

The BUZZ WORD

Volume **12**
Issue 8
August 2021



The best things in *life* are the people we *love*, the *places* we have been
and the *memories* we have made along the *way*.

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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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



Happy Summer-

Greetings Veterans, Members, and Family Members

Thankfully we have made it through our most recent outbreak without any Veterans or Members contracting COVID-19.

Recently, there has been much news coverage about a COVID vaccine booster. The only information we have is what has been shared on the local and national new broadcasts. Just like the delta variant, we are monitoring this situation and will share any new information we receive from the Vermont Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with you.

We have not received any new updates to guidance or regulations around visitation. OSHA has released a "Temporary Emergency Standard" and we are diligently working on developing the required COVID-19 Safety Plan. This plan directly impacts how we, our staff, conduct ourselves and some of the requirements are a step backwards from recent CDC and CMS guidance. If you are interested in reading this Temporary Emergency Standard for Healthcare, it can be found at the following link: [COVID-19 Healthcare ETS | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](https://www.osha.gov/OSHA-2020-0006) or by googling/searching for "OSHA COVID-19 Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard". Once completed, this plan will be posted on our website.

We are consulting with VDH on if/when we can start using our guest room again. We have had many requests to reserve the room, but we currently have no clear guidance on this topic. VDH has been very helpful in the past when guidance or regulation is lacking on a specific topic. We will post their recommendations on our Facebook page, website, and will email this information to those family members for whom we have email address.

If we do not have your email address or if you are unsure if we have your email address, please contact the facility via our admission email which is vvh.admission@vermont.gov and please put "family notifications" in the subject line.

In the coming months, late September or early October, VVH will be conducting an emergency preparedness drill with assistance from the Bennington Fire Department, Bennington Police Department, and the Bennington Rescue Squad. The exact date will not be shared with the staff, Veterans, or Members to keep the drill as "real life" as possible. We will use our emergency alert system to notify when the drill is activated and when it has ended. VVH has posted our Emergency Preparedness Plan on our website. This posting and an annual review are required by CMS. We update our plan annually in November and this update will be posted to the website by mid-December.

Some quick reminders about visitation:

- ◆ **APPOINTMENTS ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR VISITS.**
- ◆ The front door remains secured. Please enter the facility via the designated visitor entrance on each neighborhood.
- ◆ All visitors must sign in and complete the COVID-19 screening process.
- ◆ Please use the alcohol prep pads provided to wipe down the device after you have used it.
- ◆ Your Accushield pass (the sticker printed out by the device when you pass your COVID Screening) must be worn for the duration of your visit in a location that is easily visible by all VVH Staff.
- ◆ You must sign out using the Accushield device, remember to wipe the touch screen after use.

Take care, *Melissa*



*From the Deputy Administrator,
Asa Morin*

I am pleased to share that in the coming months, depending on the weather, we have a couple exciting activities that we hope our Veterans and Members will enjoy:

On August 6th at 10 am, “Re-Creation” will putting on a musical performance at the Veterans’ Home. Re-Creation tours the country putting on performances for Veterans. “Songs from every era are presented in a pageantry of lavish, original costuming, original and unique vocal arrangements, dynamic, stylized choreography and a true, genuine spirit of gratitude.” This performance will be held outdoors to allow for social distancing and proper infection control precautions.



On September 14th we will be welcoming The 75th Revival AAA Glidden Tour which is the oldest, most prestigious antique car tour in the country. It looks like we will have about 175 restored pre-WWII vehicles coming in from all over the US. They will be here at the Veterans’ Home in two groups, morning and afternoon.

***Due to pandemic restrictions, both of these events will be closed to the public. However;** we encourage family members to visit and enjoy the events with their loved one.

Finally, we are hoping to build our base of volunteers in the months to come. We will be putting out more information on the Volunteer Program soon. If you are interested please contact Michele Burgess at 802-447-6520.

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW COO/Deputy Administrator (802) 447-6544 asa.morin@vermont.gov



Virtual Reality
taking you places
where you have been
or have always
wanted to go



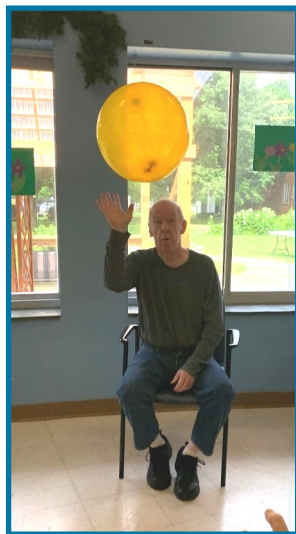
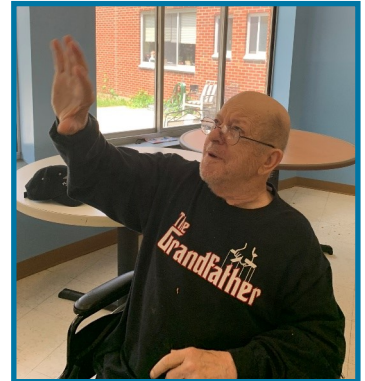
Activities is keeping us busy...



Flower arrangements -
Beautiful creations



**Having a
(volley)
Ball
On Cardinal**



American Legion Riders Post #13 Bike Rally



VVH is happy to introduce new members of our Rehab Team.

**Please Welcome:
(L-R) Alyssa Bert, Lori Bohmer
and Kelsey Muckle.**

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

American Legion J. Claire Carmody Legion Riders
Joel Whiting
Kathleen Praetorius
VFW Auxiliary Department of Vermont
Department of VT Veterans of Foreign Wars of U.S.
USI Alliance
William "Bill" Hartz
Steve Leach
VFW Post #771- Springfield
Walter & Colleen Huysman
Mrs. Gail Grote
Betty Andrews
Operation: Loving the Military (LTM)
Stratton Mountain School
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Family of William Center
American Legion Riders Post #13

In Loving Memory of Dan Torres

Pam Torres

In Loving Memory of Monte "Bucky" Bushee

Sheryl Bushee

In Loving Memory of Walter Crawford

Molly & Blair Austinson
Wendy & Matthew Marino
Joe & Chris Crawford
Beth, Paul & Stephen Crawford
Jeffrey & Melinda Santarcangelo
William & Priscilla Rice

In Loving Memory of Thomas Bullett

Bonnie & James Cunningham
Linda & Steven Grande
Mary Ann & John Maroni
Johanne Raimer & Lynn Saunders

In Loving Memory of Glendon Ayer, Jr.

David & Kerry Krawczyk
Patricia Beecroft
Thomas & Gail Caron
Douglas Saunders
Joseph & Priscilla Medeiros
Bob & Cindy Carpenter
Daniel & Linda Carpenter
Judith Martin
Susan Joachim

In Loving Memory of Alexander Murray

Jan Murray
Elizabeth T. Dwyer
Benjamin L. Summers

On the first day of
school, what did the
teacher say her three
favorite words were?



June,
July,
& August!



* Joke provided by B. Bardsley *

**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Barbara Paddock—12

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Joshua LaPointe —16

NURSING

JoAnn Beaudoin—28

Lori Russell—14

Katie Tallini—7

Marianne Burnham—4

Margaret Conklin—4

Allison Fleming—4

Kiona Kinney—3

Joshua Aldrich—2

Mary Driscoll—2

Lisa Gaudette—2

Hailey Howe—2

Colleen Moore—2

Kasey Mossey—2

Jean Cody—1

SOCIAL SERVICES

Bill MacMillan— 3



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)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
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**

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

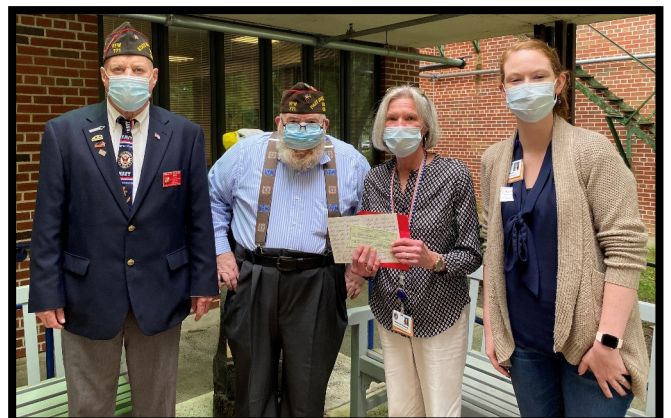
iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

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

On behalf of the Department of Vermont VFW, Senior Vice Commander Brian Wilson and Past Commander Steve Leach presented a donation to Michele Burgess, Activities Director, and Asa Morin, COO.

THANK YOU



Howdy Folks,

You may have heard that the Bennington Select Board is considering the elimination of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at their Select Board meetings. It was dropped during the pandemic as it was difficult to do it over the phone and via Zoom.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

My first exposure to the Pledge of Allegiance was during the first grade at the Snow School on East Road here in Shaftsbury. It was a reminder of who we are, what we are and why we are. The Pledge was recited at the beginning of school every Monday morning.

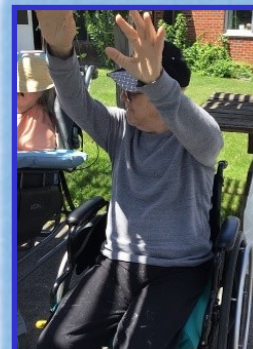
As a Korean War Veteran, I am acutely aware of what the Flag stands for. It is the symbol of our Nation. It reminds us of the thousands who went to war and those who made the supreme sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted. Freedom of religion, speech, assembly, want, and choice among the many.

God was present in the lives of our forefathers when they designed our way of life. He was present in the life of Mr. Bellamy when he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance and He is present in our lives as we praise Him and honor our Grand Old Flag.

Let us pray that the Bennington Select Board Members will feel God's presence in their lives and will want to remind the community of our Flag Heritage via recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

And don't forget to pray for our Troops serving around the globe and be grateful to God for this wonderful Vermont Veterans' Home and all who make it home for our Heroes and their spouses.

*God Bless,
Chaplain Ken*



Doing the WAVE..

.. Or not

Our Families

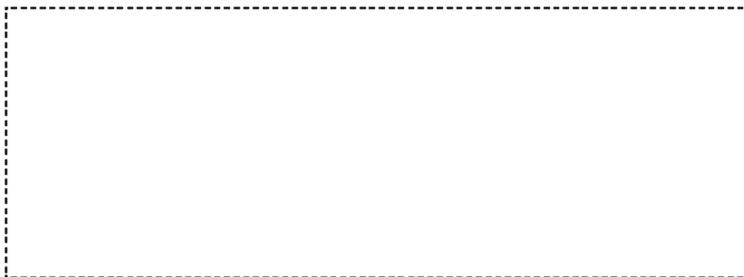




JUST SAYING
“HELLO”
FROM THE STAFF



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



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

