

Part III
Other Agencies & Organizations

ACORN (AIDS Community Resource Network)

ACORN's mission is to support and empower those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C to live fully and with dignity through education, information, and understanding. Toward that end, ACORN provides comprehensive case management services to qualifying individuals in Windsor and Orange counties in Vermont, and Grafton and Sullivan counties in New Hampshire. Among other things, these services include providing links to federal and state assistance programs, free confidential HIV and HCV testing and counseling, and ongoing support groups for persons living with HIV/AIDS and/or HCV.

In the area of education and prevention, ACORN employs two full-time staff members who oversee a safe needle exchange program in Vermont and conduct outreach programs at nearby colleges, prisons, health care facilities, and local high schools. Each of these programs is tailored to meet the needs of a particular group. Most recently, for example, Michael Loomis presented an extracurricular seminar on the science of HIV/AIDS to a group of Advanced Placement science students at Kearsage Regional High School in New London, NH. More such programs are being planned, with the Dresden School District high on ACORN's list of schools to be approached.

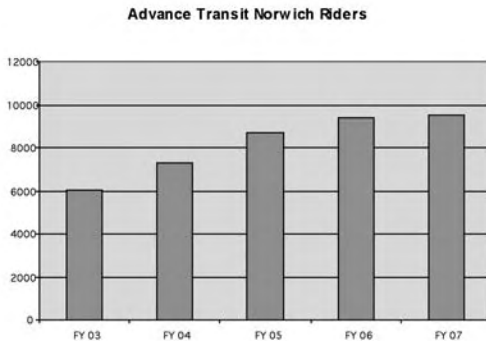
ACORN also is revitalizing and expanding its volunteer program to provide enhanced one-on-one personal care to its clients, support an in-house food bank, increase awareness of ACORN in the Upper Valley, and stimulate more consistent and reliable fund-raising from both private and public sources.

Whitney Struse, Acting Executive Director (603-448-8887)

Advance Transit

Advance Transit, Inc. is a bi-state regional nonprofit public transportation system headquartered in Wilder. Our services include FREE regularly scheduled fixed-route bus service, park-and-ride shuttles, and the Upper Valley Rideshare carpool matching service.

In FY 2007 9,543 passenger trips were boarded in Norwich. Bus transit use has risen over 50% in Norwich over the past five years (see the graph below).



Information on routes and schedules, as well as the Upper Valley Rideshare program, can be obtained at the Town offices and many other locations or by phone 8:00am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Call 295-1824 or visit our website at www.advancetransit.com. It is our pleasure to serve you and to help meet your transportation needs. Thank you for your continued support.

Van Chesnut, Executive Director (295-1824)

American Legion Lyman F. Pell Post #8

The American Legion is a national veterans' organization that promotes individual obligation to community and nation. Membership is open to all veterans, of all services and the merchant marine from WWI through today, including the National Guard who are called up by the federal government. Our Post had 17 service star personnel in the service in 2006.

May 31, Memorial Day, is when we remember the veterans of all wars. The Post puts out over 300 grave flags in the seven town cemeteries. It holds a parade which is followed by a cookout at the Post to which the public is invited. Post #8 has sponsored Norwich Cub Scout Pack 253 since 1952. We also put up the street flags for holidays and special events.

To keep our Post financially sound, we rent out the Hall at \$15.00 per hour. Every Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. we have cribbage evenings at \$3.00 per person. We have some donated medical equipment, such as walkers and wheelchairs, available at no charge to anyone who can use it.

Norbert Whitman, Commander; Earl Thompson, Adjutant (649-1322)

Child Care Center in Norwich

The Child Care Center in Norwich is a nonprofit organization founded in May, 1971 as The Day Care Center Inc. for the purpose of providing high-quality, affordable, child care services for families of the Upper Valley. The Center provides year-round comprehensive child care to seventy children ages six weeks through six years. The Center has been accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children since 1996. In addition to the regular child care program, the Center offers inclusive programming for children with special needs who are referred by local school districts. Tuition is on a sliding fee scale based on family income. The Center offers need-based scholarships. Tuition subsidies are also available through the state of Vermont for low-income working families. The Center receives funding from the Upper Valley United Way.

Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, the Center served 48 children from the town of Norwich. Four Norwich children received partial scholarships totaling \$1,838.

Our goal is to provide an appropriate, enriching environment for a diverse group of children with a variety of family experiences. The staff and Board are committed to a Center rich in diversity of families and children, both culturally and economically. We believe that, to a large extent, the strength and quality of our program is derived from the broad experiences of our families and staff.

Allison Colburn, Executive Director (649-1403)

Community Access Television (CATV)

CATV is your public access station which airs on channels 8 and 10. CATV carries government meetings, local events, and educational programming. We have just created a new website www.catv8.org. Please check this out for information on CATV. Also included in our website is downstreaming of various programs and government meetings.

CATV has just invested in new equipment that will allow citizens of Norwich to view their government and school board meetings on our website. You can subscribe to these along with podcasts. This is an excellent way to keep up with your local government boards.

CATV is always looking for volunteers to videotape various local and sporting events. We pay videographers to tape government meetings around the Upper Valley.

If you are interested in opportunities at CATV, please call 802-295-6688 or email us at catv@catv8.org.

Bob Franzoni, Director (295-6688)

The Family Place

Mission: *The Family Place supports the positive growth and development of all parents by offering services that encourage families to build upon their strengths.*

We continue to serve 22 towns in Vermont as well as numerous NH towns in the Upper Valley. Our commitment is to promote the healthy growth and development of families with children aged birth to five, although some of our programs serve clients through the age of 17. We serve all families, believing that parenting is the most important role in the community. We also strive to ensure that our services are available to those families who face significant challenges. We know that the earlier we reach children and their families, the better the chances are for them to lead successful, healthy lives and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Some of our programs include child care payment assistance, Home Visiting programs, Playgroups, Family Fun Events, Parent Education, Holiday Assistance for individuals in need, Child Advocacy and therapy, information and referral services, a lending library, and a wonderful on-site program to assist young mothers with parenting skills, knowledge of child development, job readiness, and life skills.

The Family Place served 263 Norwich residents last year with our many programs and events. Many Norwich residents participated in our Gingerbread Festival at Tracy Hall (which attracted over 1,050 people), and utilized our lending library, website, and referral services. For more information on programs and activities, please call 649-3268.

Elaine Guenet, Executive Director (649-3268)

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Norwich is a charter member of the District, which was created in 1990 for the express purpose of managing waste generated within its member municipalities and to provide supplemental waste management services to members. Direct services to Norwich and its residents in 2007 included working closely with the Town to recertify the transfer station/recycling center with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and recycling and disposing of hard-to-manage materials collected at the transfer station, including fluorescent light bulbs, car batteries, computers, used motor oil, tires, packing peanuts, and propane tanks. In all, more than 136 Norwich residents participated in district-sponsored events, including special collections of household hazardous waste, electronics and computer recycling, compost and recycling bin sales, and disposal of hard-to-manage materials. In addition, four worm composting bins and composting resources were donated to the Marion Cross School for use in the classrooms.

On November 7, 2006, residents of Norwich, along with the other nine member towns, approved a bond vote to construct an access road and bridge over I-91 to reach GUV's fully permitted future landfill site in North Hartland. This bond issue for the bridge and eventually a bond vote to construct the 40-acre landfill (which has been designed to last at least 50 years) represent the culmination of more than 15 years of work toward this goal of controlling municipal solid waste costs and providing a regional solution to trash disposal. The \$1.5 million bond issue, which is to be paid for by "user fees" (future landfill tipping fees) not property taxes, will finance the bridge which will connect Route 5 with the landfill site.

An events calendar and Green Guide will be available in the spring at Town Meeting, at the Town Clerk's office, the district office (296-3688) or on the web at www.guvswd.org. Brion McMullan returns as Norwich's representative to the District Board of Supervisors, with Stephen J. Soares as the alternate.

Fred Moody, Executive Director (296-3688)

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation

The GMEDC exists to foster and develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve. Each year, communities call on us for help with serious needs such as when major employers move, shut down, or are acquired by new owners. Sometimes, besides the obvious loss of jobs, buildings become idle and towns lose aesthetic as well as economic vitality. This puts the economic security of everyone in doubt.

Utilizing all the resources that the State of Vermont has to offer, GMEDC seeks to address these and other problems. Financing programs through organizations such as USDA, HUD, VEDA and the SBA help to ameliorate some of the economic loss felt by hard-hit areas. Training and mentoring programs through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Vermont Manufacturer's Extension Center (VMEC), and Workforce Investment Board (WIB) help to bridge the gap between businesses, the trained workforce, and knowledge they need to succeed. Furthermore, GMEDC is constantly seeking to improve the welfare of our communities through efforts to attract new businesses to our area while assisting local start-ups and existing businesses in any way we can.

Governor Douglas, Secretary of Commerce Kevin Dorn, and Commissioner Mike Quinn have made regular visits in our area promoting economic development and job growth opportunities. The State of Vermont has provided significant assistance in all that we have accomplished. Our in-house relationship with the SBDC has been helpful along with our professional office location in Hartford.

A deliberate effort to meet with leaders of each of our communities has helped us improve awareness of all that GMEDC and the State of Vermont have to offer to improve economic development. In addition, the East Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) project has allowed us to target and prioritize specific improvements needed within the towns of our region. By including these projects in the CEDS study we are able to put them in the running for grants by the Economic Development Authority (EDA). More opportunities are emerging every day as we encourage businesses and municipalities to seek out our services.

Neal Fox, Executive Director (295-3710)

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center is part of a nation-wide program for people aged 55 and older who wish to have a positive impact on the quality of life in their communities. Through meaningful and significant use of their skills and knowledge, they offer their volunteer service to non-profit and community organizations. Last year in the town of Norwich, GMRSVP had partnerships with the Marion Cross Elementary School, the Montshire Museum, Norwich Public Library, Norwich Senior Housing, Upper Valley Presents, the Norwich Historical Society, the Norwich Women's Club, and the Senior Action Council. Each of these organizations benefited from the work of GMRSVP volunteers. Their efforts consisted of helping children in the classroom, restocking the shelves at the Library, taking tickets at Upper Valley Presents, working with seniors, delivering meals and filling a need wherever one existed. Trained volunteers are also leading Bone Builders classes twice a week at the American Legion Hall. These classes help participants prevent or reverse the effects of osteoporosis.

We look forward to expanding the impact of GMRSVP in Norwich by adding more non-profits to our list and signing up more volunteers. Please contact our Windsor office at 802-885-2083 if you would like to become a volunteer or work at an organization with a need for volunteers.

Patricia M. Palencsar, Executive Director (802-447-1545)

Headrest

The funds that Norwich contributes to Headrest will be used to support programs that serve residents of Norwich along with other residents of the Upper Valley. Our Crisis Hotline, Crisis Teenline, and the National Hopeline (1-800-273-TALK) are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Headrest is one of 70 national call-in sites for 1-800-273-TALK, and we are accredited by the American Association of Suicideology whose headquarters are in Washington, D.C. In addition, Headrest has several programs that address the issue of substance abuse, which is a top health concern in the Upper Valley especially among adolescents.

Last year we received over 9,250 calls on our crisis hotlines. This service is funded solely by local communities like the town of Norwich, organizations like the United Way of the Upper Valley and the United Way of Sullivan County, and private donations. Our crisis hotline has been in operation for 37 years.

Our records indicate that last year 153 calls were received from individuals who identified themselves as Norwich residents. Based on current trends, we would expect that calls received from Norwich residents for next year could exceed 200. We appreciate your continued support.

Michael Cryans, Executive Director (603-448-4872)

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment programs, a community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternative and emergency services programs.

During FY07, HCRS provided 1,020 hours of services to 30 residents of the town of Norwich. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs, resulting in a wide array of support for the residents of Norwich.

George Karabakakis, Chief Operating Officer (802-886-4500)

Montshire Museum of Science

The Montshire Museum of Science (www.montshire.org) is a non-profit, community-owned and -operated institution serving Norwich and surrounding communities since 1976. The Montshire has continued to offer several benefits exclusively to Norwich residents, including free admission to the Museum for Marion Cross School classes. In collaboration with Marion Cross, the Montshire provided three summer program scholarships to Norwich residents.

The Museum donated 150 complimentary passes to the Family Place, to the Fresh Air Fund for use by Norwich host families, and to numerous other non-profit agencies serving Norwich residents. The Museum also subsidized access to the Montshire for the Norwich Child Care Center. Many local non-profit organizations serving Norwich have benefited from free use of the Montshire's Community Room including the Norwich Historical Society, the Ford K. Sayre Memorial Ski Council, the High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. The Montshire also serves as an official emergency evacuation site for the Marion Cross School and for the Norwich Child Care Center.

Over 300 Norwich individuals or families are members of the Museum and many other residents take advantage of the Montshire's proximity by visiting regularly. As one of the most popular attractions in northern New England, the Montshire brings important tourist revenues to Norwich businesses.

David Goudy, Director (649-2200)

Norwich Happenings

The *Norwich Happenings* is a town newsletter that appears three times a year. In addition, we publish a page in the Norwich Times four times a year for Town committees and officers to report on their activities.

In each issue of the newsletter, members of the *Happenings* committee write about issues affecting Norwich – from parking problems in town to controversy over infrastructure projects to the choice items you can find at the town dump. We also publish an events calendar, requests for volunteer help from organizations in town, and profiles of people and institutions that affect life here. The Town funds that support *Happenings* go entirely to printing and postage costs. Committee members are: Ken Cadow, Vicky Fish, Alicia Green, Warren Thayer and Jim Walsh.

Rob Gurwitt, Editor (649-2766)

Norwich Historical Society

The mission of the Norwich Historical Society is to collect and preserve material pertaining to the history of Norwich and, through exhibits and programs, to build a greater sense of community.

Chad Finer's "Norwich Now," an ever-changing and on-going photographic exhibit of our friends and neighbors, is just one of the exhibits mounted this year. These photos, combined with exhibits on the history of the Norwich Inn, 100 years of the Norwich Women's Club, the story of the hamlet of Lewiston, and the display of antique and modern quilts, explain in part why our town is so special. Continuing on that theme, the Kimberly King Zea Room is filled with recent additions to the collection.

Partnering with the Library, the Women's Club, the Montshire Museum, and the Thetford Historical Society, we brought a series of lectures and special programs to the community on subjects as diverse as the ice age and an heirloom writing workshop. The Marion Cross School came to the Lewis House for curriculum-tailored programs highlighting life in Norwich in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

As stewards of the Lewis House we've made strides. Collections security is improved. Plans are well underway to complete the restoration work and bring the house up to code by installing a fire alarm system and by making the house handicapped accessible.

We are very grateful to the community for your generous support. Together we are making the Historical Society and Community Center an important community asset.

Nancy Osgood, President (649-3416)

Norwich Lions Club

The Norwich Lions Club is now in its 53rd year of continuous community service. Our organization provides assistance to numerous charitable organizations and families, primarily in the Upper Valley region. The Norwich Lions Club is a member of Lions International, which is a worldwide organization operating in more than 180 countries. Through this international organization, we actively contribute to the sight needs of those around the world with the donation of eyeglasses as well as money to address sight-related medical issues.

Our primary fund-raiser is the Norwich Fair, which is now held on the Town green in July. With much support from the community, it continues to be a success and enables us to support numerous local charitable organizations. These include Cover, The Haven, the Red Logan Dental Clinic, Holiday Basket Helpers, and the local Boy Scouts and Brownies, among others. The Norwich Lions also made a donation this year to help with the Colby Block fire damage in Fairlee. We are always available to assist local residents in need who come to our attention. Our eyeglass collection mailbox remains located on Main Street.

The Lions Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Norwich Public Library community room. We lost three long-time members over the past year, and will miss the warm presence of Sylvette Gardner, Joe Grant, and Bill Merrill. We invite all community members to join us, and to pass along to your children the wonderful tradition of community service. If you are interested in learning more about the Lions, please contact Jay Van Arman at 649-1723.

Peter Collier, Club President (649-2876)

Norwich Public Library

The Norwich Public Library is a private, nonprofit corporation operating under 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. The Library's operating funds come primarily from the annual Town appropriation, patron contributions, and various Library trusts. The Library serves the residents of Norwich, and of surrounding communities (for a small fee.) Eighty percent of Norwich residents have a library card.

The Library offers a growing collection of high-quality adult and children's books, audiobooks, DVDs, and periodicals, and a variety of online databases that can be accessed from home. Internet access is available via our free wireless network and five public terminals. Last year the Community Room regularly served more than 40 local organizations, and 189 programs were held (30 co-sponsored with other groups); 4061 people attended. Outreach deliveries to patrons unable to visit the Library increased to 78 this past year. Total circulation grew to 67,292 items, more than in many towns three times our size.

The Library was a grateful recipient of a Norwich Women's Club Community Grant to purchase a set of comfortable chairs for our new seating area and a Resource Sharing Grant from the VT Department of Libraries in support of our interlibrary loan program. The Friends of the Library provided funds to purchase new children's furniture and underwrote our very successful summer reading program.

Upcoming plans include offering downloadable audiobooks and adding Sunday hours beginning in fall 2008.

None of this would be possible without the generous support from Norwich residents, our dedicated volunteers, members of Friends, and our patrons. On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees and staff, we thank you.

Lucinda H. Walker, Director (649-1184) Lucinda.Walker@norwichlibrary.org

**Norwich Public Library - FY06-FY07
Income & Operating Expenses**

FY06/07 Income	Budgeted	Actual
Town Appropriation	\$135,000	\$135,000
Annual Appeal & Fundraising	\$58,500	\$39,568
Restricted Funds	\$7,350	\$1,604
Endowment & Dividend	\$32,900	\$33,492
Library Income (fees/fines)	\$5,900	\$8,320
Grants & Gifts	<u>\$8,600</u>	<u>\$6,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$248,250	\$224,484

FY06/07 Operating Expenses	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries & Taxes (4.5 FTE)	\$144,515	\$138,185
Health Insurance	\$15,000	\$16,275
Building & Ground Expenses	\$24,500	\$34,615
Books (includes processing costs)	\$22,500	\$22,645
Audios/Videos (includes processing costs)	\$5,900	\$5,901
Electronic Databases & Periodicals	\$2,250	\$2,855
Library Sponsored Programming (all ages)	\$1,500	\$1,802
Technology (hardware/software/DSL/website)	\$7,210	\$5,982
Contracted Services (bookkeeping, janitorial, tax prep)	\$11,000	\$9,243
Insurance (property/casualty & worker's comp)	\$5,500	\$5,488
Administrative Expenses	\$2,175	\$2,357
Postage (includes interlibrary loan expenses)	\$2,300	\$2,501
Promotion (advertising, printing, mailings)	\$2,600	\$2,473
Dues/Conferences/Travel	<u>\$1,300</u>	<u>\$1,481</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$248,250	\$251,803

Norwich Women's Club

The Norwich Women's Club, founded in 1907, promotes the cultural, educational, civic, and charitable aspects of life in Norwich. Membership is open to all residents of Norwich and other interested persons, and stands at this time at just over 200 members.

The Centennial Celebration of the club continued through 2007. Highlights included homage to past presidents at the Fall Welcome Meeting, dedication of the Town sign (the NWC's centennial gift to Norwich), and a historical retrospective and reception at the Norwich Historical Society.

Much of the club's work is fundraising for college-bound Norwich residents through scholarships and for community projects through grants from the club. Each fall and spring the NWC sponsors the Nearly New Sale, where gently used clothing is sold to fully fund the scholarships mentioned above ~ in the amount of \$31,500 in 2007. In March the NWC stages Floribunda, a show and sale of flowers and plants. Proceeds from this event, \$14,800 in 2007, are awarded to Norwich individuals and organizations for community projects. Grants awarded this year included funding for the Norwich Historical Society's new sign, furnishings for the Norwich Public Library, the visiting authors program at the Marion Cross School, materials for recycling at Huntley Meadow, and printing a "Norwich Trails" map, as well as for the Starlake Village Homeowners Association, Norwich Senior Housing, the Family Place, and the Montshire Museum.

The club, which is governed by a 22-person board, held a winter book author luncheon in 2007, and also hosts a fall and spring meeting, as well as a holiday gathering.

Karen Ward, President (649-3954)

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is an anti-poverty, community based, non-profit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965. Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty, create sustainable self-sufficiency, and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), Crisis Intervention, Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts, and five thrift stores.

In the community of Norwich we have provided the following services during FY07:

- Family services (outreach): 9 families (16 individuals); 39 services (including crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services)
- Fuel/utility assistance: 7 assists totaling \$2,262.00.

Community support, through Town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private, and Town funding allows us not only to maintain, but to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Norwich for their ongoing support.

Stephen Geller, Executive Director (722-4575)

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

During 2007, the Regional Commission provided technical expertise and resources for our member towns, including Norwich, and advocated for members' needs with the State Legislature and with state and federal agencies. Major accomplishments for the past year included:

Regional and Local Transportation Planning – provided assistance with an Enhancement Grant application for the Norwich Corridor Project, continued to work on various projects with the Department of Public Works and the office of the Town Manager, and continued work on the Safe Routes to School program.

Local Technical Assistance – provided advice and support to town officials on a wide range of activities, including grant writing and administration, stream corridor assessments, flood plain bylaw development, GIS mapping, and Act 250 development review.

Emergency Planning Activities – developed basic emergency plans for all towns funded by the Department of Homeland Security as well as continued all-hazards planning associated with natural and man-made disasters.

Economic Development Planning and Downtown Revitalization – under the EPA Brownfields Program, continued assessing possible contaminated sites throughout our Region, including a site in Norwich. In addition, TRORC maintained the eligibility of our Region for federal Economic Development Administration money by developing and adopting a regional economic development plan.

We value your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director (457-3188)

Upper Valley Community Grange #581

Upper Valley Community Grange remains active in Norwich. The monthly pancake breakfast we hold makes possible repairs to our hall and funds donations to different groups; it also provides a meeting place for the people of Norwich. They come to breakfast and stay to visit with neighbors and friends.

Community service is important to the Grange. Each year we provide a dictionary to every third grader in the Marion Cross and other area schools. We make donations to several worthy causes including the Norwich Public Library, the Norwich Historical Society, the Haven, David's House, and Hannah House. Our hall is used by the Cub Scouts, the Senior Housing Christmas Party, the Norwich Halloween Party, the Christmas Pageant, once each month by a church for services, and for family birthday celebrations and other events.

Upper Valley Grange continues to grow and is influential throughout the state. It is currently the home grange of the State Master, the State Lecturer, the State Junior Grange Director and the State Home Economics Director. We are proud to be a part of Norwich and pleased to be able to provide service and improvements to the community and beyond.

Hazel Hickson, Member; Annah Dupuis, Secretary (649-3406)

Upper Valley Land Trust

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) is a regional land conservancy bringing people together to protect farmland, forests, waterways, wildlife habitat, trails, and scenic areas. UVLT has conserved over 33,000 acres in 40 towns in New Hampshire and Vermont including 38 properties in Norwich. Some of these properties, such as Cossingham Road Farm, the Milton Frye Nature Area, and the McLaughry property along Burton Woods Road, are open to the public for hiking and skiing.

Supporting UVLT are over 1,200 members and hundreds of volunteers who share the belief that conserving our region's rural landscapes and wild places is essential to maintaining the health and vitality of our communities. UVLT is guided by local conservation priorities, and works with individuals, community groups, and towns to protect land under permanent conservation agreements. UVLT's stewardship program monitors and defends these agreements.

The Upper Valley Land Trust completed 23 conservation projects during the year ending June 30, 2007. Two of these were in Norwich:

- John and Dori Galton conserved 120 acres off Brigham Hill Road, now owned by Watt Alexander and Roberta Diflorio; and
- 126 acres on Campbell Flat and Hogback Roads was conserved by the Sargent family under the Sargent Farms Trust.

UVLT has also worked with several other Norwich landowners considering conservation options, and made monitoring visits to all UVLT-conserved properties in Norwich.

Jeanie McIntyre, President (603-643-6626; www.UVLT.org)

Upper Valley River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

This year the Upper Valley Subcommittee completed a new and expanded water resources chapter of the Connecticut River Management Plan, focusing on the many environmental and economic benefits of keeping floodplains free of development and vegetated riparian buffers along riverbanks to keep them stable, block debris, shade the water, and filter pollutants from runoff.

The Subcommittee provides information and assistance to the states, towns, and landowners on projects near the river. We encourage towns to consider our Plan and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances. We urge all anglers and boaters to clean their gear carefully to avoid spreading Didymo, the newly discovered invasive alga in the Connecticut River.

Norwich currently is the only town in the region that is not represented on the Subcommittee. Citizens who wish to represent the town should contact the Selectmen. The Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome at our meetings on the third Monday evening of every other month at the Thetford Bicentennial Building. A calendar, more about Didymo, advice on bank erosion and obtaining permits for work near the river, the Connecticut River Management Plan, and much more are on our website at www.crjc.org.

John Lawe, Connecticut River Commissioner (649-1585)

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Through "Upper Valley Trails for Life," the Upper Valley Trails Alliance enhances the health of residents and the community by promoting active living via the use of trails. Accomplishments during 2006-07 include:

- Distributing a revamped Passport to Winter Fun free to every student at the Marion Cross School. The passport aims to engage youth and families of Norwich and other communities in increased physical activity during the winter in order to enhance community health.
- Constructing a pedestrian/bike path parallel to Rt. 5 south to the new Dresden School District athletic fields in Norwich in collaboration with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the landowners.
- Initiating discussions with landowners about a possible route for an additional trail to connect from Elm Street to Rt. 5 south to link with the above trail.
- Assisting with the Safe Routes to School program at Marion Cross School, including Bike to School Days.
- Organizing the second Upper Valley Trails Fair at the Dothan Brook School to help people learn about nearby trails and trail groups.
- Completing the fourth annual Upper Valley Bike/Walk to Work Day in collaboration with Upper Valley Rideshare.

The Trails Alliance thanks Norwich residents for continuing to support Upper Valley Trails for Life. For more information, contact me at trails@valley.net, or visit www.uvtrails.org.

Wally Elton, Executive Director (649-9075)

Upper Valley Transportation Management Association

Norwich was a charter member of the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association (UVTMA) in 2001. UVTMA provides leadership and education to promote planning, development, and implementation of transportation initiatives to mitigate traffic and reduce reliance on single-occupant commuting.

UVTMA membership includes five municipalities (Norwich, Hanover, Hartford, Lebanon, and Enfield), several employers, three local transit providers, planners, and private citizens. Representatives from the Mascoma, Hartford, Lebanon, and Dresden school districts also attend the meetings. Vital Communities is the UVTMA's fiscal agent.

Congestion and traffic are regional issues. Rush hour traffic often originates in another town and passes through Norwich. By working collaboratively with others affected with the same problems, regional cost-effective solutions can be found.

UVTMA published "A Widening Gap: Funding Needed for Public Transit Services in the Upper Valley." This document thoroughly details the "Widening Gap" between increased ridership and inadequate funding for transit services, and is an essential tool in effectively leveraging funds for mass transit in the Upper Valley. The UVTMA has inaugurated its newsletter "Easing the Rush Hour Crunch" and continues to coordinate the transportation efforts of the Upper Valley municipalities, planning commissions, schools, and institutions through the UVTMA board.

Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Lebanon City Council Chambers. All are welcome.

Gabe Zoerheide, Coordinator (603-291-9100x110)

Valley Court Diversion Programs

As of July 1, 2007, Windsor County Court Diversion has changed its name to Valley Court Diversion Programs. This name better reflects the population we serve, which often includes offenders from outside our county's border.

Valley Court Diversion Programs works for communities by providing an alternative to the criminal justice system. Through our community-based restorative justice programs, our staff and dozens of volunteers work to mitigate the harm caused by crime. Our programs hold offenders accountable and work to restore a sense of safety to the community through restitution, letters of apology, research projects, community service, and other restorative activities.

From July 2006 through June 2007, Valley Court Diversion Programs served a total of 12 Norwich residents, ranging in age from 16 to 36 years old whose offenses included: Underage Drinking, Possession of Marijuana, and Unlawful Mischief. In addition, the Norwich Police Department arrested 25 individuals who offended in your community and who participated in our programs. Those charges included: Possession of Marijuana, Unlawful Mischief, Underage Drinking, Unlawful Trespass, and Giving False Information to a Police Officer.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our court diversion and alcohol safety programs. Without your support for this alternative to the traditional justice system our courts would be overwhelmed and the cost to taxpayers would be far greater. In closing we would like to invite residents of Norwich to become volunteers on our hearing boards and participate in providing balanced and restorative justice to our communities.

Regina Rice, Executive Director (295-5078)

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors. Its mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 148 other municipal entities, including villages and fire districts. In large part, volunteers are elected and appointed to lead these local governments.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, so that they may provide their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

- Legal, consulting and education services. In the past year, VLCT responded to over 3,000 inquiries for assistance from municipal officials. Our Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) conducted 13 workshops and 25 on-site training sessions that attracted over 1,100 people. MAC distributed almost 200 hard-copy handbooks to municipal officials but also made all its handbooks available free of charge on our website at our Resource Library. The Library also contains over 500 other electronic documents currently accessible to all.
- Advocacy representation before the state and federal governments to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority they need to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate, in land use discussions, and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.
- Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. Examples include municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to municipal employees. The value of the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) to all our members is realized daily as members take advantage of loss prevention training and assistance, as well as reasonable insurance rates. These two trusts, with the addition of the VLCT Unemployment Trust, were responsible in 2007 for \$46 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services.

Individuals interested in finding out more about the VLCT, including reviewing its audited financial statements, can visit its website at **www.vlct.org**.

Stephen Jeffrey, Executive Director (800-649-7915)

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire

The VNA & Hospice is a not-for-profit organization providing home healthcare, hospice, and maternal child health services for over 100 years. Caring for people in the comfort of their home, our services are provided to all in need, regardless of ability to pay. Last year, the VNA & Hospice provided over \$1.9 million in uncompensated care to individuals. The VNA & Hospice, like the local EMS, police and fire departments, is a vital part of the community's safety net. Town funding is only intended to be a "contribution" towards the full cost of services provided to residents.

Supporting home healthcare is a way to control other Town expenses. By keeping Norwich residents out of emergency rooms and hospitals and by reducing the need for relocation to nursing homes, our care offers significant savings in the Town's emergency services and other medical costs.

Services provided between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007:

Home Healthcare

Residents Served:49
Home Visits:1036
Hours of Service:872.35

Maternal and Child Health Services

Residents Served:5
Home Visits:17
Hours of Service:19.00

Hospice Services

Residents Served:4
Home Visits:98
Hours of Service:102.37

Long Term Care

Residents Served:3
Home Visits:70
Hours of Service:122.33

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued support.

Mark Hamilton, Interim President and CEO (295-2604; 800-858-1696)

White River Council on Aging

During 2007, the White River Council on Aging, Inc., a.k.a. Bugbee Senior Center, celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Incorporation as a non-profit agency providing valuable services to community residents age 60 and over, and their families. The agency has been located at the T. D. Bugbee Building since 1980. As the community focal point for the aging network, we continue to provide traditional services such as nutrition programs, recreation, social and educational services, information and referral, paralegal assistance, fitness activities, and transportation. Recently added have been Internet training, art programming, intergenerational programs, and leisure travel.

During FY 2007 we had the privilege of providing services to 135 Norwich individuals over the age of 60. In this time, 28 Norwich residents joined us for meals at the Center 431 times. The Bugbee Senior Center provided 1,651 home-delivered meals to homebound or convalescing adults. Advocacy and paralegal services were provided by appointment at the Center or at the individual's home by Melanie Cash and Eleanor Zue. We sent 1,620 newsletters to 135 individuals in Norwich. Participation in our enrichment programs was enjoyed by 89 Norwich individuals. Additionally, we provided 382 trips for Norwich residents on our van or with volunteers.

Please visit us weekdays 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday. Your interest and participation would be most welcome.

Kathleen W. Avery, Executive Director (295-9068; bugbeecenter.org)

Windsor County Partners

Regular interaction on a sustained basis with a caring, positive adult role model makes a significant difference in the outcomes of a child's life. Windsor County Partners (WCP) is the only county-wide, community-based mentoring program in our region. Our adult volunteers initially commit to meet with their young partners about three hours each week for a year. Many mentoring relationships last three or more years. All our services are free to volunteers, children and families.

Often our Junior Partners are from single-parent homes with limited resources and have been the victims of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Substance abuse, lack of employment, and inadequate education are additional risk factors. The data show we are having a positive impact on the lives of our young partners, their families and the adults who mentor them.

Our program objectives are three-fold: 1) to recruit more mentors; 2) to provide these mentors with high-quality training opportunities so that they are better equipped to meet the needs of their partners; and 3) to provide our young partners with opportunities that help them to realize their potential.

Last year WCP supported mentoring partnerships for 29 children from 12 towns in Windsor County. Our corps of committed adult volunteers, including one from Norwich, spent over 3,500 hours with their young partners sharing friendship, guidance, learning, and support. Last year, partners enjoyed meeting to ski, ice skate, pick apples, attend sports events, and go whale-watching. There is always a waiting list of children in need of senior partners.

As funding becomes more challenging, we increasingly depend on town support for our day-to-day operations. We remain extremely grateful for the generosity of your community.

Kathy Kinter, Program Coordinator (802-674-5101; Kathy@wcpartners.org)

WISE (Women's Information Services)

For over three decades WISE has been committed to the mission of empowering victims of domestic and sexual violence to become safe and self-reliant through crisis intervention and support services. WISE also advances social justice through community education, training, and public policy. Our Community Outreach and Youth Violence Prevention program seeks to raise community understanding of domestic and sexual violence by working with local services providers and educating middle and high-school aged youth about healthy relationships.

WISE provides a full range of services to Norwich residents through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs services including 24-hour crisis line, medical, legal and social services advocacy, emergency shelter, information and referral and facilitated support groups. Our Youth and Community Education program also provides educational violence prevention programming to students and staff in the Dresden school district.

In FY 2007 WISE provided services to 966 new clients and 1,047 total clients. Ten of these clients are known to be Norwich residents. We continue to see an increase in the number of victim-survivors accessing WISE services and supports-these numbers represent an 8% increase over last year's numbers (which increased 40% from the year before).

The WISE Board of Directors, staff and volunteers would like to thank the residents of Norwich, on behalf of victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence, for your consideration of our funding request and for your past support of our programs and services.

Peggy O'Neil, Executive Director (603-448-5922)

Youth-In-Action

In March of 2008, Youth-In-Action (YIA) will begin its 25th year of providing meaningful community service opportunities for high-school aged youth in the Upper Valley. Our organization has grown over the past 25 years. In 1994 YIA added a paid director to its already active Board of Directors. Student enrollment has continued to increase: in the 2007-08 school year, over 300 students are enrolled, over a third of whom are Norwich residents.

YIA projects are driven by student interest and community need. In addition to the projects YIA creates, our volunteers are valuable assets to other Upper Valley organizations. YIA projects can typically be grouped into: community building events (such as Santa's elves), helping area non-profits (such as the Family Place Gingerbread Festival or community dinners with the Listen Center), and YIA-generated projects (such as Make-a-Difference Day, Big Brother Mentoring Day at the Montshire or Kids in Motion).

In Norwich student volunteers have helped at: Norwich senior citizens' homes, Marion Cross School events, Floribunda, and voting days. In the past we have volunteered at Old Home Day and the Norwich Fair. We are always looking for more ways to be active in the Norwich community.

Last year, YIA contributed almost 3,000 hours of service through our own projects and volunteering for local charities, agencies, private citizens, and organizations. Due to the nature of our projects and services, we cannot provide absolute numbers of residents served. However, we believe that we serve the needs of many Norwich residents by improving the quality of life in the Upper Valley.

Jessica Eakin, YIA Director (603-643-4313; yia@dresden.us)

INTERESTING ARTICLES FROM PAST TOWN MEETINGS

TOWN MEETING MARCH 1924

Article VIII To see if the town will appropriate the sum of one hundred dollars to help make the books of the library free to all.

TOWN MEETING MARCH 1945

Article 11 To see if the Town will vote the sum of One Hundred Dollars for the Norwich Library to keep the books free for all.

TOWN MEETING MARCH 6, 1951

Article 18 To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to sell the unused Rural Schools; namely: Beaver Meadow, Turnpike, Root School, and New Boston, and further, authorize the School Directors to sell said Schools for a nominal sum to local community clubs, in those districts, at the School Directors' discretion.