

# The BUZZ WORD



Some things just fill your heart without even trying.

[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*



Happy Fall!!

As the fall season approaches this is a good time to provide a few seasonal reminders:

### **Holiday Meals:**

Guests are invited to our noon meal on Thanksgiving and Christmas. The first guest is free and each additional guest is \$10. The deadline to RSVP for Thanksgiving is November 13th, and for Christmas, December 13th.

### **Holiday Decorations:**

Per fire code:

- ◊ Real corn stalks, hay bales, garlands, wreaths and trees are not permitted inside the facility.
- ◊ All lights used must be UA approved and extension cords are not permitted.
- ◊ Decorations cannot interfere with the operation of the door, it must be able to be closed in a single motion – to ensure the door closes properly some decorations may need to be removed and are not permitted.
- ◊ Decorations cannot be hung from sprinkler heads or in locations that interfere with the sprinkler head. We are required to keep the area 18 inches from the ceiling clear of any decorations.

### **Gifts for Staff:**

State and Federal law prohibits our staff from accepting individual gifts. Individual cards or food that can be shared with the entire neighborhood are permitted. Please do not put the staff in the awkward position of having to decline your gift, it makes them very uncomfortable, and they do not want to hurt your feelings.

We have several holiday events coming up. We hope to see you at these events.

For the month of October, we have challenged each neighborhood and department in a Halloween Decorating Contest. Look for pictures in next month's Buzz Word and on Facebook.

*Take Care, Melissa*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

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

We recognize and thank our outstanding staff for their dedication to the health and well being of our Veterans and Members:

### **SEPTEMBER:**

Environmental Services and CHL (Cleaning, Housekeeping and Laundry)

### **OCTOBER:**

Physical Therapy Month

1-7 Healthcare Food Services Week      15—21 Infection Prevention Week



## To all VVH Veterans, Members and Families,

*Farewell!*

It is with very mixed feelings that I officially announce that I will be retiring as of October 20, 2023. I have loved working here with all of you and will miss being here.

Dr. Peter King, VVH Medical Director, will become the primary physician for all VVH residents upon my departure. The VVH will be continuing recruitment efforts to bring other primary care physicians to the VVH.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and walk with you on your journeys. It has been an honor and a joy.

Sincerely,

**Carol Salazar, MD**

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Have fun finding and circling the Environmental Services-related words below. Look down, across, up, backward, and diagonally.



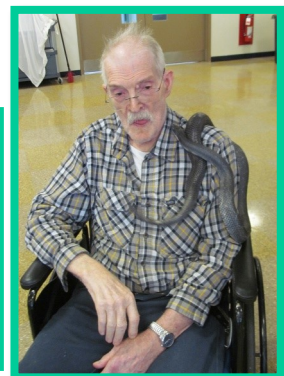
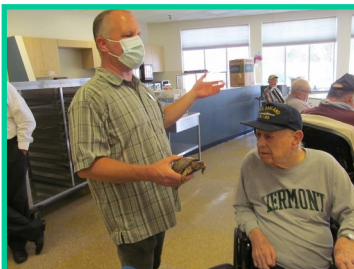
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R E D P O V R H A A A S N Y T  
G L A W Z O G T I I U G I B I  
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O N T R O P S N A R T G H N S  
T R D G Q J Q U O U B T N C M  
D E P E N D A B L E T E S E N  
R K I G N I P A C S D N A L N

### WORD LIST

CLEANLINESS	ESSENTIAL	HOUSEKEEPING	MAINTENANCE	SAFETY
DEPENDABLE	HEALTHCARE	LANDSCAPING	PRIDE	TEAMWORK
EFFICIENT	HOSPITAL	LAUNDRY	QUALITY	TRANSPORT

# Southern Vermont Natural History Museum

all about reptiles



Mick Clough entertained the group with interesting facts about garter snakes, the eastern black rat snake, box turtles and Basil, the snapping turtle weighing in at 30 lbs.  
**THAT'S ONE BIG TURTLE.**



## ***An Audience of ONE***



There is an incredibly understated theme all throughout biblical history that I have recently uncovered. It has gone virtually unnoticed because we live in a culture that believes if we are not popular, loved, or accepted by everyone, we are not popular, loved, and accepted by anyone. We underestimate the impact our influence can have even on a small scale.

With celebrities, performers and athletes drawing crowds of thousands and having social media followers in the millions, we undervalue the importance of small-scale interactions; the up-close and personal, one-on-one encounters we have almost all of the time. We can tend to feel if we cannot do it on a grand-scale, it is simply not worth doing.

I am so glad God never felt this way about us! While we were yet sinners, Christ loved us and gave His life for us. When we had nothing to offer in return, Christ chose to make the first move toward our redemption.

This theme is important because many of these seemingly small inconsequential interactions resulted in transformational and pivotal moments in people's lives. I call these encounters, An Audience of ONE. Abraham was called out of the family idol-making business to become the Father of Many Nations. Jacob wrestled his "Angel" and became the father of the Israelite Nation. Noah and Moses became unintentional leaders.

No large crowds. No big venues. Just a one-on-one, up-close and personal, intimate Audience of ONE not only with Jesus but with the Angels that He sent as his messengers to Mary, who became the Mother of Christ or Zechariah and Elizabeth who were elderly parents of John the Baptist.

It is my sincerest belief, Friends, that Jesus still desires these one-on-one intimate conversations with His followers. I believe He still invites us to have an Audience of ONE with Him on a daily basis. Without these small interactions how can we ever expect to have the monumental impact our predecessors did? It is just not possible.

Today, do not underestimate the impact your Audience of ONE can have with God. It is likely to become the most transformational moment of your entire life and could potentially have an impact upon you, your family and those you lead, for generations to come.

***Chaplain Rick Setzer***

### **North Country Honor Flights**

pays tribute to our Veterans by providing a trip to experience the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery and visits to the Memorials in Washington, DC.







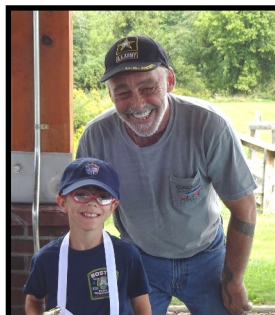
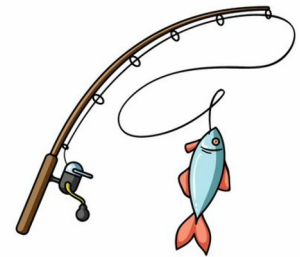
## Grandparent's Day Fishing Derby



Thank you to the Bennington Elks for the delicious picnic.



The  
WINNER  
↓





# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOU.

VVH extends an invitation to you to join your loved one for Thanksgiving dinner. The first guest is free and additional guests are \$10 per person. Please pre-pay with our receptionist.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>  
@ 12 PM

RSVP by November 13<sup>th</sup>.  
[VVH.Admissions@Vermont.gov](mailto:VVH.Admissions@Vermont.gov)  
or by calling 802-447-6510



welcome  
to the  
groan  
zone

Should the roof of  
your mouth be called  
a ceiling?

If a pig loses its  
voice, does it become  
disgruntled?

Did you hear that  
laughing too loudly  
is illegal in Hawaii?  
They only permit  
a-low-ha.

Why did the ghost  
need first aid?  
It had a boo-boo.

What did an  
invisible man say to  
another invisible  
man?  
Long time no see.



Lori & Janae  
are the first  
to choose  
from the  
generous  
donation of  
scrubs from  
Richard and  
Arlene Noel.



Gary De Gasta  
(President,  
Board of  
Trustees)  
with Quantyn

Quantyn was presented a coin from the  
Board in recognition of his dedication  
"Keeping the VVH Beautiful."

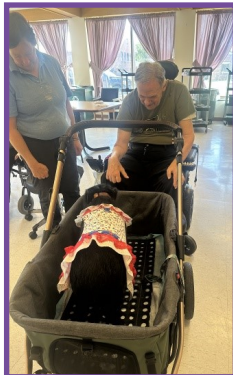
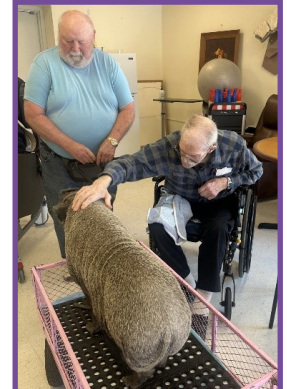


## 2 Not-So-Little Therapy Pigs

Veterans and Members were visited by two unlikely sources of smiles.



Albert Einswine and Marilyn Swine-roe, therapy pigs, made the rounds and brought smiles to all who met the porcine guests.



Pigs can make great therapy animals as pigs have a sweet nature and are willing to be cuddled by people, which makes them great emotional support animals. Some pigs do learn basic commands such as sit, stay and come and truly enjoy being rewarded when they get it right. Seems all the pigs needed was a little TLC from our residents.



A.A. Milne: "Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude."



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

**Thank  
You**

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
Marilyn Ficalora

District 1 VFW of Vermont

Bennington County VFW Post 1332

Rutland County VFW Post 648

Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771

Carl M Dessaint VFW Post 1034

Harned-Fowler VFW Post 6471

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.

Shea Family Funeral Homes

VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region

Harold Rowe

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13

American Legion Post 49

VFW District 1— Pawlet

American Legion 4th District

Elizabeth A. Abustan

Doreen & Gary Kinney

1st Special Service Force Assoc. - WWII

Christopher Vadnais

Green Mountain RSVP

Harold Colegrove

Anita Pratt

Mahar Funeral Home

VFW Auxiliary #758—St. Albans

Nancy Slade

Richard & Arlene Noel

## VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

### ADMINISTRATION

Mary Ryan — 5 years

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Christina Cosgrove — 25 years

### CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Randall Bates, Jr. — 3 years

### DIETARY

David Muir — 4 years

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Jamie Percey — 34

Frank Bossong — 9 years

Mark Jaeger — 6 years

### NURSING

Becky Wilkinson — 12 years

Linda Schulz — 10 years

Laurie Dix — 6 years

Cindy Murray — 6 years

Kylie Hoyt — 4 years

Betsy Tolliver — 1 year

**TEAM EXCELLENCE**



Sheila Spaulding, Gail Montgomery and Kathleen Gringas, VFW Auxiliary #758, traveled from St. Albans to deliver rice crispy treats to our residents for Rice Crispy Day observed on September 18th.



### 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 The Buzz Word

- ♦ 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

**We are now accepting  
only new or like-new**  
Books and Puzzles

Fidget Blankets  
Craft Items or Kits  
Neck Pillows  
Aromatherapy Lotions  
Relaxation Oils



#### **THANK YOU**

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

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".

**We are still not accepting: CDs 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.

### MONETARY 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 Players

#### **Veterans' Mobility Trail:**

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

#### **Wreaths for Veterans:**

Donations will go towards the purchase of wreaths for the wreath-laying ceremony

#### **Freedom Park:**

Cardinal Point outdoor area  
enhancement and improvement

### **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATIONS**

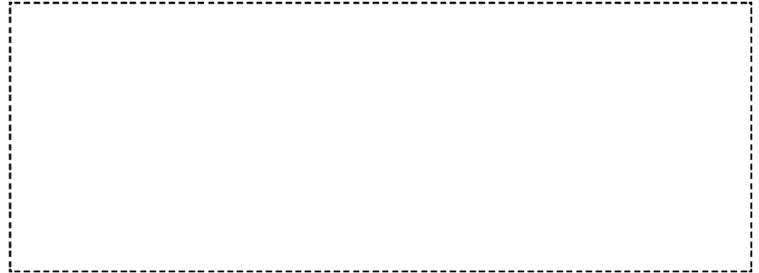
**Please note** the VVH will no longer be accepting donations of medical equipment including wheelchairs, walkers or other items used for disabled individuals.

EMDs (Electronic Mobile Devices) may be accepted on a case-by-case basis **ONLY**.

We appreciate your generous donations and thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201



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



**THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD VISITS WITH OUR VETERANS**

