

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume **11**
August 2020



UNIQUE CELEBRATION: a resident celebrates her 98th birthday while visiting with loved ones.



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:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson

Last week Secretary Smith announced that nursing homes would receive guidance that would allow nursing homes to allow group activities, communal dining and indoor visitation. This is a four-phase process. Each nursing home has to individually meet certain requirements to move to the next phase. Prior to moving from one phase to another, VVH must provide documentation and policies regarding our movement between phases to various State Agencies.

We are currently working to move into Phase 2 which allows for communal dining and small group activities on the neighborhoods. Phase 4 allows VVH to have the option of indoor visits and our plan is to have everything in place for this to happen before the fall.

VVH has been given the discretion to move through the phases at a pace we feel is best for our facility. It is not our plan to intentionally draw out this process but to plan our movement from one phase to another deliberately with the focus on maintaining the lowest risk of COVID-19 exposure to our Veterans, Members and Staff.

When we are ready to move into Phase 2, we will notify families via an email, information on our website site and Facebook page, and a message from our emergency notification line. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we prepare and move through the various phases. Please let me know if you have questions and concerns.

Take Care and Stay Safe!

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans' Home
www.Vvh.vermont.gov



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Joseph Krawczyk presented Retirement Plaques to Wesley Mook (left) and Dr. Richard Dundas (right) thanking them and expressing appreciation for their many years serving on the Board. Due to the Coronavirus, the informal event was held outside by the Memorials at VVH.

From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon



Outdoor Jazz Concert

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we have not had the activities and events occurring at our Home that usually fill our summer calendar.

Various organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Elks, State Line Auto Club, and others are usually here throughout the season hosting picnics, car shows, fishing derby's, concerts, and visitations.

They come to honor you and provide thanks for your service to our great Nation. Knowing they could not visit in person and hold events, they have called to see how you are and to express their collective remorse at not being able to visit you.

The Vermont Veterans' Home looks remarkable this time of year, with its extensive property, deer park, War Memorial, trout pond, athletic fields, etc... It is truly the "Gem of Bennington," as Col. Joe Krawczyk, President of the Board of Trustees, has stated on many occasions.

Thus, I would like to acknowledge all of you who maintain the grounds of our wonderful home in the manner you do.

Anyone who visits our property for the first time is awed by the landscaping and beauty of the surroundings. To our Environmental Department, you do an amazing job maintaining the property and keeping the grounds trimmed and spruced up, and I recognize this effort is never-ending.

Therefore... for all of us living, working, or visiting the Vermont Veterans' Home... **Thank you!**

*Semper Fi
AF*



American Legion Aux.
Rutland Unit #31



To the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #31 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #19 for the donations made by Members and their communities. These donations provide our Veterans and Members with a better quality of life.

We appreciate you thinking of VVH!



American Legion Dept. of VT Unit #19

Chaplain's Corner

Howdy Folks,

We are still under the terrible burden of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still not free to come and go like we were used to doing up until this virus hit us with a striking blow. Was it a play by the devil or something like what the world elements create occasionally? (earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) Perhaps it is one of those burdens that God has placed on us which He wants us to lay right back on Him. He expects us to put all our burdens at His feet. Like the psalmist says, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord" (Psalm 55). When we work for God but get out of touch with Him, we find ourselves weary, miserable, hardhearted, and disillusioned. But if we roll the burden back on God, He takes on the responsibility for the solution by bringing in the realization of Himself - that is, He takes up the case and in His way and time, resolves the issue. This pandemic has surely caused us to realize the freedoms we have enjoyed since the forming of our republic. The longer that it lasts, the more we must ask God to take back what He has placed on us. We need to never forget that God causes all things to come together for the good to those who love Him.

So, as with all burdens placed on us by God, we need to deliberately put one end on the shoulder of God. The Government shall be upon His shoulders. We must commit to God that which He has given to us, not fling it off, but put it over onto Him and ourselves with it, then the burden is lightened by the sense of companionship. Praise the Lord for his willingness to accept our burdens and to assist us in their resolution.

Let us pray: Precious God, we thank you for giving us the patience to deal with the COVID-19 virus. Thank you, Lord for letting us lay the burden of the pandemic at your feet. We pray You will continue to give us the fortitude to deal with this war on our everyday freedoms. Thank you, Lord for the Vermont Veterans' Home, our outstanding caregivers, and our superior staff.

Lord, be with our troops serving us around the globe.

*God bless,
Chaplain Ken*

EDNA WINSLOW ART GALLERY





Getting some
Puppy Love
brings smiles
to our Veterans
and Members



Summertime means
ICE CREAM and the
ACTIVITIES TEAM is
dishing it out!!





*Out and About at the VVH
Golf Cart Rides
Watching the Deer
Feeding the Trout
Enjoying a Family Visit
Enjoying the Outdoors
Life is Good*



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

The 'SewWhat?!' Team
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #13
Emma Graham
Melissa Kusmierz
Mr. Richard & B. Shum
American Legion Auxiliary Post #14
R. Holdaway
Ayden Shamblen
Cynthia Galbiczek
Re-Creation
Mrs. Gail Grote
Hughes-Muse
Mrs. Judith E. Cobb
Atticus & Brixon Golitko
Stephen A. Leach & VT State VFW
David & Judith Estes
Living Sober
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
American Legion Post #49
DAIL
Dept. of VT State Commander Amer. Leg. #19
Jane Masenas
Susan Weaver
American Legion Rutland Unit #31
Meg Oceanna
m/m McMahon
Hannaford - Bennington

In Loving Memory of William Praetorius

Kathleen Praetorius

In Loving Memory of Mary Hamilton

David Hamilton

Two satellite dishes get married. The wedding was terrible, but the reception was excellent!



* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *



Thank you for those who participated in Adopt-a-Vet and are continuing to "Fulfill the Promise".



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 (postal)

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

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 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 donations until further notice due to COVID-19. Be on the lookout for future notices as to when donations will resume. Thank you for understanding. ****



Influenza and COVID-19

What is the difference between Influenza and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-Cov-2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

This year more than ever, it is very important reducing the overall burden of respiratory illnesses because of the pandemic.

Getting the flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, however, getting a flu vaccine this fall will be more important than ever, not only to reduce your risk from the flu but also to help conserve potentially scarce health care resources.

It is most important to wash your hands, wear a mask, social distancing and staying home when ill.

The Flu and COVID-19 can both result in serious illness. It does seem as if COVID-19 is more deadly than seasonal influenza but it is too early to draw any conclusions from the current data. More to come.

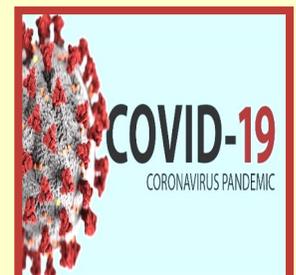
Regarding the flu vaccine:

- 1) This season's flu vaccine was updated to better match viruses expected to be circulating in the U.S.
- 2) There is no anticipated change in the recommendation on timing of vaccination per the CDC.
- 3) Getting vaccinated in July or August is too early, especially for older people because of the likelihood of reduced protection against flu infection later in the flu season.
- 4) September and October are good times to get vaccinated. However, if flu viruses are circulating, vaccination should continue into January or even later.
- 5) Remember the flu vaccine takes two weeks to become effective.
- 6) The Flu activity most commonly peaks in the US between December and March.

The yearly influenza acknowledgement and VIS forms will be sent to families starting in August. It is more important than ever to receive the flu vaccine this year. Please return the form ASAP and check yes!

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important matter!!!!

Your friendly IP,
Patricia Babcock, RN





It's
a
luau...



Thank you to Hannaford Supermarket in Bennington for their thoughtful donation of tissues. Our Veterans and Members really appreciated receiving a box for their rooms and VVH thanks everyone at Hannaford for thinking of us all during this time.



"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"



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325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

