

The

**BUZZ**

**WORD**

Volume **11** Issue 4  
April 2020



A friendly game of chess



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**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.**

*For any Further Questions Please Contact:*

**Robyn Boland, Executive Assistant**  
**robyn.boland@vermont.gov**  
**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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## *From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*



To Residents and Family Members:

We know you are concerned about the spread of the 2019 coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it may impact us here at the Vermont Veterans' Home (VVH). **Ensuring residents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment is our greatest concern and top priority.**

Currently, we don't have any cases here at VVH. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Governor Phil Scott have issued regulatory guidance and an Executive Order to help reduce the potential spread of the virus. The major aspect of both the regulatory guidance and the Executive Order support VVH's decision to implement a "No Visitor" policy. This policy is now required by federal regulation and the Governor's Executive Order.

We realize this requirement places a hardship on our Veterans and Members as well as their family members. We can provide Facetime and Skype access, as well as regularly scheduled phone calls between you and your loved one at VVH. Each of these options can be arranged by contacting your loved one's Social Worker.

Our Medical Director, Dr. King, will begin to send out regular facility updates. These updates will be generic in nature, no Veteran or Member information will be shared. If you are interested in receiving these emails please send your request to [vvh.admissions@vermont.gov](mailto:vvh.admissions@vermont.gov). We will not share your contact information with anyone.

Did you know VVH has a Facebook page? Please search for "The Vermont Veterans' Home" and like our page. We will be posting regular updates, pictures and videos of life at VVH under these new rules.

VVH is following the recommendations from the CDC and CMS on prevention steps, including following strict handwashing procedures, screening all employees at the start of each shift, and in many circumstances, wearing gowns and gloves when interacting with residents who are sick. We also are following CDC recommendations as they are updated. In addition, VVH is in close contact with the local and state health departments and are following their guidance.

We will notify you if any residents or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: 802-447-6510 or at [Melissa.jackson@vermont.gov](mailto:Melissa.jackson@vermont.gov).

For additional information, please visit the CDC's coronavirus disease information page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community.

With gratitude,  
Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA  
Chief Executive Officer

## *From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon*



With uncertainty all around us, the American people are stepping up and meeting a new enemy, the coronavirus, and as a nation we are on the offense. I am extremely proud of our staff here at the Vermont Veterans' Home regarding how we are pulling together, protecting and watching out for each other as we care for our Veterans and Members. This virus is the enemy, and those working here are the Warriors!

In the meantime, life has changed, and it has done so rapidly.

The term "social distancing" is new to me, nevertheless, I now use this phrase in conversation daily. This idea of social distancing has become part of our lives for the time being.

I mentioned to staff one morning, how going to combat was always edgy relative to the unknown until you deployed and met the enemy. You knew you were trained properly and had the finest group of warriors with you; thus, you were ready to take on the adversary.

We know who the enemy is, COVID-19, coronavirus, or Chinese Virus... I don't care what the name is, we know the enemy and will meet it head-on. We will combat this with an incredible staff alongside our residents, who are a group of individuals who have trained for an enemy before, only this time it is on the Homeland and invisible. No matter, strap on the gear. Not rifles and bullets, but hand washing, social distances, and a lot of common sense and teamwork.

This is a battle we will win, and I am honored to do it with our amazing staff and residents who have closed with and destroyed the enemy before.

Semper Fi  
AF



Edgar Lemieux accepts Red Sox Calendars from Dave Zsido and Jim White. Looking on are Al Faxon, COO and Michele Burgess, Activities Director.





Coloring



Virtual Tours



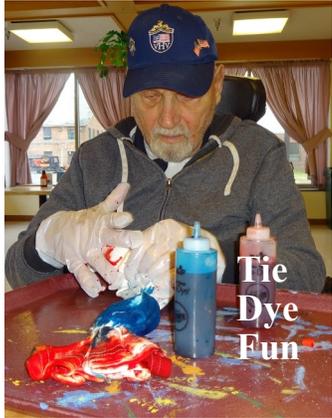
Hello



Out



There



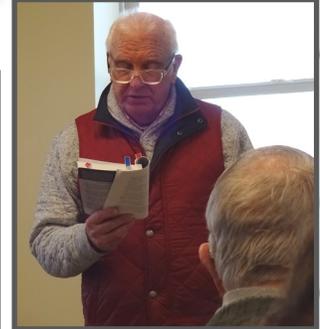
Tie Dye Fun



Fresh Air

**Keeping Busy—** Activities Department provides a variety of things for our Veterans & Members

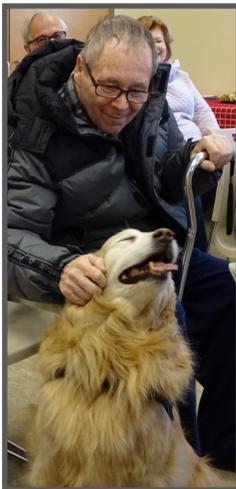
A Trip to the Arlington Second Chance Animal Shelter and visits with some furry pals



Look at the smiles!

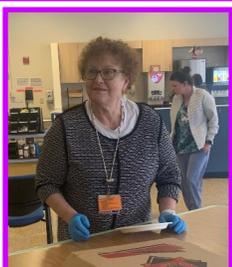
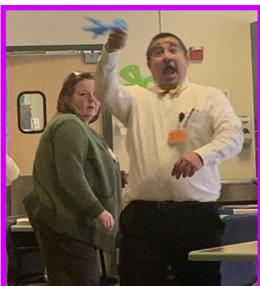
Veterans were greeted with puppy love while listening to stories about the unspoken bond of friendship.

Relationships with pets have helped Veterans deal with PTSD, anxiety and other disorders associated with trauma during the tour of service. Love from pets is unconditional.





## Who Doesn't Like Cotton Candy? Partying on Cardinal Point



Thank You For Your  
Hard Work & Dedication.

The Administration  
acknowledged the Staff with a  
pizza party, trimmings and  
dessert (of course) for their  
extraordinary selfless service  
to the Veterans and Members.

## April Fun Facts

### The BIRTHSTONE is a diamond.

The diamond is thought to be the hardest substance found on earth and its meaning is linked to the invincible or untamable. It is associated with romance, mystery, power and magic. People who wear diamonds are supposedly happier in relationships, more successful at work and build strength from within. Other benefits may include mental clarity, balance and prosperity.



### ZODIAC SIGNS are

#### Aries the Ram (March 21– April 19)

If you are an **Aries**, you are a Fire sign.

The ram represents independence, courage, energy, and assertiveness but may also be impatient. An Aries can be reckless and a little selfish but enjoys challenges and adventures and is good-natured person.



#### Taurus the Bull (April 20-May 20).

If you are a **Taurus**, you are

an Earth sign. The Bull is persevering, down-to-earth, prosperous and dependable but can be stubborn, determined and possessive. A Taurus may have quite a temper but is usually a calm and peaceful person.



The **FLOWER** is the daisy or the sweet pea. If you prefer the **daisy**, the white petals mean purity and innocence or new beginnings. It is a blend of two types of flowers, the white petals and the yellow center which can be interpreted as true love, two flowers blended in harmony. One very interesting trait is that a person born in April can keep a secret.



The **sweet pea** signifies blissful pleasure and positive energy and a sense of optimism. It sends a message of how life is beautiful and that people should be kind and respectful and that distance and time are no threats to a loving relationship. It is also associated with good-bye, whether on friendly or unfriendly terms. The sweet pea helps the separations be as nice and as smooth as possible.

## Donation of Art Supplies

TIE DYE KITS!

WATERCOLOR PAPER

COLORS

PAINTS and BRUSHES

SKETCH PADS

WATER

Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 donated a variety of art supplies to the Veterans. Graciously accepting the gifts are Dino and Natasha, LNA.



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

Vergennes Post #14  
The Old First Church Children's Education  
Springfield Elks #1560  
Sons of the American Legion- Squadron #69  
His Pantry  
Staples  
VFW Riders Post #1332  
Gunner's Playground  
Mary-Lou Wheeler  
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
Disabled American Vets  
Disabled American Vets Auxiliary  
Dennis & Marcelaine McCarthy  
Olga M. Dunn  
Alice M. Young  
Edward F. LaPorte  
Paul D. Mooney  
Richard H. Cook  
Helen Butler  
Ethel M. Raney  
Norman G. Wilder  
American Legion Post #69  
Walter & Colleen Huysman  
American Legion Post #49  
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit #90  
VFW Post #1332  
DAV Auxiliary Bennington Chapter #4  
VFW District #4

**In Loving Memory of Jennie LaBrake**  
Fred LaBrake

**In Loving Memory of Alfred Dunfee**  
Michael & Lynda Schubert  
Anabelle D. Lupo

**In Loving Memory of Nathan Haverstock**  
Mark Demasi  
Irene Stadick  
Elizabeth Cardosi

**In Loving Memory of Robert Martin**  
Anonymous cash

**In Loving Memory of Richard Belluzzi**  
Richard & Dianne Bolza

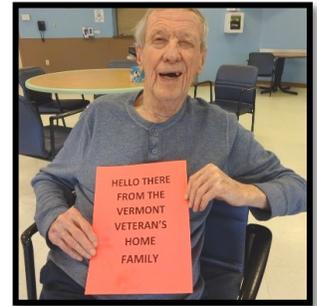
**In Loving Memory of Richard Vachon**  
Coleen Eason

**In Loving Memory of Raymond Dana**  
Paul & Barbara Connors  
Gara & Alfred Connors

**In Loving Memory of Joseph Mezowicz**  
Esther Herrick

# Events Calendar

Due to the current health concerns of our Nation, all activities have been postponed. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to resume our programs in the near future.



Melissa Jackson, CEO, accepts a check for the Veterans Assistance Fund from the Sons of the American Legion given by Steve McClafferty.



The Friends of the Vermont Veterans' Home recently donated a Pin Ball machine. A Veteran enjoys a few rounds without a single "TILT".

## THE BUZZ WORD

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

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)  
Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait  
(802) 447-6510  
Email: [Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov](mailto:Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov)

## VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles  
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows  
CD Players  
I-Tune Cards  
Costume Jewelry  
Body Pillows  
Newspaper Subscriptions  
Stamps  
Outdoor Benches  
Earphones for TV and Music  
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

**Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:**

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

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

**THANK YOU**

We are looking for people with music talent and/or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our Veterans and Members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at [michele.burgess@vermont.gov](mailto:michele.burgess@vermont.gov) or call 802-447-6520.

## 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, puzzles, magazines, VCR tapes, CDs or DVDs or clothing at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH. \*\***

# Happy Easter!

Can you help the Easter Bunny so he can deliver this Easter basket?

Connect the dots from 1 to 80!



© 2012 OTC

Sunshine and HURRICANES  
Smart Parenting with Purpose

## Easter Word Search

M U Q O E U A P E I C P  
X H Y W E O E E G S A U  
G I P S P R I N G M C J  
C H O C O L A T E C B B  
P C Y U G E Z O B H A C  
E S P A R R C N U I S F  
E K I U A H O O N C K A  
P H E A S T E R N K E M  
S E U Y S G O G Y S T I  
Y S B N F L O W E R S L  
F M R S T E R V O I D Y

GRASS	CHICKS	FAMILY	FLOWERS
EASTER	BASKETS	SPRING	CHOCOLATE
HUNT	BUNNY	EGGS	PEEPS



## Easter Jokes



**Why shouldn't you tell an Easter Egg a joke?**  
Because it might crack up.

**How does a Pirate find Easter treasure?**  
Eggs mark the spot.

**How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur neat?**  
With a hare brush.

**How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?**  
He EGG-xercises.

**What do you call an egg from outer space?**  
An EGG-straterrestrial.

**What does a Pirate call a rabbit with fleas?**  
Bugs Bunny.

## Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

So sorry not to be able to come in and visit during these trying days. My doctors at the VA Hospital have advised me to stay at home until this pandemic is under control.

One thing is for sure, God knows about this issue and is in charge. He has turned on the very best scientists, doctors and specialists to come up with the treatments and virus killer to rid the world of this disease.

You must all be thankful for the Veterans' Home staff who are doing everything they can to keep you from being stricken by the COVID-19 virus. They are making significant sacrifices to give you the care you deserve. Please pray for them as they work long hours to do their super important duties.

Let's all be thankful that we are Americans, believe in one ever-living and true God and are willing to refrain from clustering, maintaining space from others and keeping our hands clean.

I hope to be able to visit soon.  
God bless, Chaplain Ken Coonradt

