

TOWN OF BRANDON ANNUAL REPORT FY 2011-2012

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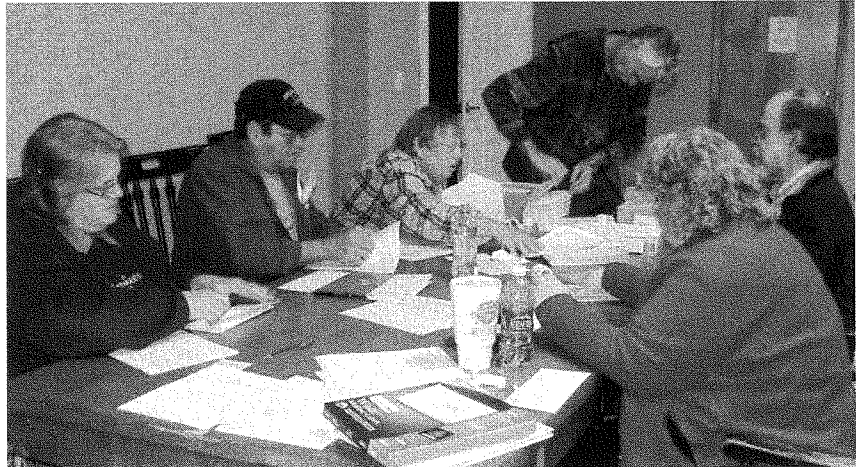
The 2012 Town Report is Dedicated to: The Friends of the Brandon Town Hall

The monumental Brandon Town Hall is familiar to anyone who has visited the idyllic small town of Brandon, Vermont. But it's more than a landmark: it's an important community resource intimately tied to Brandon's history - and to its future.

The Brandon Town Hall was constructed in 1861, just in time to send off the first 113 of the 124 Brandon men to fight in the Civil War. Though it has functioned as both an armory for the town's militia and a jail for its miscreants, the main purpose for the Brandon Town Hall has always been to serve as an accessible, adaptable venue for community gatherings.

For well over 100 years after its construction, the Brandon Town Hall hosted theater troupes, vaudevillians, concerts, lectures, clubs, dances and balls, spiritual meetings and town-government meetings. The last town meeting was held in the Brandon Town Hall in March of 1979, and the building had been largely closed to the public since then. Enter the Friends of Town Hall (FOTH) with the desire to once again see a multitude of activities take place in this majestic building. After much planning fund raising, and countless hours of hard work FOTH was able to reopen Brandon's landmark.

In the summer of 2006, the Brandon Town Hall was finally re-opened on a limited basis, in 2009 it received a Certificate of Occupancy from the State of Vermont allowing the building to be used, once again, and in 2012 the long awaited bathroom project was finish allowing the basement to be used year round, for a variety of meetings, activities, and public events. This was all accomplished by the hard work of FOTH.



Friends of the Brandon Town Hall busy at work.

Built with optimism and pride at the dawn of the Civil War, this historic Vermont landmark is being restored to its role as the civic and cultural center of Brandon, Vermont. For the devotion FOTH has given shepherding this grand project forward the town of Brandon will forever be indebted to this fine group of people. For that reason we are honored to dedicate this town report to all the members both past and present of the Friends of Town Hall.

Cover: Brandon Town Hall. Photo Credit: Lowell Snowdon Klock from "Klock Works Photography."

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TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES

The rules that govern Town Meeting are designed to transact the public business efficiently while giving everyone the opportunity to speak his or her mind. *Robert's Rules* are the foundation, but even they are modified by State Statute, tradition, and the standing rules adopted by previous Town Meetings. Perhaps even more important is the informal rule that through it all we retain our sense of humor and civility, for the person you attack tonight you will inevitably meet in the grocery store tomorrow!

Like the Australian Ballot, you must be a registered voter of Brandon to fully participate in Town Meeting. While everyone who is interested is invited to observe the meeting, only registered voters may speak without special permission; only voters may actually vote on any question. The job of the Moderator is to keep the discussion focused and to help the people operate within the rules. If you are not quite sure how to make a motion, just ask and the Moderator will guide you through the process. From time to time, the Moderator may have to rule on other issues - most of which relate to the question of germaneness.

Remember the acid test for any motion: Could someone not here have expected that the motion would be offered? If the answer is clearly "yes," it's probably germane, and if not, you may have a problem. If you make sure that your remarks or motions do not unreasonably stray from the subject, purpose, or funding method of the original warning, you should be well within the rules.

Three final points to remember:

1. To maintain order, all comments, questions, and rebuttals must be addressed to the chair - even when the urge to respond directly to the previous speaker is close to overwhelming.
2. Our standing practice is to allow a follow-up to every question, to give the original questioner a chance to clarify or comment on the response.
3. Even moderators can be overruled. If you think that a bad ruling has been made, make a point of order and the full assembly will decide on the question.

BRANDON TOWN ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 6, 2012

Moderator Bernie Carr called the annual Brandon Town meeting to order at 7:51 P.M. Attending the meeting were Selectpersons Ethan Swift, Devon Fuller, Kellie Martin, Mitchell Pearl, Chairman Richard Baker, Town Manager Keith Arlund, Clerk Bill Dick. Moderator Carr recognized Sheila and Greg Gearwar, their family and staff of the Brandon House of Pizza, as fitting recipients of this years' dedication in the annual Town Report for giving a face to all those affected by Hurricane Irene. He remarked on their hard work to reestablish their business. Moderator Carr believed this was a fine example of what we as a town and community have done and continue to do to create a better Brandon out of a devastating situation. He also recognized those who worked so hard to return us back to our normal lives, Town Manager Arlund, the Select Board, town employees and businesses and citizens of Brandon.

The following business was transacted:

1. Take appropriate action on the reports of officers as they appear in the Town Report. Lou Faivre moved to accept the reports as presented. Wayne Rausenberger seconded the motion. The reports were accepted.
2. To hear a presentation by the select board of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian ballot on March 6, 2012 at the Neshobe School located at 17 Neshobe Circle. Town Manager Arlund presented a brief overview of the proposed budget, a 3.6% increase from the current year. COPS grant funding, the Route 7 project, status of the Town Office building, the Town website, the Backyard Project and other issues were discussed.
3. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will authorize the Select Board to spend unbudgeted, unanticipated income received by the Town so long as the expenditure of such funds will not create a deficit? Bill Moore moved to adopt the article. Dick White seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. To transact any other business proper to be done when met. Moderator Carr reminded the assembly that these discussions are not warned and, therefore, are non-binding, although votes may be taken to provide a sense of direction to the Selectboard. Sue Gage moved that the Town of Brandon hereby support campaign finance reform and urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the US Congress to support the same through a Constitutional Amendment that effectively reverses the Citizens United decision, and urge the General Assembly of the State of Vermont to pass a similar resolution, and request that this non-binding resolution be sent to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of Town Meeting Day. Lynn Orth seconded the motion. During the discussion that followed, Jeff Guevin voiced a concern that the Town may go on record as supporting an amendment but then might not agree with the amendment which becomes written. The motion passed. David Martin spoke on behalf of Neighborworks of Western Vermont about their heat program and the incentives offered to those who participate. Janet Mondlak described the mission of the Stephen A. Douglas Community Center, which is requesting a town allocation for the first time. Select board member Devon Fuller thanked all the volunteers who have helped with the many projects, programs and committees in town. He especially thanked Amanda Berry for all the hard work she put in to the "Love a Park" program. Devon encouraged everyone to find a project or organization for which to volunteer. A representative from BROCC spoke on its behalf.

Dick White moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mickey Carr. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

William A Dick
Town Clerk

Bernie Carr
Moderator

Richard A. Baker
Selectboard Chair

TOWN OF BRANDON - WARNING FOR EVENING MEETING - MARCH 4, 2013

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Neshobe Elementary School at 17 Neshobe Circle on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business:

1. Take appropriate action on the reports of officers as they appear in the Town Report.
2. To hear a presentation by the Select Board of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 5, 2013 at the Neshobe School located at 17 Neshobe Circle.
3. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will authorize the Select Board to spend unbudgeted, unanticipated income received by the Town so long as the expenditure of such funds will not create a deficit?
4. To transact any other business proper to be done when met.

TOWN OF BRANDON - AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - FOR MARCH 5, 2013

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are further notified and warned to meet at the Neshobe Elementary School at 17 Neshobe Circle on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian Ballot on the following matters:

1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year:

Moderator	One for one-year term
Selectman.....	One for three-year term
Selectman.....	Two for one-year term
Auditor.....	One for three-year term
Auditor.....	One for two-year term (remainder of a three year term)
Auditor.....	One for one-year term (remainder of a three year term)
Lister.....	One for three-year term
Trustee of Public Funds.....	One for three-year term
First Constable.....	One for one-year term
Second Constable.....	One for one-year term
Town Agent.....	One for one-year term
Town Grand Juror.....	One for one-year term
Library Trustee.....	One for two-year term

2. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate the sum of \$3,292,280 (Three Million, Two Hundred Ninety Two Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty Dollars) for the FY 2013-2014 budget year, of which the sum of \$2,480,080 (Two Million, Four Hundred Eighty Thousand, Eighty Dollars) is to be raised by property taxes?
3. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$20,735 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad?
4. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$1,000 for the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce?
5. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$406 for the RSVP & Volunteer Center?
6. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$10,200 for the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?
7. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$1,200 for Vermont Adult Learning (Rutland County)?
8. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$10,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Brandon?
9. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$6,000 for the Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee?
10. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$2,400 for the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?
11. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$3,500 for ARC-Rutland Area, serving citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities?
12. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$6,624 for Rutland Mental Health Services?
13. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$3,250 for the Rutland County Parent Child Center?
14. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$750 for the Community Health Services of Addison County-Open Door Clinic?
15. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$1,650 for BROCC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?
16. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$3,600 for the Stephen A. Douglas Community Center, Inc?
17. To see if the voters of the Town of Brandon will appropriate \$2,500 for the Housing Trust of Rutland County?

Select Board, Signed and Certified January 28, 2013

Richard Baker, Devon Fuller, Mitchell Pearl, Ethan Swift, David Atherton

Adopted and approved at a duly warned meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Brandon called, noticed and held on January 28, 2013. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Brandon on January 29, 2013.

TOWN OF BRANDON DEPARTMENT REPORTS

SELECT BOARD REPORT

The year 2012 has been an interesting one in Brandon. Following Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, town officials learned many lessons and discovered many more local strengths. After the quick reopening of Route 7 in the days following the storm, it seemed that the rebuilding of our damaged Town Offices would also be rapid, but that hasn't been the case. With the involvement of State and Federal dollars for rebuilding our downtown core, it has become a cumbersome process; but we are determined to make progress. We are pleased that with the exception of Briggs Lane, all of Brandon's roads that were damaged in the storm have been repaired. As of this writing, we are awaiting bids for the Town Office repair work. Once this project is complete, Brandon will have a well-functioning Town Office building of which we will all be proud. We thank the Zoning Administrator for her diligent work in alleviating safety concerns and local volunteer architects for their countless hours helping with planning.

The continued planning of the Route 7 Segment 6 project saw a lot of positive movement in 2012. A dedicated group of volunteers has been working with project engineers and we are seeing the original plan evolve into a final product that will serve our town well into the future. In the coming year the first phase of this project will be completed, moving the water line behind the Brandon Inn and downtown businesses. The disruptions which may come from this necessary project will require patience from the community and will serve as a good practice run for the rest of the Segment 6. With the Segment 6 and the Bridge 114 projects, Brandon has a great opportunity to create a downtown core that will be the envy of all of Vermont.

Other initiatives undertaken in 2012 include finishing the first half of the Park Street sidewalk project which was started in 2009, the hiring of a new part time recreation director, and the finishing of the Town Hall basement. Each of these projects point to community leaders who are pro-active in making improvements, rather than waiting for outside help or the economy to turn around.

2012 will be remembered for the tragic loss of life due to the *Eastern Equine Encephalitis* virus. With continued monitoring and studying of mosquito-borne illnesses plus education for better protecting ourselves, we hope to minimize or ideally eliminate, future incidents.

The Board controlled budget spending directly after the recession by staff reduction and deferred maintenance. At this point the board feels that it can no longer keep staff levels so low and still maintain the town infrastructure. We also feel that a better funded maintenance program will save the tax payer in the long run. The board also will be increasing the recreation director position from part time to full time.

As always the Select Board thanks all our staff members for their hard work and dedication to our town.

- Thanks to the road crew for not only keeping up with every day maintenance of our 72 miles of road, but for the simple things like emptying trash cans and painting park benches.
- Thanks to the wastewater crew for keeping it all flowing and still find the time to maintain the park fountains and the ice skating rink.
- Thanks to the Police Department, which has grown into a force we are all very proud of, working day in and day out to keep Brandon safe.
- A special thanks to the town office staff for continuing to work out of a temporary location. They have risen to the occasion and show us all the strong backbone that is Brandon.
- Thanks to the many volunteers and the members of all the boards in town. They all help to keep Brandon moving forward. Please keep in mind that you too have a unique skill that can be used by your community. Find a place to pitch in. It will make you feel good!

Brandon Selectboard:

Devon Fuller, Chair and David Atherton, Richard Baker, Mitch Pearl, Ethan Swift

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The last year continued to be a year of challenge in attempting to regain a sense of normalcy from the impact of Irene. We made progress on several projects and will continue to proceed carefully and thoroughly to finish all of them. The repair of the Town Offices is one of our highest priorities. With the volunteer assistance of three local architects we developed a comprehensive, phased set of plans and specifications to first repair the damage caused by the storm and then rehabilitate the second floor previously occupied by the Police Department. Throughout the process we kept in mind the historical nature of the building and its position as an anchor in the downtown district. The storm related

repairs and code improvements will be primarily covered by our insurance policy through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. As other funding becomes available we will work on the second floor.

Meanwhile the town has continued to develop the design for Segment 6 of the Route 7 project. Through efforts of the staff and our consultants we were able to secure additional funding for the final design and received approval from both the State and Federal government to split the construction of the project into two phases. The first phase will consist of rerouting the water main down the alley between the Chinese Restaurant and the Brandon Inn, across the area behind the Howe Block, under the Neshobe and out to West Seminary with final connection under Route 7. This advance work will insure fire protection and water service north of the downtown when the roadway reconstruction begins. It is anticipated that this phase will begin early in the next construction season.

The management team and the entire staff continue to provide a high level of service to all of our citizens. We understand the economic circumstances that impact the town and the region and keep this in mind throughout the year. I would like to thank the entire staff for their efforts. It would be impossible for us to do our jobs without the valuable assistance of the volunteers that work tirelessly for the benefit of us all here in Brandon. We are indebted to all of you.

Keith O. Arlund, Town Manager

BRANDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

After one full year of operations in our new police department on Forest Dale Road I am pleased to report that the new building has proved to be exceptionally functional. I am routinely reminded how far we have come and I am proud to know that BPD is now equipped to maintain best practice service for our citizens. It is remarkable to witness the evolution that occurred once the department became equipped to meet the ever changing demands of law enforcement. While our officers have always offered professional skill and dedication, they are now supported by current technology, functional work space, and safety for all who enter the Brandon Police Department. We extend our thanks to the community for the support that allowed us to relocate. As always, we welcome the public to stop by and see how our facility serves our community's needs.

By the end of this year the Brandon Police Department will have responded to over 3,200 calls for service, an increase of 13.6 %. We continue to provide twenty-four hour coverage which allows for efficient response times to calls for service. Even with this coverage we have seen an increase in property crime related statistics. We review crime statistical data for trends and work with other law enforcement agencies to reduce criminal activity on a local and statewide level. Our successes are greatly impacted by residents working with us to maintain a safe, vibrant, and welcoming town.

Alcohol and drug offenses continue to be some of our most challenging obstacles. While alcohol related offenses remained relatively constant last year, the impact of such crimes is significant. It is clear that substance abuse is an issue that requires cooperation between law enforcement and the community. Information provided to us in person, as well as on the town's website, assists us in our efforts to curb the trafficking of illegal drugs and their subsequent abuse, as well as the personal and property crimes that are often associated with drug activity. Alcohol and drug related offenses can forever alter lives. Our officers are diligent in their patrols and will do all that is possible to combat these crimes. I urge you to offer your assistance and contact us with your concerns.

Along with proactive patrol work officers also work special details for Governor's Highway Safety to target DUI, distracted driving and seat belt enforcement. These highly visible special details are utilized to promote and reinforce safety on our roadways. Participating departments are also rewarded with grant funding to purchase equipment. We receive approximately \$5,000.00 per year worth of highway safety equipment as a result of participating in these grant opportunities. Our department also seeks other grant opportunities to offset expenses and purchase technology equipment. In 2012 the Brandon Police Department secured \$63,241.00 in grant funding which allowed us to purchase and replace outdated equipment that otherwise would have been a budgeted request. We will continue to maximize grant opportunities in order to reduce the impacts on taxpayers whenever possible.

All officers working for the Brandon Police Department live within town limits and share a personal interest in the quality of life we enjoy in our community. Our collective goal is to provide safety for residents and visitors alike, and to continue to be accessible to those who have a need for our services. We are available to meet with community groups and provide informational talks on specific safety or law related topics. The officers of the Brandon Police Department remain dedicated and will continue to strive to provide quality services to meet the needs of the town of Brandon.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Brickell, Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Within the past year, the Town was heavily involved with several representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in an attempt to finalize the completion of many projects that were caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Although the vast majority of projects were completed, a few still remain, specifically the restoration of Green Park, Kennedy Park and Briggs Lane. Key factors that have delayed these projects are the coordination and engineering of repairs that will be compatible with the Route 7, Segment 6 project and with abutting, private property owners. The Town hopes to have these projects finalized in the 2013 construction season.

Within the Highway Department, some highlights include the completed reconstruction of Maple Street, the replacement of the sidewalk on the south side of Park Street and the construction of a new stone-lined ditch on Wheeler Road. A new single-axle dump truck and utility pick-up were added to the Town's fleet of vehicles. In the upcoming year, the Town will continue to upgrade its pedestrian walkways as well as to coordinate road reconstruction projects with the Fire District's replacement of Town water mains.

The Waste Water Department continues to repair and upgrade failing sections of the Town's aging sewage collection system. In the upcoming year, preventative maintenance operations, such as jetting, vacuuming and cameraing of lines, will continue. These methods will help keep existing lines functional as well as to prioritize areas in need of immediate repair. Efforts will continue to identify and correct areas of deterioration and infiltration in order to better serve the wastewater needs of the community.

The focus of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is to accommodate the needs of the public in the most cost effective and efficient way possible. As budgets become tighter and demands become greater, the ability to provide high levels of service becomes very challenging. However, the DPW will continue to make every effort possible to address the needs of the townspeople of Brandon.

On behalf of the dedicated full-time and part-time DPW staff, I thank you all for your continued support.

Respectively submitted, Brian Sanderson, Public Works Director

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

In 2012 the Fire Department responded to 140 emergency calls.

Brandon	110	Leicester	24
Goshen	4	Mutual Aid	2

The following is a breakdown of the types of calls we responded to:

Alarm Activations	25	Electrical Fires	3
Auto Accidents/Extrication	42	Carbon Monoxide Calls	13
Grass/Brush Fires	13	Trash/Rubbish Fires	5
Structure Fires	5	Oil/Gas Spills	1
Vehicle Fires	7	Miscellaneous Calls	21
Chimney Fires	5		

This has been an eventful and challenging year for the Fire Department. At the April elections, the members of the Dunmore Hose Company decided to make a change in the leadership of the Department. Eric Mallory was elected Chief Engineer, I was elected as the Deputy Chief and Steve Bilodeau was elected Assistant Chief. Due to health reasons, Eric Mallory had to temporarily stop performing firefighting activities and resigned as Chief. The members then decided to move each officer up one position, and elected a new Second Lieutenant. Eric continues working with his physicians and is improving and hopes to be able to return to active firefighting. He remains an important part of the fire company and has been instrumental in helping the company and department through the transition.

We have thirty-one (31) active members on the fire department who dedicated a total of 2,580 hours of time to the community, 780 of these hours were training and drills. I want to recognize the top responders in terms of hours for fire calls and training, excluding myself, who were Lieutenant Scott Trask with 147 hours, Jeremiah Shaw with 143 hours, Roger Bougor with 136 hours and Gene Pagano with 131 hours. I know that each of these, and the rest of the membership, also spend many untracked hours working on fire department tasks, and I want to thank each of them for their dedication. Our main mission is protecting life and property. To ensure the safety of both the community and the firefighters themselves, we need to make sure our equipment is up-to-date and maintained, and that our firefighters are trained and equipped to respond to emergencies. This year we have three members enrolled in Firefighter I class,

which consists of 194 hours of training. We also have had members take advantage of other classes offered by the Rutland and Addison County Fire Schools including advanced extrication, leadership and rapid intervention training. Our training with our mutual aid partners in Pittsford, Salisbury and Chittenden has included school bus extrication and water supply drills. We now have automatic mutual aid agreements, where these departments will be dispatched at the same time for certain types of calls to ensure a quick response of firefighting assets. We continue to work in partnership with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Departments to make our community safer.

The proposed budget has increased. Part of this increase is due to a significant rise in the cost of insurance. The worker compensation insurance cost, for example, has more than doubled. The other main increases are due to issues discovered during the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and ISO required annual fire engine pump tests. All of our engines required significant repairs in order to pass the required inspection. NFPA also requires inspection by a third-party of all air bottles and air packs. It was determined at the time of the inspection that many bottles were out-of-date and could not be used safely until tested. We also conducted required ladder testing.

Additional funds were expended complying with new FCC regulations regarding radio and pager transmissions. We were required to have all equipment reprogrammed or replace equipment that was too old to be reprogrammed in order to accommodate the new FCC "narrow banding" requirements which we had to be in compliance with by the end of 2012.

I am happy to report that all of these essential safety issues have been addressed, but it required expending funds not budgeted. We have spread out the repayment of these monies over a three-year period in order to lessen the financial impact.

Our vehicle maintenance budget has increased for 2013. We have contracted with the fire apparatus manufacturer (KME) to take over the maintenance of the apparatus. Fire apparatus require specialized knowledge of standards and maintenance protocols in order to ensure their safe operation. We are also developing preventative in-house vehicle checks to ensure issues are recognized and action taken promptly. A main reason for the increased maintenance costs is the age of the firefighting fleet. We need to be proactive and ensure that we adequately fund the replacement vehicle budget. This line-item has also increased.

I want to greatly thank the Prudential Board as well as the Water Superintendent Ray Counter for their support during this leadership transition and the unexpected fiscal issues we faced. They may not be the ones that put the fires out, but without their help and support our job would be much more difficult.

Some reminders: A burn permit is required to do any outside burning. The only things that may be burned are untreated wood products, brush, leaves and lumber that has not been painted. This is for your SAFETY. At NO TIME may household garbage be burned. A burn permit may be obtained by contacting the State Forest Fire Warden Linwood Bovey at (802) 342-7129. You must obtain a burn permit at least 24 hours before you intend to conduct the burn.

WORKING SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES! Please test your smoke detectors at least twice per year, but preferably monthly.

PLAN YOUR FIRE OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION! Know the route you will take and alternate routes out of your residence. Plan a designated meeting area so you can tell the first responders if everyone is out of the building. Once you have evacuated, do not return into the building until you have been told it is safe to do so.

GET YOUR CHIMNEY/FURNACE/WOOD BURNING/PELLET STOVE CLEANED AND INSPECTED ANNUALLY.

The Fire Department is always looking for new members. Please stop by during drill time to discuss becoming a member. Our doors are also open if you have questions. We are at the station from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for drills the second and third Wednesdays of each month and we welcome visitors.

Respectfully submitted,
Roman Wdowiak, Chief Engineer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The past year was one of continued positive change for Brandon despite continuing challenges at all levels of the economy. Brandon must continue to anticipate and plan for change in a pro-active fashion and direct our efforts at preserving our historic past. Brandon is a unique place, for both residents and tourists alike because we have avoided

the kinds of development that have homogenized so much of the landscape. An approach that promotes actions that target development where our infrastructure is already in place can sustain the services that we all depend on. And a more livable community is a huge factor in attracting businesses and jobs to the town. Here is a list of some accomplishments from this past year:

- In January 2012 Brandon appeared before the Designated Downtown Board with its application for re-certification of the town as a Vermont Designated Downtown. The application was unanimously approved and is valid for five years.
- The Design Committee of the Downtown Brandon Alliance has focused on alternative designs for Segment 6 through downtown Brandon. A report was prepared titled "Brandon, Vermont: A River and a Road Runs Through It" and is available on the DBA link at the town website:
<http://townofbrandon.com/2012/08/16/downtown-brandon-alliance-design-committee/>
- The Design Committee held several public meetings in an effort to educate the public about the long-term impacts of the approved design.
- The Promotion Committee in conjunction with the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce solicited downtown merchants to participate in the "Open Late Fridays" program through the summer months.
- The Promotion Committee published a newsletter, "Keep Brandon Buzzing."
- The Economic Restructuring Committee of the Downtown Brandon Alliance conducted a business and consumer survey as the first part of a market analysis for the Brandon region.
- An application to the Brandon Revolving Loan Fund from Park Village Partners was approved. The VT Fiber Mill will open a fiber-washing operation in one wing of Building J.
- The Friends of The Brandon Town Hall secured gap financing through the Brandon Revolving Loan Fund to complete the lower-floor renovations to the Town Hall in time for the 2012 summer season.
- A monthly breakfast meeting of downtown merchants was started in early 2012. Although this group focuses on downtown merchants it is open to all who are interested in promoting and supporting business development. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM at the Café Provence event space on Center Street.
- All the necessary quarterly networking meetings of the Vermont Designated Downtown Program, as required by state statute were attended. Brandon hosted the spring meeting of the Designated Downtown Networking meeting. Twenty out-of-town visitors spent the day and a variety of local residents participated in the event.
- A grant to the Vermont State Historic Preservation Commission was submitted to assist with the historic preservation portions to the renovation of the Town Office at 49 Center Street. Other sources of potential funding are being investigated.
- The Town of Brandon Economic Development Office partnered with the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce to publish 20,000 Summer 2012 Events Calendar. They were distributed by The Reporter and The Mountain Times.
- The Town Economic Development Budget supported a Brandon Bucks Give-away package during the Fall Foliage season.
- The Brandon Inn was awarded \$50,000 in tax credits to be used for the restoration of the 1910 Otis Elevator in the historic hotel. This is a benefit available to businesses within the Designated Downtown.
- The annual "Main Street Indicators," a report focusing on economic data for Brandon was submitted to the Designated Downtown Program Staff
- The Brandon Area Economic Development Commission was reorganized.

If you have questions about anything please contact me. I can be reached at 247.5721, brandondoesit.beck@gmail.com or downtownbrandonalliance@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Beck, Office of Economic Development

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

During the fiscal year 2011-2012, my duties as the Zoning Administrator expanded beyond just issuing zoning permits. Following Tropical Storm Irene, I was afforded the opportunity to learn how to assist the Town and its residents in their recovery from such disasters. As a result, I spent a considerable amount of time attending FEMA and VEM workshops and trainings, and assisted residents with referrals to sources of recovery services and financial aid. In addition, I completed and received a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant for the acquisition of a damaged home in Brandon. In May of 2012, I took the Certified Floodplain Managers exam and was awarded the designation as a Certified Floodplain Manager. A certification that benefits the Town of Brandon as it seeks hazard mitigation grants and residents who are obligated to purchase flood insurance.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that pursuant to the Brandon Land Use Ordinance, no land development, including but not limited to, subdivision of land, construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, excavation, change in use or in intensity of use of a building or parcel of land, increase in number of dwelling units, bedrooms, footprint, signage, may be undertaken within the Town of Brandon without first obtaining a land use permit. So before you or your contractor undertakes a project, please contact the Zoning Office. In addition, no development of any kind may be undertaken on properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area or within the Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area without obtaining a land use permit. If you are unsure if your property is located within a designated Hazard Area, please contact me and I would be happy to advise you.

The Zoning Office is accessible Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and by appointment. I am happy to assist you with your proposed project or with any zoning concern you might have.

The chart below depicts the land use permit activity for fiscal year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

Applications Approved	101
DRB Conditional Use Approval	12
DRB Variance Approval	2
DRB Appeal Hearing	2
DRB Local Act 250 Review	5
Applications Denied	1
Applications Withdrawn	0
Applications not Required	7

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wiles ,Zoning Administrator / Certified Floodplain Manager

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

A town's recreation department should be a direct reflection of type of people who live in that town. Brandon, the 38th largest town in Vermont, is full of motivated, enthusiastic and creative people. Since July of 2012, I have directed recreation activities in a manner that keeps this simple truth in mind.

Our recreation department acts as the de facto athletic department for The Neshobe Elementary School. We oversee the administration of the extra-curricular youth sports for the children in our community. The Neshobe Elementary School is a wonderful community resource that is especially important to a recreation department that currently has limited facilities. The fields and gymnasium at Neshobe provide much of the space that we utilize for our youth programming. This creative, symbiotic relationship that we have with the school has yet to have its full potential realized. While youth programming is a large portion of what our recreation department has handled in the past our future will include more adult offerings and our partnership with principal Judi Pulsifer will help our recreation department achieve that goal. Some of the numbers from our youth athletic programming:

• Late Season Swimming Lessons	38
• Soccer	107
• 2012 Raider Football (7-8 Grade)	29
• 2012 Flag Football (5-6 Grade)	17
• 2012 – 2013 Youth Basketball	98
• 2012 – 2013 Cheerleading	7

I would like to take the time to thank all of the volunteer youth coaches we have as well as the businesses who have sponsored recreation teams or hosted programming at little to no cost to our recreation department. The volunteer hours and donations help to make our recreation department activities affordable and accessible; our programming is fee based but we do offer scholarship monies to those who qualify so that no child is denied the opportunity to participate.

The future of our recreation department is directly related to the cultivation of Estabrook Field as multi-use facility. For the first time ever the baseball/softball diamond played host to fall soccer games and practices. There will be a renewed focus on promoting the use of that space as a community resource. The reintroduction of recreation activities in the recently renovated (and heated) Brandon Town Hall Basement will have more community members entering that wonderful space and realizing how important the work of the Friends of the Brandon Town Hall has been to our community.

Our Recreation Department is fortunate to have the support of other community organizations. In addition to Neshobe School, we collaborate with the Pittsford Recreation Department, The Neshobe PTO, Otter Valley Union High School and the Boys & Girls Club to provide more programming. The continued development of these partnerships and creation of new ones will allow for more recreational opportunities.

This reporting space will look very different by this time next year, as I will have had a more than one full yearly cycle of worth of experience to report upon. The recreation department will grow, and more programming will be offered. Feedback is a critical component of being responsive to our town's needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas, complaints or compliments you have about our programming.

The Recreation Department phone number is (802) 465-1235 and my e-mail address is bmoore@sover.net. The website is: <http://townofbrandon.com/departments/recreation-department/>

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Moore, Recreation Director

RENTAL HOUSING, CODES, AND HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Rental - First of all I would like to introduce myself, my name is Larry Stevens and I have taken over for Dale Creeley as Rental Housing Code Enforcement Officer and Health Officer. In my first year I have been able to meet most of the landlords but look forward to meeting the rest of you. Inspections have been going well. I have found a number of violations that have been resolved in a timely manner some of which include no hardwired smoke/co detectors, out dated fire extinguishers, broken windows as well as some tenant complaints. For any of our new landlords please keep in mind that all rental units must be kept in compliance with the Brandon Rental Housing Code and must be inspected any time a tenant vacates and prior to another tenant moving in, this applies to family members as well. I appreciate everyone's effort in maintaining our rental housing standards. If you need a copy of the rental housing code please feel free to stop in the town office and pick one up or visit the town website at www.town.brandon.vt.us for a copy.

Health - I also handle health issues within our community. A health issue is any situation that has or could have an adverse effect on the public in general. I have not had many health issues to deal with in my first year but some of them include lead paint, sewage leakage, and a few dog bites. I would also like to remind everyone that it is flu season and encourage everyone to take a cautious and responsible approach to the prevention and treatment of all illnesses this year. Also at the time of this writing the Vermont Dept. Of Health is planning a blood draw to test for triple E virus on town meeting day. In closing as warm weather approaches please use caution when outside and remember to use mosquito repellant, ones that contain deet work the best. If possible try to limit outside activity at dusk when mosquitoes are the most active. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 558-3051 or email at lstevens@sover.net

Respectfully submitted by,
Larry Stevens, Rental Housing Code Enforcement/ Health officer

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
BIRTHS	47	39	40	35
DEATHS	42	46	44	33
CIVIL MARRIAGES	45	39	50	48

Due to the Town's liability exposure and the possible use of information fraudulently, the Vermont Department of Health has recommended against printing names in the Vital Statistics section of the Town Report. The Brandon Town Clerk's Office concurs with this policy.

LISTERS

The Listers processed 100 property transfers from April 1, 2011 to March 30, 2012. 65 Change of appraisal notices were mailed, including flood damaged properties and 57 Current Use changes.

Grievances hearings were held May 22, 2012 with 13 grievances heard resulting in some minor adjustments.

Presently there are 57 properties enrolled in Current Use (land use) program with a total exemption of \$ 4,922,000, with State reimbursement to the Town totaling \$32,981.00

There are 31 Veterans exemptions at \$40,000 totaling \$1,852,500 with the Town picking up the education tax on \$30,000 for each of the \$40,000 exemptions.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Listers

Dolores Furnari Chair Term Expires 2014

Lillian Thomsen Term expires 2013

Maria Ammatuna Term expires 2015

PROPERTIES VOTED EXEMPTIONS

DATE VOTED	NAME	BEGINNING DATE	END DATE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION	ASSMT. LESS CONTRACT
03/02/09	BARS Building & Land	07/01/09	03/01/14	567,700	-0-
03/02/00	Brandon Senior Citizens	07/01/10	06/30/15	262,700	235,700
03/03/09	Brandon Masonic Assn	03/03/09	03/03/14	310,900	-0-
07/01/02	Cable Holdco Exchange	07/01/02	Equip. Only	*607,600	-0-
03/05/01	Neshobe Sportsman Club Inc	07/01/06	06/30/16	287,200	-0-
03/03/08	Stephen Douglas Birthplace	07/01/08	03/01/18	195,300	-0-
03/01/04	RutlandCounty Parent/Child	07/01/04	06/30/14	613,700	-0-

PROPERTIES-VOTED EXEMPTIONS – STABILIZATION CONTRACTS

DATE VOTED	NAME	BEGINNING DATE	END DATE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION	ASSMT LESS CONTRACT
01/26/04	11 Center Street Ventures	04/01/04	04/01/14	*512,400	374,052

*Properties with Contracts on Municipal Portion of Taxes

Properties owned by the Town of Brandon and State of Vermont are not listed above.

DOG LICENSES

TYPE	# SOLD	FEE	TOTAL
NEUTERED	510	\$ 4.00	\$ 2,040.00
UN-NEUTERED	56	\$ 8.00	\$ 448.00
NEUTERED AFTER 10/1	6	\$ 2.00	\$ 12.00
UN-NEUTERED AFTER 10/1	2	\$ 4.00	\$ 8.00
KENNEL/SPECIAL	2	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00
LATE FEES			\$ 128.00
TOTAL PAID TO TOWN			\$ 2,696.00

PLANNING COMMISSION

In 2012, the Brandon Planning Commission voted to adopt a form-based code approach in updating the existing Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO). The Code will be the result of an intensive public engagement effort over the next several months.

**STATE PAYMENTS TO THE TOWN OF BRANDON
DEPT. OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT
JULY 1, 2011 - JUNE 30, 2012**

Description	Amount
Railroad Tax	\$ 299
Current Use Reimbursement	\$ 31,507
Pilot Reimbursement	\$ 29,106
EEGL Assistance	\$ 18,934
Paid by AOT-Class 1,2,3 Roads	\$ 143,422
Paid by State Treasurer-MELF Loan	\$ 105,736
Paid by AOT-FEMA Funds	\$ 107,903
Paid by AOT-Other Highway Projects	\$ 1,609
Paid by AOT - Sewer Payments	\$ 277
Office of Defender General	\$ 20
Paid by Housing & Conservation Board	\$ 20
Paid by Judiciary-Municipal/Civil Fines	\$ 8,863
Liens/Releases	\$ 180
Lister Education	\$ 403
Paid by AOT Recording/Copies	\$ 202
Dept. of Public Safety/Grant Funds	\$ 12,565
Municipal Property Tax Adjustment	\$ 115,809
	\$ 576,853

TREASURER'S TAX REPORT

TAXES FOR 2011-2012	TAX RATE	X GRAND LIST = TOTAL RAISED	
NON-RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION	\$ 1.4026	\$ 1,259,504	\$ 1,766,581
HOMESTEAD EDUCATION	\$ 1.2966	\$ 2,039,188	\$ 2,644,011
MUNICIPAL	\$ 0.7340	\$ 3,295,097	\$ 2,418,601
TOTAL TAXES BILLED			\$ 6,829,193
CORRECTIONS/ABATEMENTS/ADJ.			\$ 14,224
TOTAL TAXES COLLECTABLE			\$ 6,843,417
TAXES PAID BY 5/15/11		\$ 6,536,500	
DELINQUENT TAXES		\$ 306,917	
TOTAL TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR			\$ 6,843,417
TAXES PAID TO:			
BRANDON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT		\$ 1,919,002	
OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL		\$ 1,779,210	
BRANDON FIRE DISTRICT #1		\$ 153,974	
TOTAL			\$ 3,852,186

DELINQUENT TAXES – DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

How Taxes are Calculated and Collected

The Town of Brandon bills and collects taxes for several purposes. These include everything for local use, such as: the General Fund Budget (approved by voters at Town Meeting); Brandon Fire District # 1 (for fire protection, approved at their Annual Meeting by Voters); and Special Appropriations for Social Service Agencies (approved as separately warned Articles by Voters at Town Meeting). In addition, the Town bills and collects taxes for the local school district budget (Neshobe) and Brandon's share of the Otter Valley Union High School District's budget. Neshobe's budget is approved by Brandon's Voters at Town Meeting. Otter Valley's budget is approved by Voters in all of the Towns making up Union High School District #8. Acts 60, 68, 75 and 82, which address the Statewide Education Property Tax, have evolved over the past several years, and affect how the Town calculates the total taxes due, and how it collects them. Residential property owners qualifying for the Homestead Exemption are billed at different rates from non-residential owners (for example, commercial properties). Finally, as a result of changes in the State Statutes, the Town must now collect in its General Fund Tax Rate sufficient money to make up the Statewide Education Property Taxes which would otherwise be due on Voter-approved exemptions. These include, for example: the additional \$30,000 Disabled Veterans' Exemption approved at a recent Town Meeting (the State covers the first \$10,000 of the total approved amount of \$40,000); exemptions for Charitable and Fraternal Organizations approved by Voters from time to time; and any Tax Stabilization Agreements approved by the Selectboard, as authorized by the Voters at a previous Town Meeting.

After these several rates are calculated (usually by mid-July), they are applied to the assessed values as of April 1st for that year. These values are taken from the Grand List, which is made up of approximately 2,000 separate properties, and is approved and maintained by a separately elected Board of Listers. It is important for property owners to understand what their assessed values are, as well as the rights they have under Vermont Statutes if they believe these values to be incorrect, since the Selectboard and Town Treasurer must rely on the Grand List when setting the Tax Rates and preparing the Tax Bills. As a final matter, although the total taxes for each property are calculated, many of Brandon's residential property owners qualify for and receive a partial payment of their property taxes based on a Homestead Exemption and household income. The State determines the amount it pays on behalf of these property owners and provides that information to the Town. Each Tax Bill shows all of the information discussed above, and the net amount which is to be paid directly to the Town for that Tax Year. The net total amounts due for the year, as well as for each of four quarterly payments, appear on each Tax Bill.

Several years ago, at Town Meeting, Voters approved the dates of August 15th, November 15th, February 15th and May 15th as the due dates for each quarterly payment. Thus, there are four equal payments of the net amount due, after applying any payments made on the property owner's behalf by the State. If these amounts are paid on or before the due date(s), there are no late payment fees, penalties or interest charges applied to the account.

Late Payment Fees, Penalties and Interest Charges

Each Quarterly Payment is due on the dates previously stated. For any amounts remaining due for each quarter on those dates, a "Late Payment Fee" is applied, equal to 1% of the overdue balance for that quarter. This accrues on a monthly basis (on or about the 16th of each month) for every Quarterly Payment and each month up to May 15th. Provided the total amount due, including Late Payment Fees, is paid by May 15th, no further Late Payment Fees, Penalties or Interest Charges are applied to the account. For any unpaid balance due after May 15th on the net taxes billed (but not including the accrued Late Payment Fees), the account is then considered to be "Delinquent," and a Penalty of 8% is immediately added to the total then due. Starting on or about the 15th of June, an additional 1% "Interest Charge" is applied to the unpaid balance for the net taxes billed, but not on the Late Payment Fees or Penalty for being Delinquent. This 1% rate of Interest Charge accrues for each of the first three months after which the account becomes Delinquent. Starting in the fourth month, and for every month thereafter until the account is brought current, an additional Interest Charge of 1.5% is applied.

Total Delinquent Taxes Due as of January, 2013

As of January 2013, the total cumulative amount of Delinquent Taxes was as follows:

<u>Number of Accounts</u>	<u>Amount Delinquent</u>	<u>Penalties & Fees</u>	<u>Total Amount Due</u>
9 Special Cases	\$ 47,434	\$ 27,281	\$ 74,715
43 Candidates for Tax Sale	\$ 156,277	\$ 53,260	\$ 209,537
19 \$ 0 to \$ 100 Delinquent	\$ 246	\$ 14	\$ 260
25 \$ 101 to \$ 1,000 Delinquent	\$ 8,985	\$ 2,206	\$ 11,191
34 Over \$ 1,001 Delinquent	\$ 42,341	\$ 15,017	\$ 57,358
130 Accounts Total:	<u>\$ 255,283</u>	<u>\$ 97,778</u>	<u>\$ 353,061</u>

This is the third year that Delinquent Taxes have been reported in this manner. By comparison, last year 109 accounts were delinquent a total of \$ 253,801. It is believed that this is a better description than in previous years for several reasons. These include the fact that earlier reports included everything in a single number - Delinquent Taxes, Late Payment Fees, Penalties and Interest – obscuring the actual amount of Delinquent Taxes. In addition, on advice of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, as well as Counsel, accounts in Bankruptcy Proceedings were not reported to avoid harassment. This new reporting method enables the Town to take these matters into consideration. Furthermore, it is Delinquent Taxes as a percentage of total taxes billed that is most important.

The 130 Delinquent accounts represent about 6% of all Property Tax Accounts in Brandon. The majority of the Delinquent Taxes are for the 4 most recent Tax Years (2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012); although a small amount is for previous years that have not been paid for a variety of reasons, including: bankruptcies; disputed ownership; and abandoned mobile home(s). During the 4 most recent Tax Years, the total amounts billed (net of Tax Abatements and Adjustments) for all purposes were:

Tax Year 2008-2009	\$ 6,173,924
Tax Year 2009-2010	\$ 6,432,094
Tax Year 2010-2011	\$ 6,616,192
Tax Year 2011-2012	\$ 6,843,417

The total amount billed in the 4 years was \$ 26,065,627 – meaning the Delinquent Taxes amount to approximately 1% of the total. Put another way, the Town of Brandon has collected about 99% of what has been billed. Since Delinquent Taxes become a lien against the real estate, we eventually collect nearly 100%. However, since the Late Payment Fees, Penalty and Interest Charges mount up rapidly, it is always in the property owner's best interest to pay in a timely manner, whenever possible. You will note, in the earlier table, that the \$ 255,283 in Delinquent Taxes has grown to \$ 353,061 due to the additional charges (of \$ 97,778).

For comparison to the previous reporting method, the total amount due in January for each of the 4 previous years was:

January 2009	\$ 202,661
January 2010	\$ 300,898
January 2011	\$ 265,104
January 2012	\$ 253,801

A tax sale was held in March 2011, which cleared some of the backlog of delinquencies. That, combined with a concerted effort to work with delinquent taxpayers to get caught up, indicates a favorable trend overall. It is more than likely that another Tax Sale will occur in 2013.

Brandon's taxpayers have continued, by and large, to fulfill their obligations with regard to property taxes, particularly in light of the challenging economic conditions for the time period in this analysis. The rate of delinquencies in Brandon will likely remain at this level for some time. Town officials appreciate everyone's efforts and cooperation.

TO THE CITIZENS OF BRANDON

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. 1862 (a) and the affirmative vote at the Annual Town Meeting March 6, 2006, the Town hereby gives notice that the annual independent audit conducted by Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. is available in the Town Offices located at 49 Center Street. A complete copy may be requested by contacting the Town Office at 802-247-3635. PLEASE NOTE: The Town Offices are temporarily located at the Brandon Fire Station, 61 Franklin St. (rear entrance).

BRANDON TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Beginning Balance Lake Sunapee Money Market Account - July 1, 2011 \$ 2,811.77

Receipts:

Interest Income Deposited	\$ 61.52	
Transfer from Merrill Lynch Investment Account	<u>24,935.00</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>24,996.52</u>

Total Cash Available	27,808.29
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Expenditures:

Forestdale Cemetery Assoc.	1,300.00
Brandon Free Public Library	7,885.00
Brandon Senior Center	2,000.00
Brandon Town Players	750.00
Town of Brandon	8,000.00
Friends of Brandon Town Hall	6,000.00

Total Expenditures	<u>25,935.00</u>
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Ending Balance Lake Sunapee Money Market Account - June 30, 2012 \$ 1,873.29

Composition of Fund as of June 30, 2012

Lake Sunapee Money Market Account #177244060	\$ 1,873.29	
Lake Sunapee Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00	
Merrill Lynch Investment Account		
Cash Balance	12,361.06	
Corporate Bonds	52,233.33	
Preferred Stocks	44,671.51	
Mutual Funds	<u>484,130.10</u>	
Total Fund Value at June 30, 2012		<u>\$ 605,269.29</u>

Five Year Historical Record of Fund Value

Year ended June 30, 2008	<u>\$ 658,248.80</u>
Year ended June 30, 2009	<u>\$ 527,687.93</u>
Year ended June 30, 2010	<u>\$ 557,760.54</u>
Year ended June 30, 2011	<u>\$ 637,099.92</u>
Year ended June 30, 2012	<u>\$ 605,269.29</u>

The following outstanding fund commitments existed as of 6/30/2012:

\$6000. Final payment - Friends of Brandon Town Hall - Bathroom project -'12-13 contribution

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Sharron Kenny (2013) - Tanner Romano (2014) - Carolyn Whittaker (2015)

GRANT STATUS REPORT 2011-2012

NAME OF AGENCY OR DEPT	NAME OF PROGRAM	NAME OF GRANT / NOTES	GRANT ID #	CFDA #	AWARD AMOUNT	GRANT TERM	CURRENT	
							TOTAL	%FED. FUNDS
State of Vermont	Dept. of Public Safety	Highway Safety	02140-1112-2104	20.600	\$ 5,000.00	10/01/12-09/30/12	\$ 3,332.25	100%
State of Vermont	Dept. of Public Safety	Highway Safety	02140-0911-3506	20.609	\$ 8,000.00	04/01/2011-09/30/2011	\$ 7,891.00	100%
State of Vermont	Dept. of Public Safety	Highway Safety	02140-1111-9204	20.608	\$ 750.00	07/01/2011-09/30/2011	\$ 750.00	100%
State of Vermont	Dept. of Public Safety	PD-Highway Safety Program	02140-1112-9204	20.608	\$ 2,250.00	10/01/2011-06/30/2012	\$ 1,549.00	100%
US Dept of Justice	US Dept of Justice	Cops Hiring Program	2009RKWX0867	97.067	\$ 187,710.00	07/01/09-07/01/12	\$ 59,857.00	100%
US Dept of Justice	Drug Enforcement Administration	Forfeiture Funds	ID#09-DEA-32176	16.710	\$ 17,738.40	07/01/2010-Completion	\$ 10,356.00	100%
State of Vermont	Housing & Comm. Affairs	Nexus	0164/097CA(05)	20.600	\$375,000.00		\$ -	
Brandon Industrial Park	BFD-40,000, BIC 100,000-VAOT 200,000	Reim. Town as lots are sold	2010 balloon		\$ 176,800.00		\$ -	Local/State
State of Vermont	VCDP	Erastus Thayer	0164/031G(27)	14.228	\$391,000.00		\$ -	State
Vermont Community Foun.	Walter Cert Funds	Recreation Grant/Estabrook	20071080 State		\$2,000.00		\$ -	
State of Vermont	VAOT-CA120	Churchill Bridge Project	PLH ALPP (1)	20.205	\$37,500.00		\$ -	80% Federal
State of Vermont	VTRANS	Maple Union Sidewalk	STP EH05(4)	20.205	\$155,000.00		\$ 2,012.00	80%
State of Vermont	Agency of Transportation	Bridge #114	BHF 019-3(58)	20.205	\$ 1,305,000.00	Current -06/20/30	\$ 9,395.00	95%
State of Vermont	Agency of Transportation	Center Street Bridge	THA30005-301	20.205	\$ 120,000.00		\$ -	
State of Vermont	Agency of Transportation	Neshobe Bridge	THS 30008-307	20.205	\$ 120,000.00		\$ -	
State of Vermont	Agency of Transportation	RT 7	NH 019-3(496)	20.205	\$ 2,375,000.00		\$ 38,166.33	95%
State of Vermont	Operations Division	FEMA-4022-DR-VT (sub FE0621)	EA#40221102	97.036		08/27/2011-03/01/2013	\$ 269,748.00	Fed 80%
State of Vermont	Federal Aid Highway	FHWA ER 0050	IRN0007-028	20.205	\$ 290,900.87	08/27/2011-12/31/14	\$ 223,749.56	100%

REPORTS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

BRANDON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, INC.

The Center located at 1591 Forest Dale Road (phone 247-3121) is a non-profit organization. We are open Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Activities include Meals on Wheels lunch, which is served twice a week (Mon. and Wed.) at noon to anyone who applies, Bone Builders meet each Monday and Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 am and Weight Watchers meet every Thursday evening.

We also host a Free Community Lunch every Friday at noon which is open to the public. We have a card club and a knitter's club who use the Center Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 1-3. WIC Clinic is held once a month on Tuesday and the Visiting Nurses toe nail clinic operates every 3 months. We host a dinner on the second Tuesday of every month and the Lion's Club built us two barrel grills for our summer Friday night bar-b-ques. The Center may also be used for parties and gatherings for a nominal fee.

The Board of Directors have strived to change the thinking of folks about the Senior Center being used solely for senior citizens. We have worked tirelessly to make the building into a Community Center where anyone can come and join in the activities. Foxcroft Farms, the Harvest Program built new windowboxes, supply the turkeys for our Thanksgiving Community Dinner and sell farm fresh eggs every Friday at lunch. The Girl Scouts fill the windowboxes every spring with beautiful flowers and bake cookies for the 50 Christmas Boxes to shut-ins. Otter Valley North staff and students maintain their vegetable garden on the east side of the building which produces food for the community lunch. We have had a new shed built by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project. We have had to replace the aging furnace this year and are seeking grants to replace the back roof. We continue to be "green" and recycle and compost all materials. We also collect returnable bottles to help defray operating costs. The patrons would like to thank the Town of Brandon for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted, The Board of Directors

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide free, equal and easy access to information in all forms and offer recreational materials to the Brandon community and surrounding area.

General Library Use and Information - In an average week 1500 users come through the library doors and many residents are accessing our resources in their own homes. Library resources include:

- Public access computers and wireless internet services.
- The general collection which contains books for toddlers, young readers, teens and adults, and large print books.
- An extensive audio-visual collection of documentary, award winning and foreign films.
- Children's summer program during the month of July and two weekly pre-school story times.
- A variety of adult informational programs throughout the year and a Friday film series.
- The Vermont Online Library electronic database, downloadable audio and ebooks, and Universal Class, which offers free non-credit Continuing Education classes.
- Photocopy and fax services.
- State and federal tax forms.
- Comfortable and accessible meeting spaces for educational and civic groups.
- Local newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

Capital Campaign - The Brandon Library is one of the town's earliest commercial buildings and it is showing its age. In 2012, the Board of Trustees kicked off a \$70,000 Capital Campaign to address the following building issues:

- Replacement of the obsolete oil burner (could pay for itself in four years in fuel savings).
- Replacement of the leaking, 100-year old steel roof and maintenance on the slate roof.
- Modification of the second floor railing to comply with safety code.
- Installation of an air exchanger in the basement for the book sale.
- Upgrade outdated electrical circuitry.

In six months, the Trustees raised about half the amount needed and they continue fundraising. Shelf Sponsorship opportunities are available and a special event is being planned for March 2013 - watch local papers for information. Contact the Library for more information and to see how you can be a part of this important campaign.

Thank you - Funds from the towns of Brandon, Sudbury and Leicester help keep the Library doors open. We thank everyone who contributes to the Library and encourage the citizens of our supporting towns to visit us at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets, call us at 802-247-8230 or check our website at brandonpubliclibrary.org.

BRANDON-LEICESTER-SALISBURY-GOSHEN INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

2012 was a unique and challenging year for the BLSG Insect Control District. For the most part, mosquitoes were mild to non-existent, with the exception of a few quick hatches here and there. We did relatively little adulticide spraying through the spring and summer, though we did conduct two large aerial and several ground larvicide applications to kill larvae before they hatched. By all measures, the citizenry was quite happy with the mosquito situation through August and it promised to be one of our best years ever.

The Labor Day weekend, however, was a game changer. As is now well known, two individuals in our area contracted eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), and tragically, both later died. Our communities were shocked, and BLSG quickly did some pre-emptive adulticide spraying throughout most of our District, despite the fact that few mosquitoes were flying.

After careful assessment and consultation with other states and the Centers for Disease Control, the state Health and Agriculture Departments decided that an aerial application of adulticide was warranted and, after a public meeting and broad public communication and notice, they sprayed roughly 18,000 acres in an attempt to kill the mosquitoes carrying EEE. BLSG was not directly involved in this effort but we were kept informed. We quickly put information on our website, posted signs throughout the District, and tried to keep the public informed regarding what we knew throughout the fall. We worked closely with Alan Graham, the state vector control expert during the crisis, and supported his field work to capture and test mosquitoes for disease.

In early October we requested a meeting with our local state legislators; more than 10 showed up and we had critical discussions on how best to move forward. The legislators asked us to tell them what we and the state need to do to best address EEE and West Nile virus in the future. This resulted in a proposal to legislators suggesting over \$225,000 in increased funding (mostly to state programs) as a start toward improved disease tracking, assessment, and treatment for next year. Our local legislators are unanimously supportive of increased efforts, as are the state agencies involved; we and they are all still in the planning stages for next year.

Closer to home, Sandy Chicoine joined us in 2012 as our larval coordinator and did an excellent and energetic job in tracking down and killing larvae. We are pleased that she is returning for 2013. Mort Pierpont, who handles adulticide treatments, trucks, and manages our physical plant, was on task again and is returning in 2013.

Our "mosquito shed," on Rt. 73, has been in bad need of repair for years. There was never a foundation in the building, and the posts were rotting away. We secured a bank loan in 2012 and after review of eight proposals, we entered into a contract with Parker Construction of Shoreham to support the building, excavate under it, construct a foundation and frost wall, and make other repairs as needed. We are pleased to report that they did an excellent job and the building is now closed and secure and should serve us well for many years to come. We will be paying down the loan as soon as possible, but have five years to do so.

Our communication efforts with "The Buzz," a column in local papers, were more important than ever this year, and we also kept our website (blsgmosquito.wordpress.com) up to date. During the EEE crisis it received around 1000 views, indicating that many people are consulting the site for information.

Moving forward, we do not know what to expect next year regarding EEE, WNV, or mosquitoes in general. We will be prepared to work with the state and the other mosquito control districts, and will flexibly deal with whatever challenges come our way.

I thank the Board and our employees for their dedicated service under trying circumstances, and appreciate the support and understanding of our towns, state legislators, and the taxpayers who fund our efforts. After four years of flat funding, and with growing challenges from mosquito-borne diseases, we have requested a 14% funding increase from the towns for 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Meffe, Chair, BLSG Insect Control District Board of Trustees

RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE

The Rutland County Solid Waste District offers a variety of solid waste, recycling, waste education, household hazardous waste, composting and administrative support programs for our seventeen member municipalities. Some services are also available to non-District communities on a fee for service basis. In addition, the District operates a regional drop-off center and transfer station at Gleason Road in Rutland City. District program, facility and rate information is now available on our web site, www.rcswd.com.

Waste Disposal: During 2012, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 34,000 tons of municipal solid waste; nearly all of this was through the District's master disposal contract with Casella Waste Management. The cost of disposal, handling and transportation from the District Transfer Station at Gleason Road to the landfill was \$78.32 per ton. State taxes, district surcharge and the Rutland City Host Community Fee totaled \$23.97, for a final disposal cost of \$102.29 per ton.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), or recycling center, off West Street in Rutland City that is leased by Casella Waste Management for their operations. The facility currently receives approximately 27,000 tons of recyclables a year. Casella Waste Management has been making upgrade improvements to the facility with the anticipation of converting the collection and processing to a single-stream system in the near future. In November of 2011 Casella had completed with the installation of new equipment for the conversion of the facility to accept and process zero-sort recycling. As part of this process, the facility can now take plastics #3 through #7.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility, and scheduled collections at twenty town transfer stations through the spring, summer and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of hazardous, flammable and toxic materials, anti-freeze, pesticides, used motor oil, asbestos, fluorescent tubes, computers and electronics. The District also collects electronic waste. In 2012 the District collected over 537,000 lbs. of e-waste. For 2012 the District collected compact and fluorescent bulbs; U-tubes, and Circline Fluorescents, flammables and solvents, glycols, oxidizer labpacks, oil based paints, non-process resins, pesticides, and waste oil.

Food Waste – The District in cooperation with the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District have helped to oversee the collection of food waste from Hannaford's to a local farmer in Danby for composting and ultimate reuse as fertilizer on the farm. Over 68 tons of food waste from this one store was diverted from going to the landfill for 2012. Unfortunately, the farmer we were working with had decided to discontinue participation in October of 2012. We will certainly look for other options as the new requirements of ACT 148 take place.

Other Programs: The District also offered other "Merry Mulch," waste management, education and reduction programs, including construction and demolition waste, clean wood and composting and participated in several local programs including Green Up Day, the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Show, Solar Fest and the third annual Trash to Art Program with Sustainable Rutland.

James O'Gorman, District Manager

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION'S MISSION: Cooperative planning in the Region - www.rutlandrpc.org

RRPC Mission: *To develop and implement a regional plan, to provide assistance to municipalities with the planning process and information gathering, to be a central repository of planning information and to administer regional programs while remaining consistent with our federal and state requirements.*

THE COMMISSION'S 2012 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- Development of a Strategic Plan for the RRPC.
- Technical assistance on land use issues, community development, natural resource and transportation issues.
- Town Planning, including enhanced consultation meetings with Planning Commissions and the update and implementation of town plans, zoning & subdivision regulations.
- Update of the Rutland Regional Plan, including the Housing, Natural Resource, History, Resource Extraction and Energy Sections.
- Assisted towns with Tropical Storm Irene recovery, including coordinating and documenting damage to roads, bridges, and waterways, developing hazard mitigation projects, and hosting Community Recovery meetings.
- Development of a Regional Broadband Plan.

- Guidance for towns on Building Healthy Communities.
- Operate the Brownfields Reuse Program, conducting environmental site assessments, remediation planning and redevelopment assistance.
- Regular roundtables of local road commissioners to share information and discuss common problems and solutions.
- Informational meetings on pertinent subjects such as the panel discussion on local involvement in energy facility decisions made by Vermont's Public Service Board, the roles that municipalities and the public play in contributing to the Public Service Board process.
- Regular disaster training for town officials and first responders through the Rutland Region Local Emergency Planning Committee, including emergency planning, preparedness, response, hazardous materials, and Incident Command System
- Use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) tools to work on transportation, watershed planning, town planning and zoning, and infrastructure mapping.
- Support of the Rutland Region Transportation Council planning for the future *multi-modal* transportation needs of the Region. Prioritized and created a brochure of all transportation projects funded with state and federal funds. Conducted Region-wide Park and Ride Study, and an Assessment of Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs.
- Supported Agricultural Viability through assistance to the Rutland Area Farm and Food Link.
- Education, training, and information programs for municipal officials, reimbursement for program fees as well as quarterly Newsletters, an updated web site and Facebook page
- A comprehensive energy program providing assistance to local energy coordinators and committees, organizing transportation-related energy programs, and hosting a workshop on improving energy efficiency in municipal buildings.

In Brandon the Rutland Regional Planning Commission:

- Paid for local officials' participation in planning and zoning workshops.
- Provided several wetland/flood hazard maps for flood insurance review.
- Conducted traffic counts on High, Marble and Park Streets.
- Started entering Town's Road Sign Inventory into GIS
- Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan following Tropical Storm Irene
- Completed Enhanced Consultation
- Inventoried assets and analyzed Plan language for Building Healthy Communities Initiative Report.
- Worked with Planning Commission to begin process of creating a form based code.
- Provided planning commission with GIS data to support form based code.
- Reviewed three Act 250 applications.
- Created road sign inventory database.

RUTLAND REGION TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

The Rutland Region Transportation Council (RRTC) provides a forum for public involvement in transportation planning, the development of regional transportation planning and priorities for the Region, assistance on transportation projects, coordinates policies and priorities with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and promotes cooperation on transportation issues. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) provides planning, administrative, and geographic information system staff to the Council.

All towns in the Rutland Region can participate in the RRTC and those with representatives appointed by their town to the Council may vote on any issue. Meetings are held monthly, normally on the fourth Thursday, at the RRPC office. All are invite to attend. Questions about the Transportation Council may be directed to: Susan Schreibman, Assistant Director (775-0871 ext 204) or Richard Baker, Chair (247-6366) or check the website: <http://rutlandrpc.org/transportation.php>.

Highlights of 2012 include:

- Assessed and prioritized the Rutland Region's VTrans transportation project list. A brochure of all transportation projects in the Region is available;
- Served on the Board of Marble Valley Regional Transit District and facilitated the regional advisory group of Public Transportation for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities;
- Represented the RRPC/Regional Transportation Council on the Bi-State Rail Study, Statewide Safe Routes to School Task Force, and Study on Transportation Funding;
- Assisted towns with grant applications for bike racks, and bike/pedestrian feasibility studies;
- Began a Local Road Network Analysis of Rutland City and Town for the area west of US7 (South Main St.)
- Continued work on projects such as improvements to the US 7 and 4 corridors, and provided assistance to Rutland Town as access to Farrell Road is potentially changing;

- Provided technical assistance to Rutland City for Rutland Creek Path- completing Segment 1 and successfully funding final engineering and construction of Segment 4 and a Feasibility Study for Segment 5;
- Assisted with the development of an application for signs for the Crossroad of Vermont Byway;
- Completed the amendment of the Corridor Management Plan and participated in public hearings to extend the Stone Valley Byway to include Hubbardton, worked on the design and installation of interpretive panels, and development of podcasts. Successfully secured a grant for a bicycle and pedestrian feasibility study, recreation user guide, and an application for mobile devices. The Stone Valley Scenic Byway now extends along Route 30 from Hubbardton through Castleton, Poultney, Wells and Pawlet to Manchester in Bennington County;
- Assisted individual towns with infrastructure (culverts, road and sign) inventories to reduce their local match on bridge and structure grants, including speed studies and traffic counts in Tinmouth, Chittenden and Brandon and bicycle/pedestrian counts in Rutland City;
- Participated in High Risk Rural Road Studies in Tinmouth and Pittsford;
- Continued support of the Safe Routes to Schools Program;
- Coordinated monthly network sessions for the Road Commissioners/Foremen which included winter maintenance and assistance on salt usage, river/roads workshop, and bulk purchase of signs;
- Promoted access management and sound land use/transportation planning practices for developments and in the review of Act 250 applications.
- Ongoing assistance to towns and VTrans regarding Tropical Storm Irene. We continued to work closely with towns to document local road damage, and disseminate information, assisting towns and FEMA;

Currently and in the future, the RRTC will continue working on these efforts, with the goal of coordinating land use and transportation to create a more balanced, efficient multi-modal transportation network.

RUTLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Rutland Economic Development Corporation provides primary resources for economic development at many levels in the region. REDC operates a Revolving Loan Fund which provides financing for operations in the region. Our focus is on the businesses that have the greatest capacity for creating "living-wage" jobs, with lending activities primarily in manufacturing and healthcare. We operate a 43,000 square foot business incubator which houses companies employing over 100 individuals. We work to develop commercial real estate to support capacity for business growth, and have assisted or participated in several redevelopment projects of existing underutilized properties. Additionally, REDC houses several business support programs. The Vermont Small Business Development Center (VTSBDC) provides no-cost counseling services to existing enterprises, and support and training for business start-ups. The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) assists companies in navigating the Federal and State systems for bidding on government contracts. REDC also works closely with the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC) to provide meaningful technical assistance to our industrial base. In summary, REDC acts as a regional "one-stop-shop" for business, either providing the services directly, or by referring them to the appropriate program.

While we have weathered the worst effects of the recent recession, there are still many challenges we face regionally in our economy. Training to provide the skills needed for tomorrow's workforce will continue to be a focus and priority for the organization. The support you provide goes directly to helping the businesses in the region become more successful, and with your help we will continue to be an effective catalyst for growth.

Jamie Stewart, EDP, Executive Director

GREEN UP DAY – MAY 5, 2012

Tropical Storm Irene created more work than usual for our coordinators across the state. Green Up Vermont partnered with the Irene Recovery Office on special Green Up to Recover projects. Some of the hardest hit towns reported having so many volunteers that they ran out of places to send them! We distributed an additional 20,000 Green Up Day bags for Irene-related clean ups.

Green Up Day celebrated 42 years in 2012. Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization responsible for continuing the success of Green Up Day. The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients: one is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups volunteering to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont. The "State" does not "do" Green Up Day.

With your town's help, we can continue Vermont's unique annual tradition of taking care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up. Children are our future, and Green Up Vermont focuses

on education for grades K-12 with activities such as a curriculum for K-4, activity booklets, a story and drawing booklet, and the annual poster and writing contests. Please visit www.greenupvermont.org to learn more.

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 12 percent of our budget. Last year, appropriations from cities and towns covered 18 percent of our budget. We rely on your help to keep Green Up Day going. These funds pay for supplies including over 46,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont!

Mark your calendars for the next Green Up Day, May 4, 2013, the first Sat. in May. Put on your boots, get your family together, invite some friends and join us in your community to make Vermont even more GREEN!

PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTICES

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Vermont Department of Health is working for your health every day. With our headquarters and laboratory in Burlington and 12 district offices around the state, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2012 the Health Department:

Supported community coalitions to help make the healthy choice the easiest choice. Rutland Area Prevention Coalition was awarded \$110,000 to prevent chronic disease by increasing access to healthy eating and opportunities to be physically active, supporting Healthy Retailers, preventing alcohol and drug abuse, reducing exposure to second hand smoke, and helping smokers to quit. (Reference: Healthy Communities FY13)

Served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age 5 with WIC (Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program). WIC provides individualized nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Rutland County, 2515 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month. (Reference: WIC Data)

Promoted immunizations and worked to control the spread of infectious diseases like influenza, measles and pertussis (whooping cough). This year saw another rise in the number of cases of pertussis, from 95 statewide in 2011 to 471 by December 2012 – including 67 in Rutland County. (Reference: Pertussis Case Counts – Nov. 30)

Launched a new online resource that brings environmental and public health data together in one place, at www.healthvermont.gov/tracking The Tracking portal has county-level searchable data and information about air quality, asthma hospitalizations, birth defects, blue-green algae, cancer rates, carbon monoxide poisoning, drinking water, heart attacks, lead poisoning and reproductive health – with links to national data.

Your Health Department district office is in Rutland at 300 Asa Bloomer State Office Building, 802-786-5811 or toll free 888-253-8802. For more information, news, alerts and resources: Visit us on the web at www.healthvermont.gov.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

This year many Vermont communities in and around the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) dedicated a lot of time and resources toward repairing extensive damaged caused by Tropical Storm Irene. The GMNF also received extensive damage from the storm and like many municipalities, it was the community of volunteers, partners and local contractors that helped the Forest Service make needed repairs to dozens of roads, trails, bridges and facilities that were impacted by the storm. We have come a long way since Tropical Storm Irene -- today nearly all GMNF roads and trails have been repaired and forest users are again enjoying the recreational opportunities that the GMNF has to offer. Forest Service staff are currently working to repair the limited number of roads and trails that have remained closed and require additional environmental analysis and design work. The Forest Service will be working with partners in the coming months to design and plan for the 2013 construction season. We were lucky to escape severe damage from Hurricane Sandy; however, the GMNF did suffer from several blow-downs and minor infrastructure damage. We would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in the management of the 400,000 acre GMNF which serves several million outdoor recreation enthusiasts and is critical to your local economy.

We are proud that the Green Mountain National Forest is part of Vermont and part of your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Our staff works hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to visit every year.

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure. Rutland - Supervisor's Office: 802-747-6700 and Middlebury - Ranger Station: 802-388-4362

REPORTS FROM APPROPRIATIONS

BRANDON AREA RESCUE SQUAD

Brandon Area Rescue Squad serves towns Brandon, Goshen, Forest Dale, Sudbury and Leicester. Brandon Rescue has a staff of 36 volunteers, 1 full time Operations Chief and 1 full time Paramedic. Certification held by Rescue staff range from CPR Certified Drivers, First Responders, Emergency Medical Technician Basics / Intermediates and Critical Care Paramedics.

- Total calls for 2011- 620 calls in Brandon/Forest Dale.
- Total call volume of 748 calls for 2011.
- Brandon Rescue responded to 8 calls for mutual aid for neighboring towns.
- Total Volunteer Hours- Over 25,000 hours of time for On Call shift, 2nd or 3rd Calls, Special Events, Trainings etc. This is a savings to the townspeople of over \$300,000!

If you have ever thought about doing something to help in your community, please think about joining Brandon Rescue. We are always in need of good people. It would be hard to find anything much more rewarding than helping your neighbors in their time of need.

Please be sure your house number is very clearly marked and visible from the road. The quicker we can find you, the quicker we can help you!

Appropriation Request - \$20,735

BRANDON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization dedicated to the improvement and advancement of a positive and dynamic economic, industrial, professional, and business climate in the Brandon area. Part of what we do is to make the Brandon area a better place to live, work, and play. The Chamber of Commerce puts on many community events throughout the year including the free Summer Concert Series, Art in the Snow, Great Brandon Auction, Yard Sale Day, Make Your Own Leaf Person, Memory Tree, and Moonlight Madness. In 2012, we contributed to the Toy Project, cooked and served dinner to Brandon's Seniors, awarded a scholarship to an outstanding OVUHS graduating student, sponsored two public forums Meet the Candidates (Select board in March and Vermont House Representatives in October), and lit Central Park and downtown trees in December. We continued to collect and disburse funds through Brand-Aid, helping business owners who had uncovered losses due to Tropical Storm Irene. We have an active and busy website full of information for the traveling public and the community. Our popular electronic newsletter is sent to more than 1200 email addresses on a regular basis.

Revenue from our memberships does not cover all the expenses associated with running the organization. We thank the taxpayers for past support and look to them for help with future expenses. We're proud to be part of Brandon and hope to continue to effect change in a positive and dynamic way. Please contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or look us up on-line at www.brandon.org. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please send us an email at info@brandon.org

Beth Carr, 2012 President

Appropriation Request - \$1,000

RSVP AND VOLUNTEER CENTER

RSVP and The Volunteer Center is an "Invitation to Serve" program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through volunteer service. Needs are met in critical areas such as human services, elder care, health care, education, literacy, and the arts, just to name a few. RSVP/V/C involves individuals in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their varied life and professional experiences. Through such efforts, RSVP/V/C is meeting the needs that strained local budgets cannot afford. RSVP/V/C enables people to contribute to their communities while enjoying the personally satisfying and rewarding experience that community engagement offers. Additionally, over the past 10 years RSVP has implemented several "Signature Programs" aimed at addressing pressing community needs. These programs include RSVP TeleCare, a telephone reassurance and safety check in program offered FREE to Rutland County seniors, a children's literacy and mentoring program called RSVP Rutland County Reads, and after school program called RSVP After School Buddies, an osteoporosis prevention program, RSVP Bone Builders, which provides FREE strength and balance exercise classes with RSVP/V/C volunteer instructors to Rutland County residents, and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, in which RSVP/V/C volunteers restore and refurbish donated dolls, toys books and games. Last year over 10,000 items were distributed to 2,000 children and over 50 organizations to share with clients.

Locally, RSVP/V/C is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland County with 1375 volunteers. From April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, RSVP/V/C volunteers provided 129,728 hours of community service. The cost benefit to the communities of Rutland County in terms of cost of services provided equals \$2,623,100. Once again this year RSVP/V/C is not asking for additional monies from the Town of Brandon. The monies we request are used to help defray the costs of providing services that impact the lives of citizens of all ages throughout Rutland County. Many RSVP volunteers throughout our region stepped up along with their neighbors to assist after the damage from Irene this past summer.

Currently in Brandon, 30 volunteers donate their services to the following non-profit organizations: The American Red Cross, Village Manor, Park Terrace, Rutland RRMC, Northeast School, Northwest School, Otter Valley Union High School, Neshobe School SOAR Program, Brandon Rescue Squad, Brandon Area Food Shelf, The Pines Nursing Home, RSVP Good-time Singers, Pleasant Manor Nursing Home, College of Saint Joseph, The Meadows, Mountain View Center, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, One-2-One, The Godnick Adult Center, Park Terrace, Bridges and Beyond, Brandon Senior Center, Currier Memorial School, Headstart, Lothrop Elementary School, VT Police Academy, RSVP Bone Builders classes, RSVP Operation Dolls and More.

Currently, there are several RSVP Bone Builders classes offered in Brandon free of charge to area residents. On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center, I would like to thank the residents of Brandon for their continued support. As financial constraints effect more and more non-profit organizations, the need for volunteers increases. With your help, RSVP/V/C will continue to respond to this need.

Sincerely, Nan M. Hart, Director

Appropriation Request - \$406

RAVNAH

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and the Brandon residents who depend on our care, we thank you. Without your dedicated support, we would not have been able to care for the thousands of Rutland County residents who needed us. From homes to clinics to senior housing, we have carried out our mission to bring medically necessary health care wherever it is needed, regardless of one's ability to pay, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, we once again ask for your support. Specifically, we are requesting a combined Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Rutland Area Hospice appropriation of \$10,200 from the Town of Brandon. This request represents level funding for our services.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our programs and services, and the confidence you place in us.

Ronald J. Cioffi, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - \$10,200

RUTLAND COUNTY VERMONT ADULT LEARNING

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) has relocated. We are now in the old CCV (Community College of Vermont) building on 16 Evelyn Street in the heart of downtown Rutland.

In partnership with *The Marble Valley Regional Transit District*, we offer registered students' unlimited access to "The Bus" at no charge, with no restrictions on use. Our focus is to assist students in getting to and from class and to help those economically due to the high cost of gas, but the pass may also be used for shopping, dining, doctors appointments, etc.

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, Rutland VAL served 356 students in Rutland County, providing 12,252 hours of education. We served twenty-six Brandon students, four of which were 16-21 years of age, providing 792 hours of instruction. Four students earned their high school credential, while others continue their studies with us. VAL greatly appreciates Brandon's continued support through Town Funds.

As of January 2014, all GED tests and registration will be done on the computer. There will no longer be paper and pencil registration or testing. If an individual has not taken and passed all five paper GED assessments by December 2013, previous paper tests will become **null and void** and individuals will need to start all over, from the beginning with the computerized tests. If you or someone you know has not completed all five GED tests, call VAL for assistance.

VAL has been very active in supporting the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board's (RRWIB) **Three Steps Forward** initiative, funded by the Vermont Women's Fund. This program supports young women between the ages of 15 and 25. The goal is to help young women who have obtained or are working on their high school diploma, are low on skills and struggling with next steps toward a career, to get connected with the people and experiences that will help them get a job and support themselves.

It's never too late to earn your high school diploma through VT Adult Learning. Someone 16 and under the age of 22 could consider our *High School Completion Program*. For those 20 years old and older, we offer the *Adult Diploma Program*. Diplomas for both programs come from Rutland County high schools.

Our primary goal at VAL is to provide high quality, respectful education, advisement for employability, post secondary education and support to Vermonters in need of our services. Please call or stop by for a tour of our new facilities at 16 Evelyn Street.

Contact: Michelle C. Folger, Regional Manager; email: mfolger@vtadulthoodlearning.org

Appropriation Request - \$1,200

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF BRANDON

In some communities, boys and girls are left to find their own recreation and companionship wherever they can find it. This has caused an increase in the number of children at home with no adult care or supervision, yet young people need to know that someone cares. The Boys & Girls Club of Brandon exists to help combat this issue and the others that arise because of it. The Club's programs and services promote and enhance the development of children by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Our goal is to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful and bright future. Your Boys & Girls Club provides a safe place to learn and grow, where children develop ongoing relationships, with caring, adult professionals, through life-enhancing programming and character development experiences that build stability, hope, and opportunity for their futures.

The club relies on three main sources of funding for our \$175,000 budget: National Boys & Girls Club of America allocation, grants from local and national foundations and fundraising events and appeals such as the One Campaign, the VSO Holiday Concert, the Taste of Vermont and the Swing for the Kids Golf Tournament. The club also requests support from the Town to support programming during the year and summer camp scholarships. The \$10,000 General Fund request is roughly 5.7% of the total budget. The budget supports four staff salaries, programming and meals for an average of 25 children per day for forty-seven weeks a year.

The Boys and Girls Club of Brandon is located in the heart of downtown Brandon at 25 Rossiter Street. School buses stop so that the club can serve children from the five communities of Brandon, Leicester, Sudbury, Whiting and

Pittsford. We offer licensed child care Monday-Thursday from 2:30-5PM for children 6-12 years of age, drop-in hours for children 6-12 from 5-6:30PM Monday- Thursday and the Teen Center Monday-Friday from 2:30-6:30. Snacks are provided daily and dinner is served nightly at 5PM. We currently offer many, structured, activities: team based athletic activities, homework help, computer technology programming, art and cooperative games. We are also offering mentoring through the "Be Great Grant." This is also a place where kids can come and just have fun doing things they like such as skateboarding, pool, foosball and video games. For more information about the Club, our staff, programming or to volunteer your time and talents please contact Bill Bonsignore at 802-465-4131, via E-mail at bbonsignore@rutlandbgclub.org or on our new Facebook page at: [Facebook.com/BrandonVermontBoysandGirlsClub](https://www.facebook.com/BrandonVermontBoysandGirlsClub).

In closing, we would like to say thank you so much to the voters in Brandon for their support over the years and we hope that you will continue to fund the great work we are doing.

Sincerely,
Christine Gahagan
Steering Committee Chair – Board Member

Bill Bonsignore
Unit Director

Appropriation Request - \$10,000

BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee (BIDCC) raises money every year to provide a full day of activities celebrating our nation's independence. In addition to the parade, there are food, games, music, entertainment, and the great ball race. Our day is topped off by a fabulous fireworks display.

Planning the annual Independence Day Celebration takes hard work and, more importantly, funding. We are grateful for the generous response of the community to our annual appeal for donations, support of the ball race and principally with the silent auction. These fundraising activities, however, do not cover all the expenses associated with the celebration. The day's activities cost in the neighborhood of \$21,000 and the day's activities have run at a deficit for the most recent years. This is due to both increased expenses – the cost of fireworks go up approximately 6% every year -- and shortfalls in fund raising, particular with the Silent Auction. Therefore, the committee is requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$6,000 to help us fund the events for the upcoming year.

Our celebration is always held on the first Saturday of July which in 2013 falls on July 6th. We hope you will come out and join the fun in making this great event the best summer event in all Vermont.

Appropriation Request - \$6,000

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Brandon in 2012:

Senior Meals: The Council helped provide 8,689 meals that were delivered to the homes of 63 elders in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels". We also supply "Blizzard Bags" containing "shelf-stable" meals to home delivered meal participants and other isolated elders for use during a weather related emergency. In addition, 54 Brandon elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 2,386 meals were provided.

Case Management Assistance: SVCOA case management staff helped 80 elders in your community. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

Other Services and Support: 1) "Senior HelpLine" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues via the "60Plus" column appearing in the Rutland Herald; 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland County Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Additional support and resources for elders affected by Tropical Storm Irene.

Appropriation Request - \$2,400

ARC-RUTLAND AREA, SERVING CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

We promote ARC-Rutland Area by programs that are derived from our name; Advocacy, Resources and Community opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families. ARC helps the local Self Advocates Becoming Empowered - Rutland with their monthly meetings and reaching yearly goals, the Rutland Family Support Network with their sibshops and potlucks. We do Representative Payee work for about 45 people; read material from and comment on the State meetings on disabilities and attend the local standing committee at CAP. We currently provide transportation for our members to some of our dances, the self advocacy monthly meetings, the Aktion Club meetings, any extra events we may sponsor and others have been able to use the transportation grant also. Our newest project has been helping the Aktion Club of Rutland County complete their dreams, to help others. The Aktion Club is a community service club for adults living with disabilities, they currently grew a garden and donated the food. Of course our more known activities are the five dances we provide each year. There are 3 part time employees and two volunteers at ARC-Rutland Area!

We are requesting \$3,500 this year. Thank you for your continuing support. If you or anyone has questions or comments, please call us at 775-1370. This year our request will have our new corporate name. ARC-RUTLAND AREA, SERVING CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Sincerely,
Lisa S. Lynch, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - \$3,500

RUTLAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

In the year 2012, 27 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as the Town of Brandon assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Town giving dollars support services which include:

Individual Counseling for Children, Adults and Families
Substance Abuse Treatment Services
Emergency/Crisis Services

During fiscal year 2012, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 9,169 hours of services to 182 Brandon residents. We value our partnership with the Town of Brandon in providing these much needed services and thank you for your continued support.

Dan Quinn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc.

Appropriation Request - 6,624

RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

The Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) is a private, community based, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and meeting the needs of children and families throughout Rutland County. RCPCC's mission is to "nurture children and families through supportive, positive, educational experiences that enhance their success in our community." RCPCC provides all services at no cost, with the exception of child care for families ineligible for subsidy.

The Rutland County Parent Child Center is requesting funds in the amount of \$3,250 from your town in order to continue the RCPCC's efforts to support families with young children in your community. In 2012 the Rutland County Parent Child Center served 78 families in the Brandon Community.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely, Caprice B. Hover, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - 3,250

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES OF ADDISON COUNTY - OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Community Health Services of Addison County – Open Door Clinic provides access to health care services, free of charge, to low-income, uninsured and underinsured community members. It is our goal to provide quality health care, for patients seeking our assistance, until a permanent healthcare provider can be accessed through private or government assisted insurance programs.

Services are provided every Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Middlebury Office. An additional clinic is now open every other Thursday in Vergennes. With the current economic crisis, we expect utilization of services from all towns to increase.

Services provided include:

- Preventative, acute and chronic care of illnesses.
- Physical therapy, chiropractic services and dietary counseling.
- Anonymous HIV testing and counseling.
- Free lab work and x-rays through an agreement with Porter Medical Center.
- Prescription assistance
- Referral to specialty services when appropriate
- Enrollment into the Catamount Health Plan or similar programs when appropriate
- Outreach programs that provide vaccination clinics, disease prevention and health promotion educational programs, and health screening clinics.

Number of Brandon Residents that received our services: 24

Between January 1 and November 6, 2012, the Open Door Clinic saw 24 patients from Brandon with a total of 97 healthcare and case management services. This is an increase in the number of patients over last year but a decrease in the total interactions. This represents an expense of \$31.25 per patient and \$7.73 per service. The services provided included medications, physical examinations, immunizations, primary care, nursing care, physical therapy, case management and chiropractic services.

Thank you for your history of support and for considering this request.

Julie Arel, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - \$750

BROC-COMMUNITY ACTION IN SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT

BROC – Community Action in Southwestern Vermont would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Brandon who have supported low-income families and our agency through the balloting process in past years. BROC continues to experience a large number of low-income individuals and families coming through our doors each day.

Last year, BROC helped meet the basic needs of 332 individuals in the Town of Brandon, including helping 5 homeless families find housing. In addition, BROC weatherized the homes of 17 individuals through our Weatherization & Energy Conservation program; BROC's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reimbursed 4 day care home providers in Brandon for serving nutritious meals to 40 children in their care; and our Economic & Workforce Development Program worked with 4 residents interested in starting or expanding a small business and 3 residents received classroom or seminar training. BROC also created several new partnerships and collaborations throughout the year with local organizations and businesses to help raise food for our emergency food shelf; as well as to help raise much needed funds so that the needs of our neighbors continue to be met.

With your help, BROC is able to help many families facing the difficult decisions on how to make their budgets work with the rise in everyday costs. Sometimes being able to access a few meals from BROC or having a dry, warm place to stay at night can make all the difference.

Sincerely,
Linda G. Rooker, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - 1,650

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS BIRTHPLACE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. THE BRANDON MUSEUM

The Brandon Museum and Stephen A Douglas Birthplace is a cultural, historical, architectural, and community asset in the Town of Brandon. The building is a first generation Vermont home, built in 1802. The famous 19th century American statesman, Stephen A Douglas, was born in the home in 1813. Two hundred years later, the building stewardship was graciously passed on to the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce from the Daughters of the American Revolution. A separate 501C3 entity was established and with financial, physical and intellectual input from many Chamber members and others in the community, the home has been totally renovated and has evolved into a fine example of a multi-use community building.

Through the use of hundreds of digital photographs, antiques, paintings and many other eclectic items, many donated by citizens of Brandon, the museum features the thematic history of our town and tells the detailed story of the early anti-slavery movement of the first half of the 19th century. The museum also traces the architectural history of the building starting with two rooms in 1802 and gradually increasing in size to its present configuration.

The Museum is open daily from mid-May through mid-October from 11 am - 4 pm thanks to an active group of approximately 25 volunteers and a part-time Museum Steward. Our Steward for the past three years, John Dilts, has retired from his post and we will be hiring a new Steward in the Spring of 2013. We are always looking for more volunteers and always looking for more historic photos of Brandon, which we scan and return to you very quickly. If you would like a special museum tour for your classroom, community group or any other large party, please contact us for special arrangements. There is no admission to the museum.

The building also houses the town's Visitor Center, full of Vermont brochures, maps, guidebooks, and information. In addition, after decades of attempts there is finally a municipal restroom. The Visitor Center is open daily from 8 am - 6 pm, 365 days a year and it is handicapped accessible.

The Cliver Community Meeting room, is used approximately 15-20 times a month by a variety of local organizations, boards, associations, committees, and businesses. If you would like to schedule a time to use the meeting space, please contact us.

The Museum added a new digital exhibit in the fall of 2012. A short film was produced called "Brandon and the Slavery Question." We invite townspeople to the Museum in 2013 to see this wonderful addition to our collection. Thanks to

Brandon resident Dr. Kevin Thornton for writing and producing the video and to the Brandon-based company Visual Learning Systems for their professional expertise and equipment.

The Stephen A Douglas Birthplace operates on a small budget and is requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$3600. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Museum, the Meeting Room, or the Visitor Center, please contact us through the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce at 802-247-6401 or email us at info@brandon.org

Sincerely, Bernie Carr, President
Stephen A Douglas Birthplace Community Center, Inc.

Appropriation Request - \$3600

HOUSING TRUST OF RUTLAND COUNTY

The **Housing Trust of Rutland County** is a local non-profit organization that creates quality housing that is affordable forever. It works with communities and families to identify housing needs of its residents and address them. The Housing Trust develops and manages affordable apartments, mobile home parks and single family homes. In the last 17 years, the Housing Trust has redeveloped the Conant Square Inn Apartments and the Erastus Thayer House on Conant Square and constructed the Union & Barlow apartments.

We are currently renovating the 22,000 square foot Administration Building at the Brandon Training School building which formerly housed the administration of the Training School along with respite housing on the top floor. In more recent times, the State Police and a church occupied portions of the building. However, most of it sat vacant from 1993 until renovations began in 2012.

Naylor & Breen Builders is performing the construction, along with additional renovations at the Thayer House on Conant Square across from the post office. It is our intention to continue to manage and maintain both of these wonderful buildings forever.

Please vote to fund us. We thank the community at large for its support last year.

Sincerely yours,
Elisabeth Kulas, Executive Director

Appropriation Request - \$2500