



# Valley Assets



## 2006 Summary of Existing Outreach Programs and Community Assets Of Rochester, Hancock and Granville

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#### **A. Emergency**

##### **1. Dial 911 for all emergency assistance!**

The Vermont E-911 system continues to perform within established benchmarks.

The enhanced 911 Board operates nine 911 call answering points, known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). They are located at the Springfield police Department, the Hartford Police Department, the Montpelier Police Department, the Lamoille County sheriff’s Office, the Saint Albans Police Department, the Shelburne Police Department, and the State Police barracks at Williston, Rutland and Rockingham.

##### **2. Rochester Volunteer Fire Department**

**Terry Severy, Chief 767-3394**

The Rochester Volunteer Fire Department responded to 25 calls in 2005, (down from 31 in 2004) as follows: 0 structure fires, 2 chimney fires, 2 brush/grass fires, 3 automobile fires, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 2 boiler/furnace fires, 2 mutual aid calls for VRS, and 4 false alarms.

We presently have 19 members in the department, including 1 junior member (16-18 years of age). The junior member is the second female to join our department, and we are always looking for more members, especially those who work in town, or are readily available during the daytime hours. We hold two monthly meetings, one regular meeting and one work/training session. We would encourage anyone interested in joining the Department to contact me or any other member.

Fundraising efforts in the year 2005 included the pancake Breakfast on Easter morning. The annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament held at the White river Golf Club was planned but cancelled, due to conflicting events that drew our usual participants away. We are planning to resurrect the Golf Tournament for the fall of 2006!. Thank you to all members and their families for helping with the Pancake Breakfast.

In 2004, we were awarded a grant for \$10,000.00 for a structural and groundwork engineering study for a new firehouse. The fire department will add \$2500.00 to this amount for a total of \$12,000.00 to pay for this study. This is the first step in researching the feasibility of constructing a new firehouse, and will apply for any grants that will move this process along. We currently have a set of preliminary prints for the firehouse, and are making changes as members give input for design and ideas are talked about at our meetings. We are planning a public meeting in Spring 2006 as we finalize plans and explore funding possibilities. The Fire Department recognizes the burden that our taxpayers are carrying, and would like to build the firehouse without impacting our tax rate very much. We are constantly searching for grant monies, and would appreciate public input on fund-raising possibilities.

The budget for 2006-2007 will be \$16,500, which covers the following items: equipment, training, vehicle maintenance, utility costs, hydrant shoveling, communications costs and general repairs. This budget figure is the same as the previous budget year.

Thank you to all the community members and businesses that have supported the Fire Department this year. And a very special thank you to our volunteers and their families for time and effort spent in all our activities. If you have questions or concerns about the Fire Department, please feel free to call me at 767-3394. .

### **3. Valley Rescue Squad, Inc., P.O. Box 131, Rochester, Vermont**

**05757**

**Administrator/EMT-INTERMEDIATE is Matt Parrish, VRS phone 767-0911  
E-mail [vrsinc@sover.net](mailto:vrsinc@sover.net). Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies.**

Valley Rescue Squad provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We operate one ALS ambulance, and with Granville Fire Dept., one rescue truck. VRS had 216 calls between 7/1/04-6/30/05, of those calls 126 were in Rochester, 64 in Hancock, 23 in Granville and 3 mutual-aid calls. Of the 216 emergency calls, forty-four were no-transport, and 33 calls required paramedic intercepts from White River Valley Ambulance. In order to provide this service to the three towns, we currently have 16 volunteers and 3 full-time personnel.

Over the last year we remained very aggressive in our pursuit of grants. We were able to obtain \$24,006.00 in Homeland Security grant funds for equipment in 2004. Monies from this grant were spent on the following items: burn kits, triage tarps, portable scene lights, an AED, backboard sets, communications, first responder bags, and a generator for the building. We have received all of the equipment and the grant process is complete for that fiscal year. The Homeland Security grant for 2005 is in the amount of \$13,045.00 and is an ongoing process.

The grant application process will be changing in 2006; individual services are not able to apply for grants though Homeland Security individually. Fiscal year 2006 applications are required to be applied for at the District level. We are currently working at that level to continue our quest for grant funds.

The VRS Membership Program is doing well; this program is to help people with no insurance or high deductible insurance, although if you have insurance or Medicaid, you may still join the program. The membership program works in the following manner: you pay the annual membership fee and if you have to be transported, we bill the insurance, and whatever expenses your insurance(s) do not cover get written off. If you are not a member, the remaining balance would then be billed to you. We have had great participation in the drive, and it will be offered again next year. I want to make it clear that if you do not participate in the membership drive it will not reflect on the care you will receive. Valley Rescue responds to every 911 call. This program is only to help with the financial cost of the ambulance bill, and is especially cost-effective for families and those with no insurance or high deductible insurance. Unfortunately, there is a downside, the membership drive has reduced donations to the rescue squad, and that number is reflected in the budget for 06/07.

Activities done by the Valley Rescue Squad were the annual Rabies Clinic held every March, and we were at the Harvest Fair reading blood pressures and provided first aid for some minor injuries.

VRS is still looking into starting a fundraising committee; we have had a number of residents ask about helping the squad, but didn't feel they were able to do the medical side of it. The fundraising committee could help organize and put on fundraisers which would decrease extra hours that the medical volunteers are putting in now. Each volunteer is averaging 108 hours a month without meetings or any fundraising events. This committee would be a great way to help serve the valley and keep the budget down.

Valley Rescue Squad Inc. is operated by a full-time administrator, who is overseen by a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of a representative from each town and elected officers from the squad and community, with a total of 7 board representatives. The board meets once a month, generally on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public, and we would encourage interested members of the community to attend.

Our next First Responder class will be starting up soon. The first Responder level is the beginning level in emergency medicine. The course is 40 hours long and the knowledge you get from this course can literally save a life. If you are interested in a first responder course or being on the fundraising committee, please let me know.

## **B. Social Services**

### **4. Clara Martin Center -24 South Main Street, Randolph, VT 05060 – 728-6000**

The Center’s programs serve children, families, and individuals coping with behavioral challenges, emotional stress, mental illness, alcohol and other drug problems. Services are confidential and include (but are not limited to): Outpatient Counseling, Psychiatric Services, Short-term crisis intervention, School-based & Home-based services, Education for families, Community resource assistance, Free Walk-in Clinic, Vocational Services, Alcohol and other drug treatment, Respite Care, and 24-hour emergency system.

Clara Martin Center continues to provide community mental health services to the greater Orange County area. Services are provided through five major programs which are CARF accredited. The major programs are Adult Outpatient Services, Child and family services, School Services, Emergency and Walk-in Services, Community support Program, and Alcohol and Other Drug Services. We also offer Psychiatric services, which span all program areas.

Clara Martin Center has continued to expand our contacts with local area schools. Through his effort, we have been able to expand our access to services for children, adolescents and their families at the following locations: Randolph, Washington, Brookfield, Braintree, Orange, Williamstown, Tunbridge, Sharon, Rochester, Strafford, Chelsea, Thetford, Bethel, and Bradford. We have also developed our Criminal Justice Program and now provide mental health and substance abuse services at both the Windsor and Springfield Correctional facilities. We are also preparing to assist returning veterans and their families with access to services they require.

It is through the continued financial support from our local towns that we are able to report these agency successes and in turn continue to meet our mission and strategic plans to provide local community mental health services to all our community members in need.

#### **Total served from Rochester**

Children & Family Services	16
Adult Services	15
CSP Services*	5
Substance Abuse Services	8
CVSAS	1
Walk-in Clinic Services	<u>3</u>
Total Served	48

Additionally, Clara Martin Center provides services within the Rochester schools two days a week through our Home School Coordination program.

\*CSP is our community support program that serves the chronically mentally ill populations.

Clara Martin Center continually demonstrates its commitment to the community and remains focused on the quality enhancement of services provided to our consumers. Thus in conjunction with the reorganization of the Agency of Human Services throughout 2004 at the state level, Clara Martin Center has also reshaped the manner in which our Child and Family program is structured. The Director of School Services position is a recently developed role that allows us to have a stronger focus on the school services we provide throughout the greater Orange County area. Our Challenger School, Regional Alternative Program, Home School Coordinator and Student Assistance Professional contracts and employees are centralized. Our school-based staff continues to be an integral part of the school community and the Clara Martin center workforce.

It is through the continued financial support from our local towns that we are able to report these Agency successes and in turn continue to meet our goal of strategically positioning our Agency for the future behavioral and physical health care needs of our local environment.

Care Partner position, which were created to integrate primary care and behavioral health services have been added to our Chelsea site location and have enabled us to offer services out of the Gifford Family Health Center in Bethel. The establishment of these positions serve to assist adults and adolescents with solution focused, behavioral interventions.

<b>Total Served from Rochester</b>	
Child & Family Services	17
Adult Services	14
CSP Services*	6
Substance Abuse Services	11
Walk-in clinic Services	3
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>51</b>

*Additionally, the Clara Martin Center provides services within the Rochester School two days a week through our Home School Coordinator program.*

\*CSP is our community support program that serves the chronically mentally ill population.

##### **5. Stagecoach Transportation Services, Inc. – David Palmer, Manager**

June Frigault – Rochester Representative on Bd. of Directors, 767-3048

Stagecoach Transportation Services, Inc., is organized as a private, non-profit corporation to provide transportation services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and general public of northern Windsor and Orange Counties. In fulfilling this mission, the Stagecoach continues to provide a range of public transportation services to Rochester including:

1. Scheduled route service for Rochester residents to Bethel, Randolph, West Lebanon, and Rutland for shopping and appointments.

2. Volunteer Drivers program providing Rochester residents with transportation to medical services at Green Valley Clinic, Gifford Medical Center, Rutland Hospital, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.
3. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday service for Rochester residents to the Quin- Town Senior Citizen Center.
4. “Ticket to Ride” program providing transportation for the elderly and persons with disabilities for trips of their personal need or choice, and
5. Package/prescription delivery to and from Rochester along Stagecoach routes.

The Stagecoach attempts to arrange rides for people who do not otherwise have transportation, and who seek to use public transportation. Information and requests for rides can be made by contacting the Stagecoach at 728-3773 (a local call from Rochester).

#### **6. QUIN-TOWN CENTER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS – 767-3763**

Hancock Town Hall  
P.O. Box 113, Hancock, VT 05748  
**Holly Brown, site manager – 802-767-3763**

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens entered its fourth decade of serving the towns of Rochester, Granville, Hancock, Stockbrfidge, and Pittsfield. Operating out of the Hancock Town Hall, the Center is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Nutritious noontime meals are served a the hall, and the area’s “Meals on Wheels” program operates out of Quin-Town. Last year, 3,215 lunches were served on-site, and 3,135 home delivered meals were prepared by the Center, for a total of 6,350 dinners.

The second annual hummingbird outing/barbecue was held at the home of Bill and “Pete” Parrish in Granville, and successful picnics took place at Texas Falls. The seniors took an interesting and educational trip to Rock of Ages granite quarry, manufacturing facility, and visitor center in Graniteville and also enjoyed a fall foliage tour aboard the Green Mountain Flyer passenger train in Bellows Falls.

For the second year in a row blizzard bags (emergency care packages), provided by the Central Vermont Council on Aging, were distributed by Quin-Town to the area’s homebound elderly during the winter.

As Quin-Town’s staff, volunteers, board members and surrounding communities work together to deal with the various challenges of managing an aging population, it is important to remember the focus of their efforts: helping to, indeed, make these “Golden Years” for Senior Citizens in our area.

#### **7. Central Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.**

**Kathryn Schenkman** – Case Manager for Rochester – 767-3104  
**Charles W. Castle** – Executive Director  
Senior Help Line 1-800-642-5119

The Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is a private, non-profit organization that supports elders to remain independent as long as possible in their own homes and communities. The council uses federal, state and local funds to provide a variety of programs and services for elders, either directly or under contract with local groups and organizations.

CVCOA requests funding from communities it serves in order to support its case management program. Case managers are trained to work with elders in their own homes to assess needs and develop individualized care plans. By connecting elders with public benefits programs and other community and state resources, case managers aid elders in making life choices. In this past fiscal year, 74 residents of Rochester received case management services. The case manager for Rochester is Kathryn Schenkman. To speak with her, please call 767-3104.

Other services provided directly or under contract are: information and assistance; community and home delivered meals; food stamp outreach; rides to doctors, grocery stores, and a variety of essential destinations; legal services; health insurance counseling; home sharing; companionship; assistance with household tasks; nutrition education; caregiver support services and grants; successful aging initiatives; support for senior center activities; mental health services; and the *Silver Voice* newsletter. The Council involves a number of community volunteers by hosting programs such as Neighbor to Neighbor AmeriCorps, Senior Companion, Home Share, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

**More information on all Council initiatives can be obtained by calling the toll-free Senior Help Line: 1-800-642-5119. Please do not hesitate to call for more information or assistance.**

The Council on Aging contracts with Quin-town Senior Center for the provision of community and home delivered meals for seniors. Noontime meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday the Hancock Town Hall. Home delivered meals are also delivered to the homes of elders who cannot get out to the meal site.

### **8. Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. (CVCAC)**

Central office in Barre (1-800-639-1053) or 802-479-1053, fax: 802-479-5353

Since 1965, the Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. CVCAC's programs and services are designed to help families work toward better lives and to improve the overall quality of life in their communities. This year, CVCAC worked with nearly 11,351 individuals in 5,209 households through our Child Care Food Program, Head Start/Early Head Start, Community economic Development programs, family/Community Support services, Weatherization assistance, Crisis fuel resources, and Community Action Motors.

In our most recently completed program year, Central Vermont Community Action helped 46 individuals and 19 Rochester families with emergency assistance and comprehensive program services designed to teach important skills and help people access the resources they need to build better futures.

Here are some CVCAC program statistics for Rochester:



- 12 households were provided with emergency services and referrals to address critical needs. .
- 6 households with 19 family members used our Crisis Fuel program and were able to continue heating their homes.
- 8 people utilized our Food Shelf when they couldn't afford to shop for food.
- 1 household received free assistance with completing and filing taxes with the IRS receiving the full benefit of refunds, credits and rebates which they were due.
- 1 home was weatherized for free and 3 people were more comfortable while saving money on home heating.
- 1 woman received training, counseling, and technical assistance in pursuit of her dreams to start or expand her own business in the community with support from the Vermont Business Center.

**Central Vermont Community Action Council is supported in part by the towns we serve!**

#### **9. Womensafe, Inc.**

Naomi Smith, Executive Director

**24-hour Hotline: 388-4205 or (In-State-Only) (800) 388-4205**

**TTY: (802) 388-4305\***

**\* after-hours relay available**

**The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe: 388-6783**

WomenSafe Office: 388-9180

Fax: 388-3438

**E-Mail: [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net)**

**Web: [www.womensafe.net](http://www.womensafe.net)**

***WomenSafe works toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change***

**WomenSafe** has been providing services to Rochester families since 1980. We are dedicated to providing services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Our 24-hour hotline, staffed by trained volunteers and staff offers crisis advocacy, safety planning, information, referrals, emotional support, social service advocacy and safe housing for victims and their children. We assist victims of domestic and sexual violence in accessing relief From Abuse Orders and provide support and advocacy throughout the medical procedures that might follow an act of sexual or domestic violence. We offer supervised visitation in a safe, neutral, child-friendly environment to ensure children's safety. Our support groups provide a Place for women to gain the support that they need to help them and their children be safe.

For the year ending June 30, 2005, we provided at least 10 units of service to over 2 Rochester residents through out hotline, advocacy programs and in-person meetings. Included in this number are the mothers of 2 children who were exposed to domestic violence. While safety concerns prohibit some callers from divulging any identifying information, we do know that more than 30% of women in the United States will be victims of abuse at some time during their lives.

**WomenSafe** staff talked to over 500 students in pre-school through high school about violence and healthy relationships. We also talked to community groups and other professionals about domestic and sexual violence and how you can help to support someone who is experiencing it.

It is critical for individuals and communities to send a consistent message that perpetrators will be held accountable for their violence and victims will be supported. We work with many community organizations to further develop our coordinated community response against domestic and sexual violence. **Womansafe** is also an active member of the Addison County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Sexual Assault Response Team.

Our office is located in Middlebury and our services are free and confidential. We believe that all women and children should be safe in their homes and their communities. We are committed to providing quality services that offer a positive support system to all victims of domestic and sexual violence.

**C. Medical & Health**

**10. Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire (VNA/VNH) – Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA, President and CEO**  
*Home Care, Hospice and family Health services*  
**46 S. Main St., White River Jct. VT 05001 – 1-802-295-2604**  
*Susan Larman, President & CEO*

The VNA & Hospice is like the local police and fire departments - - a strategic part of the community’s safety net – with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The town’s support continues to be crucial for patients. Surrounded by memories, familiar furnishings, and family photographs, people almost always wish to confront the issues of illness, accident or aging, and dying in the comfort of their homes.

Town funding ensures that the following medically necessary and supportive services are provided to all citizens, including the uninsured and under-insured:

- Skilled clinical care and support during times of injury, short-term or chronic illness, or recovery from surgery or accidents. The most common conditions under our care are congestive heart failure, emphysema, diabetes, vascular disease, muscle disorders, and joint replacement.
- Nursing and physician care for pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Also addresses the psychosocial, emotional, spiritual, and financial concerns for patients, their families and their caregivers.
- Assistance to young families at risk. We help fathers, and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents and care for newborns and children who have chronic illnesses requiring long-term support and care.
- Community wellness clinics including blood pressure, foot care, and flu vaccines.

VNA & Hospice provided the following services in the Town of Rochester this past year: (7/1/04 – 6/30/05)

<b>Hospice Program</b>		<b>Home Care program</b>	
Patient families served	3	Patients served	53
		Home visits*	1,196
<b>Maternal Child Health Program</b>			
Children served	9	* Includes Nursing Care, Physical,	
Home visits	43	Occupational and Speech Therapy,	

Medical Social Workers, Home Health Aides,  
Personal Care or Homemaker Services.

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

## 11. Gifford Medical Center's Local Outreach in our Valley

### A. Rochester Health Center

Phone: 767-3704

Fax: 767-3405

Dawn Beriau, Office Manager

Providers:

Sue Burgos, PA-C

Mark Jewett, M.D., (Tues, Weds & Thurs)

Gailyn Thomas, M.D.

Hours: Monday: 7:30 – 5:00

Tuesday: 8:00 – 5:00

Wednesday: 8:00 – 5:00

Thursday: 8:30 – 4:30

Friday: 8:00 – 4:30

- B. Gifford Medical Center** last year provided approximately \$652,000 in charitable care benefiting populations including the elderly, children, low-income individuals and other groups.

Gifford Medical Center offers the following programs to our communities either free of charge or at a reduced cost:

- **Bike Helmet Program** – Reduced priced bike helmets for children fitted by a Gifford employee. Call Becky Ward at 728-2287.
- **Baby Car Seat Program** – Free infant car seats to all babies born at Gifford. Call Bonnie Hervieux-Woodbury at 728-2127 for information.
- **Reach Up and Read** – One free age-appropriate book for pediatric patients at each well child visit. Visit your Gifford Pediatrician's office for information.
- **Community Resource Center** – Health resource materials are available 24 hours a day in the conveniently located Resource Center in Gifford's main lobby.
- **Sound Advice** – Free smoke detectors and in-home fire safety inspections by a Fire Safety Specialist as annual supply lasts. Call 728-2116 and leave a message.
- **Smoking Cessation Program** – Free smoking cessation and smoking prevention classes and counseling. For information call Susan Delattre at 728- 2118.
- **Workplace Health Screenings** - Employers can contact Eileen Murphy at 728-2162 for more information.
- **Gifford Flu Clinic** – Gifford provides flu immunization to high-risk community members at all of Gifford's Health Center's. Watch your local paper in the fall for information.
- **Health Connections** – Professionals assisting people for health referrals and linking them to available services including assistance with state health insurance applications, accessing

medications, emergency dental needs, Ladies First and Gifford's *Woman-to-Woman* programs. Call Michelle Packard at 728-2323 for assistance.

## **12. Vermont Department of Health**

**White River Jct. District Office at 802 294-8820**

**Website:** [www.HealthyVermonters.info](http://www.HealthyVermonters.info)

**Rochester Health Officer – Dave Chase 767-9902**

**Emergency Preparedness:** The Vermont Department of Health is actively working with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to public health threats or emergencies. Local Health Offices may be involved with; monitoring and early identification of disease; investigating disease sources; providing accurate and timely information to the public and health professionals; collaborating with other agencies during biological, environmental or weather events; assuring availability of personnel training; as well as planning and testing regional drills with hospitals and Local Emergency Preparedness Committees (LEPC) and; planning of and participation in joint exercises. In an actual event, if needed, Local Health Offices could operate vaccination clinics or clinics to distribute medications to prevent infections. To achieve this, efforts are being made both centrally and locally to identify volunteers who could assist with these special clinics. To assist with these local preparedness activities, Vermont's Emergency Preparedness unit is gathering the names of individuals who are willing to assist in the event of an emergency. Interested Rochester residents may contact the Vermont Emergency Response Volunteers through the following internet link [VERV@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:VERV@vdh.state.vt.us). The Emergency Preparedness Unit has participated in exercises in several Vermont communities during the year. Members of the unit have worked Vermont Emergency Management, Homeland Security, Local Emergency Planning Committees and District Offices throughout the state. Exercises conducted in 2005 were held in Hinesburg, Essex, the University of Vermont, Burlington international Airport and a statewide Pandemic Influenza tabletop exercise held in Burlington. Other communities hosting were: Grand Isle, Norton, Derby, St. Johnsbury, Norwich, Orwell, Randolph, Tunbridge and Bennington.

**Food & Lodging Inspections:** National surveys show that more people are eating out more often. Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food borne disease outbreaks. The five greatest risks for food borne outbreaks are: keeping food too long at improper temperatures, inadequate cooking, contaminated equipment, food from an unsafe source, and poor personal hygiene among food handlers. Inspections include review of a 44-item check list to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling as well as to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. Of the 14 establishments in Rochester, 15 inspections were completed by a sanitarian during 2004. For the most recent inspection scores and results in your area, please go to [www.healthyvermonters.info](http://www.healthyvermonters.info) and select "Program List" then scroll down to "Division of Health Protection" and select "Restaurant Inspection Scores."

**Reportable Disease Investigations:** Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U.S., accounting for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Department of Health investigates all reportable disease cases, such as meningitis, hepatitis, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source and to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of disease. In 2004, the department investigated 115 cases of disease in Windsor County.

## **Special Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):**

One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good

nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2004, 27 women, infants and children living in Rochester received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program. The average value of foods provided is \$40.00 per person per month.

**Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:** Vaccine-preventable disease rates are at their lowest level ever. In 2004, there were Vermont reports of one case of mumps, 180 cases of pertussis, and no reports of measles, rubella, polio or tetanus. Disease levels, while they are one of the chief outcomes of interest, are a late indicator of the soundness of the immunization system. Immunization levels are a better indicator than vaccine-preventable disease rates to determine if there is a problem with immunization delivery. Immunization levels for Vermont children, while high, still fall short of the 90% coverage goal. During 2004, the Health Department distributed childhood vaccines to healthcare providers in White River Junction District valued a \$245,700.

**West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance:** WNV is a virus that is spread by mosquitoes. West Nile virus has a widespread distribution in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. In late summer of 1999, the first domestically acquired human cases of WNV were documented in the United States in the New York City metropolitan area. The virus has since spread to the west coast of the United States. Each year, from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity, the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture track WNV in dead birds, mosquitoes, and horses in order to monitor the epidemic. As of September 8, 2005, 20892 mosquitoes had been collected, of which 18,842 were tested. So far, no mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV. As of that date, one horse from Orange County had been reported to the Vermont Department of Health as having tested positive for WNV. In Windsor County from June-September 8, 2005, 56 dead birds were reported, 21 were tested, and none was found to be infected with WNV. There have been no probable human cases of WNV reported during this same time period.

### 13. ACORN

**A Community Resource Network – 603-448-8887  
85 Mechanic St., Suite 240  
Lebanon, NH 03766  
Thomas Mock, Executive Director**

In the summer of 2004, ACORN's Board of Directors voted to change its name and mission statement in order to expand our programs and services to include individuals and their families both infected and affected by Hepatitis C(HCV). Our name change simply went from "AIDS Community Resource Network" to "A Community Resource Network" in order to reserve name recognition within the communities we serve. Our mission statement changed with only those additions shown in italic type below:

*"Acorn's mission is to support and assist those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS and*

*Hepatitis C to live fully and with dignity and to stop the spread of **these** disease(s) through education, information, and understanding. We work to change attitudes, actions and institutions that sustain **these disease(s)**. We are creating a community capable of choosing love, compassion, and support over fear, ignorance, and prejudice."*

**Acorn** values the continued support of **Rochester**.

Tom Mock, Executive Director; Dottie Deans, Town Funding

### D. Shared Housing

#### **14. Park House (Rochester Community Care Home, Inc.) 767-3416**

Executive Director, **Julie Jesso-Reiderer**

Resident Managers, **George and Mary Goding**

Rochester Community Care Home, Inc., dba Park House, a not-for-profit organization, has been providing high-quality, affordable housing for the older members of our community since 1991, when Selectboards and other interested community people from the five towns of Rochester, Granville, Hancock, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield joined together to explore the possibility of locating a shared housing facility for elders in the valley. Receipt of a Community Development Block Grant and other grants from the Vermont Housing conservation Board enabled the Park House project to proceed with the renovation of the Rochester Inn, overlooking the park, in the center of town.

Directives of the grants guarantee that rents for elders living at Park House will remain perpetually affordable, and that approved income guidelines will be followed in admitting residents. Section 8 housing subsidies are available through the Vermont State Housing Authority to help those individuals who are income eligible. Medicaid Waivers may also be used by folks living at Park House, providing the added advantage of twenty-four hour supervision and a strong support system, while still remaining near family and friends in the community.

Park House is a particularly valuable resource to Rochester and the valley community. Residents and their families indicate that Park House has been successful in its mission of establishing the caring, community home and community center that was originally envisioned. Three of the most important (and most common reasons people choose to live at Park House are:

1. It's homey atmosphere. Park House is more homey than other residential homes; it's more like being part of a family. Park House provides a healthy lifestyle where residents can interact with people of all ages.
2. The caring staff is personally interested in everyone who lives at Park House; staff is available to lean on, helping to solve problems.
3. Its location in the center of the Rochester community with multiple activities that encourage and welcome our residents' participation.

Rochester residents Priscilla Baker, Mary Davis, Diane Hanscom, Walter Wells and Nancy Woolley currently serve on our volunteer board, committing countless hours working on a variety of fundraising activities, offering wise guidance in management of Park House, and just being good friends to the special group of residents who live here. Board members also include Ann Hunt from Pittsfield and Suzanne Butterfield, Frank Green, and Beth Sullivan from Stockbridge.

### **E. Education**

#### **15. Rochester Schools**

In an attempt to minimize the statewide aftershocks of Acts 60 and 68 and their ramifications for local school tax rates, the Rochester School Board is forming a committee of Board members and community people to further study ways to market Rochester Schools and gather data in order to maximize student enrollment and prepare short and long term goals for the Board and Administration.

The Board with Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union will also be involved in a study by the Commissioner of Education regarding the consolidation of supervisory unions around the State.

Other actions taken during the spring of 2006 are as follows:

- Visiting with parents and students at the valley schools and communities to talk about Rochester School programs and offerings.
- Putting all households of the valley communities on the mailing list for "Rocketimes", our school newsletter.
- Extending our bus route to include stops in Pittsfield and at the Stockbridge Central School to pick up tuition students.
- Inviting valley schools to include their students in many of the Rochester School extra-curricular activities. Several community groups are also including valley children in their activities.

## **16. Home Schooling**

**Local Contact for Home Schooling in the valley – Rachel Doughty 746-7945**

## **17. Vermont Adult Learning**

**Kitty Stanley, Program Manager 1-802-855-5502 Or local teacher, Sheldon Esch**

100 River Street  
Springfield, VT 05156

at 728-9530. Mr Esch spends \_  
of his time on adult diploma  
Programs & \_ on other skills.

An educational non-profit which serves individuals 16 and older who are out of school and in need of basic reading, writing, math skills, GED preparation, English as a second language, and help with specific goals such as getting a driver's permit or a commercial driver's license.

Group study and classes are offered throughout the county. In addition to the adult basic education services. Vermont Adult Learning offers the Adult Diploma Program and college preparatory services.

**Hancock and Granville** adults might find the Middlebury office more convenient to use. It is located at: **Vermont Adult Learning**

**Community Services Building**

282 Boardman St., Suite #2 Middlebury, VT 05753.

**Phone number is: 388-4392**

## **F. Youth**

### **18. CENTER FOR VALLEY YOUTH (CVY)**

**Nancy Sanz, Co-Founder/Director - 767-3708**

The Town of Rochester provided in 2006 \$3,000.00 for program and operations support for the Center for Valley Youth, serving the teenage population of Rochester, Hancock, and Granville since 1990. CVY is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 C3 organization.

At present 20 teens regularly attend the CVY program. This is the maximum number of teens that can comfortably be served in our present location at Peavine Drive in Rochester. We are open two Fridays a month, 7:30-10pm, with another, or at times several, activities offered at other times and announced at the Rochester school and in a newsletter and calendar sent to participants every other month.

The Turrell Fund, of New Jersey, has approved a CVY grant request for 2006 in the amount of \$5,000.00. These funds represent a substantial part of the financial need of CVY, however

additional funds are needed to see us through the year. Your support is very important, not only financially, but as a good indication that the town supports the teen population of the valley. This support is key to our being eligible for funds from the Turrell Fund to support the renovation/construction of a teen center for the relocation of CVY to the Pierce Hall Community Center in the future.

## **19 WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS**

### **Mentors for Youth**

**Mary Beth Heiskell, Executive Director** at 802-674-5101  
or 800-491-5101

or

**Windsor.county.partners@adelphia.net.**

Last year Windsor county Partners supported mentoring partnerships for 37 children throughout the 24 towns in Windsor county, including 1 Rochester resident. Fourteen of these friendships were new. Our corps of Senior Partner volunteer mentors spent over 4,300 hours with area children, providing them with guidance, modeling healthy behaviors, enjoying fun activities and opportunities outside of home and school. Thanks to implementation of our new evaluation program, we can provide data to support the assertion that new Junior Partners felt and exhibited increased confidence, connection, and competence within six months of being matched with their Senior Partners.

With WCP's support, Partnerships engage in healthy behaviors together. Our All-Partner activities continued at a successful monthly frequency with high attendance and group enthusiasm. Junior Partners especially enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and have wholesome fun with peers outside of home and school. We supported 13 All-Partner activities attended by a total of 126 partners, including: holiday singing at the Cedarcrest Children's Home in Keene, a pool and pizza party, a picnic and trips to Dartmouth College sporting events.

We remain proud of each of our Senior Partners who continue to devote their time, energy, and enthusiasm to supporting the positive development of their Junior Partners. Several were recognized this past year. Of special note, the Vermont Mentoring Partnership presented Board Chair, Joe Rohrer, and his Junior Partner, Damian, the Mentoring Partnership of the Year award at the annual Mentors Make A Difference Conference. Thanks to the commitment and diligent support of each of our senior partners the program continues to thrive and enrich the lives of youth in our community.

Our adult volunteers initially commit to meet about three hours each week for a year with a child of the same sex. Many mentoring relationships last three or more years. All our services are free of charge to volunteers, children and families. We continue to grow and work to better serve more of the community's youth.

## **20, WINDSOR COUNTY COURT DIVERSION (WCCD)**

**Contact Regina Rice, Executive Director** at 802-281-5060

or visit website: [www.justice-works.org](http://www.justice-works.org)

Windsor County Diversion (WCCD) is a citizen-run, locally controlled alternative to conventional court-based prosecution for offenders charged with civil, misdemeanor, or certain felony crimes. In Vermont, both juveniles and adults are eligible. The majority of clients are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.

Over the last two years, recidivism among diversion clients was reduced by two-thirds to just 6/4 percent, the lowest rate in Vermont. One factor responsible for this dramatic improvement is an



approach called integrative justice that includes a focus on health related factors. In addition to more traditional elements, WCCD incorporates screening and therapeutic intervention for risk factors associated with problematic conduct. Research demonstrates that criminal behaviors are highly correlated with substance abuse, depression, mental illness, learning disabilities and related factors. Typically the first encounter with criminal justice signals the beginning of an ever deepening spiral with profound negative consequences for the offender, their family and their community. Windsor County court Diversion's approach "peeks under the hood" to identify underlying problems and requires that offenders address these conditions through treatment, counseling or other steps.

During Fiscal Year 2005, a total of 3 Rochester residents participated in Diversion. In addition, Diversion clients provided 10 hours of community service to help members of the community.

## **G. Recreation**

### **21. PIERCE HALL COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. Executive Director – Valerie F. Levitan 767-9599**

**To:** The citizens of the Town of Rochester

Thank you for voting last year a 5- year abatement for Pierce Hall Community Center, Inc. (PHCC). Your support has been so important with the beginning stages of restoring the building and re-establishing it as a community center. We are very appreciative. Thanks also go to the many donors and participants and volunteers.

Reflecting its composition from the five towns and the Mason Rural Lodge #29 F&AM, the new Board of Directors meets monthly: President, William T. Zucca (Rochester); Vice Presidents — Building and Grounds, Stephen A. Kittredge (Hancock), Development, David A. Hunt (Pittsfield), Program & PR, Roger P. Stauss (Granville); Treasurer, Franklin D. Sanders (Rochester); Assistant Treasurer, Barbara W. Harvey (Rochester); Secretary/Executive Director Valerie F. Levitan, Ph.D., (Rochester); Directors 2005-06; G. Harvey Blackmer (Stockbridge), Lois K. Bond (Rochester), Rose A. Juliano (Hancock), Nancy Esteban Sanz (Rochester), Margaret Scanlan (Rochester), 2005-2007: Barb M. DeHart (Rochester), Mark E. Doughty (Stockbridge), John Kennedy (Pittsfield); 2006-2008: Susan W. Barron (Rochester), Everett C. Bettis (Hancock), Richard W. Bryfogle (Stockbridge), Sue McCain (Rochester).

In addition, there are eight Councils, each with a current active membership of approximately 10: Arts and Events, Building, Business and Finance, Development, Education, Land Conservation and Recreation, Public Relations, and Youth, plus a Roller Derby Club of those who skated in Pierce hall in its heyday before 1974 (approximately 55 members).

The services in Pierce Hall are planned to include a senior center, a teen center, performance space, meeting space, and a fitness center. Pierce Hall Community center, Inc. intends to reuse and restore all original interior and exterior architectural and decorative elements wherever possible. We have engaged the New England Preservation Collaborative, inc. "to prepare baseline documentation for the interior spaces . . . including a phased conditions assessment and finishes analysis, culminating in a National Register nomination . . ."

Pierce Hall is presently not accessible to individuals with disabilities. Part of the restoration is to make the building fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including the construction of an elevator that will provide access to all three floors of the building.

The Preservation Trust of Vermont approved the concept designs, including the placement of the elevator, on October 21, 2005. The Vermont Arts Council awarded us a grant to help with the

water problem, And we are working with Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission in seeking government grants as well as pursuing assistance from non-profit foundations.

Donors over the past year number close to 250 individuals, family foundations, and businesses. Letters of support have come from all the towns as well as interest from organizations such as the White River Valley Players, the Rochester Chamber Music Society, the Center for Valley Youth, the Rochester Library, the Rochester Historical Society, Inner Harmony Wellness Center, the Quintown Senior Center, the route 100 Lions Club, and the Quintown Prevention Partnership (against alcohol/drug/tobacco use).

We look forward to serving you and welcome your participation. Thank you!

**22. Route 100 snow Travelers, Inc. ( formerly Tri-Town Travelers Snowmobile Club)  
Tim Pratt, President 767-4968**

The membership of approximately 140 snow travelers meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7 pm U.S. Forest Service Building on Rte 100 in Rochester. Trails are maintained each season from Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> through the end of March by club members grooming approximately 70 miles of club trails in Rochester, Hancock and Granville (as far north as Braintree Gap) with a Piston Bully snow tractor and grooming machine leased for 5 years by the club.

**23. Rochester Town Recreation Committee.  
Terry Paquette, Chairperson @ 767-3296**

**A. Rochester Summer Recreation Program**

Open to children just finishing grades 1-5 who live in Rochester, Hancock and Granville. The dates for 2006 are June 26-30; July 3-7 (not on the 4<sup>th</sup>); July 17-21 and July 24-28. Monday-Friday from 9 am – 12 noon @ Rochester High School. To register, call Terry @ 767-3296.

**B. Men's and Women's Summer Soccer**

Men's info call Ryan @ 767-3817  
Women's info call Sue Clarke @ 767-4471

**C. Summer Concerts in the Park – contact: Joe Schenkman 767-3702**

**Rochester Recreation Committee Presents**

**Music on the Park**

**Summer Concert Series**

June 18.....Outta Control

*James Goodwin farewell concert! Rock & Roll!*

June 28 (Wed).....Musikkapelle—Prutz

*42 piece Austrian Youth Band...bring a potluck dish to share with them!*

July 2.....Gordon Stone Band  
*Beyond Bluegrass!*

July 9.....Rochester Town Band  
*Larry Hamberlin conducts*

July 16.....Steel Rail Bluegrass  
*Traditional Bluegrass*

July 30.....Woods Tea Company  
*Irish, Celtic, Folk*

August 13.....Roosters  
*Western Swing*

All concerts free on the Park. **In case of rain, these concerts are held in the High School auditorium!**

**D. Rec. Park** open 8 am – 9 pm for basketball, skate-boarding, roller-blading.

**E. Winter Fest** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in February 2007

#### **24. Tri-Town Youth Sports League**

**Director: Harvey Downs 767-4295**

**Contact: Tim Pratt**

This group organizes the annual summer leagues for all interested youth from Hancock, Granville, Rochester & Stockbridge. Several 11 am -1:00 pm sign-up days occur each March at the Rochester School gym. All boys and girls ages 5-15 interested in playing on the Pee Wee, Farm Team, Little League and Babe Ruth teams are asked to bring their parents to the sign-up event. Spaghetti Dinners, Donkey Basketball and a Bottle Drive fund-raiser support approximately 130 young people, 14 coaches and a number of other adult helpers participating in the Tri-Town program. Each year, weather permitting, the group does a volunteer, spring clean-up raking of Rochester Park and around the Town clerk's Office.

#### **25. Rochester Tennis Committee – Chairperson is Cynthia Fowles 767-9864**

e-mail: [sohollow@sover.net](mailto:sohollow@sover.net)

For the 2006 summer season, there will be a regular Round Robin Tennis Program on Thursday evenings – for all wishing to participate – starting at 5:00 pm. The annual Fourth of July Tennis Tournament will begin at 8:30 am.

The tennis courts are to be used for tennis only. Bicycles and skateboards are not permitted on the courts. When others are waiting to play, please limit court time to one hour.

#### **26. Ski & Skating Programs:**

**A. Down-Hill at Middlebury Snow Bowl:** for Granville-Hancock Village School's 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The school bus provides the transportation, and Middlebury Snow Bowl provides boots, skis and lessons.

**B. Skatespace note:** Skatespace is a public space which is overwhelmingly popular with the middle and high school students. It's a great success proving how communal action can effect real change. **Contributions** toward this project **may be directed to Dean Mendell.**

## **27. Rochester Ranger Station – 767-4261**

USDA Forest Service  
Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF)  
99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767  
**Tracy Tophooven, District Ranger**

National forests were established to provide watershed protection and continual forest resources for the nation. The Green Mountain National Forest was established in 1932 after uncontrolled logging, fire, and flooding ravaged the state of Vermont. Today, the Green Mountain Forest has grown to over 400,000 acres located in central and southern Vermont. The Forest represents approximately seven percent of the State's land area and hosts up to 3.4 million visitors each year. National Forest System lands are found within fifty-three towns, ranging in population from 16,000 to less than 10 people. The USDA Forest Service administers the GMNF, aided by partners, other agencies, individuals and permittees. The Forest is divided into two districts, referred to as the North Half and the South Half with offices in Rochester, Middlebury and Manchester. The Forest Headquarters is currently located in Rutland.

Rochester's Ranger Station is responsible for maintaining approximately 189,000 acres on the North Half of the GMNF. This includes managing 3 developed campgrounds, over 100 dispersed campsites, 6 day use areas, 2 Wilderness areas, 114 miles of roads, and 440 miles of trails used for hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and horseback riding. Other management activities include fish habitat improvement, stream surveys, timber harvests, prescribed burning, invasive weed management, and protection of rare species and their habitats.

The Eastern Region Winter Sports Team (ERWST) also has staff that operates out of the Rochester Ranger Station. ERWST is a special team in Region 9 that provides Special Use Permit administration and oversight to alpine and Nordic ski areas located in New England and Michigan – the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont, the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan. The role of the ERWST is to work with these ski areas to improve the service time related to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects, increase the level of consistency in permit administration, and increase the recognition of the Forest Service at these ski areas.

Information about Green Mountain National Forest and recreation and trail maps can be found in the visitor area and at the kiosk outside the Ranger Station, and online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/>.

## **H. Arts**

### **28. White River Valley Players (WRVP)** **Martha Slater, President – 767-3025**

2006 marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year for The White River Valley Players, a non-profit community theater group presenting several productions annually, including a spring musical, designed to involve people of all ages. Each July since 1997, The WRVP has also produced Summernight (think "First Night" without the cold weather), a performing arts festival with a variety of music and theater acts at venues around Rochester village. Mark your calendar for Summernight 2006 on Saturday, July 15

from 5-10 p.m. In 1987 the WRVP began producing the annual Harvest Fair on the Rochester park, a full day of live entertainment, arts and crafts, food, a flower show, children's activities, and a lot more. Harvest Fair 2006 will take place September 9th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

In 2001, the WRVP developed a training wing called "Actor's Kitchen," an ongoing series of workshops in a variety of theater-related skills for teens and adults. The WRVP's first week-long theater arts day camp for kids in grades 2-8 was held in August 2002 at High Rise in Rochester and was a big success. The camp has grown each year since then, and the 2006 WRVP Kids Performing Arts Camp is scheduled for August 7-11. For more information call Jeanie Levitan Crickard at 767-3956 or Dorothy Robson at 767-3732.

The WRVP also gives a number of scholarships each year to area people (mostly youth) to help them study theater and music, including the annual Stephen Bloch Memorial Award, given to a graduating senior from Rochester High School who has been active in theater.

Check out the WRVP web site (done by more volunteers!) at [www.wrvp.org](http://www.wrvp.org). For more information, contact WRVP President, Martha Slater at 767-3025.

## **29. Rochester Chamber Music Society                      2006 Summer Concert Series**

**Contact: Lesley Straus 767-9234**

### ***Rochester Chamber Music Society 2006 Summer Concert Series***

All events, unless otherwise noted, are at 4 p.m., with a pre-concert talk by Larry Hamberlin at 3:30 p.m., at the Federated Church in Rochester, VT

#### **Saturday, July 8**

***Eighth annual Bach Bash*** A full day of Bach's orchestral music for professional and advanced amateur string players, conducted by Larry Hamberlin, with an informal public concert at the Hancock Town Hall, Concert Saturday, 7 p.m.

#### **Saturday, July 9**

**Marguerite Schenkman Memorial Concert:** "Archduke" Trio by Beethoven, Arensky D Minor Trio, Martinu Bergerettes  
Katherine Winterstein, violin, Linda Galvan, cello, and Cynthia Huard, piano  
*Green Mountain Suzuki Institute week kick-off concert*

#### **Friday, July 14**

**Green Mountain Suzuki Institute Student Chamber Players**, Featuring works for piano trios, including the premier of a work by Troy Peters  
Rochester High School Auditorium, at 4 p.m.

#### **Sunday, July 30**

**The Poulenc Sextet for woodwinds and piano**  
Arcadian Winds: Vanessa Holroyd, flute, Mark Miller, clarinet, Jane Harrison, oboe, John Aubrey, horn, Janet Underhill, bassoon, and Cynthia Huard, piano

#### **Sunday, August 6**

**Mozart, Kernis and a "History of dance from the Renaissance to**

### **Astor Piazzola”**

The Forsyth Ensemble: Terry Moore, violin, Gretchen Frazier, viola,  
Sarah Schenkman, cello                      No pre-concert talk.

### **Sunday, August 13**

#### **Czech Music and Mozart’s flute and harp concerto**

Katerina Englichova, harp, Cynthia Huard, piano, AND Flutist TBA

### **Sunday, September 24**

**Music for piano and strings** with Robert Penny, cello, William Sunderman,  
viola and other guest artists.

**The RCMS 2006 concert series is funded by charitable 501© 3 contributions  
and a grant from the institute for Clinical Science and Art  
Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information call 802-767-9234**

### **30. Vermont Young Playwrights – Dana Yeaton 388-3663**

Vermont Young Playwrights programs happen in different schools throughout the state. In Rochester, a group of talented people willingly take part in three day-long workshops writing their own ten-minute plays. They are assigned a playwright who comes to talk with them. After the first meeting, the young playwrights write a play of their choice. During the second meeting, they go through their play drafts and everyone gives feedback about their plays. At a third meeting the playwright is given the most recent copy of their plays and he/or she, in turn, gives advice and feedback about the plays.

The young playwrights send their final copy to Burlington to be read by professionals who pick the best out of the ones they have. At a festival in May at UVM’s Royal Tyler Theater, some plays get a “cold read,” which means professional actors are handed a script five minutes ahead of time to read out in front of people. Others get a “staged reading,” where professionals get the script ahead of time to go over until they are familiar with the roles. Young playwrights from around the state attend the two-day festivals which include workshop participation.

## **I. Environmental**

### **32. Rochester Recycling**

The long-awaited single-stream recycling program is up and running at the Bethel-Royalton facility and Rochester residents can now easily participate by bringing their recyclables to the Rochester Town Office parking lot on School St. between 8 a.m. and 12 noon the first Saturday of each month during those hours.

Co-mingled recyclables include paper products (newspapers, office paper, magazines, junk mail); all plastic containers stamped PET or HDPE (all colors); steel cans, and boxboard (cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, etc.). Residents are asked to separate aluminum, glass (all colors are okay), and corrugated cardboard boxes (which must be flattened).

Recyclable items that meet the specified guidelines will be accepted free of charge. For residents’ convenience, the hauler will also accept household trash, but it must be bagged and there will be a fee of \$2.50 per bag charged for up to a 33-gallon size trash bag.

It is important to note that recyclables or trash must not be left at the town office parking lot at any time other than the scheduled pick up times on the first Saturday of each month. In case of extreme weather, recycling pick up will take place the following Saturday.

### **32. ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKET**

The revitalized Rochester Farmers Market opened for the 2006 season Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Rochester Park. The market will continue at the same time each Saturday throughout the summer and early fall.

For this first market day, vendors sold jams and jellies, fresh eggs, baked goods, fresh produce (including asparagus, greens, and rhubarb), potted plants, seedlings, and other garden items. A larger selection of locally grown produce will be available as the season progresses.

For more information, call Sandy Lincoln at Seasoned Books and Bakery at 767-4258

### **33. GREEN UP VERMONT**

**Green Up Day – Saturday, May 6, 2006**  
contact **Nancy Manning @ 767-3253**

Green Up Day in Vermont is the first Saturday of May. Participants, including residents from toddlers through age 96, meet at the Rochester School parking lot. They sign up for the stretch of road they want to clean up, and collect their bright green bags. A Rochester Town dump truck is provided to collect all the trash and take it to the Bethel dump, which provides free service for Green Up trash for this day only. Prizes from Rochester town businesses are awarded for the most bags of trash collected, most interesting items found, and free creamies are given to all the students who participate. Often White River Partners coordinate a river clean up as part of Green Up Day as well. Contact person for Green Up Day for Rochester is Nancy Manning, Coordinator, at 767-3253.

### **34. Park Committee**

This committee consists primarily of those property owners whose homes face the Park and other residents of the Town who are concerned about the appearance of the Park. Responsibilities include organizing the annual Christmas tree and decorations to the Bandstand, coordinating the planting and maintenance of trees, ensuring that Park ordinances are followed and that the Park and Bandstand remain in proper condition.

### **35. WHITE RIVER PARTNERSHIP 2005 Annual Report**

99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767. Telephone 767-4600

The White River Partnership (WRP) had another highly successful year due to the ongoing efforts of its dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and members. The WRP continued to bring together people and resources to restore and enhance the health and beauty of the White River watershed. A few of WRP's 2005 accomplishments include:

- The WRP's **Forestry Work Group (FWG)** continued to promote forest land use that sustains the links between healthy forests, good water quality, and economic, environmental and cultural interests. This fall, the FWG launched a forest walk series to explore common forest and land use issues identified during a watershed-wide survey the group conducted with UVM last June.

- Through the successful **Trees for Streams** program last spring, more than 250 WRP volunteers, including students from nine local schools, helped plant over 3,000 trees along *three* miles of the White River and its tributaries!
- Throughout the summer, Partnership staff and volunteers battled invasive species throughout the watershed. The Upper River Stream Team spearheaded a project to eradicate a large stand of Japanese knotweed on the upper White river in Rochester. Simultaneously, the Partnership joined forces with VINS to survey the watershed for the presence of the harmful Rusty Crayfish. Unfortunately, our volunteers found Rusties throughout the watershed, prompting the State to conduct a study of this pesky invasive.
- This summer also marked the 5<sup>th</sup> season of the WRP's expensive volunteer-driven **Water Quality Monitoring Program**. Fifteen volunteers collected water quality samples at 21 different sites in 13 towns throughout the watershed, including Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Chelsea, Hartford, Pittsfield, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, and Stockbridge. The WRP shared results from its weekly E. coli testing with the public in an effort to raise awareness about the health of the streams. The WRP also produced its first *White River Water Quality Monitoring Report*, which summarizes the first four years of monitoring data collected by WRP volunteers and analyzed by staff.

The WRP recently launched an extensive **outreach and brand identity campaign**, working with the local marketing firm Sullivan, Brownell & Davies. The goals of the campaign are to raise awareness about the White River watershed, the challenges it faces, and the magnificent environmental, cultural and economic assets it offers, while also increasing awareness about the WRP and its work in the watershed community. The outreach campaign will include a new look for the WRP, the development of new educational materials, and a new website, as well as a series of newspaper and radio advertisements.

The White River Partnership provides all residents an opportunity to make a difference in their community. In 2005 our Upper River volunteer group, led by Richard Harvey, was involved in several projects in and around Rochester. This group and other Partnership volunteers from Rochester participated in tree plantings, organized a Green up Day event, collected water quality samples, combated knotweed, and sampled for Rusty crayfish. This dedicated group of volunteers also continued to pursue a riparian corridor plan for the Upper River through the Upper River Pilot Project.

## J. Library & Historical Society

### 36. ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-7pm, and Saturdays 9-1pm.  
**Jeannette Bair, Librarian – 767-3927**

It is with our deepest gratitude that we want to thank each and every library volunteer. As always, the most important asset the library has is our loyal cadre of volunteers. Without the help of both our regular and “on-call” volunteers the library would not be the wonderful place that it is.

This year the library was a recipient of a grant of \$12,300 from the Turrell Fund, a foundation that funds services for children. His funding will make available programs for children and families, a range of materials for children from picture books to career planning, and new bookcases.

The “Adopt an Author” program was a tremendous success insuring that the library acquired all the new books by 44 best selling authors and adding 10% to the book budget. A combination of Adopt an Author program, proceeds from Beryl Wing’s bequest, grant monies, and donations allowed the library to add over a thousand new books to the collection in 2005.



The library was the site of numerous author readings, workshops, lectures, and entertainers throughout the year. Without a doubt the most celebrated event of the year was a reading by the Rev. William Sloan Coffin attended by almost 200 people. The monthly book club continues to go be lively and well attended.

The trustees are proud to once again report raising 2/3 of the library budget from grant writing, fundraising, return on invested endowments, and prudent oversight of spending. Last year the library was allocated \$20,000 from the town or an average per capita tax support of \$17.70. We respectfully request taxpayer support of \$20,800 toward our anticipated 2006-2007 expenses. Your support for the library at town meeting and throughout the year is invaluable.

The end of 2005 brought a time to say thank you and good-bye to Trustees Nancy Andrews, Cari Burkard, Jane Duval, and Marty Gephart, and Angelique Lee to direct the business of the library beginning January 1, 2006.

Our town library is a treasure. The trustees, staff, and volunteers of the library appreciate your support and look forward to serving you throughout the year. You are always welcome at the library.

### **37. Rochester Historical Society, Inc. – Thomas Pierce, President @ 767-4759**

The Rochester Historical Society seeks to collect and preserve materials, records and artifacts related to the history of Rochester. In turn it disseminates information at meetings, through the printed word (letters and newsprint) and with displays to emphasize the value of such materials, and to encourage their preservation for future generations. For your enjoyment are: interesting vignettes of the White River Railroad, local Civil War participation, Mt. Cushman, the Sparhawk Diaries, Textiles, Schools, and more.

The officers are President, Herb Campbell; Vice-President, Mary Davis; Secretary, Nancy Woolley; Treasurer, Tom Pierce and 3 Directors elected from the membership. No one receives compensation. The Rochester Historical Society welcomes new members, active or supportive!! It is incorporated, with 501 © (3) status allowing the acceptance of tax deductible contributions or donations.

The Rochester Historical Society, Inc. invites you to visit its Museum, located on the second floor of the Rochester Public Library at the center of town. It is open mid June through mid-October, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 1:00 – 4:00 pm and Saturday morning 9:00 am to noon and by request (call Mary Davis – 802-767-4759).

The Society participates in the Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge Fair Ground. Exhibits have/and will consist of:

2000 – Riley Bostwick and his three National Christmas Trees nurtured in the valley and Verde  
Antique Marble – quarried for 70 years plus

2001 – **The Rochester Park**

2002 – Fun N' Frolics in Rochester

2003 – a Maple Sugaring theme

2004 – Wash Day c.1900

2005 – Visiting Nurses

The 2001 "**Rochester Park**" proved to be unique – attracting thousands of viewers including a Vermont Life Staffer – and would you believe the painting was the center fold of the 2002 Summer issue. It is now the focal point at the museum. We

are most grateful to member Sandy Pierce for her outstanding work and her husband, Tom, who critiqued the whole process.

## **K. Food pantries and Thrift Shop**

### **38. Federated Church Food Shelf**

is open the third Saturday of each month (9-10a.m.). Food is available to anyone in need in the community at anytime during the month by calling **Ann Hunt @767-3136 or Donna McIntire @ 767-9141.**

**39. Hancock-Granville Community Food Shelf** is now located at the Rochester Federated Church. The Food Shelf is opened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 9-10 a.m. Food donations may still be left at the Hancock-Granville Community Church on Sunday from 9:30-10:30 or brought directly to the Rochester Federated Church. Monetary donations may still be made out to the Community Church of Hancock and Granville P.O. Box 45, Hancock, VT 05748 or mailed to the Rochester Church, P.O. Box 197, Rochester, VT 05767-0197. **Contact: Emma Patterson 767-3960.**

**40. Thrift Shop in Rochester.** The Women's Alliance Thrift Shop at the Rochester Federated Church will be open June, July and August on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 4:30-6:30p.m., and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon. The shop, which is located in the Fellowship Hall basement, offers gently used clothing at reasonable prices for men, women and children of all ages and sizes and numerous household items.

Please note that during the winter months, the Thrift Shop will not be open during inclement weather. If in doubt, **call Edith Artz at 767-4440 or Estelle Holmquist at 767-4045** to check. All proceeds from the shop are used to help support local charities.

## **I. Regional "Assisting" Organizations**

**41. GREEN MOUNTAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**PO Box 246, White River Jct., VT 05001 1-802-295-3710**  
**Fax 802/295-3779, [www.gmedc.com](http://www.gmedc.com)**

Each year communities call on GMEDC for help with serious needs. One example is when major employers move or shut down, or are bought by strangers. Sometimes, as a result, buildings become idle and towns lose aesthetic as well as economic vitality. This puts the security of everyone in doubt. Utilizing all of the resources that the State of Vermont has to offer, GMEDC seeks to address these and other problems. Financing programs through organizations such as USDA, HUD, VEDA and the SBA help to cut back some of the economic loss felt by hard hit areas. Training and mentoring programs through associations like the SBDC, VMEC and WIB help to bridge the gap between businesses and the knowledge they need to succeed.. Furthermore, we at GMEDC are constantly seeking to improve the welfare of our communities through efforts to bring new businesses to our area while assisting local start-ups and existing businesses in any way we can.

Governor Douglas, Secretary of Commerce Kevin Dorn and Commissioner Mike Quinn have made regular visits to our area promoting economic development and job growth opportunities. We are pleased to have received their attention and assistance in our efforts. The State of Vermont has

provided significant assistance in all that we have accomplished. Our in-house relationship with the SBCD has been helpful along with our professional office location at 171 Bridge St. in Hartford.

A deliberate effort to meet with leaders of each of our communities has helped us improve awareness of all that GMEDC and the State of Vermont has to offer to improve economic development. In addition, being an on-going participant in the East Central Vermont CEDS project has allowed us to target and prioritize specific improvements needed within the towns of our region. By including these projects in the CEDS study we are able to put them in the running for grants by the EDA.

Hartford, Randolph, Bradford, Hartland, Chelsea, Woodstock and West Fairlee are all finding opportunities to utilize the resources we have to offer. More opportunities are emerging every day as we encourage businesses and municipalities to seek our services.

It is our continuous goal to assist communities and businesses in any way that we can to retain and create jobs. It is our desire to assist the 30 towns in our region with any economic development problems or opportunities. This will help to enhance the economic vitality in our region and the State of Vermont.

## **PROACTIVE AND MARKET DRIVEN**

### **42. GEORGE D. AIKEN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Call Kenneth Hafner, RC & D Coordinator at **(802) 728-9526**

The George D. Aiken resource Conservation and Development Council (RC &D) helps to bring together the technical, financial and administrative resources for towns with natural resource conservation and rural and community development issues. We are here to serve your community. We coordinate and facilitate assistance to town governments, school districts, fire departments, watershed groups and non profit organizations in the six southern Vermont counties. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and some staff through the U.S. Department of Agriculture but private sources make up most of our budget. The Council is a self-supporting 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. In 2005 working with our partner towns and organization, we secured and administered over \$517,000 for natural resource conservation, public safety, and community development projects.

Some current projects include developing watchable wildlife tourism, streambank restoration and watershed improvements, helping to develop an agricultural museum and helping to connect residents with locally grown food. In Rochester we provided a \$6,771.00 better backroads grant. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to “make it happen”? Over the years the George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organization on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call For information and free consultation call Kenneth Hafner our RC&D Coordinator a (802) 728-9526 or email: Kenneth [hafner@vt.usda.gov](mailto:hafner@vt.usda.gov).

### **43. Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission King Farm, Woodstock, 1-802-457-3188**

Peter G. Gregory, AIC, Executive Director, William B. Emmons, III, Chairperson, Pomfret

During 2004, the Regional Commission continued to provide technical expertise and resources for municipal officials as well as advocated for members’ needs with the State Legislature and with state and federal agencies. We function as staff for many of our towns and most of our work was

initiated at the request of Selectboards, Planning Commissions, and other town officials. Major accomplishments for this past year included:

**Regional and Local Transportation Planning** – The Commission’s Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) worked with member municipalities on numerous local transportation projects. Two River’s staff wrote many Transportation Enhancement Grants and assisted our towns in procuring design engineers, processing requisitions for payment, and organizing public meetings for local input – Two rivers helped projects get built. This office also assisted communities as they worked their way through the environmental permitting process on transportation projects, speed limit studies and intersection analyses.

**Local Technical Assistance** – Over the past year, we provided advice and support to all town officials on a wide range of activities. This included grant writing and administration, assistance on town plan revisions, ordinance development, GIS mapping, transportation planning, and Act 250 development review. The TRORC Region once again received the largest share of municipal planning grants statewide. This allowed our towns to conduct the planning necessary to respond to changes in state and federal requirements.

**Emergency Planning Activities** - The Regional Commission’s emergency management planning program continued to be funded by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Projects focused on all-hazards planning associated with the natural and man-made disasters. Our staff helped write and coordinate many of the First responder Grants for safety equipment received by our towns. A number of Emergency Response exercises were conducted in 2005

**Economic Development Planning** – In 2005, the Regional Commission continued working on a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to assess the level of contamination on many sites throughout our Region. Once the level of contamination is known, the Regional Commission will help towns locate funding sources for clean-up. An additional \$200,000 was received by TRORC this year further strengthening this initiative. . In addition, TRORC spent considerable time obtaining and maintaining the eligibility of our Region for federal economic development administration money.

#### **44. Vermont League of Cities and Towns – 802-229-9111**

Website at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org).

VLCT is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors. VLCT’s mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government.

Vermonters use local government services on a daily basis, including highways, police, fire, recreation, libraries, sewer, and water.

In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead local governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of municipal officials to provide quality services a affordable costs:

- Training, municipal assistance, and publications. In the past year, VLCT responded to more than 2928 telephone and e-mail inquiries. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 29 workshops and small group training sessions attended by 1300 municipal officials. VLCT distributed more than 400 copies of local government publications and distributed more than 2500 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT’s *Weekly Legislative Report* to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.
- Advocacy representation before the state and federal governments to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve heir citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate, in land use discussions and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.

- **Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost.** These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT HealthTrust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members is realized daily as members take advantage of loss prevention training and assistance, as well as reasonable insurance rates. Combined, the here VLCT insurance pooling operations are responsible for over \$50 million in municipal tax dollars.
- All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.77 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year

Individuals interested in finding out more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements, can visit the VLCT Web site at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org).

**45. ADDISON COUNTY HUMANESOCIETY**  
**236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 – 802-388-1100**  
[shelter@addisonhumane.org](mailto:shelter@addisonhumane.org)  
[www.addisonhumane.org](http://www.addisonhumane.org)

In 2005, the ACHS animal Shelter took in 5 animals from the Town of Rochester – 3 dogs and 2 cats. 3 animals were surrendered to the shelter by Rochester residents. 2 animals were picked up in the town of Rochester and Brought to the shelter as strays. Rochester paid ACHS a flat rate of \$425 to accept an unlimited number of stray dogs into the shelter.

The average time an animal spent at the shelter was 35 days. The cost of sheltering these animals was \$1,612. Each of these animals received a medical evaluation, basic vaccinations, in addition to food, shelter, and care

3 animals were placed with new families. 1 animal was euthanized due to aggression or illness. 1 animal was still at the shelter at the end of the year.

Animals from the Town of Rochester represented less than 1% of the total number of animals taken in by the shelter. ACHS placed 6 animals with families living in the own of Rochester.

**Other Activities:** In addition to operating a shelter, ACHS helped reunite pets with their owners through our lost and found service, facilitated the process of investigating cruelty and neglect, and educated school children and the community about pet ownership and animal welfare. ACHS spayed or neutered 440 animals.

**Please direct all corrections or additions to: Jeffrey Steinkamp**  
P.O. Box 98, Rochester, VT 05767