



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 24

FEBRUARY 2018

The BUZZ WORD



Muggy showing Sebastian a few dance moves



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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Dear VVH Friends,

Genesis 8:22 declares-

"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Many tend to get a bit anxious at this time of year waiting for winter to end and the first flowers of spring to bloom. And although we are past the middle of winter season, spring still seems a far way off. This seems to say a great deal about human nature. We so often are burdened with that old adage- *"hurry up and wait."* We spend so much time waiting and (at the same time) getting impatient. The thing is, waiting is something that the Lord calls us to do from time to time, and the reward of waiting is a great blessing! Someone once said-

"Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come."

You see, God's timing is not our own and that is why we so often have difficulty in waiting. But rest assured, spring will indeed follow even the hardest of winters, summer will come and autumn as well. We need only to wait. And whether we wait in joyful anticipation or worrisome handwringing, it all comes in God's good time. "God's delays are not God's denials," we are reminded, and so wait and wait prayerfully. In the words of the Apostle Paul *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."* [Philippians 4:6]

God is there in every season and He is there for you!

Blessings,

Pastor Richard McSherry

Time to put on
your best
poker face



FOOSBALL ANYONE ?! We are enjoying a foosball table that was just donated. It didn't take us long to start breaking it in. What Fun!



THANK YOU !!





Did you know? The Veterans' Home has a team of healthcare providers that not only includes medical and nursing staff, but also includes a consultant pharmacist. As the consultant pharmacist one of our most important roles is to assist the facility with proper medication utilization with a focus on antibiotics as part the facility "Antibiotic Stewardship Program".

The pharmacist's role as a team member of the infection control program includes and is not limited to:

- 1) Assist in staff and resident education about different types of antibiotics
- 2) Review antibiotic prescriptions as part of the drug regimen to avoid medication interactions, limit and monitor for side effects and ensure proper, safe and effective therapy outcomes.
- 3) Review microbiology culture results and provide feedback to prescribers to assist in proper antibiotic selection based on antibiotic resistance patterns.

It is important to know and remember that our team is persistent, educated and well positioned to provide the residents of the Veterans' Home the most effective infection control program we can provide and appreciate your participation and attention to this important program.

Respectfully,

Robert G Kewley, Pharmacist Consultant

Reminders from "The Germ Team @ VVH"

We are in Flu Season now. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the United States between December and March.

REMINDERS: Please wash your hands before you eat, after using rest rooms, entering and leaving VVH, to name a few. Hand sanitizer is available by all entrances at VVH, and in all Veteran/Member rooms.

HAND WASHING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN ALL DO TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

Your friendly IP, Patricia Babcock, RN



VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - 1:30 P.M.

PATRIOT HALL



MUSIC BY: HARMONIC DUO



REFRESHMENTS

PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES

From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



It is “budget season” at VVH. Al, Steve, and I have spent time in Montpelier and on various conference calls providing information on our FY 19 budget (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). We will know in the end of April or beginning of May if our budget is passed as proposed. I strongly encourage each of you to write your State Representatives and Senators expressing the importance of caring for our Veterans, not just at VVH, but across the State.

I am once again going to ask that you maintain your speed on the property to no more than 15 miles per hour and obey all traffic signs. I have noticed many cars failing to stop at the stop signs and traveling at a great rate of speed. I would hate for one of our Veterans, members, staff or visitors to get injured due to this issue.

Al and I will be traveling to Washington, DC to attend the National Association of State Veterans Homes Winter Conference. In addition to learning about best practices, we will be meeting with Vermont’s Congressional Delegation to provide an update on the Home and the great work the staff does each and every day.

Melissa A. Jackson, BSW, LNHA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans’ Home
www.vvh.vermont.gov

ATTENTION: NEW MEDICARE CARD ARRIVING IN 2018

In an effort to help reduce identity theft, the federal government is removing social security numbers from Medicare cards. The new cards will have an individual identification number. It is very important the facility receive a copy of this new card to ensure timely and accurate billing. Please drop off or mail a copy of the card to our Finance Office.

PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL ON SIDEWALKS

Environmental Services will focus on clearing the **4 MAIN ENTRANCES FIRST**, then work their way around to secondary sidewalks after storms are done.

PLEASE use the following:

FRONT ENTRANCE

B-WING ENTRANCE

EAST WING ENTRANCE

CRISPE ROOM ENTRANCE

On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

Green Mtn. Post 1 - American Legion Riders
Paul & Barbara Strielkauskas
Red Mtn. Chapter Order of the Eastern Star
Bennington American Legion
Donna Kelly
Crafting Club of the Missionary Alliance Church
Bobbie Faxon-McLaughlin
R. Phoenix
American Legion Auxiliary-Unit #90
Nancy Williams
Stuart Bartow
Bill & Rose Wolfe
Bennington Mission
Ruth Grandy
Randolph American Legion Post #9
Thomas Ganse & Marlene Black
Barbara Sarvis
Harned-Fowler VFW Post #6471
Rolling Thunder VT1-Jeff Neipp
Louise James
District 1 VFW Dept. of VT - Steve Leach
Bennington Lions Club
Springfield Elks Lodge #1560
Stuart Selikowitz
Marcus Martinelli
Andrew & Susan Nutting
Lawrence & Beverly Schilling
Daniel & Gail Smith
Bennington Elks Club
VFW Auxiliary Post #778
John Coffin
Linda & Michael diMonda
Cub Scouts of Bennington Pack 353
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #50
Grace Christian School Students
Avery Galle & Colleen Ahearn
VFW District 4
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
DAV Auxiliary Bennington Chapter #4
Constance Bourgeois
Sandra Bishop
Armand Rousseau
Sandra Sheldon

Events Calendar

February:

11th Valentine's Dance, 1:30 p.m.
Patriot Hall

13th Music with Sheila, 2:00 p.m.
Patriot Hall

April 1st at 11:30 a.m. Easter Lunch

(Music with Sheila will be the 2nd
Tuesday of every month at 2:00 p.m.)

CORRECTION:

The Tray Favors were from the American Legion Riders Post 39. Pictured are Auxiliary member Carol Bunce and their Commander Steve Betit. Please accept our sincere apologies for the error.



In Memory of David Eldred

Allen & Valerie Eldred

In Memory of Fred Ringwood

Ronald Jensen - friends of deer camp

In Memory of William Praetorius

Kathleen Praetorius

In Memory of Ralph Andrew

Lee & Susan Harrington
Gloria Martinez
Patricia Hayes
James & Colleen Monahan
Frank & Linda Redden
Paul Garrison
Donald Marsh
Mary Burdick



From Deputy Administrator—Colonel Al Faxon

To our Veterans residing at the Vermont Veterans' Home...this seems like a good time to thank you for your service to our great nation. We are between Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, calendar reminders for others to thank you for your service. Yet here at VVH, I view every day as Veteran's Day and am extremely grateful to those who have gone before me.

Without you, and those like you, we would not enjoy the many freedoms we have in our lives. We currently have WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan Veterans here...wow. Vermont sure does produce a warrior class of hardy individuals.

I often contemplate what the world would be like if men and women such as you didn't step forward and defend those who could not defend themselves; the end result is not a pleasant thought.

As winter continues with its cold snowy weather, please know we are extremely grateful for your service, and I to know you personally.

Thanks for stepping up!

S/F

AF



A SALUTE TO MILITARY BRATS via THE DANDELION—PART 3

The humble dandelion is interwoven into our history, our myths, legends and folklore. It is a favorite topic of poets. Festivals around the country are held every year in celebration of this priceless gift nature and the Puritans have given us. Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked, "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." Dandelion virtues, however, have been known since ancient times and its many virtues are still being discovered.

The dandelion can be a lifesaving plant during famine and war. Hundreds of thousands of malnourished, starving people in the throes of WWII owe their survival, partially, to the unpretentious dandelion. In his memoir *Dandelions for Dinner* Sam P. Stamatis tells a "horror" story of "youth, family, poverty, and unjust loss" and ultimate survival in Greece during the Nazi occupation of his small town; and yes, they often ate dandelions for dinner to survive; along with nettles, ferns, mushrooms, lobster, dandelions are "famine foods." Nutritious and abundant, the dandelion was a savior for many.

A severe shortage of rubber arose during WWII when a fungus attacked the SE Asian rubber trees. Since huge quantities were necessary for planes, tanks, jeeps, ships etc. a substitute was sought. Allies and the Axis powers began to experiment with dandelion latex for a new source; but the war ended and natural rubber became available once again. The investigation into a dandelion rubber possibility stopped. However, today scientists are again looking to the dandelion and its natural latex as a resource for producing rubber tires and even as a natural source for ethanol. Once again corn can be grown to be put on our dinner plates instead of into our gas tanks!

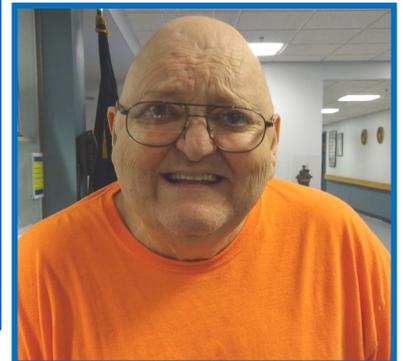
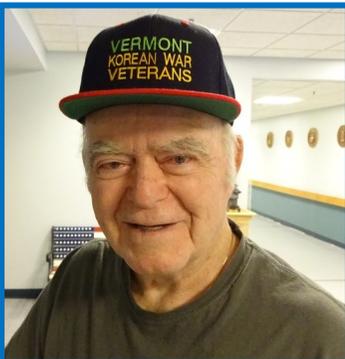
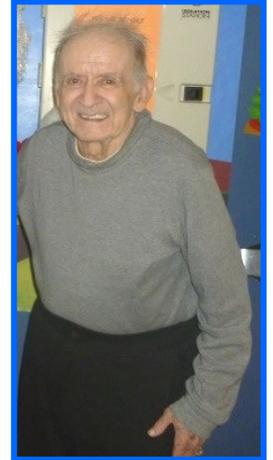
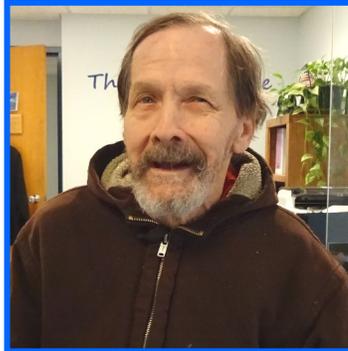
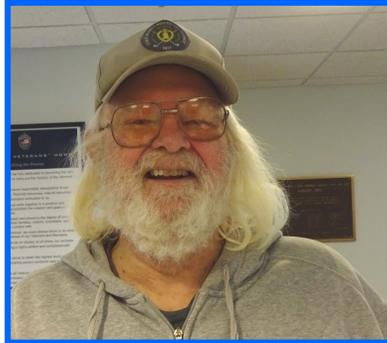
TO BE CONTINUED: This is Part 3 of a 5 part monthly series written by our very own weekend receptionist, Marion Ryberg. Look for Part 4 in the March 2018 issue of the Buzz Word!

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SHELTER VISIT



THE SOOTHING SOUND OF VIOLINS

SOME CANDID PHOTOS



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ◆ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ◆ Email
- ◆ Mailing List

Please contact:

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VVH WISH LIST

Pinball Machine/Game
Air Hockey Table/Game
Neck Pillows
I-Pods & I-Tune Cards
CD Players
Newspaper Subscriptions
Costume Jewelry
Stamps
(New) Men's Caps
(New) Men's Belts and Suspenders
Earphones for TV and Music
Outdoor Benches

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

THANK YOU

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will NOT be accepting books, magazines or clothing at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**

HALE MOUNTAIN PICKERS ENTERTAIN OUR RESIDENTS



HALE MTN
PICKERS

REMINDER:

When new clothing, apparel, or personal items are brought in by family members or guests for our residents, the items need to be labeled. Please bring such items to the resident's nurse's station for them to be processed for labeling. This will prevent delays and ensure items are returned to the residents from the Laundry/Housekeeping Department. Thank you for your help.

Sightings have been made of the beautiful Eagle in a tree overlooking Charron Pond. He's pretty easy to spot due to his large size. He doesn't seem to mind having his picture taken-- probably too busy looking at all those big trout in the pond!



TWIG REMEMBERS... Bill Eaton

I knew his mom and dad first. Old George was always sitting on the front porch and you knew he always had a drink on hand. Every time we'd drive up the street, dad would toot the horn. If Stella was out front, he would give her a toot, too. When my dad passed on, I continued with toot and yell, and Stella told my aunt "I love that Twig, he always toots".

I first met Bill as we both had summer jobs at Maplewood Dairy. His oldest son Steve was about 15 and was my helper for the summer.

Bill taught social studies at MSJ in Rutland and was the baseball coach. Mike Barsalow and he rode to Rutland together and became best friends.

My favorite Bill Eaton story happened on a Sunday when I pulled in my yard coming from the store. Bill came out of the shortcut from his house on the next street through Kandi Ramey's driveway. He knocked on my car window and said "Twig, can you do me a favor? I'm supposed to be reading a script at the catholic church and I slept over. Could you give me a lift?" He got in and I said, "Yes, but it's going to cost you-one good turns another." "What's the deal?" he asked. I said, "I want you to read a sermon from Twig, it's from the Bible". "Oh, great!" he replied.

In my deepest Bible voice I said, "Jesus called Moses forth" and then in my softest comedic voice I added that Moses slipped on a banana peel and came in second. Then I heard, "Brother Twig, I don't think I'll be able to do that one". And then I told him that old Charlie Daley told me that when I was hanging around with his son, Mark, sixty years ago.

You get what I mean... "Twig Remembers"

Robert "Twig" Canfield



Representatives from the Greater Bennington USBC Women's Bowling Association Evelyn Rabideau-Director, Colleen Gates-President and Phyllis Cornell-Association Manager, stopped by and presented a \$700 check to The Vermont Veterans' Home (VVH) Activities Department. The funds were raised through raffles and donations. (not pictured: Linda Cassano-Director)



Pictured from left to right: Al Faxon-COO of VVH, Evelyn Rabideau, Colleen Gates, Michele Burgess-Activities Director of VVH, Phyllis Cornell, and Melissa Jackson-CEO of VVH.

THANK YOU to all in the community that contributed!!