the pandemic. People feel happier when they are with other people and their health improves in a positive social setting. Over and over, we see our elders' health stabilize in this positive community setting and moods of the elders and their family members improve.

We provide daytime respite for families and other caregivers so that they may return to work, have time to themselves, and get a break from the daily challenges of caregiving. We also care for the caregiver – providing caregiver support one-on-one and in groups so that they feel more successful in handling the challenges of caregiving. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Ronald G. Hallman, Communications Coordinator

ENERGY NAVIGATORS

Do you have comfort issues in your home like cold drafts or cold spots? Do you worry about high energy bills? Are you constantly running a dehumidifier in your basement? It doesn't matter what your motivation is, we are here to assist.

Energy Navigators is a locally based organization that works with homeowners and renters in Addison County. Schedule a free home visit with one of our knowledgeable Navigators to discuss your home, comfort goals and energy priorities. Improving the efficiency of your home can range from simple changes to larger projects.

After our conversation, we follow up with a home energy plan and next steps that are do-able for your budget. Incentives are available at all income levels. And, we connect you with rebates, tax credits, and financing options to get the work done.

We have some openings in February and are scheduling for March. Contact us through our website at www.energynavigators.org/ or email energynavigator.ceac@gmail.com or call (802)587-2550

Energy Navigators is funded by Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity and Municipal Energy Resilience Program mini-grants, as well as some generous private donations. That is why we can offer you this service at no charge.

Director, Energy Navigators
Climate Economy Action Center

FRONT PORCH FORUM

Neighbors are talking on Front Porch Forum

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

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

GREEN UP VERMONT

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

Green Up Day, saw a 30% growth in volunteers over 2023, picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records® title and succeeded!

The record is: "The Most Pledges Received to Pick Up Trash in 24 Hours." Vermont is the only State in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only State that offers a program like Green Up Day. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, and keep residents civically engaged.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We received a special flood recovery donation from Subaru of New England and have been able to rally volunteers and pay for many flood clean-up projects across the State.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025. Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work and play.

Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or at www.greenupvermont.org.

2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.

Green Up Vermont is a 501c3 nonprofit.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

4387 US RT-4 E, Mendon, VT
Phone: 802.747.6700

Website & Staff Directory: www.fs.usda.gov/contactus/qmfl/about-forest/contactus

Town Meeting Report

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve. The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Leicester Projects

- Goshen / Ripton / Leicester: Construction of the Moosalamoo Campground to Silver Lake
- Connector Trail is underway. The trail will likely be open for use during the summer 2025.
- Leicester: Forest Service staff brushed out trails near Silver Lake and within the campground. Forest Service staff began repairing and repainting signs at the Silver Lake campground and picnic area. Working with VYCC, several trails near Silver Lake were maintained to standard including Aunt Jenny, Rattlesnake Cliffs, and North Branch Trail.
- Rare plant monitoring: multiple sites in Goshen, Landgrove, Leicester, Lincoln, Manchester, Middlebury, Mount Tabor, Pownal, Peru, Ripton, Rochester, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Wallingford, and Weston
- Leicester: 1.4 acres of wild chervil were hand-pulled by staff.
- Northern Escarpment Ecological Restoration and Fire Resilience project located in the towns of Leicester, Middlebury and Salisbury. The project proposal would reintroduce the conditions and processes required to allow for perpetuating and enhancing fire-adapted natural communities in the northern portion of the Green Mountain escarpment geologic feature on the Middlebury Ranger District. Management activities consist of prescribed fire on approximately 3,772 acres, and includes non-commercial vegetation removal, insecticide treatments, and tree planting on a subset of the total acres. Forest staff are finalizing the proposal for public comment in late spring of 2025 and anticipate a final decision by January of 2026.
- University of Vermont Field Naturalist graduate student Veronica Magner conducted inventory and evaluation of fire-adapted natural communities in the Green Mountain Escarpment in the towns of Middlebury, Salisbury, and Leicester in collaboration with Green Mountain National Forest's Ecology Program, Vermont State Ecologist Bob Zaino, Dr. Tony D'Amato, and Dr. Sonya Kaufman

HOMEWARD BOUND

236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Phone: (802) 388-1100

Executive Director: Krista Malaney Phone: 802.388.1100x100 Email: director@homewardboundanimals.org

As the only animal shelter in Addison County, we are a tremendous community resource. Each year, we serve more than 1,200 animals at the shelter, whether they come in as strays, surrenders, or community pets in need of affordable care. Our programs and services meet a wide array of animal welfare needs including reducing pet overpopulation by spaying/neutering approximately 2,000 animals annually, helping low-income residents with free and low-cost rabies and other necessary vaccines for their pets, free pet food and flea-tick treatments, free boarding for pet owners in crisis through homelessness, illnesses, or domestic violence, and affordable medical and wellness exams so that pet owners can keep their animals, and the greater community, healthy and safe.

Our commitment to serve the animal welfare needs of the community remains steadfast. As a non-profit, we operate with an annual budget of approximately \$900,000 and receive no funding from federal, state or local governments. As such, we respectfully request consideration of funding through the town appropriations process in the amount of \$1000. This funding will go directly to our general operating budget so we can maintain the programs and services our citizens find profoundly valuable.

Shelter and Adoption Services:

- **PetCORE** is an income-eligible program that provides food, veterinary care, subsidized spay/neuter, and other pet owners
- **Pets in Crisis** provides free short term boarding and medical care for pets whose owners face housing crises
- **PetFIX** provides an affordable way for pet owners to sterilize their pets
- **Spay the Mom** provides free spay/neuter for pets who have an accidental litter (requires surrender of offspring)

Incoming Animals	Stray animals brought to shelter	6
	Animals surrendered by their owner	3
Outgoing Animals	Adopted	10
	Returned to their owner	0
Community Services	PetCORE	6
	PetFIX	6
	Pets in Crisis	3
	Spay the Mom	0

HOPE

John V. Craven Community Services Center

282 Boardman Street, Suite 1A, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Phone: (802) 388-3608 Fax: (802) 388-0756

HOPE seeks to assist individuals and families in identifying and obtaining the resources that will help them meet their own basic needs. We serve thousands of people each year with food, clothing and household goods, financial assistance with heat, housing, medical needs, and more.

We are also seeing record numbers of people needing help with housing and utility payments, and we're working to assist a swelling population of unhoused people, including a number with serious medical needs, mental illness and substance use disorders. Over the last two years, use of our food shelf rose eighty percent, while food prices have nearly doubled. We have to buy more food, and that food is more expensive. As a non-governmental organization, we depend on local support in order to help the people who come to us in need.

In 2023, HOPE served unduplicated 198 residents in 68 households; 68 of these individuals were senior citizens, 220 were children, and 120 had a documented disability. HOPE respectfully requests that the voters of the Town of Leicester allocate the sum of \$1,300.00 to help defray the costs of providing assistance to town residents in the coming year. Thank you for your consideration.

JOHN W. GRAHAM HOUSING & SERVICES

69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491

Phone: (802) 877-2677 · johngrahamshelter.org

John Graham Housing & Services (JGHS) has provided shelter, housing, and services to Addison County individuals and families for 43 years. We serve households impacted by domestic violence, substance misuse, mental health disorders, economic hardship, and disability. With seven properties spread across the county, we do this work in collaboration with our community partners. JGHS is the only shelter in Addison County that shelters families.

- **On the annual homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) count** on January 24, 2024, there were **3,458 unhoused Vermonters** in a single night, including **737 children** and **646 adults aged 55 and older**, representing an increase of **over 300%** from pre-COVID levels (Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness 2024).
- Vermont has the second highest per-capita rate of homelessness in the country, behind only New York
- **Addison County has a vacancy rate of less than one percent (1%)**. Sheltered households with approved housing vouchers often cannot find an apartment to rent.
- Since 2019, **rental rates in Addison County have increased by 32%** and are predominantly higher than our clients can afford.

JGHS is requesting \$725.00 from the voters of Leicester, the same as previous years. Thank you so much for your past support.

LAKE DUNMORE FERN LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, Vermont 05769

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

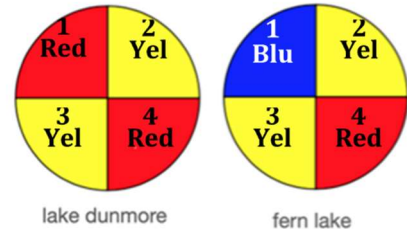
Invasive species control is by far the largest program operated by the Association. The uncontrolled spread of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) can limit recreational activity on the lakes. Our milfoil control program is supported by funding from the Towns of Salisbury and Leicester, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Aquatic Nuisance Grant in Aid. These funds help pay for the Greeters at the Magoon Access Area, as well as for equipment and labor.

The results of our EWM control program in 2024 continue to be positive. Although EWM has recovered and increased in both lakes, it is still significantly less than prior to our last application of ProcellaCor in 2020. On Lake Dunmore, there are fewer heavy patches of milfoil but there is still a significant amount of sparsely scattered plants. Fern Lake has also experienced an increase in EWM. To the extent possible, we rely on hand-pulling or diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) to control the EWM. We made a strategic application of ProcellaCor in Lake Dunmore in 2024. We applied for a permit for use in Fern Lake. The decision on application is pending.

The milfoil control program costs and funding for 2024 was \$206,900. The increase from the 2023 expenditure of \$133,912 is due to the application of ProcellaCor in Lake Dunmore in 2024.

These costs were met as follows:

VT DEC Aquatic Nuisance Grant	\$18,773
Town Support – Leicester	\$25,000
Town Support – Salisbury	\$25,000
LDFLA Operating Fund	\$138,127



Watershed Quality Initiative - From Pristine to Poor & Back Again!

The VT Lake Score Card data is shown above: 1 Nutrient Trend, 2 Shoreland & Lake Habitat, 3 Mercury, 4 Invasive Species as blue-good, yellow-fair, red-poor.

We are committed to being BLUE!!

- From our Watershed Action Plan using grant funding the shoreland restoration and stormwater improvements at the Magoon Boat Launch was completed and 5 more projects are in various stages of design.
- The LDFLA is actively seeking public funding to implement additional projects in the plan.
- We are working with Fitzgerald Environmental Associates and Green Mountain Power to better understand the nutrient inputs from the upper watershed and have installed monitoring equipment at the entry to Lake Dunmore on Sucker Brook.

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

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Voigt Pritchard, LDFLA President

MAPLE BROADBAND INFORMATION 2024 Annual Report

As one of Vermont's 9 Communications Union Districts, Maple Broadband is transforming how Addison County towns access the digital world. Our expanding network, powered by local governance and strengthened through strategic partnerships, is bridging digital divides across our 20 member towns: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting.

2024 Accomplishments

These numbers tell the story of what we can achieve when we work together. Through careful planning and dedicated effort, we exceeded expectations across every measure - from miles of fiber installed to community members engaged:

- Activated 135.9 new miles of fiber service in 2024, for a total of 240.7 miles with available service across portions of 12 towns;
- Nearly 500 customers now receive Maple Broadband service;
- Maple Broadband achieved a 98% satisfaction rate among current customers;
- Awarded \$669,800 in new grant funding;
- Met 100% of construction obligations, under the Vermont Community Broadband Board's grant, on schedule and under budget;
- Engaged over 325 community members through surveys and interviews to guide our strategic improvements.

Our partnership with Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT)/Green Mountain Access continues to expand fiber access throughout our region. In 2024 WCVT:

- Installed over 56 miles of fiber service drops;
- Activated service on over 75 miles of mainline fiber in portions of Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Ferrisburgh, Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro, and Weybridge;
- Converted 1,000+ customers to fiber, with more conversions scheduled daily.

For the expanded version of our Annual Report, including construction plans, maps, and timelines see this link on our website: <https://www.maplebroadband.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FINAL-Maple-Broadband-Annual-Report-2024.pdf>.

For additional information, including a map of current and future build plans; information on availability by specific address, internet package options, and more, please visit our website: maplebroadband.net OR call 877-49-MAPLE (877-496-2753).

OTTER CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES

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

In 2025 the District will be looking to continue to support rain garden installation. Rain gardens will recharge groundwater and reduce stormwater surges in streams and rivers following storm events. They are planted with a variety of flowering shrubs, bulbs, and perennials. Visit them in the spring, note how this method of landscaping differs from the traditional and read the informational sign. It is landscaping that has measurable water quality benefits. See the Rain Garden at Marbleworks and at St. Stephen's Church on the Green in Middlebury installed in 2006 with renovations begun in 2013; the Robbins' residence installed in 2008, and 8 installed in 2009 in Middlebury, Bristol, Ripton and Starksboro. Cornwall and Bridport School have installed rain gardens with the support of OCNRC and United Ways Days of Caring.

Two Leicester residents received free well samples for drinking water quality in 2024.

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

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

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

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT (OCWICD)

P.O. Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733

Website: ocwicd.com

Hotline: 802.247.6779

2024 End of the Year Report

The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) had a very challenging year due to issues related to permitting, finances, leadership, and staffing. We appreciate the continued support from our member towns and we are taking measures to mend our deficiencies and are confident that in 2025 service will be restored to the expected levels. We also face capital improvement needs: the fleet of trucks and other equipment are old and the building needs improvements and repair.

The year began with an unexpected permitting challenge with potentially significant financial impact to the OCW. In early January the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAF) informed the Board of a new requirement for the adulticide permit: the installation of variable flow control meters on the OCW's sprayers. The estimated cost of compliance was \$30,000 and the announcement came after the budget had been prepared and assessments to the member towns were distributed. Fortunately, the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association Board of Trustees stepped up with a grant that covered the final cost of just over \$26,000.

Luckily, the spring was dry and mosquito populations were low until the rains that came in July. The weather was now on the side of the mosquitoes. It was in this period that our short staffing became clear. Further dry weather in the fall and an early frost then lowered the nuisance level.

The same period was marked by some upheaval in the Board's leadership. In spite of that the Board moved forward in addressing the issues that face us, particularly our staffing situation.

At the Board's Annual Meeting in November, the Board appointed a three-person Ad Hoc Hiring Committee to hire the staff needed to fulfill our 2025 operations properly. At that meeting Jeff Schumann (Salisbury) was elected Chair, replacing Steve

Belcher. Jeff Whiting (Goshen) became Vice-Chair, Doug Perkins (Leicester) Treasurer, Steve Belcher (Pittsford) Secretary, and Albert Wenta (Proctor) Auditor.

The overall budget approved by the Board of Trustees for 2025 represents a 0% increase from 2024. The Town Assessments are based upon an algorithm containing metrics which are updated annually. Consequently, each town's 2025 assessment will vary slightly from 2024.

Key 2024 statistics reported by our Operation Coordinator:

No-spray requests: 90 (for 2023 the figure was 104)

Call-in requests: 269 (for 2023 the figure was 415)

Larva dip checks: 140 Adult sampling with light traps: 78

A reminder: No Spray requests must be renewed annually and should be submitted to the OCW no later than April 15th. Please check our website: <https://ocwicd.com> for detailed instructions. On that website you can also sign up for notification about planned spraying activities. Please also watch for public notices about permitted activities.

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

100 Porter Dr, Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.0137 Email: odc@opendoormidd.org

Website: www.opendoormidd.org

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$300.00 from the Town of Leicester for the fiscal year 2025-2026 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to uninsured and under-insured residents of Leicester and Addison County in general. We are grateful for your past and generous support of our clinic and hope that you will renew your commitment to the ODC once again this year.

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

YTD Report: Between 1/1/24-11/29/24, the clinic provided 1,558 medical and dental visits to 1,231 distinct patients, including 507 new patients! We have served two (2) Leicester residents, one of whom received help from our health insurance navigator, learning about health insurance options available to them through Vermont Health Connect; and one of whom had a medical visit and subsequent consult.

Outreach and Services: Through our fall outreach program and by mid-December, we will have provided health screenings, vaccines, and a number of medical visits to 36 farms and orchards throughout the county. Additionally, we continue to offer 7-10 in-person medical and dental clinics each month through which patients receive comprehensive chronic and acute care and referrals to a variety of specialists when needed. We also have a new UVM clinical social worker intern who, as a trauma-informed provider, is dedicated to collaborating with patients to develop healthy coping strategies and foster joy and hope in their lives.

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely entirely on the expertise and efforts of many volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical and dental directors, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, and many others who provide general support.

Help with Health Insurance: To date, our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped 279 individuals learn about health insurance plans and has enrolled 196 individuals in plans through Vermont Health Connect. She is the only navigator remaining in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are free!

It's been another busy and fruitful year made possible by our extraordinary staff and volunteers who remain deeply committed to providing health care and comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in need across Addison County.

Thank you, Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

RSVP OF ADDISON COUNTY

The Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

16 North Street Ext, Rutland, VT 05701

Phone: 802.468.7044 Website: volunteersinvt.org

Director: Maryesa White Ph:802.468.7056 maryesarsvp@gmail.com

Brief Description of RSVP:

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

RSVP also oversees several free community outreach programs that benefit local residents. These include free Bone Builders health and osteoporosis prevention classes offered twice per week at many locations in Addison County; the Green Mountain

Foster Grandparent Program which places volunteers in our schools; the Warm Hearts Warm Hands initiative which distributes clothing items to local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, social service agencies; the RSVP/AARP Tax Program which provides income tax return services to low income residents; and the Peaceful Packs Program which provides essential items to children/families in crisis. These programs strengthen communities through service and volunteering and allow Addison County residents to stay healthy, engaged and financially stable.

Services Provided to Leicester Residents:

In FY'24, RSVP Leicester residents took advantage of RSVP programs our free health/osteoporosis prevention classes and our free income tax preparation services. In Addison County 220 residents benefited from attending remote Bone Builders classes and 471 residents received remote income tax services. Over \$190,072 in federal and state refunds and credits was returned to the Addison County community as a result of volunteer tax preparers working with individuals and families. During the winter months, more than 150 warm clothing items were given to Addison County community members in need and volunteers helped provide essential items to children and families in crisis.

In addition, RSVP volunteers also donated thousands of hours to support the community. Many Leicester residents who received assistance from a local service organization benefited from the work RSVP volunteers do throughout the area. Examples include community members at risk of hunger who received free nutritious meals from RSVP volunteers who assisted with meals, or residents who received free transportation services from volunteer drivers. In total, RSVP volunteers provided 15,480 hours to local social service agencies, health care organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations. This equates to \$51,842,520 in donated labor to our community.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help continue to defray the financial impact of COVID on our organization along with the cost of providing volunteer placement, support, transportation, and recognition. On behalf of our volunteers and nonprofit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Leicester for their continued support of RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 802-388-7044.

Sincerely, Maryesa White, Director

RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

www.rcpcc.org

61 Pleasant Street, Rutland, VT 05701 Phone: 802.775.9711

34 Faivre Circle Brandon, VT 05733 Phone: 802.247.8251

16 Chaplin Avenue Rutland, VT 05701 Phone: 802.773.8397

Rutland County Parent Child Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible, educational, and dignified services to families throughout Rutland County. Our mission is to remove barriers that prevent families from reaching their goals by offering a range of services, including early childhood education, developmental intervention for young children, educational and enrichment programs for at-risk youth, family education, employment guidance, playgroups and a welcome baby program. Additionally, our unique grocery store-style food pantry is an invaluable resource in the county. In the last fiscal year, we served approximately 2,000 families and 1,400 children through our 4 sites across the county. The ongoing housing crisis and the increasing demand for comprehensive, whole-family services highlight the critical need for our work

In June, we opened our 2Gen Campus, expanding our reach and providing a one-stop shop for community services. This new campus strengthens our ability to serve families by offering a centralized location where they can access a variety of essential resources. At RCPCC, we follow a two-generation (2Gen) Whole Family Approach, ensuring that both children and parents receive the support necessary for lasting success. By focusing on the needs of the entire family, we aim to create sustainable outcomes that empower individuals and strengthen communities. All our services are offered at no cost or with substantial financial assistance, guaranteeing that every family can access the resources they need to thrive.

RCPCC is requesting a continuance of last year's total of \$300. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to serve our communities.

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT

Formerly ACTR

Website: www.trivalleytransit.org

Thank you for supporting TVT's vital public transportation programs in Leicester!

TVT's Dial-a-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems **provided a total of 203,645 rides last year – a 13% increase over 2023!** These rides enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

In Leicester, your support helped us provide:

- 701 Dial-a-Rides
- 149 Bus rides

Dial-a-Rides help older adults, people with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who can't access transportation on their own. Free, door-to-door rides with volunteer drivers (or on lift-equipped vans) bring people to medical appointments, senior meals, adult day care, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and critical medical treatments like radiation, dialysis, and methadone.

Public Buses are open to the general public and are fare-free. These rides promote economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. **In Leicester, residents can directly access the Rutland Connector bus at the Leicester Park and Ride to travel north to Middlebury or south to Rutland.**



TVT's government grants require 20% local matching funds. TVT strives to raise 5% of this match through municipal contributions based on our fair share formula using each town's population and access to service. Your continued support of these important programs is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, would like to learn more about our services, or are interested in becoming a volunteer Dial-a-Ride driver, please visit www.trivalleytransit.org email info@trivalleytransit.org or call 802-388-2287.

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

TURNING POINT CENTER OF ADDISON COUNTY

54A Creek Road, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-4249

The Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) is peer-lead and offers a safe and substance-free environment to support our mission: We provide peer-based recovery support to all including friends, families, and allies. With public safety, mental health, and addiction issues at the forefront of the news in Addison County and approaching crisis levels, investment in recovery services is needed now more than ever. The problems we are all facing can only be solved by working together.

Substance use disorder is an isolating disease that has profound life consequences and a widespread negative impact. We are working hard to overcome that isolation by offering new programs including coaching at a participant's home and improving the availability of harm reduction supplies like Narcan and wound care kits. We are also partnering with law enforcement to receive direct referrals from them following an interaction with a participant who may be in need.

In FY24, our coaches provided **153** unique individuals with **890** hours of recovery coaching support. Coaches utilize this time to support participants' chosen pathway to recovery and provide referrals to necessary community resources. We have distributed **298** Doses of Narcan to the community - 55% more compared to the prior year's 192 doses. Recovery Coaches have met with **75** patients in the emergency department at PMC and held **555** group meetings with a total of **5689** participants. *Please note this number does not represent unique individuals. Many of our participants go to groups at the center multiple times per month, week, and sometimes even per day. Due to the confidential nature of these support meetings, we are not able to provide unique individual data for group participants.

VERMONT ADULT LEARNING

99 Maple St, #18 Marble Works, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Phone: (802) 388-4392 Fax: (802) 388-4396
www.vtadulthoodlearning.org
Regional Director: Natalie Reigle, nreigle@vtadulthoodlearning.org

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

Our programs are free and confidential. We are grateful to the townspeople of Leicester for supporting the services we provide.

VERMONT CARES

Vermont CARES: Annual Report to the Town of Leicester for FY2024

Vermont CARES has been providing support services to Vermonters living with HIV/AIDS and their family members for more than 36 years thanks to support from the Town of Leicester. Vermont CARES also works to prevent new HIV infections by educating and training Vermonters on how to stay safe and reduce their risks. So much of the foundational programming we've built over the last few years has allowed for our mobile outreach services to truly flourish, and with our growing outreach program we were able to serve even more Addison County community members. The appropriation from Leicester could help us continue focused excellent service for people living with HIV/AIDS, those in need of syringe service programs, and increase

access to free rapid-result HIV tests. Our work most often includes creating connections with those who are most marginalized and impacted by inequities in access to health care, affordable housing, and food security.

Vermont CARES' Programming for People Living with HIV/AIDS:

- Case management support for HIV care ranging from working with someone who has a new diagnosis to persistent medical and related issues
- Advocacy with doctors, property managers, and other social service organizations
- Housing case management support at a residential facility in Colchester, plus additional subsidized (through housing collaborations) apartments across Vermont
- Transportation to and from medical appointments, the pharmacy & grocery store
- Emergency financial assistance for food and nutrition, housing, and utilities, and other critical financial needs
- Support groups and social events

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

- Rapid HIV tests, including risk reduction planning and counseling around HIV prevention medication (called "PrEP")
- Community education events for high schools, colleges, community groups, first responders, and employers
- One on one education and support to reduce future HIV risks
- Syringe exchange services based out of our Rutland, Addison, Franklin, Grand Isle, Washington, Caledonia, Orange, Chittenden, Lamoille, and Orleans Counties, including mobile service by appointment. These services include free naloxone kits, test strips to determine the presence of possible fentanyl, and other life-saving materials

Thank you for your support. Municipal funding from towns such as the town of Leicester is crucial to continuing these broad services. If you need additional information or have questions, please reach out to Chelsey Branham (interimED@vtcares) or Melissa Farr (melissa@vtcares.org).

Sincerely, Melissa Farr, MSW, Director of Operations and Services

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

11 East State St, Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 802.229.0501 or 800.639.1522
Email: info@vcil.org Website: www.vcil.org

For over 45 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'24 (10/2023-9/2024) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **293** individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **233** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **149** individuals with information on assistive technology; **43** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **320** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **38** people and provided **31** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During our FY'24, **1** resident of Leicester received services from the Information, Referral and Assistance Program.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023
Middlebury Local Health Office | 156 S. Village Green, Suite 102, Middlebury VT
802-388-4644 | AHS.VDHMiddlebury@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Middlebury Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Addison County. Some highlights of our work in 2024 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/middlebury

Improve Family and Child Health

Our office provided food benefits, education, and support to 40% of Addison County's children under 5. We teamed up with Bridges to Health to reach migrant communities. The Middlebury office and Porter Hospital used health records to quickly enroll new parents in nutrition programs. Our efforts to boost breastfeeding earned us the USDA's Elite Breastfeeding Award.

Protect Community Health

In Middlebury, staff promoted immunizations and tracked disease reports daily. We held clinics for the most vulnerable and partnered with primary care to raise immunization rates. Over 100 disease cases were investigated last year, with findings sent to the CDC.

Create Resilient Communities

Local grants supported substance use prevention tailored to community needs. Counseling Services of Addison County, our mental health provider, is launching trauma-informed care funded by these grants. Our Emergency Preparedness program helped organizations get ready for emergencies and trained school nurses, community partners, and citizens.

VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE

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

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

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

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

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

WHITING COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

7 N Main St, Whiting, VT

The Whiting Community Food Shelf is a local non-profit organization serving Whiting and surrounding communities, including Leicester, Shoreham, Sudbury, Salisbury, Bridport, Cornwall, Orwell, and Brandon. We have been continuously operating for nearly three decades. The Food Shelf benefits from the generosity of Whiting Community Church members, private citizens and organizations, Hannaford Supermarket, as well as the local municipality of the Town of Whiting. On average, the Food Shelf serves **35** lives per week, over **1,750** lives per year.

Three times a year we give out food baskets for the holidays, providing a complete meal for family members to enjoy. The primary goal of the Whiting Community Food Shelf is to meet the food insecurity needs of individuals and families. We see ourselves as partners in this endeavor and strive to maximize our impact on human lives with the food we provide. The Food Shelf is hosted on Monday mornings from 8:30-9:00AM on the first floor of the Whiting Community Church building in the fellowship hall at 7 N Main Street, Whiting, VT. We are typically closed only on major holidays that fall on Mondays and during inclement weather conditions, with a few exceptions. Please contact Melissa O'Neill, food shelf coordinator, at ministry@whitingchurch.org for more information.

NOTES

TOWN OF LEICESTER
44 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
LEICESTER, VT 05733

Marketing Mail
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brandon, VT 05733
Permit No.44

TOWN MEETING &
TOWN INFORMATIONAL HEARING:
MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2025 7PM
PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU

TOWN MEETING
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING:
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 10AM – 7PM