

# The BUZZ

# WORD

Volume Issue 4  
**14**  
April 2023



Did you hear about the guy  
who invented lifesavers?



Yeah—They say he  
made a mint.



A good friend is like a four-leaf clover,  
hard to find and lucky to have.

[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://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:*

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**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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## *From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson*



Veterans, Members, and Families:

Happy Spring! As the weather gets warmer, I am looking forward to seeing more Veterans, Members and family members enjoying our grounds. Please remember to watch your speed on the property.

This month I want to take a few minutes to talk about a very serious problem facing many health care organizations, and that is abusive and aggressive behavior. Examples of abuse or aggressive behavior include but are not limited to:

- Shouting or talking loudly/disrespectfully
- Threatening language
- Foul language
- Verbal harassment, threats or abusive language
- Gestures
- Racist or derogatory comments directed at others
- Sexual comments
- Inappropriate touching
- Physical assault

The safety of those who live, work and visit VVH is our number one priority. Therefore, VVH has adopted a Zero Tolerance policy for these types of behaviors. There is no doubt having a loved one in a nursing home is a stressful experience for all involved but this does not give us the right to treat each other disrespectfully.

Staff will provide a reminder to visitors, if necessary, and they have been educated to direct any visitors exhibiting these behaviors to leave the facility immediately. They also have the right to contact local law enforcement.

The staff and I appreciate your understanding and compliance with this new policy.

*Take Care, Melissa*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)

**TO VETERANS & MEMBERS & FAMILIES**

If you have scheduled a medical appointment, please let our friendly Scheduler know.

Contact: **TAMMY SHIELDS** 802.447.6542  
Tammy.shields@vermont.gov

*From the Deputy Administrator  
Asa Morin*



Happy April!

There are many exciting things happening at the Veterans' Home this Spring. Families and friends are encouraged to come and enjoy with their loved ones!

Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm the Hill Country Cloggers will be putting on a tremendous show in Patriot Hall.

On Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, staff and Veterans and Members will form teams to compete in a facility-wide Easter Egg Hunt!



Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome some very special guests, **BABY GOATS!**

Stay tuned for information about the Mothers' Day Tea in May and The Fathers' Day Car Show in June.

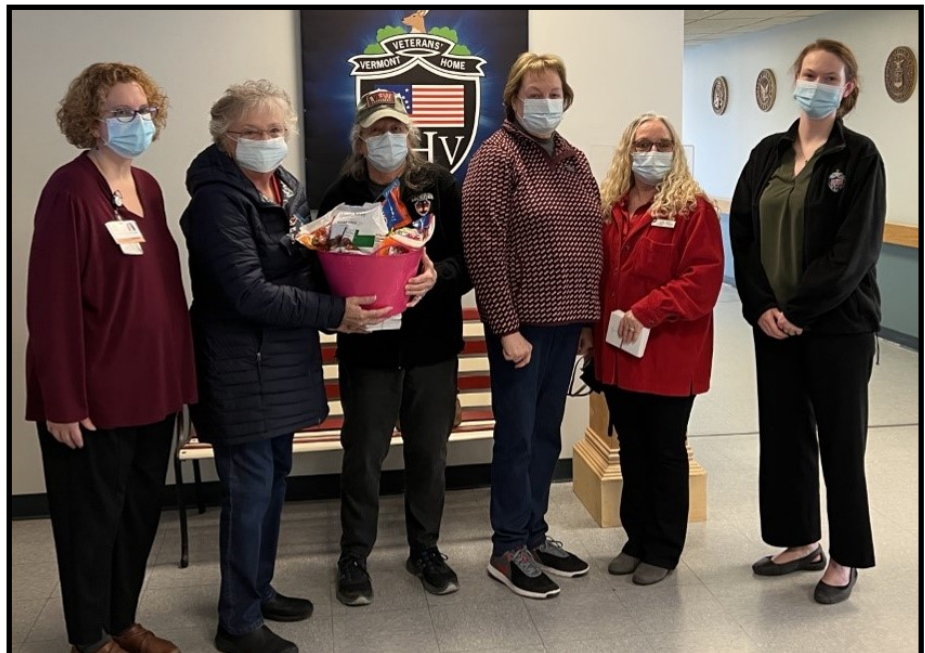
*Asa*

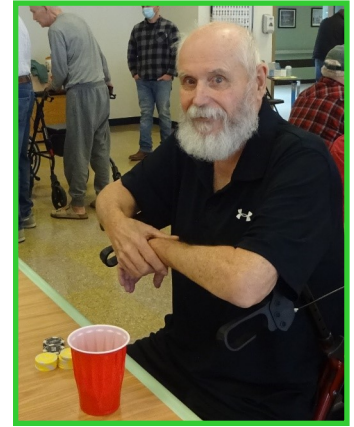
Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

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Melissa, CEO (left) and Asa, COO (far right) accept a donation from the American Legion Auxiliary Post 13 and the VFW Auxiliary Post 1332.





LAS



VEGAS

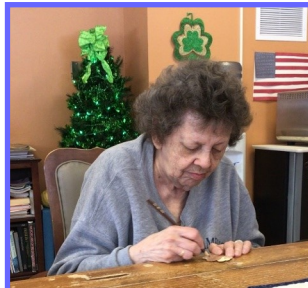
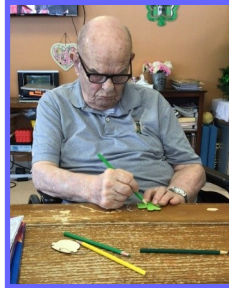


Sponsored by the Bennington Elks Lodge #567. Thank you to the volunteer black jack dealers, wheel spinners, prize donors and consultants.

## Centerpieces for the Dirk's Room



## Making Lucky Charms for St. Patrick's Day



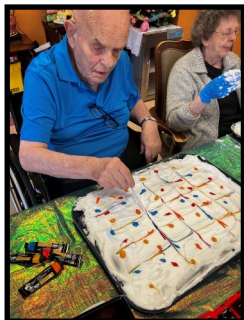
# CARDINAL STRIKERS



**STEP 1  
SHAVING CREAM**

**STEP 2  
ADD PAINT**

**STEP 3  
SWIRL IT**

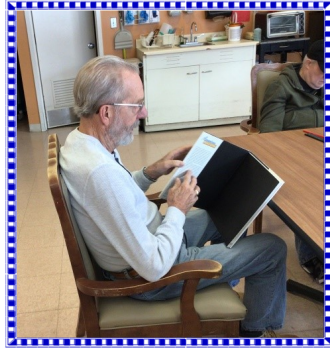


Original Easter Eggs

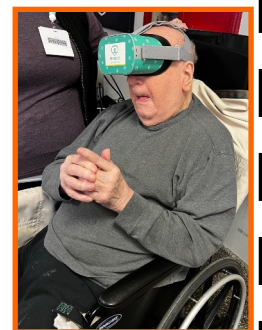
**TARGET  
PRACTICE**



Always something to do at the VVH



Happiness  
is being busy  
doing the things  
YOU LOVE!



VIRTUAL

REALITY



During the winter months, residents enjoyed a tour of Bennington without having to leave their chairs.







**ARE  
THEY**



**ALL**

**REALLY**



**IRISH?**



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



Phyllis and Rhonda Roberts

Steve Leach

RK & SS Coyle

John Moxley

Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Joel Whiting

American Legion Post 49—Wilmington

Nancy Schoerke & Family

Emmalee Jeski

Bennington Elks Lodge #567

FWV Post 1332

Marilyn Ficalora

Dolores Krawczyk

Gloria Toro

Elizabeth Bush

Tracy Bessette

FWV Auxiliary Post 1332

American Legion Auxiliary Post 13

**In Memory of Stephen Jeski**

John & Mary Cassarino

Glen & Joan Olson

Kathryn Parker & Lon Smith

John Pelchat

**In Memory of Donald Fisher**

James & Maryan Murphy

**In Memory of John Hamilton**

Kenneth & Elaine Coonrad

Dennis & Marcelaine McCarthy

**In Memory of Eugene Barrows**

Bob & Carol Abrahamson

## We Apologize

We wish to apologize to, and also thank, **Jean Letendre** for the donation in memory of her brother, Stephen Jeski. Her name had been inadvertently misspelled in the March edition of the Buzzword.

## VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

### **CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY**

Patricia Brochu — 3 years

### **DIETARY**

Michael Lampron — 7 years

Paul Krasselt — 1 year

Kerry McGuire — 1 year

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

James Kinney — 17 years

### **NURSING**

Denise Chiorgno — 34 years

Amy Harrington — 16 years

Jared Amidon — 12 years

Christine Lanfair — 3 years

Stacey Whitten — 2 years

Colleen Moore — 1 year



## 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 (postal)

To be added to our lists please contact:

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

Robyn Boland  
(802) 447-6523  
Email: [Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov](mailto:Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov)

## VVH WISH LIST

### **"Music and Memory" Players**

A monetary donation of \$30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member.

Fidget Blankets

Crafts

Neck Pillows

Aromatherapy Lotions

Relaxation Oils

Your donations are gratefully accepted.



## **THANK YOU**

Please make the check for monetary donations to:

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

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

**Due to COVID-19, we are still not able to accept:**  
books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.

**PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT  
DVDs due to modern technology of TV's and  
streaming availability.**

We will keep you posted when changes are made.  
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## 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 in the memo area of the check 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:

Memory Music Player

### Veteran's Mobility Trail

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

### Wreaths for Veterans

Donations will go towards the purchase of a \$15  
wreath for the wreath-laying ceremony



Did you hear the story about the pizza?

I thought it was a little cheesy.

Did you hear about the two  
thieves who stole a calendar?  
They each got 6 months.

Did you hear about the kidnapping in the school?

The teacher woke him up.

Did you hear about the chicken who could  
only lay eggs in the winter?  
She was no spring chicken.

Did you hear about the magic tractor?  
It turned into a field.



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201



***“FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the  
Veterans of Vermont and their families”***

VVH  
WELCOMES  
THE NEW  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
VFW



Jane Reape, (3rd from left) was elected to the office of National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary at its 109th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. She is joined by L-R: Annette Brown, Gail Beauregard, Jane, Melissa Jackson, CEO of the VVH, Gordon Brown (Department VFW Auxiliary President), and Lorraine Wilkins (PDP).

Melissa led the entourage on a tour of the facility and they were met by Veterans, Members and Staff.