Annual Report
of the Town of

Brookfield

The Brookfield New Town Garage Building 2024
Brookfield, Vermont

VERMONT

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fire	911
White River Valley Ambulance	911 (802-234-6800)
Sheriff-Windsor County	802-457-5211
State Police	911 (802-234-9933)
Fire Warden… (Jeff Brassard)	802-728-5739
Town Garage	802-.276-3090
Town Clerk	802-276-3352

Town Clerk's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Selectboard Meetings: Town Clerk's Office 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month at 6:30 P.M.

Brookfield Library Hours:

Winter 2023: Saturday 9 A.M. - Noon, Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00-5:30 P.M

Summer 2023: (Memorial Day-Labor Day) Saturday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon; Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Library Phone: 802-276-3358 Email: brookfieldpublic@gmail.com

Library Trustees meet every other month, or as needed. Check the website for dates of upcoming meetings: www.brookfieldvt.org

Brookfield Elementary School	802-276-3153
Randolph Union High School	802-728-3397

Chartered: August 5, 1781
Please visit our website @ www.brookfieldvt.org and see us on Facebook
Town email address: townclerk@brookfieldvt.org

Landfill Hours:

Wednesday and Friday 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Saturday 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (except holidays); Telephone number: 802-728-6737

(randolphvt.org/transfer station)

Household Hazardous Waste Days for Residents: One day each in Spring and Fall; Exact Times and Dates to be announced.

For acceptable materials: mtalliance.org "special events" or mtalliance.org/hazardous-waste/location-and-date-listing

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Photo Source: John Benson

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TOWN OF BROOKFIELD ANNUAL MEETING

WARNING

The legal voters of Brookfield are hereby warned to meet for the annual Town Meeting at the Brookfield Elementary School at 1725 Ridge Road, Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:

Article:

1. To elect all officers as required by law for the ensuing year by Australian ballot. For this purpose, the polls will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
2. To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers.
3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues.
4. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the date for the first installment on November 15, 2025 and the second installment on May 15, 2026.
5. To see if the Town will vote to stabilize the municipal tax rate at 50% of normal for the Mystic Star Lodge No. 97 for a period of five (5) years.
6. To see if the Town will vote to change the term for the Delinquent Tax Collector from one year to three years starting in March of 2026.
7. To see if the Town will vote to change the term of the 2nd Constable from one year to two years starting in March of 2026.
8. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
9. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to place an order for a new cab/chassis for delivery by Fall of 2026. The cost to be financed over a period of time starting in 2026 will be presented at next year's annual meeting.
10. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town Highway Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
11. To transact any other proper business.

Dated at Brookfield, Vermont, the10th day of February 2025.

Attest: Carol Monness, Brookfield Town Clerk

There will be an informational meeting on the Town Budget on Monday evening, February 24, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Office as part of the Selectboard Meeting.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Moderator: Gregory Wight

Selectboard members present: John Benson, Chair, J. Keith Sprague, III, Stuart Edson, C. Curtis Koren and Betty Lord.

Also present were Carol J. Monness, Town Clerk, several other Officers of the Town, and many other legal voters of the Town of Brookfield.

Moderator Wight called the meeting to Order at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Benson announced new features which included recording of the meeting by Vermont Public. He also mentioned that Carol Monness' sister, Carla Preston was present to record the minutes of the meeting and that another sister, Cheryl Lasell was involved in getting the Town Reports printed and mailed to Brookfield residents.

Moderator Wight read the Articles listed below to be discussed as they appeared on the Warning.

1. *To elect all officers as required by law for the ensuring year by Australian ballot. For this purpose, the polls will be open from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.*

   Moderator Wight advised that the polls are open and active until 7:00 P.M. tonight.

2. *To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers.*

   Selectboard: Chair Benson began by recognizing people in the Armed Forces, persons who served in a state or regional organization, local departments such as the Fire Department, and people who have volunteered their time to serve on boards, commissions, and committees. A special thank you went to those persons.

   Chair Benson mentioned the damages to the Brookfield Center Cemetery which were the result of an accident. He advised that the responsible individual's insurance company has paid for those damages and that repairs will be made this spring.

   Chair Benson noted that the July 2023 storm event was the real story in that numerous roads were lost, over 70 places with significant damages were reported making areas completely impassable, and stranded people. The Town has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ever since that time with damages totaling over a half million. The Town has recently been assigned a new person from FEMA and monies are expected soon. He explained that the Town will receive 75 percent of cost, the maximum allowed, if approved based on the damage assessments. The second part of the program is called mitigation which is designed to make improvements to minimize or reduce damages should a similar storm event

occur. There are eight (8) problem culverts that will be submitted for mitigation. If they are all approved, it would total just under four (4) million for design, improvements, and construction. The Town is responsible for up to 28 percent of the costs depending on which program is applicable.

Chair Benson reported that the United States President also approved monies to assist Orange County due to the storms that occurred in December of 2023. The Town will be assessing those damages and applying for additional FEMA grants as appropriate.

Chair Benson reported that the Town garage project was placed on hold due to the flooding issues which created considerable activity at the garage site. They decided it best to wait until this spring to begin construction. They just received approval from the Vermont State Fire Marshall, so they are all set to proceed.

Chair Benson reported that the Town has also applied for an energy grant that is available to municipalities. To qualify the Town must go through an audit process for which it has been approved. The audit is 100 percent paid for by the state program. He noted that there is an audit currently in place for the Town Office and Library. The Town Office received some sprucing up with fresh paint. The roof will be completed in the spring.

Chair Benson mentioned the antenna placed on the shed here at the school. The two repeaters were purchased and installed to improve radio communications and are now fully operational. The project was completed last year and although it did not eliminate every dead zone, communications have improved.

Chair Benson reported on the struggles with the Town's relationship with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He advised that Sheriffs are still patrolling into Brookfield some, but they are looking at alternatives. The Town's communications with the state police have been unsuccessful because their numbers are down and they do not have the capacity to help. He noted that the state police will respond in an emergency, but they are not policing the Town on a regular basis. The Town is continuing to explore options around us and hope for a good solution.

Chair Benson noted that the last item on which to report is the resignation of Selectboard Member Betty Lord. He thanked her for her service and welcomed her southern humor!

Public Safety Advisory Committee: Lewis Stowell reported that they are working with the Orange County Sheriff's Department in hopes of having a contract but are waiting to see what happens with the budget. He noted that they observe many people walking in the fog, snowstorms or other poor weather conditions who are wearing dark clothing. He advised that they want to make people more aware of the problem and efforts to make pedestrians more visible by encouraging them to wear reflective vests.

Mike Rutkovsky added that he also notices people walking dressed all in black and that over the last three years they have passed out vests to make them more aware and much more visible to traffic. Their Committee is looking for $200 from the Town to purchase more vests.

Lori Churchill asked if pedestrians were also advised on which side of the road they should walk. In Response Mr. Rutkovsky said "yes they do," noting that some responses were good and some not so favorable based on their recommendations.

The 2023 Town Report includes written reports from all boards, commissions, and committees.

3. *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues.*

Mr. Stowell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stoddard, to open discussion on this Article.

Chair Benson advised that since the Town moved to collecting tax revenues twice a year, the Town has not had to borrow monies, however having the ability to do so will safeguard the Town in the event it is needed. The question was called and the motion carried.

4. *To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the dates.*

Moderator Wight advised that the proposed due dates for property tax payments are Saturday, November 2, 2024, and May 3, 2025.

Ray Mayer made a motion, seconded by Kym Anderson, to authorize taxes to be paid in two installments on November 2, 2024 and on May 3, 2025. The question was called and the motion carried.

5. *To see if the Town will approve the change of the Town Treasurer position from an elected position to a Selectboard appointed position starting the first Tuesday of March 2025.*

Mr. Stowell made the motion, seconded by Marylou Maeder, to open discussion on this Article.

Chair Benson advised that the reason this matter was put forward to the voters is that the treasurer's position is a very important position which requires the individual to have an accounting background who understands tax law, insurances, employee regulations, benefits and more. He added that the Selectboard relies heavily on the person in that position. They have been lucky over the years but that has not always been the case. The Selectboard's intent is to solicit someone who can perform the duties and who will stay in the position

for a while for consistency. The treasurer's role is a very important and complex position and the Selectboard wants to move the position from elected to an appointed position by the Selectboard.

Tom Garbitelli advised that he is not in favor of this change. Although he understands the difficulty, this role concerns the Town's money, taxpayers' money. He believes that the ability to find and appoint a qualified person is already in place with the assistant treasurer position. He feels that the Town's people should have a say in who that person is and want someone they can trust. If the person in that role is not doing well, he or she should step down. He added that there are processes in place for transfer of power when needed. There is no manual that shows all the intricacies of running a town. The Town should create a process or manual to allow someone to jump into the job. He feels that the Town treasurer's position should stay voted in by the People of Brookfield.

G. Jack Zebora advised he is also against allowing the Selectboard to appoint the treasurer. He agrees with the points mentioned above but feels that the Town should keep the right to vote in the treasurer which it has done for 200 years. He added that it is our vote, and we should keep it.

Chair Benson explained that as far as the spending of our money, the treasurer has no authority to spend the Town's money. The treasurer implements the mechanisms for revenues and expenditures to ensure those funds end up in the correct field or account and tracks that data.

Amy Ingrassia advised that she is currently the appointed treasurer and revealed that it was a difficult year, due in part because she had no training. She explained that Teresa Godfrey trained the person who was elected as treasurer last year but resigned soon after. She therefore missed out on the specific training. That said, she is also against appointment versus election of the treasurer and feels that the Town's people should choose. She agrees it would be better to have documented procedures in a manual and that she will work hard to get procedures in place for the next treasurer.

Chair Benson again mentioned the complexities of this role which include knowledge of state and federal regulations, insurances, benefits, and so forth. The treasurer must stay abreast of all those rules for employees and must have knowledge of basic accounting and applicable software programs. He added that it is not as simple as a checklist to follow.

Betty Lord mentioned Mr. Zebora's comment about 200 years noting that many things have changed over the years. She supports giving your vote to the Selectboard to learn a task and to make good choices for the Town. She feels that the Selectboard should have the ability to hire someone with the appropriate knowledge and experience. She reiterated earlier comments that the treasurer's position is not a popularity contest. During the application and interview process,

the Selectboard could find someone who has the qualifications to do the job and is best for the Town.

Erik Nielson commented on the need for training and agreed that people do not run for treasurer due to its popularity. He believes people run for the position who wish to serve and would be willing to get the necessary training. Processes must be in place to allow that person to get training.

Dan O'Brien advised that finances and accounting is a profession and that the Town's budget is bigger than ever. It is a very important job and he trusts the elected Selectboard to find that person.

Dan Childs advised that he serves as treasurer of several organizations and agrees that a professional should serve in that role. The one that keeps him up at night is EC Fiber due to the large amount of funds and its complexities. He feels that a professional should be in the treasurer's position. He agreed that running a town is not like it was 200 years ago and wants someone who knows how to get it done right, which is unlikely via on-the-job training. He noted that his role as treasurer of various organizations consumes a lot of his time and involves many forms. It is hard work and needs someone who is a professional.

Mr. Garbitelli believes that we are smart enough to have an option and does not want to destroy that right because it is hard. The Town could also create a position that is protected by the Selectboard to get someone qualified. He noted that many towns want to get rid of elected positions but feels that it does not need to be eliminated immediately when a better solution may be out there. Mr. Garbitelli added that he does trust the Selectboard but would rather see the position filled by the People of Brookfield.

Nancy Doda suggested a two-step process wherein the Selectboard chooses the candidates and the Town's people vote on the individual person to serve in that role.

Betty Lord confirmed that this is an issue for several towns to ensure they have someone qualified for the position.

Ms. Ingrassia advised that the main reason for towns going to appointed positions is that people are not running for those positions. She complemented Ms. Godfrey on her success but noted that the procedures were not documented.

Perry Kacik acknowledged that the expansion of the Selectboard members a couple of years ago was a great success. Where we, the Town's people, put thinking around our leadership proved to be a good decision.

Jon Binhammer asked the Moderator to call the question to see if the town treasurer will be elected by the voters or appointed by the Selectboard. Motion carried with no further discussion on the matter.

The question was called resulting in the first vote via voice, yeas or nays, too close to call. Persons standing in favor of the change resulted in 81 votes, with 25 persons standing opposed. Motion carried.

6. *To see if the Town will approve the change of the 1st Constable's position from a one-year term to a two-year term starting in 2024.*

Mr. Stowell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stoddard, to open discussion on this Article.

Constable Dan Mason explained that this change is essentially administrative with little if any effect on the Town.

The question was called and the motion carried.

7. *To see if the Town will authorize adding $200 to the budget for the Public Safety Advisory Committee.*

Mr. Stowell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stoddard, to open discussion on this Article.

Mr. Stowell reiterated their concerns for the safety of pedestrians wearing dark clothing who are not as visible as they need to be when walking. Their Committee is asking for $200 to purchase reflective vests that will be distributed to pedestrians, making them more visible to traffic in an effort to reduce the risk of accidents involving pedestrians.

The question was called and the motion carried.

8. *To see if the Town will authorize an increase from $500 to $1500 for the Randolph Area Food Shelf.*

Linda Garrett made a motion, seconded by Marie Dunwoody, to open discussion on this Article.

Chair Benson explained how donations from the Town work. The Town has traditionally put a donation request on the Warning and the group makes its pitch. If approved, going forward the group can request a donation for the same amount, and it is typically added into the budget. The Selectboard has the right to question the request. In this situation, the Randolph Area Food Shelf asked for a substantial increase, thus it was not just added to the budget. The donation requested of $1,500 was added to the Warning for consideration by the voters.

Ms. Garrett confirmed that this group usually asks for $500 but due to increased costs of groceries and more people being served, the increase to $1,500 is needed. She noted that they have seen an 80 percent increase in the number of people served. She explained that the 16 families mentioned being served in the Town's report from Brookfield is misleading because it only counts regulars. They also offer special meals during Thanksgiving and other holidays.

Mr. Garbitelli was unaware that the Town of Brookfield benefited from this service.

Ms. Garrett advised that advertisements are placed in the Randolph Harold and on Front Porch Forum.

Dennis Larocque agreed that the food shelf is jammed and that a lot of people are served by it. Linda Runnion also agreed and stressed the need for this service.

The question was called to raise the donation to the Randolph Area Food Shelf from $500 to $1500 and the motion carried.

9. *To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town* ***General Fund*** *and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.*

Ms. Runnion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mayer, to open discussion on this Article.

Chair Benson reported that the current General Fund budget is $589,881.

Gary Lord advised that the needed increase in donation from the Town to the Randolph Senior Center was inadvertently left out of the budget, thus they are making their request in open meeting.

Lois Wakefield indicated that she is on the Board of Directors for the Randolph Senior Center and noted the significant increase in costs making it difficult for seniors. The organization's budget is $300,000. They rely on volunteers and donations and must raise $95,000. She added that Meals on Wheels could be provided by the organization with proper funding. They are looking for another $1000 from the Town of Brookfield to help reach that goal.

Moderator Wight advised that a formal motion is required to amend the budget.

Mr. Stoddard made the motion, seconded by Holly Dustin, to amend the General Fund budget.

Chair Benson advised that the group is currently budgeted for $2100, thus an increase of $900 is the amount needed to get to their budget.

Ms. Dustin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ingrassia, for a friendly amendment to the original motion, to add an extra $900 to the General Fund budget. The question was called and the motion carried.

Mr. Zebora questioned whether the Town was receiving services from the Tri Valley Transportation (former Stagecoach), and whether to continue with the $1100 donation. He advised that the bus route does not go through Brookfield and opined that the Town is not getting served as they indicate. He contacted the group and learned that there was a charge for services. He feels that contributions to this group should be removed from the budget.

Moderator Wight advised that such a change requires an amendment to the budget.

Laura Rochat mentioned people who do benefit from that service, which includes transport to and from doctor's appointments and to the hospital.

Ms. Anderson advised she works with Tri Valley Transportation and confirmed that there are a lot of people who need that service. She noted that the service does not just apply to the elderly but also pertains to people who cannot drive if they lost their driver's license.

Others chimed in for their support.

The question was called to amend the budget to remove $1100 for Tri Valley Transportation and the motion failed.

The result of the approved amendments raises the General Fund budget from $589,881 (plus $2100) to $591,981. The question was called on the original motion and the motion carried.

10. *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to pay a bonus of $500 each to the three Road Crew Members (Tim, Ritchie and Rob) as appreciation for their efforts in the repair of our roadways during and following the July storm.*

Mr. Nielson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, to open discussion on this Article.

Chair Benson explained that they are proposing a $500 bonus to each road crew member because they worked straight out during the July storm event with the flooding. They were out monitoring and dealing with the situation for 24 hours straight to ensure people could get out safely. They then worked all summer to get the roads back in shape and want the community to show its appreciation. He also wants to recognize the efforts by the Fire Department during this event. Applause.

Mr. Kacik also appreciates their efforts during the five mud seasons we have been through!! He acknowledged that the road crew does an amazing job.

The question was called to add $1500 to the Highway Fund budget to give $500 bonuses to three people in appreciation for their extra efforts and the motion carried.

11. *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to purchase a new Town Dump Truck. The cost not to exceed $260,000 and to be financed over three-year period starting in 2024.*

Mr. Mayer made a motion, seconded by Tim Schroeder, to open discussion on this Article.

In response to questions from persons in the audience, Chair Benson advised that this will replace one truck and that the price mentioned includes the trade-in value of the current truck. He explained that they have been on a nine-year replacement cycle, however manufacturers recommend upgrading every seven years. He advised that they are looking into upgrading sooner to see what it looks like. The trucks take a beating over the backroads. Chair Benson noted that at one point, all three trucks were down and help was received by neighboring towns. He confirmed that after nine years, the trucks are tired and need to be replaced.

Emily Warner advised that her husband is a mechanic at 802 Subaru. That company did research into the county and decided to reduce their warranties because the vehicles will not last in this area.

Ms. Dustin asked to call the question, and the motion passed.

The question was called on the original motion to purchase a new dump truck and the motion carried.

12. *To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town* ***Highway Fund*** *and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.*

Ms. Ingrassia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to open discussion on this Article.

Billi Gosh reported that she has had two flat tires due to the pointed, sharp edges on the stone being used. She advised that others have had the same problem and asked if there was any solution.

Chair Benson confirmed that others have also had the same problem. They are unable to obtain bank run (river) gravel so they must rely on what is processed out of the crusher that leaves sharp edges. They have tried to minimize the

occurrence by adding a roller on the back of the grader which compacts the stone into the mud. There have been multiple mud seasons and then it freezes. In addition, the gravel pits have run out of stock, so they are stuck with processed material. The flooding amplified that issue requiring hauling more material to build some of the roads. Chair Benson explained the difficulty in trying to mix the materials and additional costs that would be incurred.

The question was called to approve the Highway Fund budget as amended and the motion carried. The result of the amendment increased the budget from $1,016, 207 (plus $1500) to $1,017, 707.

13. *To transact any other proper business.*

Mark MacDonald noted that the road conditions are a sign of the changing climate which will not go away. He joked about his recovery from a stroke and recognized the challenges due to the changing of districts. He advised he would be happy to speak with people if they have questions.

Mr. Kacik presented raffle tickets for the Ice-Out event for "Dunkin." He indicated the price of tickets at $2 and recommended purchasing three for $5. He advised that this benefits the Brookfield Historical Society. He also advised that the Marvin Newton House is the Town's Museum which has been refreshed with new paint and other improvements at considerable costs.

Ms. Anderson indicated that she was thrilled that so many people were present and was grateful for that. She noted that she attended a legislative breakfast and felt that every legislature present had investigated all options available.

Mr. Boggs advised he has been thinking about roads and noted that he previously ran for a town position with his proposal based on roads. He does not believe that things have changed since he talked about it. He recommended documenting the worst places, some worse than others. He compared roads maintained by the state versus those maintained by the town, the difference boiling down to finances. The state ensures a good base under the road, makes sure it drains properly, and so on. He proposes to make it a broad problem and reapportion it so the expenses are shared. He feels it would improve the roads and that it should be a discussion topic. He recommends a long-term plan for the roads.

There being no further business, Mr. Stowell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gosh, to adjourn the meeting at 11:44. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By Carol Monness, Town Clerk and
Carla Preston, Recording Secretary

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD OFFICERS 2024

Position	Length of Term	Name	End of Term Date
Town Moderator	1 yr	Greg Wight	3/5/2025
Town Clerk	3 yr	Carol J. Monness	3/7/2026
Treasurer	appt.	Kristi Ehlers	Appt by SB
Asst. TC	appt.	Kristi Ehlers	Appt by TC
Asst. Treas.	appt.	Tom Garbitelli	Appt by Treas
Admin. Asst.	appt.	Vicki Blanchard	Appt by SB
Selectboard	3 yr	J. Keith Sprague III	3/7/2026
	2 yr	John Benson	3/5/2026
	3 yr	Stuart Edson	3/7/2025
	2 yr	C. Curtis Koren	3/7/2025
	3 yr	Laura Rochat	3/5/2027
OSSD	3 yr	Sam Hooper	3/7/2026
	3 yr	Ryan Anderson	3/5/2027
Lister	3 yr	Kristi Ehlers	3/5/2027
	3 yr	Tom Garbitelli	3/5/2027
	3 yr	Carol J. Monness	3/5/2027
Auditor	3 yr	Vacant	
	3 yr	Vacant	
	3 yr	Vacant	
Del Tax Collector	1 yr	Kristi Ehlers	3/5/2025
1st Constable	2 yr	Dan Mason	3/5/2026
2nd Constable	1 yr	Ed Neas	3/5/2025
Fire Warden		Jeff Brassard	Appt by FD
911 Coordinator		G. "Jack" Zebora	Appt by SB
Memorial Day Comm		Alice Kempe	Appt by SB
		Mary Doyle	Appt by SB
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Emily Noyes	3/7/2026
	3 yrs	Susan O'Brien	3/7/2026
	3 yrs	Amy Borgman	3/7/2025
	3 yrs	Dan Childs	3/5/2027
	3 yrs	Starr Strong	3/5/2027
Justice of Peace	2 yrs	Perry Kacik	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	Kym Anderson	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	Starr Strong	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	C. Curtis Koren	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	Elizabeth DeForge	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	Linda Runnion	2/1/2027
	2 yrs	Billi Gosh	2/1/2027
Town Forester	1 yr	Jon Jickling	3/7/2025
Health Officer	3 yr	Starr Strong	11/1/2027
Admin Officer	3 yr	Steve Reid	7/22/2025
Admin Officer Asst Asst.	3 yr	Vacant	7/22/2025
Civil Defense		John Benson	
Agent to Deed Land			

Agent to Defend Suits			
Planning		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
Commission		Keven Ring	Appt by SB
		Martha Judy	Appt by SB
		Sandra McLaughlin	Appt by SB
		Patricia Kennedy	Appt by SB
		Jim Merriam	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Board of	Chair	Tom Allen	
Adjustment		Theresa White	
		Scott Brock	
		Dennis LaRocque	
		Vacant	
Fire Chief	Chair	Bob Conniff, Jr.	
TRORC Rep		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
TRORC Rep Alternate		Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Conservation	Chair	Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Commission	Vice-Chair	Susan Shea	Appt by SB
	Sec	Jon Jickling	Appt by SB
	Treas	Starr Strong	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Public Safety	Chair	Lewis Stowell	
Advisory		Stuart Edson	
Committee		Dan Mason	
		Michael Rutkovsky	
		Michael Stoddard	
WRVA Rep		Amy Ingrassia	Appt by SB

REPORT OF THE BROOKFIELD SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard offers the following report for 2024:

Highway – As with the last few years, we continue to look to fill the vacant position on the Road Crew. Fortunately, Austin Wheatley has agreed to return for the winter months, which will be a big help in keeping the roads cleared and sanded over the winter months. We are thankful for the long hours and efforts that both Tim and Richie have put in to keep up being one man down.

Like last year, the primary focus for the first half of the construction season was to complete the repair of damage caused by the July 2023 storm. Unlike may communities in VT, Brookfield was lucky that the July 2024 storm largely passed us by. The Town continues to work with FEMA to document storm damage and identify potential mitigation opportunities to reduce future storm damage. At this point we have identified approximately $227,650.00 in mitigation projects pending with FEMA. Vicki has put in a number of long days pulling together the endless documentation FEMA continues to request. On the positive side, the Town did receive its first FEMA funds of $86,459.49 in 2024.

As reported previously, the Town applied for and received a grant from FEMA to design a replacement structure on Halfway Brook Road. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) civil engineering company was selected as the design consultant and Two Rivers Regional Planning Commission as the Contract Manager. The Design is now complete, and Two Rivers is working on our behalf to identify construction funding opportunities. We are also happy to report that the Bear Hill Road Culvert replacement project, which started over 5 years ago with VTrans, has finally been completed.

Town Garage Building – Construction on the new Garage Building began in the spring and was completed in November just in time for the trucks with their plows to be ready to go when our first snowstorm of the year hit on Thanksgiving Day. We thank Bob Conniff and his team for their excellent work in bringing this long-anticipated project to a reality.

Roadside Mowing – This summer the Town rented a mower for 4-weeks and engaged local talent to perform the roadside mowing. We want to extend a true thank you to Gordon and Bill Sprague who not only did an excellent job of mowing our roadsides but donated their labor. Thank You!

Howe Road – With the aid of a VTrans grant and a rental excavator, the road crew was able to upgrade the drainage along approximately 4,200 feet of Howe Road. This included reforming the roadside swale, stone lining and replacement/cleaning of culverts.

Energy – The Town applied for and received a grant to complete an energy audit of the Town Garage and Fire Station (note: an audit of the Town office was completed several years ago and items with a short payback were implemented). The audits were completed and reports received by the Town on October 29. With the assistance of Two Rivers Regional Planning Commission, the Town was able to apply for a grant from the State Division of Buildings and General Services (BGS), to implement a number of the Audit recommendations before the November 1st deadline. At this point the Town is working with BGS to finalize the award and the Division of Fire Safety to obtain the necessary permits.

Thank you – The Selectboard once again wants to recognize all those who serve or volunteer, past and present, to make our small Town a better vibrant place it is to live in. To the People of Brookfield, we thank you for your continued trust and support.

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF LISTERS - 2024 REPORT

This year has been a standard year for the Listers; We, Kristi, Tom, and Carol, have maintained the records and updated our mapping system. A new map filing system was purchased and installed in the vault along with a new Land Records shelf. This has been helped by a large office reorganization headed by our File Clerk, Linnea LaPerle.

For the Grand List year April 2023 – March 2024, the Brookfield Board of Listers completed more than 20 site visits/phone interviews, processed property transfer forms (changes in ownership and/or land divisions), and continued with our management of 173 Brookfield properties currently enrolled in Vermont's Current Use program.

On an on-going basis, we field calls, emails and walk-in requests from Brookfield property owners, and from outside professionals needing information. Lister tasks generally include researching the Land Records (original deeds), making changes to our electronic data files for the Grand List, conferring with the State, updating our physical file folders for each change in property status, referring to the survey maps we have digitally or in the vault, and updating our parcel maps for any subdivisions or newly combined properties. Additionally, maintenance of our Current Use properties requires on-going communication and file exchanges with the Vermont Division of Property Valuation and Review.

It is the goal of the Listers to keep the Brookfield Grand List and records of the 888 (87 inactive) property parcels in Brookfield up to date. Please contact us at the town office if you have any questions or changes to your property (i.e. removing a structure). The Listers can be reached at the Town Clerk's Office number (802) 276-3352 or by email at listers@brookfieldvt.org. We will call (or email) you to arrange a time to meet.

Please remember that **new or added construction** may require that you first obtain a development permit from the Brookfield Zoning Administrative Officer and/or the State of Vermont. The Zoning Officer can be reached at zoning@brookfieldvt.org. The permitting process applies to all construction and subdivisions: residential, commercial, and agricultural.

Reminder to Veterans: Any **disabled veteran**, who is planning to apply for the Veterans Tax Exemption, is required to submit a Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors form (Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs form 3802) and letter of eligibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs **before May 1st** of each year. A Veteran exemption **cannot** be applied until the Listers receive notification from the State that the exemption form has been approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brookfield Listers: Kristi Ehlers, Tom Garbitelli, and Carol Monness

VITAL STATISTICS 2024

Marriages:

Date	Name #1	Residence	Name #2	Residence	Place of Marriage
05/25/24	Lindsey L. Cole	Brookfield	James R. Connolly	Brookfield	Bethel
06/29/24	Dorie S. Pierce	North Carolina	Benjamin S. Chussid	North Carolina	Rochester VT
07/27/24	Richard W. Small	West Brookfield	Delores Amy Blanchard	West Brookfield	West Brookfield
07/04/24	Katherine Marie Bancroft	Brookfield	Dale Delmer Dezan II	Brookfield	Brookfield
24/08/24	Paul Cannon Birchmore Sr.	Brookfield	Carol Ann O'Connell Duval	Brookfield	Brookfield
07/09/24	Benjamin Rochat Jickling	Nashville	Isabelle Poppy Cone	Nashville	Tunbridge
21/09/24	Alissa Sarah Mesibov	Brookfield	Aaron Michael Krummen	Brookfield	Brookfield

Births:

Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name
Gunnison Woodrow Spannaus	Charles Hunter Spannaus	Kassandra Dove Gunn Spannaus
Hayden Josephine Kill	Jonathan Charles Kill	Mikayla Marie Norton
Charlotte Leigh Frazier	Nicholas James Frazier	Cheryl Anne Frazier
Maximilian Alexander Batchman	Bryce Elliot Batchman	Lindsey Anne Batchman
Jared Jammar Reaves	Andre Jammar Reaves	Monica Elisabeth Hampton
Vayla Wyn Suriano	James Charles Suriano III	Hannah Ruth Mitchell
Brigid Nora Anderson	Ryan Bruce Anderson	Lindsey Leigh Kopp Weaver
Jane Alice Bartlett	Daniel Gene Bartlett	Unique Mary Bartlett
Nora Louise Hagen	Samuel Alexander Hagen	Meghan Louise O'Daniel
Felix Fitzgerald Hermsen	Albert Gustave Hermsen	Katherine Elizabeth Hermsen

Deaths:

Name	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death
Patricia Mary Rea	83	12/03/23	Northfield, VT
Charles Churchill	93	02/09/24	Randolph Ctr, VT
Allen Stanton Wilder, Jr.	90	04/24/24	Brookfield, VT
Jyl S. Emerson	65	05/06/24	Brookfield, VT
Patricia Ilene Manning	57	05/10/24	Brookfield, VT
Gertrude Sanders Guinee	95	04/17/24	Houston, TX
Maylee S. Covington	34	06/13/24	Randolph, VT
James Laurence Gilbert	69	09/10/24	Northfield, VT
Timothy Clark Lagerstedt	47	09/18/24	Waterbury, VT
Steven Anthony Jones	30	10/12/24	Williamstown, VT
Alan George Wheatley	75	11/24/24	Brookfield, VT
Larry David Sumner	83	09/24/24	Bangor, Me
John E. Tassie Jr.	88	12/10/24	Berlin, VT
Laurence Campbell	84	12/18/24	St. Johnsbury, VT

Burials:

Name	Age	Date of Death	Place of Death	Place of Burial
Judith L. Babbitt	83	05/01/24	Newport, VT	Brookfield Ctr, VT
Jeremy P. Davis	37	02/22/21	Waitsfield, VT	Brookfield Ctr, Vt
Melora Elaine Davis		06/18/23		Brookfield Ctr, VT
Larry David Sumner	83	09/24/24	Bangor, Me	Brookfield Ctr, VT

Respectfully submitted, Carol J. Monness, Town Clerk

GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-4-1-10-00 Property Taxes Received	$417,236.00	$254,955.60	$471,431.00	$335,262.60	$473,287.00
10-4-1-10-01 Del Tax Principal	$0.00	$55,248.34	$5,000.00	$51591.11	$0.00
10-4-1-30-00 PILOT	$8,500.00	$9,016.12	$8,500.00	$9,092.12	$8,500.00
10-4-1-40-00 Current Use-Hold Harmless	$87,000.00	$76,046.00	$70,000.00	$77806.00	$75,000.00
10-4-1-60-00 Judicial-Local Fines	$500.00	$77.50	$500.00	$37.50	$100.00
10-4-1-70-00 Reappraisal	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-2-02-00 Town Clerk's Fees	$12,000.00	$11,590.25	$12,000.00	$8,039.91	$12,000.00
10-4-2-03-00 Book Restoration Fund	$2,500.00	$3,748.00	$2,500.00	$2,863.84	$2,500.00
10-4-2-04-00 Copier Reimbursement	$1,000.00	$870.75	$1,200.00	$287.00	$1,000.00
10-4-2-05-00 Dog Licenses	$150.00	$765.00	$500.00	$111.00	$500.00
10-4-2-07-00 Marriage Licenses	$150.00	$150.00	$100.00	$410.00	$150.00
10-4-2-08-00 Permits	$1,600.00	$3,111.20	$1,600.00	$715.00	$1,500.00
10-4-2-10-00 Posting Fees	$80.00	$70.00	$50.00	$80.00	$75.00
10-4-2-11-00 E911 Street Signs	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$312.65	$0.00
10-4-2-16-00 Liquor Licenses	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00
10-4-2-30-00 Miscellaneous Income	$100.00	$1,379.99	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00
10-4-3-10-00 Int. Bank Accounts	$1,500.00	$7,179.37	$1,500.00	$1,580.61	$1,500.00
10-4-3-40-00 Delinquent Tax Penalties	$3,000.00	$4,459.28	$2,500.00	$4,909.25	$3,000.00
10-4-3-45-00 Uncommitted reserve funds	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$65,000.00
10-4-3-50-00 Int. Delinquent Taxes	$15,000.00	$14326.09	$12,000.00	$12,246.08	$12,000.00
Total Town Income	**$550,316.00**	**$442,993.47**	**$589,881.00**	**$505,344.67**	$183,375.00
10-4-9-00-00 Highway Income - Other	$0.00	$44,202.83	$5,000.00	$500.00	$0.00
10-4-9-01-01 Grants	$0.00	$38,148.42	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-9-02-01 FEMA Revenue	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$86,459.49	$5,000.00
10-4-9-03-01 DR427 Trees Grant	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-9-10-00 Property Taxes Raised	$745,955.00	**$745,955.00**	$845,957.00	$596,023.31	$876,400.00
10-4-9-20-00 St. of VT-Highway Aid	$148,000.00	$157,110.50	$152,000.00	$161,725.22	$150,000.00

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-4-9-30-00 RT 65 Maintenance Contract	$13,000.00	$7,882.41	$13,000.00	$0.00	$10,000.00
10-4-9-35-00 Highway Permits	$250.00	$475.00	$250.00	$250.00	$250.00
10-4-9-87-01 NSB 2021 truck loan	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-9-87-02 Western Star Truck Loan	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-9-88-01 Transfer from Hwy Revenue	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-4-9-90-01 Prior Year Hwy Surplus	$195,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Highway Income	**$1,102,205.00**	$993,774.16	**$1,016,207.00**	**$758,498.53**	**$1,051,650.00**
Total Income	**$1,457,521.00**	**$1,436,767.63**	**$1,606,088.00**	**$319,877.98**	**$1,235,025.00**
General Fund					
10-5-1-10-00 Town Clerk's Salary	$21,075.00	$21,075.00	$21,760.00	$10878.25	$22,400.00
10-5-1-11-00 Asst. Town Clerk's Salary	$7,500.00	$1,193.50	$7,500.00	$2764.50	$7,500.00
10-5-1-15-00 Treasurer's Salary	$16,860.00	$16,860.00	$16,860.00	$8430.00	$17,365.00
10-5-1-16-00 Assist. Treasurer's Salary	$15,000.00	$14,342.50	$15,000.00	$4728.50	$12,000.00
10-5-1-17-00 Del Tax Collector Fees	$3,000.00	$4,691.01	$3,000.00	$5291.18	$3,000.00
10-5-1-20-00 Selectmen's Salaries	$3,000.00	$3,000.00	$3,000.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
10-5-1-25-00 Admin. Assistant Salary	$14,200.00	$15,850.00	$14,200.00	$11000.00	$17,450.00
10-5-1-26-00 Admin. Asst. Asst. Salary	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-1-50-00 Lister's Salaries	$27,720.00	$17,683.00	$28,510.00	$5236.00	$22,000.00
10-5-1-52-00 Constable's Salary	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	$2,100.00	$1050.00	$2,100.00
10-5-1-54-00 2nd Constable Salary	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$250.00	$500.00
10-5-1-55-00 Admin Officer Salary	$3,200.00	$3,200.00	$3,200.00	$3,200.00	$3,250.00
10-5-1-56-00 Librarian Salary	$12,900.00	$12,900.00	$13,100.00	$7600.00	$13,500.00
10-5-1-57-00 Assistant Librarian	$1,400.00	$1,100.59	$1,400.00	$485.29	$1,600.00
10-5-1-58-00 Auditor's Salaries	$800.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-1-65-00 Health Officer's Salary	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-1-68-00 BCA/ Elections	$2,000.00	$1,332.67	$3,000.00	$496.71	$2,500.00
Total Town Services	**$132,155.00**	**$116,228.27**	**$134,230.00**	**$61,410.43**	**$128,665.00**

GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-5-2 Payroll Expenses					
10-5-2-40-00 Social Security	$19,000.00	$19,206.61	$19,500.00	$9666.33	$20,000.00
10-5-2-45-00 Medicare	$4,500.00	$4,491.99	$4,500.00	$2260.58	$4,800.00
10-5-2-50-00 Workman's Comp	$775.00	$986.95	$1,750.00	$958.19	$1,750.00
10-5-2-50-01 FD Workman's Comp	$1,490.00	$2,515.72	$1,250.00	$1372.43	$1,280.00
10-5-2-52-00 State Child Care Tax	$0.00	$0.00	$625.00	$234.83	$575.00
10-5-2-55-00 Town Health Insurance	$30,680.00	$0.00	$40,100.00	$154.68	$40,000.00
10-5-2-56-00 Town Dental Insurance	$1,380.00	$0.00	$1,380.00	$0.00	$1,400.00
10-5-2-60-00 VT Employees Retirement	$2,500.00	$1,447.64	$2,610.00	$726.07	$2,685.00
10-5-2-80-00 Mileage	$650.00	$1,215.65	$800.00	$598.35	$1,000.00
10-5-2-81-00 Constable Mileage	$300.00	$300.00	$500.00	$319.93	$500.00
10-5-2-82-00 Lister Mileage	$300.00	$59.46	$300.00	$0.00	$100.00
10-5-2-9 Professional Services					$7,000.00
10-5-2-94-00 Training	$1,800.00	$1,117.31	$1,800.00	$175.00	$1,000.00
10-5-2-94-01 Constable Training	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-2-94-02 Lister Training	$500.00	$0.00	$250.00	$0.00	$250.00
10-5-2-95-00 Professional/Legal Services	$7,000.00	$6,419.62	$7,000.00	$4057.98	$7,000.00
10-5-2-96-00 Audit	$20,000.00	$20,506.00	$24,000.00	$16,946.00	$16,000.00
10-5-2-97-00 Reappraisal 2020-2022	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Payroll Expenses & Professional Services	**$90,875.00**	**$58,266.95**	**$106,365.00**	**$37,503.25**	**$98,340.00**
10-5-3-04-00 Police Services	$16,500.00	$15,124.50	$20,000.00	$12913.75	$40,560.00
10-5-3-10-00 Fire Department Budget	$47,050.00	$56,875.07	$58,400.00	$30214.18	$53,300.00
10-5-3-15-00 Fire Truck	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-3-25-00 Library Budget	$4,800.00	$4,800.00	$4,800.00	$0.00	$4,800.00
10-5-3-30-00 Cemetery Budget	$35,000.00	$44,063.97	$30,000.00	$21078.56	$35,000.00
10-5-3-60-00 Ambulance Service	$89,000.00	$84,424.26	$90,275.00	$69776.81	$99,300.00

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-5-3-65-00 Public Safety Committee	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$200.00
10-5-3-70-00 Emergency Management	$500.00	$489.50	$500.00	$0.00	$250.00
10-5-3-80-00 Street Lights	$3,800.00	$3,783.58	$3,800.00	$1940.08	3,900.00$
Total Town Services	**$196,650.00**	**$209,560.88**	**$207,775.00**	**$135,239.58**	**$237,310.00**
10-5-4-12-00 Advertising & Notices	$1,200.00	$137.13	$800.00	$114.11	$1,200.00
10-5-4-16-00 Town Report	$4,500.00	$2,685.88	$3,000.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
10-5-4-18-00 Book Restoration	$1,200.00	$0.00	$1,200.00	$0.00	$1,200.00
10-5-4-20-00 Office Supplies	$3,800.00	$4,762.72	$4,200.00	$2066.60	$3,000.00
10-5-4-22-00 Dog Licenses	$150.00	$93.46	$150.00	$101.45	$150.00
10-5-4-24-00 Dog and Animal Control	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00
10-5-4-28-00 Postage	$3,000.00	$2,891.85	$3,500.00	$2312.41	$3,600.00
10-5-4-30-00 Administrative Other	$150.00	$83.45	$150.00	$198.00	$200.00
10-5-4-40-00 Lister's Supplies	$875.00	$657.13	$300.00	$3532.12	$500.00
10-5-4-41-00 Lister Computer Support	$250.00	$0.00	$800.00	$1174.05	$350.00
10-5-4-44-00 Tax Maps	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	$1,650.00	$1650.00	$1,500.00
10-5-4-45-00 M&S Cost Tables	$300.00	$315.95	$300.00	$0.00	$300.00
10-5-4-46-00 VALA Membership	$50.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$50.00
10-5-4-47-00 Blueprints/Reproductions	$50.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$200.00
10-5-4-50-00 Computer Hardware	$4,000.00	$311.95	$3,500.00	$0.00	$500.00
10-5-4-51-00 Computer Software	$1,500.00	$1,860.91	$500.00	$0.00	$780.00
10-5-4-52-00 Computer Support	$8,000.00	$7,519.76	$13,000.00	$7256.77	$8,500.00
Total Administrative Expenses	**$31,525.00**	**$22,820.19**	**$34,700.00**	**$18,405.51**	**$26,530.00**
10-5-6-10-00 Buildings and Grounds	$10,000.00	$11,971.36	$15,000.00	$3474.98	$69,000.00
10-5-6-10-01 Electricity	$1,500.00	$1,696.71	$2,000.00	$874.11	$2,000.00
10-5-6-10-02 Heat	$2,500.00	$1,422.00	$3,500.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
10-5-6-10-03 Telephone	$1,400.00	$1,539.75	$1,500.00	$985.05	$1,600.00
10-5-6-10-04 ISP	$1,100.00	$864.00	$1,200.00	$648.00	$1,200.00

GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-5-6-20-00 Copier Expense	$750.00	$772.08	$500.00	$955.36	$1,000.00
10-5-6-55-00 Office Equipment	$1,200.00	$0.00	$1,200.00	$6077.73	$1,500.00
Total Building Expenses	**$18,450.00**	**$18,265.90**	**$24,900.00**	**$13,015.23**	$79,300.00
10-5-7-10-00 Property/Liability Insurance	$10,120.00	$15,311.09	$11,500.00	$11094.29	$14,000.00
10-5-7-20-00 Officers/Employees Bond	$2,120.00	$0.00	$500.00	$112.49	$475.00
10-5-7-30-00 VLCT	$2,800.00	$2,737.00	$2,800.00	$4389.00	$2,975.00
10-5-7-40-00 Two Rivers Plan Comm.	$2,300.00	$2,028.00	$2,100.00	$2090.00	$2,200.00
10-5-7-50-00 Orange County	$42,000.00	$38,979.91	$42,000.00	$0.00	$43,000.00
10-5-7-60-00 Brookfield Plan Comm.	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$300.00
10-5-7-60-01 Conservation Comm.	$300.00	$364.81	$500.00	$0.00	$300.00
10-5-7-70-00 Interest Expense	$100.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$100.00
10-5-7-80-00 Bank Charges	$250.00	$100.46	$250.00	$98.83	$250.00
10-5-7-85-00 Errors and Omissions	$1,170.00	$0.00	$1,600.00	$392.18	$1,650.00
10-5-7-90-00 Solid Waste Trans Fac.	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00
10-5-7-91-00 Road Survey	$2,500.00	$0.00	$3,500.00	$0.00	$2,500.00
Total Other Expenses	**$65,160.00**	**$59,521.27**	**$66,350.00**	**$18,176.79**	$68,750.00
10-5-8-10-00 Capstone Comm. Action	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-8-11-00 Arts Bus	$1,200.00	$1,200.00	$1,200.00	$1200.00	$1,200.00
10-5-8-12-00 VT Rural Fire Task Force	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$200.00
10-5-8-13-00 Randolph Area Mentoring	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-5-8-15-00 Tri Valley Transportation	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	$1,100.00	$1,100.00
10-5-8-17-00 Red Cross	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00
10-5-8-18-00 Green Up VT	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00
10-5-8-20-00 Memorial Day	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00	$300.00	$250.00
10-5-8-30-00 VT Visiting Nurses	$3,600.00	$3,600.00	$3,600.00	$3,600.00	$3,600.00

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-5-8-40-00 Randolph Senior Citizens	$2,000.00	$2,000.00	$2,100.00	$2,000.00	$3,000.00
10-5-8-60-00 Clara Martin Center	$1,905.00	$1,905.00	$1,905.00	$1,905.00	$1,905.00500.00
10-5-8-70-00 Ctr. for Independ. Living	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00
10-5-8-71-00 Rand Area Food Shelf	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$1,500.00
10-5-8-71-01 Rand. Area Community Development	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00	$100.00
10-5-8-85-00 Orange Co. Parent Child	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$1,250.00
10-5-8-90-00 Safe Line	$700.00	$700.00	$700.00	$700.00	$700.00
10-5-8-96-00 CV Council on Aging	$350.00	$350.00	$350.00	$350.00	$350.00
10-5-8-97-00 Orange Co. Restorative Justice	$375.00	$375.00	$375.00	$375.00	$375.00
10-5-8-98-00 Gr. Mt. Econ Dev. Corp	$671.00	$671.00	$631.00	$671.00	$637.00
10-5-8-99-00 Central VT Adult Edu.	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00	$500.00
Total Town Contributions	**$15,501.00**	**$15,201.00**	**$15,561.00**	**$16,261.00**	**$17,767.00**
Total General Town ExpenseS	**$550,316.00**	**$499,864.46**	**$589,881.00**	**$238,601.36**	**$656,662.00**
Highway Fund					
10-6-1-00-00 Highway Salaries	$238,300.00	$192,780.10	$257,150.00	$96,474.95	$266,950.00
10-6-1-10-00 Highway Comm. Salary	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-6-2-30-00 Vt. Employ. Ret. Fund	$10,525.00	$8,714.11	$11,500.00	$5707.65	$12,100.00
10-6-2-40-00 Unemployment	$2,860.00	$421.00	$3,100.00	$355.00	$3,200.00
10-6-2-52-00 State Child Care Tax	$0.00	$0.00	$1,132.00	$364.98	$1,175.00
10-6-2-50-00 Health Insurance	$63,315.00	$68,498.61	$81,655.00	$28429.00	$82,250.00
10-6-2-60-00 Dental Insurance	$2,685.00	$2,232.57	$2,700.00	$1579.40	$2,950.00
10-6-2-70-00 Life Insurance	$800.00	$169.80	$400.00	$155.40	$350.00
10-6-2-80-00 Workman's Comp	$12,000.00	$13,595.24	$14,800.00	$12943.93	$24,300.00
10-6-2-95-00 Mileage Expense	$750.00	$972.59	$2,000.00	$6.03	$1,500.00
10-6-2-96-00 Training	$750.00	$3,900.00	$750.00	$0.00	$750.00
Total Payroll Expenses	**$331,985.00**	**$291,283.97**	**$375,187.00**	**$146,016.34**	**$394,775.00**

GENERAL AND HIGHWAY BUDGET

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-6-3-10-00 Salt	$15,000.00	$18,349.31	$15,000.00	$8578.42	$18,000.00
10-6-3-15-00 Chloride	$16,000.00	$0.00	$20,000.00	$5310.00	$20,000.00
10-6-3-20-00 Gravel	$60,000.00	$112,320.50	$75,000.00	$63692.75	$75,000.00
10-6-3-25-00 Sand	$90,000.00	$82,163.00	$95,000.00	$0.00	$95,000.00
10-6-3-40-00 Roadside Mowing	$11,000.00	$21,000.00	$10,000.00	$0.00	$18,000.00
10-6-3-45-00 Tree Removal	$2,000.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	$0.00	$500.00
10-6-3-50-00 Fuel	$72,000.00	$58,311.62	$70,000.00	$19530.46	$65,000.00
10-6-3-60-00 Contract Hwy Services	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00
10-6-3-70-00 State Fees	$2,000.00	$1,550.00	$2,000.00	$800.00	$2,000.00
10-6-3-80-00 Green Up Vermont	$1,500.00	$3,352.74	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00
Total Highway Maintenance	**$270,000.00**	**$293,694.43**	**$289,500.00**	**$97,911.63**	**$294,000.00**
10-6-4-10-00 Equipment Maint/Repair	$60,000.00	$92,952.06	$60,000.00	$49098.80	$60,000.00
10-6-4-10-01 Uniforms & Safety Equip.	$6,200.00	$4,784.71	$6,200.00	$2705.97	$6,200.00
10-6-4-20-00 Hwy Building and Grounds	$10,000.00	$7,090.85	$15,000.00	$2853.93	$10,000.00
10-6-4-30-00 Electricity	$2,200.00	$2,030.24	$2,500.00	$1432.20	$3,000.00
10-6-4-40-00 Telephone	$1,600.00	$2,037.08	$2,000.00	$1071.50	$2,100.00
10-6-4-50-00 Radios	$2,500.00	$1,873.50	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00
10-6-4-60-00 Vehicle Insurance	$4,500.00	$892.50	$4,500.00	$1315.91	$5,530.00
Total Equipment & Building	**$87,000.00**	**$115,013.68**	**$96,700.00**	**$58,478.31**	**$93,330.00**
10-6-5-10-00 Culverts	$12,000.00	$19,353.63	$20,000.00	$12,072.44	$20,000.00
10-6-5-15-00 Bridges	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$10,000.00
10-6-5-30-00 Erosion Control	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00	$375.00	$5,000.00
10-6-5-50-00 New Equipment	$6,000.00	$5,980.16	$15,000.00	$0.00	$10,000.00
10-6-5-60-00 Road Signs	$8,500.00	$331.48	$8,500.00	$2,019.54	$9,000.00
10-6-5-70-01 July 2023 Storms	$0.00	$303,284.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Town Income	**Budget** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Actual** 7/1/23-6/30/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25	**Actual** 7/1/24-12/31/24	**Budget** 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-6-5-85-00 Loader Lease	$19,820.00	$19,817.12	$19,820.00	$19,817.12	$16,600.00
10-6-5-89-01 New Truck	$65,400.00	$65,414.31	$85,000.00	$0.00	$132,770.00
10-6-5-90-00 Paving	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000	$0.00	$10,000.00
10-6-5-95-00 Road Reconstruction	$110,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	$17,345.75	$50,000.00
10-6-5-95-03 Grant Expenditures	$25,000.00	$8,497.17	$25,000.00	$2,600.24	$5,000.00
10-6-5-95-04 Halfway Brook Culvert Grant	$0.00	$53,868.91	$0.00	$8,643.97	$0.00
10-6-5-95-05 Ferris Road Grant		$19,945.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-6-5-96-01 New 1 Ton Truck-2023	$85,000.00	$83,076.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Capital Expenses	**$343,220.00**	**$276,283.78**	**$234,820.00**	**$89,170.52**	**$268,370.00**
10-6-6-00-00 Interest Expense	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-6-7-00-01 July Storm	$0.00	$324,942.00	$0.00	$84,842.45	$0.00
10-6-7-00-01 Highway Equip Fund	$20,000.00	$0.00	$20,000.00	$8,431.01	$0.00
10-6-8-01-00 Town Garage Research	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-6-8-02-00 Transfer Hwy Bldg Repair	$0.00	$24,890.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
10-6-9-99-00 Uncategorized Expense	$0.00	$13,125.72	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Highway Other	70,000.00	**$362,957.72**	$20,000.00	**$93,273.46**	**$0.00**
Total Highway Expenses	**$1,102,205.00**	**$1,339,233.58**	**$992,207.00**	**$435,943.17**	**$1,051,650.00**
Total Expenses	**$1,652,521.00**	**$1,839,098.04**	**$1,583,288.00**	**$724,382.68**	**$1,708,312.00**

BROOKFIELD TAX RATE — 2024-2025

MUNICIPAL TAX RATE		
Description	**Credits**	**Debits**
General Town Expenses		549,781.00
Town Highway Budget		1,016,207.00
		1,565,988.00
Town Highway State Aid	157,000.00	
State Snowplow Funding	13,000.00	
Town Clerk's Fees	12,000.00	
Interest	20,000.00	
Hold Harmless	77,806.00	
PILOT Program	8,550.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenues	12,200.00	
		303,556.00
To Be Raised By Taxes		1,262,432.00
Municipal Grand List (1%)		2,045,539.00
Local Agreement Rate		0.0032
Municipal Tax Rate		0.617163
Total Municipal Tax Rate		**0.620363**
EDUCATION TAX RATES		
Homestead Rate		1.3639
Non-Homestead Rate		1.461
TOTAL HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		**1.984263**
TOTAL NON-HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		**2.081363**

Approved by the Selectboard: August 19, 2024

BROOKFIELD DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

December 31, 2024
Kristi Ehlers, Delinquent Tax Collector

Delinquent taxes continue to be paid but most delinquent property owners are not making any payments. As indicated by an *, payments are being made. I will be pursuing tax sales beginning in 2025.

Principals Owed:

Year	2023 report	2024 report
2003	$ 1,430.10	$ 1,430.10
2006	3,602.15	3,602.15
2008	3,287.57	3,287.57
2009	4,399.76	4,399.76
2012	0	0
2013-6	662.14	662.14
2013-2014	2,451.30	2,451.30
2014-2015	544.82	544.82
2015-2016	2,228.28	2,228.28
2016-2017	4,583.60	4,583.60
2017-2018	6,374.60	6,374.60
2018-2019	13,312.03	12,846.93
2019-2020	18,554.61	16,901.89
2020-2021	32,515.77	22,573.71
2021-2022	41,359.25	25,621.85
2022-2023	65,281.54	42,256.30
2023-2024		66,116.81
Totals	$200,587.52	**$215,881.81**

DELINQUENCIES

2003-2013-6
MOORCROFT, JAMES

2013-2014
FOOTE, PHILIP
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES

2014-2015
FOOTE, PHILIP
MOORCROFT, JAMES

2015-2016
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SNOW, LEON

2016-2017
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SNOW, LEON

2017-2018
FOOTE, PHILIP
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, STEVE

2018-2019
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
FOOTE, PHILIP
HORD, JENNYLOU
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SLAYTON, ELGIN
SNOW, LEON

2019-2020
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E SR *
FOOTE, PHILIP
HODGDON, MAX
HORD, ERIC
KIDDER, RICKY
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER
SLAYTON, ELGIN

2020-2021
BELAND, STEVEN
CAMP, BETH
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
FOOTE, PHILIP
HODGDON, MAX
HORD, ERIC
HORD, JENNYLOU
KIDDER, RICKY
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER

2021-2022
BELAND, STEVEN
CAMP, BETH S.
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR*
FOOTE, PHILIP
HAGGETT, ADAM
HORD, ERIC R.
HORD, JENNYLOU
KIDDER, RICKY A.
KING, KARL
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER

2022-2023
BALL, SCOTT A.
BELAND, STEVEN
BLACKBURNE, CASSIE
BRYCE, STARR *
CAMP, BETH S.
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR *
DE MARTINI, PAUL I
ELLIOTT, MICHAEL E.
FOOTE, PHILIP
HAGGETT, ADAM
HODGDON, MAX
KING, KARL A.
LAGERSTEDT, TIMOTHY
MASSEY, AUSTEN
MOORCROFT, JAMES
PATRONI, ALBERT M.
PEMBERTON, PATRICK*
PENNEY, JOSEPH W. *
PERRY, MONIQUE J.
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER
SLAYTON, ELGIN
TAPLIN, CHARLES

2023-2024
BAKER, CHARLES
BALL, SCOTT
BARNEY, DOUGLAS
BELAND, STEVEN
BLACKBURNE, CASSIE
CAMP, BETH S.
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E.
DE MARTINI, PAUL
ELLIOTT, MICHAEL E.
FOOTE, PHILIP
HAGGETT, ADAM
HAMMOND, MARCIA
HODGDON, MAX
HOGG, ROBERT B.
KAJA HOLDINGS 2 LLC
KIDDER, RICKY A.
KING, KARL A.
KIRKPATRICK, BRENDAN
LAGERSTEDT, TIMOTHY
MASSEY, AUSTEN
MCDERMENT, JOHN E.
MOORCROFT, JAMES
PATRONI, ALBERT M.
PEMBERTON, PATRICK*
PENNEY, JOSEPH W.
ROBERTS, KEITH
ROWLEY, JAMES
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHANGRAW, JOHN
SHEDD, WARNER
SLAYTON, ELGIN J.
TAPLIN, CHARLES
TUCKER, KEVIN J.
WOOD, JEFFREY S.
YOUNG, JASMINE E

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BROOKFIELD TOWN AUDITORS REPORT

The Town of Brookfield has had the FY24 accounts audited by Sullivan & Powers. A copy of the audit report will be available in the vault in the Town Office. There are currently no Town Auditors. If you are interested in becoming an auditor, please contact the Town Office.

BROOKFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION

The Brookfield Planning Commission adjusted its focus to amend the current Town Plan from 2016 that was set to expire at the end of 2024. Initially planning to update the Brookfield Development Bylaws early in 2024, the commission shifted gears to prioritize reviewing and updating the Town Plan.

The commission increased meeting frequency to twice a month and hired the Regional Commission to help in the process. The Planning Commission has two public events, an informational meeting on June 1, 2024, and a public hearing on January 14, 2025, for residents to receive information and make comments on the Town Plan. As of January 2025, the updated Town Plan is nearly complete and expected to be submitted to the Selectboard for final adoption in early 2025. Key updates to the plan include compliance with state laws and the Regional Plan, remapping of conservation areas, and designating a new Town Village in Brookfield Center along Ridge Road near Brookfield Elementary School.

Once the Town Plan is finalized, the commission will resume work on revising the Brookfield Development Bylaws (our "zoning" bylaws), last updated in 2010. These updates are crucial to align the bylaws with the anticipated new Town Plan and recent state laws. Residents are encouraged to share ideas or proposals related to the bylaws by emailing gwynnzakov@gmail.com or attending a meeting.

The commission secured a Municipal Bylaw Modernization Grant in 2023 to help fund these updates. This grant supports zoning and land-use changes promoting pedestrian-oriented development and increased housing options in line with Vermont's smart growth principles (24 V.S.A. §2791). The funding must be utilized by June 30, 2025, prompting the commission to most likely increase meeting frequency to meet the deadline.

The Planning Commission currently has a vacancy on its 7-member team. The commission is responsible for drafting the Town Plan, updating land-use bylaws, and reviewing site plan and subdivision applications. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in a hybrid format (in-person at the Town Offices and via Zoom).

Current Members:

- Gwynn Zakov, Chair
- Jim Merriam, Vice-Chair
- Patricia Kennedy, Member
- Sandra McLaughlin, Member
- Martha Judy, Member
- Keven Ring, Member
- (1) Vacancy

For more information or to get involved, contact gwynnzakov@gmail.com or join an upcoming meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwynn Zakov (Chair)

BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT - 2024

The Brookfield Conservation Commission spent part of the year working with the Brookfield Planning Commission on the update to the Brookfield Town Plan. Given recent State legislation regarding conservation, it is important to reflect current statutes relative to conservation, such as maintenance of forest blocks for forestry, wildlife and biodiversity, as well as protection of river resources while promoting resilience from flooding. The Conservation Commission weighed in on a number of areas of the town plan, based upon the science data we have collected regarding wildlife connectivity as well as community input from our 2022 Community Values Mapping project. We believe that the town plan should reflect community support for wildlife and natural resources. Thanks to Commissioners Sue Shea and Marty Allen for their work on the town plan.

Building upon the rivers theme, the Commission supported a talk by Rudi Ruddell of the White River Partnership at the Old Town Hall about healthy rivers and streams. Because Brookfield is located at the top of the watershed for portions of both the White River drainage and the Winooski River, our actions here can have an impact on our downstream neighbors, whether they be positive or negative. Rudi helped folks understand the state of our rivers today – how they have been channelized and deepened so that in many areas they cannot access their natural floodplain to dissipate energy and deposit silt, thereby mitigating flood damage downstream. And how we could be thinking of ways to hold more water on the landscape instead of sending it downstream through protecting and restoring wetlands, strategic woody material additions to streams, and allowing for beaver activity where appropriate.

Speaking of wetlands, Brookfield is lucky to have several calcium-rich fens within its borders, the result of our bedrock geology. These sites are precious gems, often containing several rare species, including the gorgeous showy lady's slipper. The Commission is aware of and interested in the long-term protection of these sites, so last summer we visited one of the fens to discuss how we might deal with an invasive grass that is spreading nearby. The Commission also worked with the Vermont Wetlands Office to ensure the protection of another fen as a Class 2 wetland under their wetland rules. We welcome interest from residents and landowners who are interested in helping protect these unique sites.

The Brookfield Town Forest was another priority for the Commission this year. With County Forester A.J. Follansbee, we marked about one third of the boundaries of the forest, and hope to complete the project this year. Our new County Forester, Robert Nelson, suggested that the existing pine plantation on the town forest is in decline due in part to White Pine Needle Disease, so, with assistance from our Town Forester, Jon Jickling, the Commission is investigating a timber sale on a portion of the town forest, both to remove some of the white pine and move the stand to native hardwoods, but also improve the economic health of the adjacent stand while promoting some ecological characteristics like coarse woody material on the forest floor for wildlife.

In March, wildlife photographer and Commissioner Starr Strong presented her wildlife photos from the Galapagos Islands – a treat for residents enduring a long winter. Folks were enthralled by the beauty and diversity of the place Charles Darwin visited and studied.

Finally, as the climate changes, we are seeing more invasive species on our landscape – common or giant reed in some wetlands, knotweed along rivers, honeysuckle, buckthorn, burning bush in woods openings, Japanese barberry spreading through the forest, and of course chervil, among many others these trends are concerning, and difficult to manage. Sometimes, though, through early detection, some species can be kept at bay – one of those is Asiatic bittersweet, a vine that climbs trees – it sometimes strangles small trees, and its weight actually breaks branches until the entire tree succumbs. But it can be controlled with some success. If you know of any roadside bittersweet vines, or have some on your property, we might be able to help, so give us a call. Maybe we can nip this new one in the bud.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Binhammer, Chair, BCC

BROOKFIELD TOWN FORESTER REPORT

Forests play a central role in shaping Brookfield's character bringing scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and support for economic and recreational opportunities. Brookfield residents have a strong connection to their forests and have a growing interest in understanding and protecting this town resource. The Brookfield Town Forest, located on Halfway Brook Road in the southeast corner of town, is one example of forest stewardship. In 2024, with support from County Foresters and the Conservation Commission, work began to refresh the paint marking the forest boundaries and to develop a plan for addressing the decline of a white pine plantation on the property. This plan includes selective harvesting to help the plantation transition to more sustainable, hardwood species better suited to the area's conditions.

A quick update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that is deadly to ash trees. EAB was first detected at Allis State Park in 2021 through a monitoring program in collaboration with the state, and its presence was confirmed in 2022. While monitoring has not occurred in 2023 or 2024, the slow spread of this insect continues across Brookfield. Since EAB spread slowly and it typically takes 2-5 years after infection for an ash tree to die, we have yet to see widespread ash mortality in the town. However, Robert Nelson, our County Forester, reports that ash mortality is already evident nearby in Barre and Graniteville. Many landowners are beginning to preemptively harvest ash trees from their properties. We must be careful to leave some ash in our forests as research is finding that some individuals are resistant and provide hope for the species going forward. At this point its also important to note that transporting logs and firewood must follow state guidelines to prevent further spread of the pest.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Jickling, Brookfield Town Forester

BROOKFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024

CALL LOG:

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS = 21	MUTUAL AID/ASSIST = 5
CO2 / FIRE ALARM = 5	STRUCTURE FIRE = 1
VEHICLE FIRE = 2	GRASS/BRUSH FIRE = 3
TREE/POWER LINE DOWN = 6	MISC = 5

This year the department bought another three sets of bunker gear. Which has outfitted all members of the department with new PPE.

We were fortunate to have two neighboring departments gift us an air compressor and air storage bottles. We in turn bought a fill station which gives us the ability to fill our own SCBA bottles. This will be advantageous for us as we can now use them in training.

Another big addition to our toolbox is a Genesis battery operated extrication device ("jaws of life"). In 2024 twenty-one of our calls were motor vehicle accidents. This important new tool can be a lifesaving response measure.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of people in our department. We are committed to our job and the community. We really need more younger people to get involved. The reward and satisfaction of helping your community and neighbors is a great feeling. I encourage anyone to visit the department and get involved! Email firedept@brookfield.org to get involved today.

After 10 years as Chief of the Fire Department I will be stepping down. I appreciate the support of the community during my decade of service and look forward to continuing my service as a regular member of the fire department.

I want to thank these members for their years of service.

Jeff Brassard	35 years	Bob Conniff Jr	30 years
Charles Sherman	15 years	Jake Jacobs	15 years

Have a safe 2025!
Kevin Wheately

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD CEMETERY REPORT 2024

The work performed in all the cemeteries was 250 stones were straightened, and 30 stones were repaired. Three ashes burials were performed in Brookfield Center Cemetery.

Continued maintenance for 2025 should include removing 3 old maple trees at Brookfield Center Cemetery and continuing straightening stones.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph and Kaira Mangan
Kirkyard Services, LLC
(802)917-8113

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This is for the Calendar year ending December 31, 2024.

The committee met once each month, on the third Wednesday in person from January to December at the Brookfield Town Office with exception of February 2024.

The committee hosted several guest speakers plus town officers, including:

Rich Doolan, Brookfield Emergency Management Director-Shelter group progress. Rich has recruited 20 emergency shelter volunteers and is developing resources for likely states of emergency in the future.
Kevin Wheatley, Brookfield Fire Chief-DART landing locations
Jon Jickling- The Emerald Ash Borer threat is progressing.
Sheriff George Contois- FY 2025 Law Enforcement Contract Proposal.
Sheriff Ryan Palmer- FY 2025 and FY 2026 Law Enforcement Contract Proposals.

Members of the Public Attending: The committee members are always interested in issues brought to their attention and are also willing to have guests observe the meetings. No notice is required for members of the public to attend. Several meetings had issues brought to the committee's attention by members of the public such as speeding, theft, Class 4 road issues, traffic studies and other incidents. Efforts were made by the committee to resolve these issues.

Orange County Joint Select Board Law Enforcement Committee- Holly Groschner, Corinth Select Board and John Freitag, Strafford, co-chairs of the committee contacted each of the Orange County towns and requested that they appoint representatives to the committee. Several Orange County towns did appoint representatives and participate. The Brookfield Select Board appointed Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell. The committee operated with remote meetings and invited several guests including Orange County Sheriff George Contois, Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLTC) law enforcement advisor Trevor Whipple. The committee was very useful in providing information and networking contacts. The Committee conducted five monthly meetings from March to July 2024.

Change of Law Enforcement Services Provider- After contacting law enforcement agencies near Brookfield, the committee concluded that there were only two agencies willing to provide services to Brookfield. They were the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and the Windsor County Sheriff's Department (WCSD). After having both sheriffs attend as guests to present their capabilities and reviewing the past performance of OCSD, the committee recommended to the Select Board that the town sign a contract with WCSD which they did. The committee is very pleased with the performance of the Windsor County Sheriff's Department to date.

Continuing Projects:
Law Enforcement Services Contracts - The committee continued to serve as a liaison between the Select Board and the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and the Windsor County Sheriff's Department reviewing contracts and the performance of law enforcement services such as patrols.

Traffic Ordinance Revision- The committee will be updating the Brookfield Traffic Ordinance for Select Board approval in 2025.

Reflective Vest Program- It is common practice for pedestrians in Brookfield to walk on the town highways in dark clothing. Even on a sunny day if they are in the shade, it can be hard to see them. During periods of darkness or reduced visibility it can be really dangerous. We applaud residents getting their exercise but wish it to be done more safely. The committee recommends reflective outer wear such as reflective vests which are not expensive. The 2024 budget has $200.00 to further the effort.

911 House Number Signs Project- Michael Rutkovsky contacted Always on Time Signs Company in Berlin, VT and received a special price if the town produced an order of 25 signs or more. Carol Monness, Town Clerk and Kristi Ehlers, Town Treasurer collected orders and prepared the order to be submitted to Always on Time Signs. The signs are slightly bigger, a bit heavier and have a white border making them more visible. The 28 signs were picked up in early January 2025 and will be picked up by the property owners who ordered them.

Traffic and Road Name Signs- 104 (35%) of the required 297 traffic and road name signs in Brookfield are missing or damaged as determined by Stuart Edson in a December inventory recorded digitally on a series of maps and lists. There was little progress on this problem in 2024 because of the loss of one of the road crew and repairs required by 2023 and 2024 floods. Stuart Edson has been pursuing alternative ways to install signs such as a vender like Lafayette Highway Specialties of Essex Junction, VT or hiring temporary summer help.

Public Safety Messages and Tips- Each month the committee created a safety message applicable to the season and issues observed or learned of by the committee members. They were posted on the town website and the Randolph Front Porch Forum.

We look forward to another very busy year.

Respectfully Submitted:
Stuart Edson
Michael Rutkovsky
Mike Stoddard
Dan Mason
Ed Neas
Lew Stowell, Chair

BROOKFIELD TOWN CONSTABLE REPORT

While each year as Constable offers an interesting mix of events, the past year was particularly unique. The widest spectrum of animal complaints yet, ranging from a wandering passel of hogs to an abandoned litter of pups, all of whom are now happily housed (the dogs, that is, definitely not the hogs). From residents finding animals hiding in structures that had been missing from their owners for days in cold winter temperatures, to helping residents pen up their *very* wily escaped animals back into pens… or simply corralling the animal back into the pen without the owner. I ask all of you, as neighbors, to be civil to each other and refrain from escalating any situation and remember that animals should not be used as a tool for neighbors who do not get along. Lastly, *PLEASE*… make sure your fencing is adequate to keep your pigs and horses contained.

The Town of Brookfield requires dogs to be on a leash, under the immediate control of a competent and responsible attendant, or kept enclosed on your property, and it remains unlawful to disturb the quiet of any person by having a dog habitually barking for more than 30 minutes, day or night. All dogs need to be licensed and up to date on rabies shots. Dog licenses are due by April 1 each year. (Keep your eyes open for the Annual Rabies Shot Clinic where your dog can receive both a rabies shot and a license.) Please keep in mind that animals still don't take care of themselves.

Bicycle safety and pedestrian safety remain a serious concern within this town, and society as a whole. In general, it is best if cyclists are on the side of the road that corresponds to the flow of traffic, and pedestrians walk on the side of the road that has them facing traffic. Both cyclists and pedestrians should be aware that the use of bright clothing, reflective material, and conspicuity lighting are a huge benefit to being seen, and therefore hopefully being respected by the other road users. If you need a reflective vest, please ask about the Public Safety Advisory Committee's reflective vest program as we hope to have a number of vest available annually. We ask all users of the roadway to be courteous, and let's k roadways as opposed to other people's lawns.

I would again like to remind people that they can order reflective E911 signs from the Town Clerk. I encourage all of you to consider this as every moment counts in any emergency situation. eep the driving to the travelled portion of

We ask all of you, as neighbors, to be civil to each other and refrain from escalating any situation. In closing, people simply need to be reasonable neighbors and responsible pet owners, and we ask all of you to please be safe.

Thank you for another great year, and we look forward to serving you in 2025.

Be safe,
Dan Mason – Constable
Ed Neas – 2nd Constable

Thank you!
Dan

BROOKFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT 2024

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Free Public Library (the oldest continuously operating Public Library in the State of Vermont) are pleased to

offer our annual report to the Town of Brookfield. We are delighted to continue to offer our many services to citizens of all ages. All of our services are free of charge.

Here is what we offer: Our collection includes printed books and magazines. Don't see what you want? Laura can order it through Inter-Library Loan. Borrow from our in-house collection of books on tape or download your selection from Libby or Palace to your own device. We have an exceptional collection of picture books and early readers as well as graphic novels. Free Wi Fi is available.

Want to get out more? Your Library has passes to borrow, some get you in for free, some at a discount. Go visit a Vermont State Park and/or Historic Site, VINS in Hartford, ECHO Aquarium in Burlington, the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier and the Shelburne Museum. Check with Laura for more information.

Three years ago, the scholarship fund set up by Anna Clark Jones to benefit students from Brook-field dissolved and that fund was turned over to the Library for its use. The Trustees of the Library made a decision to use the money in a manner consistent with the original scholarship fund. Each year the Library awards a scholarship to a graduating High School senior from Brookfield who is pursuing higher education. This year the award went to Logan Margison.

We continue to offer on-demand service to West Brookfield and our adorable Little Libraries provide a changing selection of community and Library offerings. Find one in Pond Village across from the Old Town Hall and one in West Brookfield.

Other Library actions and activity this year are as follows:

• At the Pond Village Church in January, Brookfield native Katie Jickling talked about her Fulbright research work in India on women's leadership and the movement for institutional change.

• Members of the Board met with the instructors and students of the Landscape Design Program at VTC. After a field trip to the building the students presented 5 possible landscape de-signs for outside the Town Hall and Library to the Board. Our decision was to have a stone patio built outside the Library this Spring, with steps leading down to the road. We will then be able to put our outside furniture on a friendlier flat surface. It will be a welcome place to sit, meet up, and have access to free Wi-Fi.

• MaryLou Maeder, our local knitting whisperer, is once again offering Winter knitting/fiber arts at the Library from 6:30-8pm on the first and third Sundays of the month. The children's after school knitting group at the Library took place earlier this Autumn.

• Deconstruction returned in September at the Old Town Hall. Thanks again to Bill Donnelly for his help with this event. 16 hands on children of varying ages promptly and efficiently happily returned various appliances and devices to their essential components. Come check us out! We can't wait to see you at the Library!

Library Address: 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield VT 05036
Library Phone: (802) 276-3358
Library e-mail: brookfieldpublic@gmail.com
Library Website: Brookfeldvt.org (then click on Library tab)
Library Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2-5:30 and Saturday 9-12
Find Us on Facebook!

Librarian: Laura Rochat
Assistant Librarian: Barb Schaedler
Board of Trustees: Amy Borgman, Dan Childs, Emily Noyes, Susan O'Brien, Starr Strong

BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newton House:
Several projects involving the maintenance and preservation of the historic Marvin Newton House (c.1835) and its grounds were completed during the past summer and fall. These projects were overseen by Trustee Greg Wight whose extensive background as an engineer is an invaluable asset to the Society.

- The reconstruction of the retaining wall on the south side of the Marvin Newton House started in the summer of 2023, but progress was hindered by the heavy and persistent rainfall that led to destructive flooding in some parts of Brookfield. The original dry-laid structure had fallen into disrepair but the stones from the wall were recycled by Andy Lake in the process of rebuilding the wall. The restored retaining wall should remain serviceable into the next century.
- Excessive moisture in the Marvin Newton House has been a concern for some time. Last winter moisture monitoring devices were installed in the cellar and attic. The monitoring results prompted a consultation with a company that specializes in the remediation of moisture problems. That company was contracted to install a drainage pipe to divert water from the house foundation and also to install an industrial grade dehumidifier in the cellar. Half of the cost of this work, in excess of $4,700, was met by a donation from a generous member of the Society and the remainder of the expense was covered by an anonymous grant from a charitable foundation. Happily, there is already evidence of a substantial reduction of moisture in the house.
- Other projects completed included the replacement of deteriorated clapboards on the east wall of the Marvin Newton House, the construction of a wood storm door for the south entrance, and the replacement of the exterior door leading into the ell. The replacement door, donated by Scott Morrison, closely matches in age and design the original doors in the house.

Exhibits:
Two exhibits focusing on the history of Brookfield schools were made available to the public in 2024.

- A Hippo Park exhibit featured the display of ten posters detailing the history of Brookfield schools from 1877, when there were fifteen school districts in the town, to 1968 when remaining schools were consolidated into a new Brookfield Elementary School. The boundaries of each district are delineated in the 1877 *Beers Atlas* map of the town. Eleven schoolhouses remain today having been repurposed for other uses. Exhibit team members included Dmitri and Rachel Andreyev, Sarah Isham, Elaine Manghi-Buck, Pat Mayer, Alexis McLean, Lindsey Weaver, and Greg Wight. The exhibit posters as well as narratives written by students who attended the schools can be viewed on the Society's blog at: brookfieldhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com

- Complementary to the park display was the exhibition in the Newton House Museum of material relating to Brookfield school history curated by Rachel Andreyev.

Programs & Events:

- The annual Ice-Out Contest was won by Linda Garrett who guessed April 12, 3:16 pm, just 26 minutes short of the actual time of the spring phenomenon. Linda generously donated half of her prize money back to the Society.

- On July 14 Sid McLam, UVM Extension Master Gardener, gave a talk on "Growing Perennial Flowers" with tours of the gardens at the Marvin Newton House and at his home in Randolph Center.

- On July 28 Gary Lord conducted a tour of the Brookfield Old Center Cemetery focusing on the ways in which the cemetery reveals the social and cultural history of the community from 1791 through the early 20th century.

- The annual Helen Daly & Margaret Stone Ice Cream Social was held in August at the Marvin Newton House. Pat Mayer presided over the dispensing of ice cream and cookies. Music was provided by Andy and Kara Lake. Master Gardener Sid McLam was on hand to provide gardening information. For many of the attendees, the event was their first opportunity to view the newly restored and refurbished rooms in the historic house.

- The annual meeting of the Society took place at the Pond Village Church on October 13. The featured speaker was historian Jill Mudgett who spoke on "Hills of Home: Mountains and Identity in Vermont History. A community potluck supper followed the meeting.

Gifts & Grants:

- The Society gratefully acknowledges the receipt of gifts at the Benefactor level ($500 or more) from the following sources.
  Barbara Bigelow George
  George and Barbara Daly
  Sorg-Vogt Charitable Foundation

- The Society also expresses appreciation for the support received for two projects.
    1) An anonymous foundation provided $2,350 in matching funds to defray the cost of moisture mitigation in the Marvin Newton House.
    2) The Vermont Historical Society awarded a $1,000 Community Planning Grant to organize programs and events in celebration of the 250th anniversary in 2026 of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

Current Trustees:
Gary Lord, President
Pat Mayer, Secretary
Greg Wight, Treasurer
Rachel Andreyev, Curator
Greg Sauer, Blog Editor
Perry Kacik, Membership Director
Elaine Manghi-Buck, Program Chair
Sid McClam, Master Gardener
Sarah Isham
Alexis McLean
Lindsey Weaver

Submitted by Gary Lord

BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Hello to our neighbors and friends of the Brookfield Old Town Hall. We've had a great year, with the folks on the Event's Committee scheduling fifty interesting, inspiring, and educational activities over this summer. It is impressive how much that committee gets done, and I'm grateful for all the effort, energy, and enthusiasm they bring to filling the calendar.

The Brookfield Community Partnership Inc., whose primary responsibility is the Brookfield Old Town Hall, had the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Village Trust Initiative, which got our juices flowing about what we would do with access to the grant and what the logical next steps would be for the Old Town Hall. We put together a committee, who put together a proposal. Although we made it to the final fourteen, we didn't get chosen to participate in this round of grants. We did, however, get some clarity on what our focus should be. Through the tenacity of the grant committee members, we are optimistic about our ability to find funding sources to help us progress with our goals for the Old Town Hall.

Our thanks go out to Perry Kacik, who's worked as the interim Chair of the BCP Board of Directors for longer than he probably intended when he accepted the role. The Brookfield Community Partnership Inc. is stronger as a result of his leadership and vision. Navigating through the chaos of a global pandemic to lead a community group was not simple, and Perry was more than equal to the task.

Lastly, I want to thank all those sponsors, donors, committee members, and community members who make the Brookfield Old Town Hall a shining example of what's good in the world, what we love about Vermont, and how we do community in the Brookfield area. Thank you all, Dan

Dan O'Brien
BCP Board Chair
501 Kibbee Road
Brookfield, VT 5036
802.522.3909

GREEN-UP DAY REPORT
Green-Up Day on May 4, 2024

For 50 years many citizens of Vermont have collected trash discarded by others from the roadside and stream banks of Vermont to preserve the astounding beauty of our state. The first Saturday of May has become a focus of devotion by many in our state. This year we had 39 volunteers who cleaned up 50 miles of roadside, yielding 110 bags of trash, 3 grills, several coolers and miscellaneous trash, 105 tires. An effort was made to separate out returnable cans and bottles that, once cleaned and returned, amounted to $42.75. Starr Strong and Dale Benson staffed the Town Garage office for the day. Hopes for 2025: More volunteers needed!!! Along with contact information as landlines and phone books become obsolete. An observation is that the majority of the volunteers are above 50 years of age, and few young families appeared to participate. What will Vermont look like when us old folks can no longer scramble up and down the hills, valleys and streams? A table for contact info will be at Town Meeting. Green Up is one of many institutions that set our state apart from the others.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a $1,000 scholarship. Mark your calendar for Green up Day 2025, May 3rd.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride and community engagement. **Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at **www.greenupvermont.org.**

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-728-6526.

DOG LICENSES SOLD 2024

The registration of dogs has declined over the last several years. Only 150 dogs registered for 2024. Only 154 dogs were registered for 2023. Only 156 were sold in 2022. For every license sold, $5.00 is paid to the State of Vermont for rabies control and spay/neuter programs. Some of the money goes towards the purchase of tags and registration forms.

It is extremely important that all dogs are registered (and it's a State law). If you follow Front Porch Forum or Facebook, you frequently see missing or found dogs listed and if they have current tags, they can find their way back to their families. **PLEASE** register your dogs!

A second reason to register is that we keep a copy of current rabies certificates at the office. If a dog bites anyone, we have proof that the dog has had its rabies shot. There is usually at least one dog bite a year that has to be reported.

Registration Fees: were spayed/neutered dog $9.00 intact dog $13.00. The cost is increasing for 2025 by $2.00 per dog.

The Rabies Clinic for 2025 will be held Saturday, March 22nd, 9-11 a.m. at the Brookfield Elementary School.

ECFIBER AND THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

Brookfield is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 900 new customers, and now serves nearly 9,500 customers, via 1,800 miles of network. When completed, the ECFiber network will be available to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network. ECFiber is a miracle of collective action; without it few customers in our mostly rural towns would have decent internet.

Construction in 2024 was focused on mainline underground work in the White River Junction, Wilder, and Quechee villages in the Town of Hartford; completing all of the Fairlees and Bradford except for the Bloodbrook/Wild Hill area in West Fairlee, where GMP is putting everything underground; finishing the Newbury cabling and starting the interconnection work at the central hub, with first customers coming on line in the winter; finishing the make-ready work and starting to cable Topsham.

The remaining towns along our northern tier, Corinth and Washington, will see make-ready work completed by spring with cable being run immediately afterwards. Windsor will see the northwest section of town built out. At this point, all "unserved" or "underserved" locations in our 31 towns will have multi-gigabit fiber service available on the nearest utility pole, and ECFiber on its own will have solved 20% of Vermont's rural broadband crisis with only a fraction of its funding – about 15% -- coming from grants.

ECFiber dates its legal existence back to Town Meetings in 2008, when a two-year organizing effort paid off with 23 towns agreeing to create an internet service provider. The first customers began receiving service in 2011, just before the Irene floods; ECFiber became a CUD in June 2015, opening the way to issuing revenue bonds. In 2020, eight new towns joined; in 2023 the last of the original towns came online, and in November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & amp; Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

Dan O'Brien, Bryce Batchman
Brookfield@ecfiber.net | 802-ECFiber
Sign up today: www.ecfiber.net | About the District: www.ecvtd.gov

BROOKFIELD ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT 2024

Brookfield Town Bylaw Purpose:

The Brookfield Development Bylaws were enacted to implement the Brookfield Town Plan by providing for the appropriate used of all lands in the town. The purpose of the Bylaws is to protect the public health, safety, prosperity, comfort, convenience, efficiency and general welfare of the town.

As a result, high elevations, steep slopes, soils, forests, shore lands, wetlands and other natural resources are protected. Additionally, the bylaws attempt to retain the rural and residential character and environment of Brookfield by controlling the density and distribution of development in the town.

Development in 2024
A total of thirty-five building and subdivision permits were issued to town residents in 2024. Below is a breakdown of the numbers and types of permits that were issued.

Permits Issued in 2024			
Category	Number	Category	Number
Residential Structures	7	Additions	7
Outbuildings	15	Miscellaneous	1
Subdivisions	4	Agriculture	1

The Permitting Process:
All new residential and commercial structures, outbuildings, additions to existing structures and subdivisions must comply with the bylaws and require a permit. Variances and Conditional Uses may be requested but must be approved by the Board of Adjustment and/or Planning Commission. Agricultural structures on state approved farms do not require a permit but must meet bylaw setbacks and road frontage requirements and notification of the Zoning Administrator are required.

Applicants can access the bylaw, subdivision and building permit applications and the permit fee schedule at the Town of Brookfield website (www.brookfieldvt.org). Applications can be submitted at the Town Clerk's office. Upon approval of the permit and completion of a site visit, the permit will be issued. Any questions can be directed to the Zoning Administrator via email (zoning@brookfieldvt.org) or by phone at (802) 276-3722.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Reid, Zoning Administrator

E-911 NUMBER REPORT

Do you have an E911 Number?

The E911 number is used to identify your home to first responders so they know where to go when responding to an emergency. If you don't know your E911 or don't think you have been supplied one, please email E911brookfieldvt@yahoo.com.

Have one but not displayed?

Is your property one of the many throughout Brookfield that does not display their E911 address? Emergency responders such as the fire department or emergency medical services (EMS) may not be able to locate you. Your mailbox and your house (or driveway if single dwelling) should have reflective E911 green signs attached to them so it is clear where first responders should go. Look out for news on our website, www.brookfieldvt.org, for when we will have a new vendor to order E911 signs if you don't already have them.

Resident with a disability?

Is there someone residing in your household that has a physical disability or chronic conditions such as blindness, hearing loss, diabetes, or seizures? There is an E911 Disability Designation form found on our website www.brookfieldvt.org under Forms. This will enable emergency responders to identify any potential issues in providing care. This form gives the emergency services to understand specific hurdles for care or rescue (i.e. No flashing lights for seizure patients or more lights for hearing loss patients, whatever might be required.) This information stays with first responders and is cared for by the Vermont State E911 Program.

TOWN OF BARRE DEPARTMENT OF EMS 2024

Barre Town Emergency Medical Service is the largest EMS agency serving Washington and Orange Counties. Over the course of the past year, we increased staffing across all levels of care, and we began providing Paramedic EMS service to the Town of Williamstown on Jan. 1, 2024. We staff 4 ambulances Monday through Friday and 3 ambulances on Saturday and Sunday with 3 backup ambulances that can be staffed with call in coverage crews. All 3 7-day a-week ambulances are staffed at the Paramedic or Critical Care Paramedic level. The 4th ambulance is scheduled based on call demand and often is scheduled at the EMT or AEMT level. Our primary service area is roughly 255 sq. miles, covering the towns of Barre Town, Berlin, Orange, Topsham, Washington, Williamstown and Northern Brookfield. We provide primary 911 coverage to over 17,000 residents in the two counties. We are also the primary Paramedic intercept service and mutual aid service for a majority of Washington County and parts of Orange County, as well as the primary agency that transports patients in and out of Central Vermont Medical Center. In the past year we have provided mutual aid to other agencies

at a ratio of 19:1, we provide 19 mutual aid (BTEMS responded to requesting agencies primary response area) responses for each one we called for. We rely on our mutual aid partners to provide ambulance coverage to our contract towns when we have all our resources dedicated to calls or we need multiple ambulances for a single incident.

Barre Town EMS staff size ranges from 50-60 employees (19 full-time). We currently have 24 Paramedics on the roster, 11 of which are board certified Critical Care Paramedics. We are 1 of only a handful of services in Vermont that provide Specialty Care Transports (SCTs). SCTs require specialized training to care for the most critically ill patients that we care for. Over the past year a few per diem and 1 full-time providers left Barre Town EMS. We promoted from within for our full-time position and added 8 additional per diem staff.

In the past year we have taken delivery of 3 new ambulances. We also added new ventilators (Hamilton T1 and Zoll Zvents) as well as Zoll Autopulses to our ambulances. Our Zoll cardiac monitors were updated this year as well. We have updated our video laryngoscopes and replaced our direct laryngoscopes with new LED lighted blades for optimum viewing. These new additions allow us to continue our long history of providing cutting-edge emergency medical care to all those who call on us.

The EMS staff have been busy taking care of those who need us as well as training hard to remain ready for the next call that comes in. We offer all of our training and case reviews to all of the EMS services in Central Vermont to attend and get training credits. We offer both in-person and online trainings (depending on the topic). We ended the fiscal year with 4580 calls for service. This is roughly a 10% increase in call volume over the previous fiscal year.

Barre Town EMS welcome visitors to our stations anytime, we do ask that you call ahead if you plan to stop in so we can make sure someone will be there to greet you. We staff crews in Barre Town, South Barre, Berlin and Williamstown. We would like to Thank all our communities for their continued support. Please visit the EMS section of www.barretown.org to keep up to date with any changes we make throughout the year.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any service, we provide please contact us: emsdirector@barretown.org or 802-476-3147.

Call Volume for fiscal year 23-24	
Town	Total Calls
Barre Town	714
Berlin	1021
Orange	89
Topsham	98
Washington	84
Williamstown (Jan-Jun)	341
Brookfield	54
Mutual Aid	232
Paramedic Intercepts	268
Transfers	1679
	4580

Respectfully submitted,
David Danforth, NRP, FP-C, Director
Town of Barre
Department of Emergency Medical Services

BROOKFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SHELTER GROUP

Brookfield Emergency Management Shelter Group. The Brookfield Emergency Management Shelter Group is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of Brookfield residents by providing reliable and accessible shelter services in a state of emergency. Through education, collaboration and continuous improvement, we are committed to proactive planning, rapid response and compassionate support for individuals and families in crisis. We strive to create a safe and welcoming environment that fosters dignity, respect, and empowerment, while connecting our residents to essential resources and services. For more information or to volunteer contact: Emergency Management Director (EMD) - Rich Doolen; 603-443-3001 Brookfield Town Office - 802-276-3352

SAFELINE, INC.

P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038 • safelineinfo@safelinevt.org
(802) 685-7900 office • (800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit charitable organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

In 2024, Safeline provided 2,532 services for 285 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse 44 services were provided for 3 victims who identified themselves as residents of Brookfield. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. 3 females received services. These services included 3 domestic violence situations.

Safeline provided free confidential services including: crisis intervention, safety planning, legal advocacy for protection orders, emotional support and case management. We met with survivors multiple times to provide the services they requested.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. We provided an information tale at the Brookfield ice cream social.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in. Brookfield.

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

59 N. Main St., Suite 200, Barre, VT 05641-4121
Phone: 802-479-0531 • Fax: 802-479-4235
info@cvcoa.org • www.cvcoa.org

Central Vermont Council on Aging Annual Report of Services to Brookfield (FY24 7/1/23-6/30/24) October 1, 2024, Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of supporting Central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. For over 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters age 60 and up to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible. CVCOA supports caregivers and families as they help loved ones navigate aging. CVCOA connects aging persons in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services they need to thrive and implements special projects and programs to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income, or resources.

Services include:

- Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, mental health, legal assistance, support groups, healthy aging resources, and more through our Helpline, 1-800-642-5119 (toll free) or (802) 477-1364 (local).
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement, and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Program provides program management support, including menu development, training, and technical assistance for home-delivered, grab and go, and congregate meals at 13 nutrition sites. Free nutrition counseling services for people age 60+ to best support a healthy lifestyle.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, New to Medicare workshops (in-person and on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Program Promotes the well-being of family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including respite funding, training to help caregivers manage stress, and social activities Memorable Times Café / Memorable Times Online.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members through companionship, wellness classes, meal delivery, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork and garden help, creative guidance, and more.
- Community Programs help alleviate social isolation and loneliness and enhance social connection through exercise classes, veterinary services and pet food assistance, art activities, and technology training.

The need for aging services continues to increase in Vermont. During the last fiscal year (7/1/23-6/30/24), Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more services to 39 (unduplicated) Brookfield residents.

Additionally, CVCOA provided nutrition counseling and education, caregiver training and respite funding, access to technology and resources, and opportunities to connect with volunteers for direct service, creativity, and technology assistance. CVCOA's case management staff provide information on a variety of topics, including elder abuse.

CVCOA served 4,531 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2023 through 06/30/2024.

CVCOA mobilized 247 Central Vermont volunteers who donated 18,000 hours of their time, valued at over $600,000.

- 176 volunteers participating in our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program volunteered more than 12,720 hours at our Central Vermont Nutrition site partners' Meals on Wheels programs.
- 75 volunteers donated nearly 4,500 hours to a wide-range of CVCOA-run volunteer efforts including leading wellness class, providing direct service support to clients, supporting special events, and more.
- 3 Senior Companions provided more than 760 hours of direct service support to nine (9) clients.

All staff, board members, and volunteers at Central Vermont Council on Aging extend our gratitude to the residents of Brookfield for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of older adults in Central Vermont.

[1] Central Vermont Council on Aging does not directly operate a nutrition site. The CVCOA Nutrition and Wellness Program provides federal funding, technical assistance and nutrition counseling/education to 12 nutrition sites. This program supports home-delivered Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, and grab and go meals.

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) 2024 Report for Town of Brookfield:

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice throughout the 54 towns in Central Vermont. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers, and to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years,

CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible.

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to residents through case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment, long-term care planning, health insurance counseling, family caregiver support, nutrition education, connection to wellness and social activities, and more.

CVCOA served 4,531 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2023 through 06/30/2024, 39 residents of Brookfield. CVCOA mobilized 247 Central Vermont volunteers, who donated 18,000 hours of their time, valued at over $600,000.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Brookfield for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Brookfield community.

GREATER RANDOLPH SENIOR CENTER

6 Hale Street, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-9324 • randolphsc@gmail.com

Our service area is Brookfield, Braintree, and Randolph. The senior center is open for congregate dining and grab & go meals and in-house activities. We continue to deliver hot meals to residents in our service area, approximately 55 meals Monday-Thursday, plus 75 frozen weekend meals for people who request them (as well as meals to cover holidays and closures due to inclement weather).

During the fiscal year 2024 (Oct 1, 2023-Sept 30, 2024), the Center provided approximately 19,159 meals (partially funded through Central VT Council on Aging and the VT Center for Independent Living); 15,181 meals were delivered to people through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program, which helps older adults and the disabled to live independently in their own homes and continue to participate in their communities. In Brookfield we delivered MOW to 13 clients during this past year. The Center prepared 427 Grab & Go meals as well as served 3,551 meals for lunch (to include for volunteers and guests under 60). Our MOW drivers logged in 13,322 miles and 4,172 hours were logged in by all volunteers.

We are aware that Brookfield residents are able to go to other senior centers, however, it is our center that is tasked with providing the MOW program to Brookfield residents who wish to sign up for it. The eligibility guidelines are as follows: "Any person who is age 60 or over, who is unable to obtain or prepare meals on a temporary or permanent basis due to: a physical or mental condition; lack of or inadequacy of facilities; inability to shop, cook or prepare meals safely. Also eligible are the spouse, regardless of age, of eligible individuals; and individuals under 60 years of age with a disability, who reside with an eligible individual."

We also deliver MOW to people who are disabled, living on their own and under 60 years old, if application is made and approved, through the VT Center for Independent Living (Montpelier office, 802-229-0501) or online at www.vcil.org

For people who have had surgery, such as a knee or hip replacement, they are eligible to receive MOW on a temporary basis, to help during their recuperation period (if 60 years or older). Please spread the word that the Randolph Senior Center provides the MOW program. We are able to confirm eligibility and sign people up over the telephone.

On of our volunteer drivers for the MOW program lives in Brookfield. The Center is available for use by Brookfield residents for family parties/dinners/memorial services or meetings.

We receive donations from participants in our meals programs (MOW and Congregate/Grab & Go); from community members; from municipal contributions through special appropriations, fundraising activities, Bequests, and gifts made "In Memory of." In fulfillment of the contracts we have with Central VT Council on Aging and VT Center for Independent Living, we receive partial reimbursement for eligible meals delivered or served.

We provide rewarding opportunities for volunteers. Volunteers help in the kitchen, serve meals and set and bus lunch tables, deliver MOW, lead exercise classes, bake goods for fundraisers,

fold and label the monthly newsletters, provide computer and AARP tax assistance, host educational programs, decorate the dining hall for the seasons, and, in general, make the Center a welcoming place to spend time. Our nine-member Board of Directors is composed of volunteers and each member serves a three-year term.

We want to thank everyone for supporting the Center as we continue to provide the meals programs and activities. We have a lively group that plays cribbage on Mondays and Mahjongg played the other mornings, as well as exercise classes such as Lift for Life, Tai Chi and Chair Yoga. A congregate lunch is served at Noon. We are open to suggestions as to what other activities we may offer and look forward to meeting more members of the Brookfield community.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Emilie P. Daniel, Executive Director

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Child and Family Services
35 Ayers Brook, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-4466

Adult and Children Outpatient Services
1483 Lower Plain Rd., Bradford, VT 05033
(802) 222-4477

East Valley Academy
579 VT RT 14 S., E. Randolph, VT 05041
(802) 728-3896

Adult Outpatient Services
11 N. Main Street, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 295-8628

Community Support Services
24 South Main St, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-6000

Community Support Services
P. O. Box 278, Bradford, VT 05033
(802) 222-4477

Safe Haven/Chris's Place
4 Highland Ave., Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-5233

Wilder
P.O. Box 816, Wilder, VT 05088
(802) 295-1311

Chelsea Health Center, 356 VT Route 110, Chelsea VT 05038, (802) 728-4466

>>>

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area for the last 58 years. Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Substance Use Services
- Justice Involved Services
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

With 58 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. Clara Martin Center remains committed to meeting both the short and long-term mental health and substance use care needs that the pandemic has impacted.

Clara Martin Center is proud to be in the process of becoming the first Certified Community Based Integrated Health Centers (CCBHC) in the State of Vermont, a federal model of care designed to ensure access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services regardless of ability to pay, including crisis mental health services, screening, assessment and diagnosis, patient-centered treatment planning, outpatient mental health and substance use services, primary care screening and monitoring, targeted case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and family support services, and services for members of the armed services and veterans.

FY24 TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT CMC	CMC
Children & Family Services	504
School Services	118
Vocational Services	70
Adult Services	747
CSP Services	145
Supportive & Transitional Housing	26
Substance Use Services	265
Corrections Services	99
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	368
Access	598
Peer Services	40
Total Served-unduplicated individuals	**1913**

TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED	Brookfield
Children & Family Services	2
School Services	0
Vocational Services	0
Adult Services	10
CSP Services	0
Supportive & Transitional Housing	0
Substance Use Services	3
Justice Involved Services	0
Emergency/Mobile Crisis	5
Access	10
Peer Services	0
Total unique individuals served:	**25**

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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 297 individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 232 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 151 individuals with information on assistive technology; 43 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 507 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 40 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 (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood 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 FY'24, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at: 1-800-639-1522, or visit our web site at www.vcil.org.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services

As an integral part of the community healthcare system in Brookfield, VNH serves to breach an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 57 visits to 7 residents of all ages and at all stages of life. VNH is also the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Having our patients maintain their independence is key. Our nurses, therapists and social workers provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient life. This includes patients who are frail, elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Town funding is what allows us to bring down the cost of services provided to those in need. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide and affordable option for home healthcare

in the community. To continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Brookfield to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,
Martin J. Degan
Chief Financial Officer
mdegen@vnhcare.org • 888-3000-8853

TRORC 2024 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission, governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2024.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

With more than 104 years of combined experience, our staff support your local officials in many areas. We provide advice on zoning, budgeting and capital planning, and reducing flood damage. We are engaged with state and federal initiatives, ensuring as a local government, you can take advantage of these. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. Additionally, TRORC staff have assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws, and studies.

Economic Development

TRORC is part of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District, working to provide resources and opportunities for individuals, businesses, and communities. TRORC supports workforce needs and business growth by providing trainings, financial assistance research, and support for promotion and expansion planning. TRORC works with partners to maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that identifies and proposes strategies to address economic challenges in the area, allowing the partners to seek EDA funding. Additionally, we work on initiatives to increase availability and access to health care services and preventative practices for all populations. This year, we worked on food security efforts and helped towns with health planning and policy development.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. We worked with communities in updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, which assist the reduction of future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they happen. When disasters occur, TRORC actively becomes part of the state and local long-term recovery process. Most recently, we aided communities in recovery efforts from the July 2023 and July 2024 floods.

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC worked with towns on Enhanced Energy Plans, aiming to save money and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC worked with member towns in assessing town buildings and identifying funding sources for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC worked with towns to identify needs and obtain funding for road improvement projects. We assist partners with managing transportation-related projects and ensuring compliance measures are maintained with the State. We also support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

TRORC helped the Town of Brookfield update their Local Emergency Management Plan. We also worked with town and state staff to provide emergency preparedness booklets and fliers for Town outreach events. Staff carried out a speed study for Cram Hill Road and managed a ditching project at Howe Road. Additionally, staff managed the Halfway Brook Road Culvert project and helped apply for funding for another culvert at the same location. We provided guidance for managing federal grant funds, as well as helped with an energy audit and in securing funding to upgrade the energy efficiency of the Town garage and fire station.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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

GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) is one of twelve statewide Regional Development Corporations (RDCs), serving a 30-town region in Orange and northern Windsor counties. Our primary function is to develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve.

In FY2024, dues from member towns contributed $17,360 of our annual operating budget of $317,308. Town dues are assessed at $0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Further operating revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources. Your support helps provide client-specific economic development services free of charge and available to municipalities, new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses. Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community across the state. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted 140+ businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more.

FY2024 activities included:

- Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development, totaling over $6 million in funding to our service area.
- Hosting the Orange and Windsor County program coordinator for the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange program, bringing ~$120,000 in services to 30 businesses in the two-county service area
- Providing one-on-one support for businesses affected by the July 2023 and 2024 flooding and serving as local point of contact for state and Federal officials disseminating flood response, relief and recovery information.

- Securing a Vermont Department of Marketing and Tourism two-year Grants for Relocation and Outreach Work (GROW) program award, to provide information and guidance to those considering a move to the state.
- Ongoing support to the $300,000 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- Partnered with Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and the Town of Hartford to reimagine the White River Junction Downtown Committee scope and structure, supported by the state Downtown Vibrancy Fund.
- Ongoing partnership with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a new childcare facility offering 88 new seats in the Randolph region.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. For further information, call us at (802) 295-3710 or visit our website at www.gmedc.com

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director

RANDOLPH AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (RACDC)

Delivering our Mission of "Cultivating Community" through our Strategic Goals

Healthy Communities: Funding from the State's 2022 housing bills signed by Governor Scott at RACDC's Salisbury Square site have been awarded to Salisbury Square Phase 2! It is scheduled to break ground mid-2024. The project will create 12 rental units and 9 single-family homes, all affordable, solar-powered, Zero Energy and connected together in a neighborhood DC microgrid to enable storage of solar energy as backup power during grid outages.

Our Randolph House expansion and upgrade project is now complete, improving life for over 50 senior residents. Currently, RACDC provides safe and affordable homes for about 250 people of all ages and is working to improve and create more. We've also begun funding requests to upgrade 25 existing units, and create 28 new apartments in downtown Randolph.

Economic Opportunity: Properties owned and developed by RACDC paid over $225,000 in property taxes this past year alone. At our annual meeting we honored Carol Bushey with the Hutchinson Award for selfless service, and the Gray family and the three anchor business owners at 15 Main Street (formerly Belmains) with the "Energy Rising" awards. We helped several potential new business owners with technical support and referrals, including a grant request with the Friends of the Historic Playhouse.

Community Connections: RACDC's Downtown Program worked with local businesses and organizations again to sponsor "First Friday" events in downtown Randolph on the first Friday evenings of every summer month, and into the fall. Hundreds of people of all ages enjoyed the events.

Collaboration: RACDC is a founding participant of the White River Valley Consortium, a group representing 14 communities surrounding Randolph and Royalton, working together to find ways to spur diverse workforce housing options and to strengthen regional ties

and collaboration. One such effort is an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) project to increase understanding and spur new unit development. Anyone interested in learning more about how to create an ADU should contact our office to be on a list to receive more information, including several planned in-person sessions sponsored by the group.

Capacity-Building: We are so grateful for the dedicated community members that support their neighbors and friends by volunteering for RACDC events and programs, and contributing to fundraising and community-building activities. To view our 2023 Annual Report or sign up to volunteer and learn more, visit www.racdc.com.

Thank you! Julie Iffland, Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER INC.

The Orange County Parent Child Center Inc. (OCPCC) is a non-profit organization serving Orange and northern Windsor counties. The Orange County Parent Child Center is one of 15 Parent Child Centers in Vermont.

The MISSION of Orange County Parent Child Center is to help families and children thrive and build a sense of belonging within their communities by connecting them to education, support, advocacy, and wellness opportunities. Since 1989, families and providers have come to know us and access us as their primary community resource for any topic or need related to children and families.

OCPCC's programs include Children's Integrated Services Family Support which provides, among other efforts: home visits, identification of any nursing needs, mental health referrals, and referral for other family assistance. We also provide Welcome Baby visits, free community playgroups, Early Care & Education for children 6 weeks to 5 years, parent education, fresh fruit and vegetables offered at our food shelf, concrete supports and resource & referral services. We are a public pre-K partner under Act 166. Starting later in 2024 or early in 2025 we will be adding a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to serve child victims of abuse. You can learn more at www.orange countypcc.org.

In the first 10 months of 2024, with the continued support of your community, we were able to provide 101 services to residents of Brookfield, 27 of which served children under the age of 6.

Lindsey Trombley, Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal, and Civil Courts and the State Corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties (victims); and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community. We want the everyday life in Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We offer 13 programs to Orange County residents: Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) for high-needs youth, Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Community Restorative Practices training, Court Diversion, Driver's License Reinstatement, Healthy Lifestyles leisure activities, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-Entry after incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, 295 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,715 hours of their time to support 253 restorative meetings. We served 79 harmed parties and distributed $3,000 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 79 people connected with counseling services, 12 people access our emergency support fund and 14 people reinstate their driver's license. We secured 4 apartments for Transitional Housing and had 78 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY24, OCRJC worked with 15 Brookfield residents and addressed 6 incidents that took place in Brookfield. For each incident referred to us, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC's FY24 operating budget was $921,412. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The town of Brookfield appropriated $375 for FY24 to support our work. OCRJC requests $375 in 2025 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, visit our website at https://ocrjvt.org or contact Lisa Lee, Victim Services & Community Outreach Coordinator, at 802-685-3172 or Lisa@ocrjvt.org.

THE ARTS BUS

2024 Brookfield Township Essay & 2025 Appropriations Request

Now in its 15th year of rolling strong and charged with a mission of empowering children to find joy & authentic self-expression through the arts, The Arts Bus is on a never-ending journey of creative exploration. In 2024, the nonprofit continued its path to expanded services to reach children across the state with an exciting variety of art enrichment for classrooms, in & after school, summer camps, public libraries, facilities, town events & farms! We put the new minibus to work year-round fulfilling 5 programs – the award-winning Ever After Kids Program, Art from the Start (for pre-K children), New RouTEEN (for 12-18 year olds), Chartered Tours (alternative & in-school workshops series) and Circling Community (library stops & public events).

Throughout the year, The Arts Bus took over 2,000 children on artistic adventures in puppetry, resin pours, acrylic flows, illusion, immersion, music, skincare, outerwear, clay play, crafting, wooden assembly, 3D crafting & coloring, mosaics, beading, basket weaving, leathercraft, storytelling, dancing, drama, make-up, and stage performances. Throughout the year, we gave away free art supplies including wooden figurines, markers, paints, brushes, paper, crayons, finger puppets, costumes, masks and what we had to give to empower children's creative exploration.

In and around Brookfield, The Arts Bus circled the community with the joy of art at afterschool, in-school, home school, summer camp, local facilities, public events and holiday celebrations!

We provided bi-weekly afterschool art enrichment at OSSD schools in Randolph, Braintree & Brookfield; sponsored a 6-week drama/stage performance workshop series with the Randolph Area Homeschool Co-op (RAHC) at the Chandler Center culminating in a live performance; went on an artventure with bucket hats, pads, pens & buttons for the summer reading program at Kimball Library; provided a variety of self-guided art kits for projects to Camps Moose & Randolph; and celebrated with the Brookfield cow & art community at Art on the Farm at Sprague Ranch, Randolph's Independence Day Parade, Braintree Bluegrass Brunch, Not-Back-to-School Day, the Artisan Holiday Market and with our year-end holiday display at WCVR radio station with RAHC!

As always, there is no charge to climb aboard The Arts Bus and we remain committed to finding ways to safely bridge the gap between the future artists, inventors & creators and the cost of securing the guides & tools they need to realize their dreams. As in years' prior, we are requesting $1,200.00 in town appropriations from Brookfield for the 2025 fiscal year to support The Arts Bus, though we continually increase our program and quality to include more mediums, artists & kids! To learn more and see pictures of the young artists' creations you make happen, we invite you to our Facebook page @artsbusvt or to visit our website www.artsbusvt.org.

RANDOLPH AREA FOOD SHELF

The Randolph Area Food Shelf has been serving the local community since 1977. Our services are focused on Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield, and East Granville, though all are welcome.

In 2024 we provided food to 619 households in our service area, representing 1,744 individuals. Of these 619 households, 27 are in Brookfield, representing 91 individuals. Of the 1,744 individuals served, 563 were below the age of 18, and 145 were above the age of 65.

In addition to our regular food pantry, the Food Shelf administers two USDA federal nutrition programs: The Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Also in 2024, the Food Shelf's School Kids' Program (SKiP) served thousands of meals to area children during its February, April, and summer school vacation periods. These nutritious meals are so important to students who normally receive free breakfasts and lunches at their schools. New in 2024, the Food Shelf started a home delivery program for those who are unable to shop in person for health or transportation reasons. Finally, during the 2024 holiday season, we distributed 211 Thanksgiving turkeys and 197 Holiday Bags, which contained all the ingredients for a complete and healthy holiday meal.

The Randolph Area Food Shelf is overseen by a 9-member Board of Trustees and operates solely with the help of over 90 dedicated volunteers; there is no paid staff. Money appropriated from the Town of Randolph by vote at town meeting will help us continue our mission as we strive to create a community in which every individual has access to sufficient food.

Many thanks to the Brookfield community for your support! For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please visit us on the web at www.randolphareafoodshelf.org or call us at 802-431-0144.

VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION (RFP) PROGRAM

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) 170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292 (802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com | www.vacd.org

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the 27+ years of the program, 1,224 grants totaling over $2.9 million have been provided to Vermont towns for the installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

The Rural Fire Protection Grant Program offers State grant awards up to $10,000 per project. Additional Federal funding can provide an additional $5,000-$10,000 per project for more expensive special case projects. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, upgrades of existing systems, drafting site development, and bridge mounted dry hydrants are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2023 was $227,662 of which $105,483 was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of 13 rural fire protection projects throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a $200 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2023, we received $9,150 in town appropriations from 90 towns. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

235 Vermont communities have benefited from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Enclosed please find the financial reports for the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case they are required. VACD's tax form 990 is also available upon request. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person for Town Appropriation business Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program (802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com Jill Arace, Executive Director Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) (802) 496-5162 | jill.arace@vacd.org Rural Fire Protection

Task Force Members: Bill Sanborn, Chair, Town of Maidstone; Walter Bothfeld, Jr., Cabot Volunteer Fire Department; Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1; Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety; Dan Dilner, VT Forest Parks & Recreation; Haley Pero, Senator Bernie Sanders Office

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT EDUCATION
Local Partnerships in Learning

Central Vermont Adult Education, (CVAE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Brookfield residents for fifty-nine years.

CVAE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Brookfield is served by our learning centers in Randolph, Barre and Montpelier. The sites have welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVAE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

Last year 2 Brookfield residents enrolled with CVAE. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves,* and *70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels.

By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Brookfield residents for generations to come.

CVAE provided free instruction to 454 people in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVAE $3,701 per student to provide a full year of instruction. *Nearly all students are low income.* Almost 70 community volunteers work with CVAE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Brookfield's voter-approved *past* support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVAE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVAE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVAE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center	**Barre Learning Center**	**Montpelier Learning Center**
10 S. Main St.	46 Washington St. – Ste 100	100 State St., Ste 3
Randolph VT 05060	Barre, VT 05641	Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 728-4492	**(802) 476-4588**	**(802) 223-3403**

www.cvae.net

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

Central Vermont Flood Response For the second consecutive year, central Vermont faced severe flooding, and in response, the Barre Office of Local Health provided essential resources, including:

- Free water test kits for residents
- Health and safety information to guide through immediate dangers and long-term recovery.
- Protective equipment to assist in cleanup.

We organized a tetanus vaccination clinic on the lawn at Grace Methodist Church in Plainfield, successfully vaccinating 17 individuals who cleaned up contaminated flood areas. Our collaboration with key community partners, such as Barre Up, Waterbury CREW, Central Vermont Hospital, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, was vital in ensuring the availability of necessary supplies and information. Together, we addressed both the immediate public health concerns related to floodwaters and the long-term recovery needs of affected residents. Additionally, we worked closely with THRIVE, central Vermont's network of service providers, to share real-time updates from impacted communities, ensuring that state officials were kept informed of evolving conditions.

Protecting Central Vermonters
Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses, and public health specialists works tirelessly every day to prevent the spread of disease and protect the health of our communities. In 2024, we conducted a total of 211 reportable disease investigations within the Barre district, responding quickly and effectively to emerging health threats.

With the support of our community partners, we organized vaccine clinics at key locations such as farms, community events, and treatment centers to ensure easy access to essential vaccines. In total, we administered 284 vaccines, including those for COVID-19, flu, tetanus, Mpox, and Hepatitis A, helping to reduce the spread of these diseases and protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Celebrating 50 Years of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Advancing Public Health for Families

For 50 years, the WIC program has been at the forefront of improving public health outcomes, ensuring families have access to nutritious food, breastfeeding support, health screenings, and referrals to essential services. The Barre Office of Local Health enrolled 968 central Vermont residents in its WIC program between January and October 2024.

Barre Local Health Office | 5 Perry St., Barre VT
(802) 479-4200 | AHS.VDHBarre@Vermont.gov

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM
TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a $4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law at six months of age**. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be confiscated. Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention).
3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For a VSNIP Application and a List of Participating Offices, send a 10" SASE: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: vsnip.vermont.gov.

Note if your request is for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, please mail it back. If approved, you will receive a Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only $27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pays the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog licensing. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit, or you will be charged for treatment. Pain medication is highly recommended **after** the surgery, but would be your responsibility. It is also wise to buy an "E" collar to avoid having sutures pulled out. These are the right choices!

Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. **These altruistic veterinarians are the backbone of the program!** If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they have made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the routine means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

SPECIAL NOTE: VSNIP is funded by a $4 fee added to the cost of getting a dog license in Vermont. It is the program's only source of funding. Available funds are therefore limited by the number of dogs licensed each year. Dogs are legally required to be licensed by the age of 6 months. They must have a rabies vaccine to get a license. They should get their first rabies vaccine between the age of 12 weeks and 6 months.

Who Is Eligible

To be eligible, you must:

- Live in Vermont.
- Have acquired your pet for free or just a small fee.
- Get certain public benefits or have household income at or below 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

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

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 "VSNIP"

VSNIP 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.

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (TVT) SERVICES 2024 to BROOKFIELD

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

TVT's Dial-a-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems provided a total of 203,645 rides last year – a 13% increase over 2023!

TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Your ongoing support helped us provide a four-year annual average of 85 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Brookfield residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Dial-a-Ride Programs meet specific needs of specialized populations including older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who can't access transportation on their own. These programs offer direct access from home to: medical treatments, nutrition programs, adult day services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and critical medical needs like radiation, dialysis, and substance abuse treatment.

State and Federal grants contribute 80% of our operating funds and require the remaining 20% to come from local sources. TVT strives to raise 5% of these local funds through municipal contributions based on each municipality's population and access to service using our "fair share"

formula. Your continued support of these important programs is greatly appreciated and if you have any questions, would like to learn more about our services, or are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please visit www.trivalleytransit.org or contact us by email at info@trivalleytransit.org or by phone at 802-728-3773.

AMERICAN RED CROSS, NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION (NNE)

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 Northern New England 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 Brookfield. 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. For more information about the work we've been doing in your area, please refer to the attached Service Delivery sheet for Orange County. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-464- 6692 or supportnne@redcross.org. Warmly, Lauren Jordan Development Coordinator.

ORANGE COUNTY

Disaster Response

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to 31 disaster cases in Orange County, assisting 51 individuals. The Red Cross provides safe shelter, food, relief supplies, financial assistance, and comfort to those in need after a disaster – whether it's a home fire affecting a single family, or a storm or flood devastating an entire community. All Red Cross services are provided free of charge through the generosity of the American public and are available to everyone in need without discrimination.

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Orange County to educate residents on fire safety and preparedness. We made 15 homes safer by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Orange County is home to 5 American Red Cross Volunteers. We have volunteers from all walks of life who are trained and empowered to respond to disaster in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.

We collected 846 pints of lifesaving blood at 26 drives in Orange County.

Last year, 214 Orange County residents were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and Water Safety.

We proudly assisted 8 of Orange County's Service Members, veterans, and their families by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Thank you for your generous support, which makes our mission— alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies—possible. www.redcross.org/nne

WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. In 2024 we celebrated our 50th year in service. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we maintain two Paramedic level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2024, through November 15, 2024, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,650 emergency calls and transfers. This includes Advanced Life Support transfer between medical facilities.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. WRVA issued 442 AHA certifications so far in 2024. We also provide advanced practice training to emergency response professionals and volunteers throughout the state. WRVA held 4 Vermont First Responder (VFR) courses, certifying nearly 50 community members.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2025, the per capita amount will increase from $79.00- $87.00.

Looking back on 2024 and ahead to 2025, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough. 3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800 www.wvra.org

Matthew Parrish,
Executive Director

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE

Dear Veteran,
The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Respectfully: Becky Rhoads, Au. D., Associate Medical Center Direct

WARNING

Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
(Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, March 3, 2025

TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF RANDOLPH, BRAINTREE, and BROOKFIELD:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the voters of Randolph, Braintree & Brookfield will be held in the Auditorium at the Randolph Union High School in the Town of Randolph on Monday, March 3, 2025 commencing at 6:00 p.m. Following updated guidance from state agencies and in order to comply with those directives, this meeting will be also be available remotely. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting remotely, please use the following link:

meet.google.com/ktv-rbxt-dmk
Phone Numbers
(US)+1 352-888-6257
PIN: 775 031 065#

NOTICE TO VOTERS: ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V, and VI will be voted on the Floor on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Polls for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII will be open on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the following locations and at the following times in each town:

Braintree: **Braintree Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Brookfield: **Brookfield Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Randolph: **Randolph Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 4, 2025.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon recommendations contained in the reports of the officers of the school district.

ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

ARTICLE VII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. One School Director from the residents of Randolph, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE VIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. One School Director from the residents of Randolph, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE IX: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. One School Director from the residents of Braintree, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE X: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend **$27,144,943**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. The Orange Southwest School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of $15,731, which is 22.45% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

ARTICLE XI: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **$1,200,000** in surplus funds from the 2023-2024 school year to the Operational Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE XII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

2. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **$970,400** in surplus funds from the 2023-2024 school year to the Building Reserve Fund?

DATED at Randolph in the County of Orange and State of Vermont, this 15th day of January 2025.

_____	_____
Hannah Arias, Chair	Rachel Gaidys
_____	_____
Anne Kaplan, Vice-Chair	Sarah Haupt
_____	_____
Ryan Anderson, Clerk	Sam Hooper
_____	_____
Rachel Fish	Aimil Parmelee

OSSD School Board Directors

Received and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Orange Southwest School District, in Randolph on January 17th, 2025 before being posted.

ATTEST: _____

Linda Lubold, Clerk

****

NOTICE TO VOTERS

Attached is some basic information about the Orange Southwest School District meeting warned. If you have any questions, please contact your Town Clerk.
Braintree Town Clerk - 728-9787
Brookfield Town Clerk - 276-3352
Randolph Town Clerk - 728-5682

MINUTES

Orange Southwest Unified Union District (Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2024
Randolph Union High School Auditorium @ 6 p.m. &
Remote access

Minutes to be approved at the OSSO Meeting on March 13, 2024 NOTICE TO VOTERS:

ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V and VI will be voted on the Floor. Board Members present: Hannah Arias, Rachel Gaidys & Anne Kaplan

Administrators present: Layne Millington

Moderator: Peter Nowlan Treasurer: Linda Lubold Clerk: Linda Lubold

Guests: Jane Terry, Tim Moynihan & ORCA Media Video Taping

The meeting was called to order by Peter Nowlan at 6:01 p.m. The meeting was held both in person and by remote access.

Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Peter Nowlan asked for a moment of silence for civil meetings and good governance.

Peter Nowlan read the full warning & reminded everyone of the polls being open on the following day, March 5, in each of the three towns for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X, & XI.

Peter Nowlan announced that he would not be running for Moderator for the term beginning July 1, 2024. Layne Millington thanked Peter for his years of service as Moderator.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.

Layne Millington nominated Kelly Green for Moderator which was seconded by Anne Kaplan. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024

Layne Millington nominated Linda Lubold for Clerk which was seconded by Hannah Arias. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024

Layne Millington nominated Linda Lubold for School District Treasurer which was seconded by Hannah Arias. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 4, 2024.

No vacancies were existing or occurring

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the school district

Peter Nowlan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Officers of the school district report. The report was accepted as published by voice vote.

Peter Nowlan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Superintendent of the school district report. The report was accepted as published by voice vote.

Peter Nowlan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Elementary Principals of the school district reports for Braintree, Brookfield & Randolph. The reports were accepted as published by voice vote.

Peter Nowlan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Randolph Union High School Principals of the school district report. The report was accepted as published by voice vote.

Peter Nowlan asked if there were any questions or comments on the Randolph Technical Career Center Director of the school district report. The report was accepted as published by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

Linda Lubold made the motion which was seconded by Anne Kaplan to authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof. The motion passed by voice vote.

Peter Nowlan reminded everyone that the remainder of the articles will be voted on by ballot tomorrow and again announced the polling locations and hours in the three towns.

Peter asked if there was any other business to be discussed. Layne Millington gave a brief summary of the proposed budget. Anne Kaplan thanked Layne & Peter for their service to the school district.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. was made by Hannah Arias and seconded by Anne Kaplan.

Peter Nowlan, Moderator

Linda Lubold, Clerk

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION BEFORE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE ON TOWN MEETING DAY, TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2025

OSSD BOARD CHAIR REPORT

To the Communities of Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield

Greetings. It has been a busy, but productive year here at OSSD, and we are pleased to share this mid-year report with the communities of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph. We started the school year on a positive note by welcoming Michael Clark as our new superintendent. Formerly Superintendent in both the Grand Isle and Essex-Caledonia school districts, Michael comes to us with over two decades of experience in school administration. It has been a pleasure working with him and we are already benefiting from his experience and vision for education. As we approach the middle of the current school year and look ahead to 2025, we'd like to share an update on the work and various activities your school board has undertaken this year. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the community for its engagement and support over the past year. Here are just a few key highlights of our activities during the 2024-25 school year:

Facilities and Maintenance Updates - It is no secret that many of our buildings and facilities are beginning to show their age and improving and maintaining those facilities has become a priority. The RUHS/RTCC school complex, which is now more than 60 years old; and the Brookfield Elementary school are most in need of major repairs and upgrades, and we have begun a conversation on the future of these two buildings. Updates to heating systems, safety measures, and accessibility features have been at the forefront of these discussions and several projects are already underway. These improvements are meant to ensure that our learning environments are safe, comfortable, and conducive to providing a high-quality education. Additionally, we have received and are now reviewing a feasibility study on all four of our school buildings and, again, the results for the RUHS/RTCC complex and Brookfield Elementary warrant a larger, more focused conversation - the primary question being: do we continue to patch and repair these buildings or do we begin thinking about replacing them? An April, 2022 report issued by the Vermont Agency of Education, (which assessed 384 school buildings across the state), determined that Orange Southwest's school buildings were in the worst condition of any district in the state. The feasibility study may be viewed here on the OSSD website -- https://www.orangesouthwest.org/district-resources.

Financial and Operational Updates - In the good news department, our financial situation continues to remain stable, and we have begun discussions around how best to allocate our surplus dollars. To that end, the board agreed to spend a portion of this year's surplus to fund RTCC's Health Careers instructor position. We have also managed to maintain operational continuity this year, despite the kind of staffing shortages that have impacted many Vermont school districts, most notably in bus driver positions. Fortunately, we were able to resolve that issue without too much inconvenience to the community. Keeping our financial and operational houses in order has been a priority this year and we are pleased to report these generally positive results.

Board Membership and Governance - Following the resignation of Braintree representative Katja Evans, we were happy to welcome Rachel Fish to the board this year. We are grateful for Katja's work and contributions over the years, and look forward to working with Rachel in the

months ahead. We have also been actively discussing the inclusion of student representation on the board to enhance our understanding of, and engagement with, student needs and perspectives.

Policy and Procedure Updates - A major initiative this year has been a full review and refining of the district's Ends Policy, which outlines our educational goals and outcomes (e.g. Portrait of a Graduate); and defines our vision for student learning. Other policy and procedure discussions have centered around a new Video Surveillance Policy, which is designed to enhance safety in and around our school buildings while respecting student and staff privacy. Finally, we are considering professional development opportunities like the Policy Governance Board EXCELerator and Maintenance Program to strengthen our governance practices. The Board EXCELerator is an innovative and engaging online learning platform that lets board and staff members understand the role of the board; distinguish between board vs staff decisions; create criteria for success; maximize freedom to innovate and get things done; and know whether the organization is making a difference.

Educational and Community Initiatives - The first half of the current school year has been remarkably smooth, and we've received positive feedback on our in-service trainings, which have focused on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and school safety. Additionally, we successfully launched after-school programs on our RES and Brookfield campuses, with the combined program for Braintree and Randolph students at RES having started on September 16 under the leadership of our new site coordinator, Cory Scoppe.

Looking Ahead - For the balance of the school year we will continue to focus on policy governance training, student engagement, and addressing infrastructure needs as highlighted in our facilities monitoring reports. Upcoming meetings will include discussions on budget timelines, further policy reviews, and upcoming professional development. It is an honor to serve on your school board, and we are committed to guiding our schools forward carefully, diligently, and transparently. We encourage your attendance and participation at our board meetings or through direct communication. Your feedback and expertise is invaluable as we work to provide every student in our district with the best education possible, and in a manner that is both affordable and sustainable.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.
For the Board, Hannah Arias, OSSD Board Chair

Superintendent's Letter

Hello! I'm Michael Clark, and for those whom I have not yet met, I am excited to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of the Orange Southwest School District. With over 28 years in education, including 21 years in school administration, my passion lies in creating vibrant, student-centered learning environments where every child can thrive. Throughout my career, I've served in diverse roles—from high school teacher to principal to superintendent—and I'm dedicated to building supportive communities that foster both academic and personal growth. I hold a Master's in School Leadership from Saint Michael's College, and my previous experience includes leadership roles in the Grand Isle Supervisory Union (superintendent), Essex-Caledonia Supervisory Union (superintendent), Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax (principal), and Colchester High School (assistant principal). My wife Jenna and I are excited to return to Central Vermont and to be part

of this amazing community of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph. I look forward to working with students, families, and staff continue creating a bright future for our district, and I'm always eager to connect and collaborate. Together, we can achieve great things!

Background Information About the Budget and Process

Last year, under a new law called ACT 127, which focused on improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula though changing the weights of students, the Orange Southwest School district experienced a significant increase in our long term weighted average daily membership (LTWADM). For those of you who are unfamiliar with that term, LTWADM is a formula for determining the amount of money "per pupil" the State sends to a school district. This is also called the per pupil weighted average. The increase we received last year was further enhanced by a larger than typical number of families who began the school year qualifying for free or reduced meals due to qualifying for medicaid. As the Covid recovery in Vermont progressed and the Department of Vermont Health Access removed families who were no longer eligible for medicaid, the OSSD has seen our LTWADM drop from 1568.85 to 1384.21. This is despite the fact that our actual Average Daily Membership (ADM) has increased from 800.98 to 802.04 students.

Coupled with this change, we continue to experience historically high property values throughout Vermont. While this is good for property owners in terms of return on investment, it also results in the state requiring residents to pay taxes on that gain in value. As a result of the significant increase property values, the appraised values of homes throughout Vermont are much lower than the actual selling prices, and this has resulted the common level of appraisal (CLA) dropping by more than 10% in all three towns; Braintree 79.57%-68.78%, Brookfield 95.21%-84.23, and Randol 116.37%-103.12%. This has a significant negative impact on tax rates. In response to this, during t 2024 legislative session lawmakers tinkered with the education funding formula by changing how and when the CLA portion of the funding formula is applied to individual towns' education tax rates. Additionally, the legislature reinstated the Excess Spending Threshold, a penalty that double taxes communities on every dollar spent to fund education that exceeds $15,926 per student.

Like just about everyone, including our community's families and businesses, the OSSD is faced with higher costs for many goods and services. Perhaps one of the easiest to understand and most impactful to our budget is the cost of health care premiums. For the 2025-2026 school year, the state-negotiated educator health premiums are increasing 11.9%. These are costs that are out of our control and that have a significant impact on our budget.

With all this in mind, our focus in terms of the 2025-26 budget was straight forward: maintain as many of the programs and systems we've built to support students, staff, and the community while minimizing, as much as possible, the impacts of the current economic climate and the significant increase in property values on our local taxpayers. All of this while making sure we do not exceed the Excess Cost Threshold.

It is important to understand that in order to accomplish our goals we have had to reduce approximately $1,100,000 from what would have been a level service budget (the budget necessary to maintain the programs and services offered in the 2024-2025 school year). Examples of these reductions included:

- replacing a comprehensive human resource director position with an entry level benefits coordinator

- reducing the school nursing staff from 5 full time (FTE) nurses to 3.5 FTEs;
- reducing pre-K classrooms from 4 to 3, resulting in larger class sizes;
- reductions in library para-educator support at Randolph Union, and partial librarian services at Brookfield and Braintree
- the elimination of the late bus; as well as
- the reduction of supplies and services throughout the school district.

I encourage you to review the budget discussions the OSSD Board had at its November, December, and January Board meetings. The December 11, 2024 meeting included a very detailed discussion of each reduction including an explanation. The minutes and a recording of the meeting is available on the OSSD website.

The Bottom Line: Your Tax Rates

Even with these reductions to the level service budget, the overall OSSD budget will increase by $1,598,814, representing a 6.3% budget increase. At this level, our overall "per pupil" LTWADM spending is $15,731, which is a little below the excess spending threshold - an increase of $2,884 per pupil or 22.4%. It is important to note that if the medicaid eligibility determinations (poverty weight) had remained the same as it was in the 2024-2025 school year, the per LTWADM increase would have been 8.03%.

The 6.3% budget increase is driven almost exclusively by factors that are largely out of our control, including the state-negotiated 11.9% increase in health insurance premiums noted above.

FY26 EXPECTED TAX RATE

The table below shows the expected tax rate for each of our towns taking all of the impacts discussed above into account.

Town	2024-25 tax rate*	CLA	2025-26 tax rate*	Annual Impact**	Monthly Impact**
Braintree	$1.6320	68.78%	1.9350	$757	$63.13
Brookfield	$1.3639	84.23%	$1.5801	$540.50	$45.
Randolph	$1.1159	103.12%	$1.2906	$436.75	$36.39

*Per $100 of assessed value **Based upon a $250,000 property value

Note: At the time of this writing, the projected property yield was $11,879 as identified in the Tax Commissioner's letter; final yield will not be available until it is set by the legislature, typically at the end of the legislative session. The final rate yield is set at has a large impact on the projected tax rates used in these calculations.

Surplus and Reserve Funds

In addition to approving the overall budget this March, voters will be asked to determine the use of our surplus funds; therefore, it is important to understand what they are and how they are used by the district to benefit both the students and the taxpayer:

- Surplus funds are unspent monies left over at the end of a budget year.
- Reserve funds are surplus monies the voters have set aside for specific uses in the future. For example, the voters typically approve that some surplus funds go into our facilities reserve account so that we have money available to maintain and repair our buildings when needed without having to borrow the money or ask the taxpayers for more.

Surplus Amount and Proposed Allocations

Article XI asks voters to transfer $1,200,000 in surplus money to the operations reserve fund. A vote of yes on this Article will:

- reduce your taxes over three future fiscal years: $400,000 in 2026-27, $400,000 in 2027-28, a $400,000 in 2028-29.

Article XII asks voters to transfer $970,400 in surplus money to the Building Reserve Fund. A vote of yes on this Article:

- makes funds available to address future unseen building needs or could be used towards building a new building in the future. This will reduce future borrowing costs.

In Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Orange Southwest School District. Every day I have the privilege of witnessing our students, faculty, and staff engaged in exceptional teaching and learning experiences. The resources provided by our community are being put to great use, ensuring that students are growing, learning, and reaching their full potential in impressive ways. Please join me in expressing gratitude to:

- the students for their dedication to learning and their support of one another;
- our faculty and staff for their hard work, dedication, and flexibility in meeting students where th are, while striving to move them forward to reach their greatest potential;
- our administrators for their leadership and problem-solving abilities that help guide us toward success;
- the school board for its commitment to creating the best possible educational environment, while thoughtfully balancing the needs of the community; and
- our parents and the community for your generous support and unwavering commitment to the Orange Southwest School District and the children we serve. Together, we are making a positive impact on the future of our students and our community.

Sincerely, Michael J. Clark - OSSD Superintendent

RTCC DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear RTCC Community,

Career and Technical Education (CTE) will play a vital role in the future economy of Vemont. As the current workforce moves into retirement, Randolph Technical Career Center (RTCC) graduates will be meeting the needs of Vermonters. With our innovative, technology-filled courses and vast learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom, our students will be there for you when you need them most.

Our graduates will be the people who install, repair, and maintain your equipment. They will keep your vehicles safely moving on the road. They will be the people responding to your emergency and medical needs. They will help build your houses and design the products you use inside them. RTCC graduates will fill roles you may not even be aware of needing in the next ten-twenty years. Our students are the future, and we look forward to serving our community!

It is an exciting time to be a CTE student as the job market opens up and welcomes newly graduated students into their chosen fields. Now, more than ever, the demands of our state are being met by RTCC students who become hard workers, business owners, and entrepreneurs.

Current CTE Programs offered at RTCC:
Automotive Technology
Construction Trades & Management
Criminal Justice
Culinary Arts
Diesel Technology
Digital Media Arts
Diversified Agriculture
Education Services (on hold 2025-2026)
Electrical Technology
Health Careers
Design Engineering & Fabrication
Pre-Technical Foundations

An RTCC education is one of Vermont's most diverse educational options for high school students. At RTCC, students can earn Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs) that make them infinitely more marketable to employers. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits while studying their trade. Another opportunity that sets us apart is our Work-Based Learning option which allows students to work during the school day in a career that ties to their program of study. Not only do students earn money during the school day, but they also build their resume and make connections that are priceless. At RTCC, our students leave their program career AND college ready!

Working hard in one's chosen career path also helps young people build character and define their interests. Students who take on a Co-op will build their capacity for learning and leadership, making them more likely to succeed in college and career, down the line.

Our instructors are industry professionals who are specially trained to teach students in this unique setting. They have come to RTCC to inspire and enhance the workforce of tomorrow while simultaneously nurturing the future college-bound engineers, architects, and entrepreneurs of Vermont. They have outstanding, personalized relationships with their students based on our educational model which features a combination of personalized learning, real-world connections, and exemplary role-modeling. Our school has a family atmosphere where all adults in the building are trusted members of a student's team. We share the responsibility for our students' learning, behavior, and overall satisfaction with their experience.

Our teachers have been hand-selected from industry and come from an array of highly skilled careers to mentor and educate our students. We each bring a unique perspective just as each student brings their own life experience and expertise. Together, we are a strongly woven community of continuous learners with an emphasis on safety and support. We offer a truly personalized learning experience for students that prepares them for college and career, and we are proud of our RTCC community of current students, graduates, and employees.

We would like to thank everyone who has chosen RTCC from community members to sending schools. We are proud to be your chosen educational institution. We look forward to bringing new technology, learning experiences, college and career connections, and a continued commitment to our community.

Come and see for yourself what RTCC can offer you!

With gratitude and sincerity, Nika Oakes, RTCC Director

ANNUAL REPORT FOR BRAINTREE ELEMENTARY, BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY, AND RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The elementary schools of the OSSD work closely together to ensure equitable access across the district. Before beginning the academic year, our faculty and staff engaged in a significant amount of professional development around PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) and Responsive Classroom Practices, which focus on the classroom structures that facilitate engaging and safe learning environments. This has been a great way for the whole district to review and get consistent with behavior expectations across the schools.

Teachers across the district are working together to improve instruction and student outcomes. All of the elementary teachers are involved in self-directed action research. These action research teams participated in a showcase of what they have learned and the project they have completed at a January district day. Some faculty chose a different action research for the second half of the year, and some have chosen to continue the research for the rest of the year. District grade level teams also have worked throughout the year on data analysis and goal setting to improve instruction.

Finally, our schools have continued to focus on the math curriculum renewal. Starting two years ago we re-adopted Bridges Math for kindergarten through fifth grade and in sixth grade we adopted Carnegie Math. Teachers are collectively focusing on math launch, the crucial beginning of a math block. They are observing each other through mini-instructional rounds and receiving coaching from the All Learners Network.

The three elementary schools work to support one another and each school has its own personality as well. Each building has areas of specific focus - please keep reading to learn about our individual schools.

Randolph Elementary School

Traditions:

We enjoy many traditions at Randolph Elementary that play a big part in enjoying our school community. We have monthly PBIS assemblies, where we have student leaders kicking off each assembly, we sing our school song, our Wizards of the Month and Rising Stars are acknowledged, and our Unified Classes of the Month are recognized. We celebrate these students and classes together and cheer on all of our winners.

We have a tradition of connecting with our schools across the road. Our tech Department, RTCC hosts a trick-or-treating event for our students each year, and they host the 6th grade girls for the Women in Engineering each year. RUHS has a long-standing tradition of step up

days for our students that are transitioning to middle school. They also host us each year for the annual drama performance. We also are lucky enough to have students from RTCC and RUHS over to RES as mentors and volunteers.

We have an amazing tradition of having our families join us each year for the Thanksgiving Feast. This is a fun chance to have our parents, grandparents, and guardians in to enjoy a delicious meal together.

One of our most loved traditions in the school is our I Love to Read Month in January into February. We have a teacher committee that spends countless hours each year putting the events in this month together for our students. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate reading together!

Our older and younger students connect with each other in a tradition of 'buddy classrooms'. Throughout the year, these classes join up to read, do crafts together, even go on mini-field trips together. The olders and youngers also connect with our older students volunteering to help our younger students get packed up and get to the buses on time.

We have a tradition as well of family evenings throughout the year. Prekindergarten gets together with their families monthly, kindergarten has their chick night, 3rd/4th grade does either an Africa or an Asia night each year, and our 5th/6th graders have at least one concert each year. We really enjoy having our families in school celebrating all of the learning that our students have achieved.

All of our traditions serve the purpose of helping our students to be an important part of our school community.

Parent Teacher Organization:

Our PTO has been serving the school for three years now. This is a strong, committed group of parents that organize families experiences throughout the year. They have hosted movie nights, bingo nights, mini golf nights, and an amazing school dance. Their hard work has brought excitement to our school community. They have also worked to support our teachers and classrooms. They raise money to use on Teacher Appreciation week, they've sponsored fingerprinting evenings for chaperones, and they support the school at our Thanksgiving Feast and Field Day each year. It has been a joy working with these parents to bring so much energy to our school.

Student Leaders

For four years, our third through sixth graders have had the opportunity to apply for leadership positions in the building. They take responsibility for school events and support our building in so many ways. This year, a group of students presented to the School Board about how they apply for positions and what the school leadership positions mean to them.

Brookfield Elementary School

This year, at Brookfield School, we continue to strengthen connections with students, staff and families in addition to members of the Brookfield/Randolph community. We started the year with a strong focus on teaching and practicing expectations and routines in classrooms.

Solidifying these practices is a cornerstone of building a strong and cohesive school community. By consistently practicing routines, students feel secure and empowered, knowing what is expected of them and how they can contribute positively. While this is the primary focus at the beginning of the school year, teachers understand this importance of continuing to reinforce expectations throughout the school year. We have been emphasizing expectations and routines of common, shared spaces in the school during our monthly Community Circles. These practices build trust, promote mutual respect, and allow for more effective collaboration, creating an environment where every student can thrive both individually and as part of the larger classroom community.

Again this year, we continue to increase our community connections through our School Club. The Brookfield School Club has a bigger membership and presence this year than ever before. We are happy to have a group of family members that regularly attend our monthly meetings and plan and facilitate wonderful events for our students both inside and outside of school. This year the Brookfield School Club hosted a Halloween Movie night, facilitated a fun Halloween event at the school where students rotated through fun Halloween themed games and craft stations, and also organized a bake sale at Stowell's Christmas Tree Farm. The group is also preparing for our Sledding and Bonfire event in January along with another bake sale during the Brookfield Town Meeting. Funds collected from our bake sales will be used to fund our Artist in Residence, Brendan Taffe, to teach our students contra dancing in May with a traditional contra dance at the end of the week for families to join.

We continue to have various community members share their talents with our students, enriching their learning experiences in unique ways. For example, Deonne teaches yoga to our students once a month, and Mary Lake recently introduced them to Icelandic sheep, their wool, and the art of wool felting. We continue to work with Anne and Misse as a part of our Farm to School lessons to bring local foods and farming systems and sustainability to life for our students. In January, Catie Winters will join us to share her knowledge about herbs and their benefits for the body. These opportunities, combined with cherished traditions like our Thanksgiving Feast, Holiday Sing-Along, and reinstating the school and district Spelling Bee, foster a strong sense of community within our school. Student committees and monthly Community Circle celebrations further enhance this connection by recognizing students with PAWS awards for exemplifying our school rules. By emphasizing inclusivity, shared traditions, and open communication, our small school community thrives as a safe, engaging, and enriching place for everyone.

Braintree Elementary

Academic Excellence & Outdoor Learning

Braintree Elementary was proudly named the #6 elementary school in Vermont, a recognition that reflects the dedication of our exceptional teachers and staff. Our educators go above and beyond to craft engaging, differentiated lessons that meet the diverse needs of all learners. Collaboration among classroom teachers, interventionists, and support staff ensures every student receives a rigorous, holistic education, grounded in care and high expectations.

Our beautiful 17-acre campus serves as an extension of our classrooms, with each grade level

having access to its own outdoor space. On any given day, you might find preschoolers stirring up imaginative "recipes" in the mud kitchen, primary students measuring the growth of plants or counting seeds, or older students writing poems under the shade of a tree while observing nature. Whether they're capturing the rhythm of a brook in a haiku, calculating the area of a garden bed, or sketching wildlife, these activities deepen students' connection to the natural world. They foster creativity, critical thinking, and a hands-on understanding of math, science, and language arts.

This year, students and community members alike have benefited from the opening of our new ADA-accessible trail, which connects our outdoor classrooms and makes our campus more welcoming for all. Students are also collaborating with local found-metal artist Troy Kingsbury to create sculptures for the trail and community spaces, bringing art and nature together in inspiring ways.

Social Emotional Learning

This year, we have prioritized social-emotional learning (SEL) to help students build critical life skills such as responsibility, cooperation, and a growth mindset. Our SEL team leads a coordinated effort to integrate these themes throughout the school. Each month, we focus on a specific skill, supported by resources and classroom lessons. The SEL team delivers lessons in classrooms, responds to emerging student needs, and provides resources for families to support these skills at home.

This intentional work not only strengthens our school community but equips students with the tools to navigate challenges and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

STEM

Braintree continues to prepare students for the future with a growing focus on STEM. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is a permanent part of our specials rotation, offering students opportunities to explore design thinking and the engineering design cycle. This year, National STEM Day featured hands-on stations focusing on the neurology of growth mindset, the beauty of thin film interference, and the excitement of coding robots.

Our STEM lab is evolving to meet student needs and interests, with expanded tools ranging from traditional hand tools to high-tech equipment. These resources empower students to tackle projects in their preferred style, whether through "old school" craftsmanship or "new school" innovation. These experiences teach persistence, problem-solving, and collaboration—skills essential for success in any field.

Enrichment Opportunities

At Braintree, we strive to expose students to a wide and beautiful world. Through residencies and guest programs, students engage with diverse cultures, perspectives, and art forms. This year, we welcomed musicians from Mozambique, Mali, and Egypt, who used their art to teach about global traditions and foster cultural understanding. In the spring, students will enjoy a residency with No Strings Marionettes, deepening their exposure to storytelling and creativity.

Our Farm to School program plays a key role in enriching students' learning experiences,

giving them the opportunity to grow, harvest, cook, and enjoy fresh produce. Through the Braintree Blossoms farmstand, students create, market, and sell items like applesauce, granola, and items made by community members on consignment. Intermediate students take on leadership roles, running the farmstand as a small business—setting prices, organizing inventory, and even completing financial analyses. These activities not only support academic learning but also foster independence, teamwork, and practical life skills while strengthening connections to the community.

Student leadership remains a priority at Braintree. Our Student Council meets monthly to plan school-wide events, such as PBIS celebrations and Spirit Weeks. While after-school programs have shifted, we continue to provide tutoring opportunities that support academic growth beyond the school day.

These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering student engagement and growth, both inside and outside the classroom. As we continue to adapt and expand opportunities for our students, we remain focused on building a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Randolph Union Middle High School Annual Report 2025

Once again, I am pleased to report that we are moving in a positive direction. Over my tenure, we have faced challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic and challenges related to our physical plant. Through all of those challenges and more, the team at Randolph Union Middle High School has continued to collaborate and support our students, families, each other, and community to create sustainable systems to address needs proactively and in a timely manner when they arise unexpectedly.

Administrative Restructuring

For the past few years, we have worked diligently to use the resources we have to improve student outcomes. We as a school have not grown in terms of the number of positions in the past four years. We have, however, at times, adjusted the roles and responsibilities of staff related to the needs of our students, as expressed by students, staff, and families. Last year, we were struggling to fill the Associate Principal position when advertised as a Dean of Students position; we saw an opportunity when our Director of Targeted Supports, who case managed 504 plans and oversaw Advanced Placement and state testing, as well as local assessments chose to move on. We were able to shift our long-time Student Assistance Program counselor into the Dean of Students role at the same time, allowing us to meet the needs of our students and school without adding positions. In addition to engaging in follow up and investigation related to Title IX and Hazing, Harassment, and Bullying investigations, the team supports staff in the daily operations of keeping the school running smoothly.

Overall, the work we are doing is showing effectiveness. Herb Perez, our Associate Principal, is collecting data through testing, ensuring 504 Plan compliance, and has 3 support blocks scheduled into his day, every day, for students on 504 plans who need academic support. Colin Andrzejczyk, our Dean of Students, has been focused on discipline. His approach blends behavioral health support models with good old-fashioned boundary setting, and we are seeing

results. In October, we saw a spike in behaviors, which we expect as students get comfortable with new classes, teachers, and expectations. In October, there were a total of 202 discipline referrals across all categories. In November, there were 100, most of which were related to unauthorized cell phone use for both months. Our December data is not yet finalized, but those numbers show another steep drop. This year, with our current structure, students and families are generally notified the day an infraction occurs, and we can hold them accountable in a timely manner, which is a best practice.

We have been working to support behavior in ways that allow all students equitably access their education and create an environment where students can express themselves and take healthy risks. Our work in this regard, a multi-year endeavor, is paying off.

Curriculum

Our staff continues to work on developing a highly engaging curriculum. This can be seen across our curriculum in all corners of the building and beyond. Our staff have continued to center the needs of our world and community as they craft a curriculum that our students will engage in. This can be seen in our biology and marine ecology classes as students focus on food systems and how the health of our planet can contribute to the health of our food systems and, therefore, ourselves, to marine ecology classes where students study the health of our oceans and the impact that the ocean has on the overall health of our planet. In our Social Studies classes, students learn about our systems of government and how the past impacts our everyday lives. Math has continued to work on skill-building related to mathematical thinking and reasoning and has built electives related to computer science, robotics, and engineering. Our English department continues to blend skill-building with relevant content material and self-expression.

Additionally, our students develop a strong sense of belonging and connection through their work in our classes. Whether through our Project-Based learning program, our Innovation Center, Visual and Performing Arts, or Outdoor Education, our students learn to be critical thinkers and creative problem solvers while being caring and connected community members.

We are also in the second year of bringing back our On Your Own program, which helps our older students learn important life skills. Historically, this class was a staple in the Randolph Union High School Course Catalog and was brought back in response to students and families identifying that this class is a necessary part of the curriculum. While this is still not a graduation requirement, it will be for the class of 2027. Students have responded well to this class and have been positive about it.

Behavior

We have continued to strengthen our systems related to supporting positive student behavior. This multifaceted approach begins with creating strong relationships with students and families. Our Advisory program, with the associated Student Led Conferences and Portfolio Defenses, is one way we create a sense of belonging and self-efficacy. Beyond that, we work with students through highly engaging classes to help teach the skills related to self-regulation and how to be in community with others.

Our Leadership Team has also worked to create a behavior matrix and systems of support to help students understand and stay within the behavioral norms and expectations our community has for them. These systems have led to a smooth start to this school year, and we anticipate that we will continue to build these systems to support our students so that everyone has a positive environment in which to learn.

Through co-curricular programming, we also continue to focus on career readiness skills, including integrity and resilience. Our students continue to learn and grow through these programs held after school hours. We have been very fortunate in the past year, with the support of the OSSD Tech Hub leadership, to add E-Sports to our co-curricular offerings.

As behavior has become more positive and aligned with community expectations, we have focused staff attention on curriculum, instruction, and assessment more thoroughly. As we have created a greater sense of safety and community, we have also been able to re-align our focus on learning.

Community

Each year, we continue to make more community connections. Much of this work happens through the PBL program. As students structure their project-based learning opportunities, they learn valuable skills that will help them whether they pursue learning at the Randolph Technical Career Center or complete a Senior Project. Our students connect with adults throughout our community to show what the community's support has allowed them to do. Additionally, this gives our students a sense of purpose and belonging; these projects help them understand the positive impact they can have on the world around them. Whether they teach elementary school students about aquatic life or host a community dinner to share what they have learned about food insecurity or ways to support greater equity in our community, they are having an impact.

It is an honor and pleasure to work with our students. Each day presents new challenges and triumphs. Please reach out if you want to know more about Randolph Union and the work that happens here each day!
Sincerely,
Lisa Manning Floyd
Principal

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NOTES

Town of Brookfield
P. O. Box 463
Brookfield, Vermont 05036

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