

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume **11** Issue 9
September 2020



**VH Residents share a very special day—
their 66th Anniversary!**

www.vvh.vermont.gov



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 ensuring 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>

Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Col. Al Faxon, COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager
447-2732
steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Patricia Crossman, Director of Nursing Services
447-6565
patricia.crossman@vermont.gov

Cindy Rankin, Nutritional Services Director
447-2815
cindy.rankin@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director
447-6520
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Director of Social Services
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director
447-6528
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor
447-2731
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Cindy Gadway, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548
cindy.gadway@vermont.gov

Melinda Crawl, Marketing/Admissions Coordinator
447-2755
melinda.crawl@vermont.gov

Jeannie Cody, Quality Assurance (QA) Nurse
jean.cody@vermont.gov



From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson

Dear Family Members,

VVH is working hard to reinstitute communal dining and group activities. We have completed the update and development of policies associated with these items. Our biggest challenge now is how to ensure those Veterans and Members who want to eat in a dining room can do so. The capacity in our dining rooms will be reduced due to social distancing requirements and Patriot Hall can only be used for one neighborhood at a meal. The current guidelines prohibit the comingling of Veterans and Members from different neighborhoods for any reason. We have established a "task force" to work through these issues and hope to have a final plan in the next few weeks.

We continue with outdoor and window visits. Outdoor visits need a 48-hour notice. I know there have been some issues with getting through to the individual scheduling these visits and in those cases we are waving the 48-hour notice. Additional outdoor visit reminders:

- 1. Only those who are pre-screened and listed on the visitation log can visit.**
- 2. Only 2 visitors per Veteran or Member at a time.**
- 3. No physical contact or passing of items.**

Window visits are allowed but the window must remain closed. I have been asked what the difference is between a window visit and an outdoor visit if people are social distancing and wearing a facial covering. The biggest difference is your loved one is inside the facility and an open window places many more Veterans and Members at risk for the potential of acquiring COVID. Additionally, the guidance we are receiving is that the windows must remain closed during these visits.

I realize these are not favorable conditions for a visit but they are the guidelines established by the Health Department. If we have one case of COVID in the building all visits will stop for a minimum of 28 days, again per the guidance from the Health Department. We are working hard to mitigate the risk of the suspension of visits and we ask that you continue to do your part as well.

Flu season will be here before you know it. Consents for flu vaccinations will be sent out shortly to those family members who make health care decisions for their Veteran or Members. Various articles and recommendations from the CDC are strongly encouraging the flu vaccination this year, unless medically contraindicated. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your loved one's nurse if you have questions or concerns regarding the flu vaccination.

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and their efforts to keep your loved one safe. We appreciate your patience as we work through the bumps along the road of visitation.



Take Care,

Melissa

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

From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon



Like everything else during COVID-19, Bennington Battle Day was different this time around. Most of this year's ceremony occurred on the historic grounds of our Vermont Veterans' Home.

The Battle of Bennington is significant in its lasting contribution to the outcome of the Revolutionary War. The battle itself was not large by historical measures; however, the British were supposed to overcome the rebel forces with ease. They did not, and this reversal of fortunes severely hampered their chances for success in Saratoga. The Battle of Bennington added inspiration and momentum to the American effort and is perceived as a catalyst to final victory against the British Empire.

Members of the 2nd Continental Artillery of the Sons of the American Revolution fired several volleys from their cannon, and an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter from the Vermont National Guard landed on our property for those in attendance to see up close.



It was a great day in Bennington.

*Semper Fi
AF*



RESIDENT COUCIL

Willy and I are exploring new ways to communicate here at VVH.

Our Resident Council has not been holding monthly meetings due to Covid-19 concerns. The Patriot Hall dining hall and meeting room has also been closed since February. It is time to discuss a plan for holding regular meetings, even though no one knows how long it will take.

Please share any ideas you have for improving Resident communication to Willy or Quentyn. We already have a friendly, supportive staff helping residents each day. Simple acts of kindness are good reminders of the power of giving. A smile, wave, or nod are friendly gestures that are easily understood. Each positive attitude shared with staff and friends helps improve communication within the Vermont Veterans' Home community. Remember that The Buzz Word reaches many people!! We are grateful for all news and pictures published each month. Let's keep communicating on a positive note.

Quentyn- Room 135, North Village

and

Willy- Room 113, North Village

Chaplain's Corner

What Memorials Should Mean to Us

“This day shall be unto you for a memorial” Exodus 12:14

The idea of a memorial has prevailed among all kinds of people for many centuries. The Old Testament contains the record of many memorials. The greatest of these was the day set apart to commemorate the safety of the people of Israel from the destroying angel and their deliverance from bondage. Year by year, generation by generation, the occasion was ordered set apart as a time of joyous gratitude to God.

We just celebrated Bennington Battle Day to commemorate the brave deeds our Green Mountain Boys performed to prevent our State from being a part of New Hampshire or New York under a tyrant from afar. In addition, we showed appreciation and gratitude to our Veterans here at the Vermont Veterans' Home who proudly served our country.

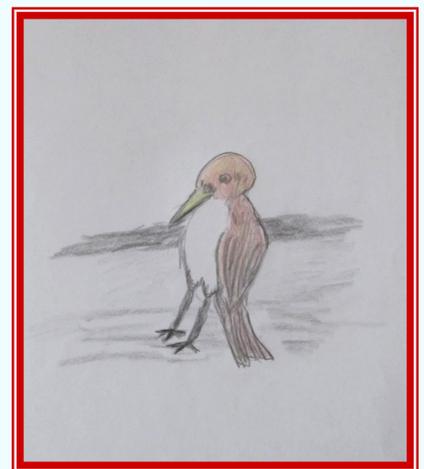
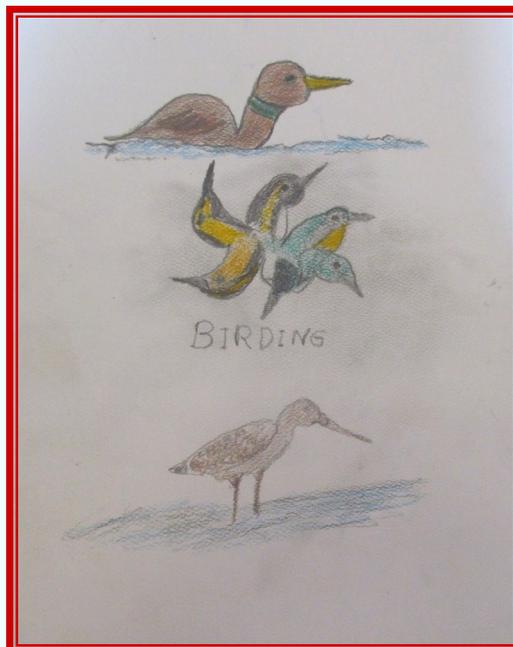
Now, we are engaged once again in a struggle to set our planet free from a silent but destructive enemy, the COVID-19 pandemic. Under God and with faith in the ultimate triumph of righteousness, we can make the days to come memorials beyond all comparison; for our aim is not the release of a single people, but the whole race of people. For such a cause, we need the full devotion of the entire nation and full trust in God who has made and kept us a nation.

Here is a prayer spoken by Pastor Roberts from the Community Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, California. It addresses quite well the situation we find ourselves in at the present:

“Father of Eternity, we come to you in your greatness; we look to you for strength in this time of overwhelming need. Grant us the power to accept and stand up to all our tasks. Give us wisdom to plan with clear mind and understanding heart. Beyond our sense of power may we have the spirit of righteousness and love. We give you all the glory and ask it in Christ's name. Amen”

Chaplin Ken Coonradt

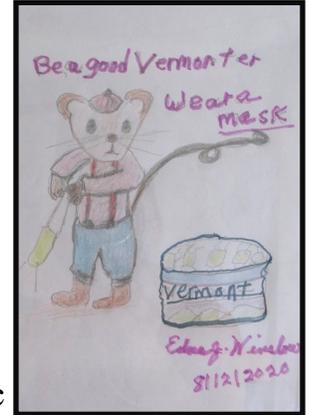
EDNA WINSLOW ART GALLERY



Infection Control

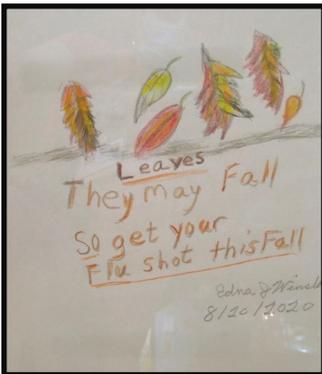


When I was making rounds in the facility one day, I noticed that someone had some drawings hanging (on the wall) in the North Village Neighborhood. They were very creative!



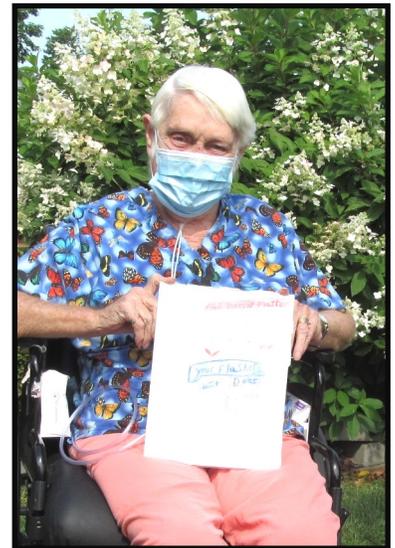
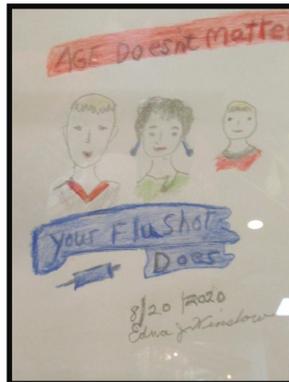
When inquiring I discovered the artist was one of our residents, Edna Winslow. The light bulb went off in my head, so I asked Edna what about doing some drawings for Infection Control. The specific ones I asked for were the importance of wearing a mask, and with flu season right around the corner, to advertise the importance of receiving the flu vaccine - especially this year!

Edna agreed to complete some drawings of each and what a job she did!

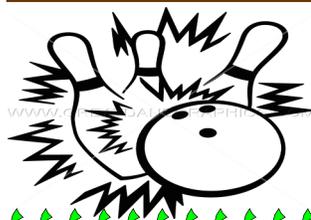
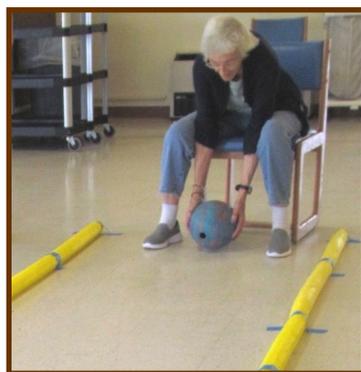


Thank you, Edna, for stepping up to the plate. What a nice job!!!

Stay healthy,
Patricia Babcock
RN IP



Bowling – Knocking Down the Pins



BINGO—

**NOT EVEN
THE CORONA
VIRUS CAN
STOP IT**



POPCICLES-

**NOTHING
BETTER ON A
HOT SUMMER
DAY**



FAMILY VISITS



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

VFW Dept. of VT Auxiliary
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Marcia Contarino

Kenneth & Elaine Coonradt
American Legion Post #13
Harned-Fowler Post #6471 VFW, Inc.
Martha Grace Hull

Marlene & James Finger
Catherine & Joseph Lajoice
Brenda Baron

Bea Noble-Jasmin
Diane L. Haven
American Legion Rutland Post #31
Norman Hawley

Mrs. Gail Grote
Meg Oceanna

Green Mtn. Mask Makers
Ms. Charlea C. Baker
Michael & Marcia Barron

Denise Fuller
Mari Bennett
Judi Estes
Anna Mattison
Marion Woodcock

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of VT

It's my wife's birthday tomorrow. She has been leaving jewelry catalogues all over the house— so I bought her a magazine rack!!!



* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *

In Loving Memory of Winthrop “Wink” Roberts

Reginald & Janice Barron
Edward & Virginia Magoon
Stephen A. Leach
Patrick & Penelope Grace
Randy & Teresa Ameden
Nancy & Robert Oakes
Winthrop & Phyllis Roberts
Rhonda Roberts

In Loving Memory of Carrie Shultz

Rosemarys of Vermont

In Loving Memory of Paul Zong

Stephen & Jeanne Butterfield



Jean Cody

our new Quality Assurance (QA) Nurse. Jean is looking forward to getting to know the residents and staff at VVH.

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. ****



Red, white, and blue picnics on North and Brandon

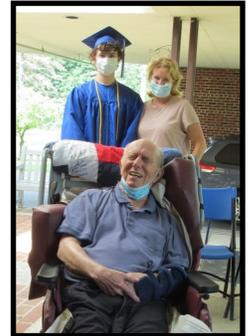




Aloha



Staying Active with Bingo, popcicles and visits



"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

