

Call 811 Before You Begin Digging

Are you planning outdoor projects this spring —maybe building a deck or planting a tree? Remember to call 811 or 1-888-DIG-SAFE before you begin so local utilities can mark the location of underground lines. Don't assume you know what's below. Call 811 every time.



Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

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Visit us online at www.wcv.com

Office Closures:
Monday, May 25, 2020 – Memorial Day
Friday, July 3, 2020 – In observance of Independence Day



WCVT Works with Community Partners to Open Virtual Living Room®

The American Legion Post 19 in Bristol, Vermont, is now the proud home of the nation's second Virtual Living Room®, a place where veterans can use a robust fiber-optic broadband connection to easily access Veterans Administration (VA) telehealth services with their VA healthcare provider.

We all know getting convenient access to telehealth services can sometimes be a challenge for our veterans in rural communities. The Virtual Living Room inside the American Legion Post 19 is a comfortable and private space for them to go for telehealth appointments.

Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) equipped the Virtual Living Room with a high-speed, fiber-optic Internet connection capable of speeds up to one gigabit per second. According to Eric Haskin, President/CEO of WCVT, "We are very proud to be working with our community partners to support our local veterans here in Vermont. I served in the United States Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-64) and understand firsthand the challenges our veterans face. This is one way we can give back to our local communities and support our veterans by leveraging our gigabit fiber-optic network to help provide access to the VA's ever-expanding telehealth initiatives."



The Virtual Living Room was made possible through an innovative partnership between WCVT, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), CoBank, the White River Junction VA Healthcare System, and the American Legion Post 19. This collaboration is a perfect example of how crucial community partnerships are in meeting the needs of veterans in our rural communities.

Customer Spotlights

Scuttleship Farm – Pantton

Co-owned by Annie Hopper and Sean Willerford, Scuttleship Farm is a pasture-based livestock farm in Pantton. Their meat is USDA inspected, Animal Welfare Approved, and certified grassfed. The management-intensive grazing they practice affords their livestock a natural rhythm of life and movement across the landscape. They move their chickens and lambs daily, which is good for the animals and the land. The name Scuttleship Farm is from the flight of Benedict Arnold and the young American Navy following the Battle of Valcour Island in 1776. Instead of surrendering his ships to the British forces, Arnold lit the powder magazines and scuttled his entire fleet to the shores and the fields that Annie and Sean now farm at 2214 Arnold Bay Road. To learn more or purchase their products online, visit www.scuttleshipfarm.com. You can also check out their Facebook and Instagram posts for a look at life on the farm.



Mad River Lodge – Fayston

Zan and Dana Franc first visited the beautiful Mad River Valley for a quick ski trip in 2013 and it was love at first sight. The couple soon bought a condo in Warren, followed by the Warren Lodge (formerly the Golden Lion Inn) in 2015. Their most recent venture, the Mad River Lodge (formerly the Garrison) is at 2354 Millbrook Road in Fayston. The Mad River Lodge is a new take on an old classic. The couple have been working hard to revitalize the place from the ground up to honor the past and give a nod to the future. Its 22 rooms have the Vermont feel yet modern amenities including free Wi-Fi, refrigerators, flat-screen TVs, and convenient express check-in with a 24-hour front desk. Mad River Lodge is just minutes from Mad River Glen and Sugarbush Ski Resorts. The Valley is excited to see what the Francs' next adventure will be. Book your stay at www.madriverlodge.com or call 496-6969.



Lifeline Program Offers Telephone Discounts to Eligible Vermonters

Many individuals or low-income families qualify for assistance with phone charges, but don't realize this help is available to them. If you're experiencing financial difficulties, or have a friend or family member in this situation, Waitfield and Champlain Valley Telecom encourages you to look into the Lifeline Program. Lifeline provides qualified customers with a monthly discount on charges for their primary home phone line. Here in Vermont, you can save up to \$7.25 per month.

To help you determine your eligibility:

- Was your 2019 household income less than \$17,226 for a single-person household or less than \$23,274 for a two-person household? Add \$6,048 for each additional person in your household.
- Did you receive Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as Food Stamps), Medicaid, Veterans Pension/Survivors Pension, or Tribal Programs?

For more information on the Lifeline Program, visit www.lifelinesupport.org or call 1-800-234-9473.



Team WCVT Helps Out in the Sugar Bush

A crew of WCVT employees spent a late February day at the Green Mountain Audubon Center in Huntington to help prepare for sugaring season. Employees trekked through the sugar bush with drills in hand and sleds full of buckets to tap 500+ trees the old-fashioned way.

WCVT provides each employee with 16 hours of community service time yearly to be used on local service projects. If your organization is looking for help, contact Lorraine Keener at 496-8379 or lkeener@wcvt.com to discuss the possibilities of our participation.

Welcome New Businesses

When you buy local, everyone benefits. Please support the community by doing business with these new neighbors.

151 Warehouse – Waitsfield	496-3100	Scuttleship Farm – Pantton.....	475-3717
Bokay – Warren.....	496-4362	St. Lawrence Motorsports – Warren...	583-1000
Bristol Downtown Community Partnership – Bristol.....	453-8575	Valleywide Veterinary Services, Inc. – Bridport	758-6888
Evolution Building Company – Charlotte	425-5595	Vermont Food Collaborative – New Haven.....	453-4333
Gemini Properties – Charlotte.....	425-5815	Wildflower Studio – Waitsfield.....	496-6839
Green Mountain Hay – Charlotte.....	425-5833		

