# connections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM WAITSFIELD AND CHAMPLAIN VALLEY TELECOM



### WCVT Helps MMCTV Move to New Office

In June, a crew of WCVT employees spent the day helping Mt. Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV) move to its new office in the Richmond Town Center. According to MMCTV Executive Director, Angelike Contois, "We are very grateful to the WCVT team for helping us move to our new space. It's nice to know that they have our back—not only in providing us with world-class internet—but also in taking the time out to volunteer and support local community organizations like our own."

#### Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

PO Box 9, Waitsfield, VT 05673-0009 Phone: 496-3391 • Toll Free: 800-496-3391

Waitsfield: Route 100

d: Hinesburg: 246 Mechanicsville Road

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Customer Service for assistance csdept@wcvt.com • 800-496-3391

Visit us online at www.wcvt.com

Office Holiday Closure: Monday, September 6 Labor Day



## WCVT Awards Scholarships to 2021 High School Grads

The Class of 2021 has faced unique challenges and have proven to be up to the task. Through their resiliency and flexibility, these graduates not only made it to this milestone, they did it with grace and dignity. We applaud their hard work and efforts.

Every year, WCVT awards six scholarships — one to a student at each of the public high schools in our service area. These scholarships are presented in memory of the late Eunice B. Farr, former owner and operator of the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company. Each student selected for a scholarship has shown a steady improvement in his or her academics and plans to continue studying at a college or trade school.

#### We congratulate this year's scholarship recipients:

- Ethan Barber, Mount Mansfield Union High School
- **Quincy Cook,** Mount Abraham Union High School
- Madison Hallock, Champlain Valley Union High School
- Siena Mazer, Harwood Union High School
- Jacob Paquin, Vergennes High School
- Marshall Sanchez, Middlebury Union High School



## Get Ready for 10-Digit Dialing for Local Calls

In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order approving the designation of 988 as the 3-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To facilitate implementation, area codes across the country where the 988 prefix is a working prefix and which now use 7-digit local dialing must transition to 10-digit local dialing. This includes the 802 area code in our service area.

Starting October 24, 2021, you'll need to dial the 802 area code plus the 7-digit phone number to make local calls. In addition to changing your dialing routine, you'll also have to reprogram 7-digit local numbers to 10-digit numbers if you use speed dial or any other system that automatically makes calls for you.

For more details, please visit www.wcvt.com or call 800-496-3391.



## **Customer Spotlights**



cloud water farm

#### Cloud Water Farm – Warren

Joe Bossen, owner of Cloud Water Farm as well as Vermont Bean Crafters and All Souls Tortilla, purchased the former Kingsbury Farm this past spring. Bossen is no stranger to the farm, as he's been making his Bean Crafters bean burgers on the property since 2015. Now that he owns the property, he's making plans for the future. He'll be growing his own beans and other vegetables that he uses in his bean burgers. A future project of Bossen's is to plant hazelnuts and explore making nut cheese. To learn more about Cloud Water Farm, visit www.cloudwaterfarm.com.



#### Sweet Roots Farm and Market – Charlotte

Sweet Roots Farm and Market, formerly Charlotte Berry Farm, has been in operation for nearly 40 years. New owners Jane and Dan MacLean run the farm with the help of an incredible team and are undergoing a multi-year plan to transition all growing to be certified organic. This summer, Sweet Roots Farm will be growing blueberries available for "pick your own" and pre-picked in the Market—along with blackberries, black raspberries, peaches, pears, plums, and organically grown vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Sweet Roots Farm is located at 4702 Ethan Allen Highway in Charlotte. For more information, visit www.sweetrootsvt.com.



## Do You Need Assistance Paying Your Internet Bill?

There are currently multiple programs available for households who may need assistance. Each program has its own criteria and some households may qualify for one or both programs, significantly reducing the cost of your monthly bill.

#### Vermont Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program

The Temporary Broadband Subsidy is now open to Vermonters who qualify and may require assistance paying their monthly internet bill. This temporary relief program is managed by the State of Vermont and is open to award monthly "grants" or credits to your Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom bill to cover up to \$40.00 per month on the Internet portion of your monthly bill. There is no guarantee that this program will continue after the December expiration date and the offer is only available while funds are available to cover these expenses.

For more information, program eligibility and to access the online application, visit the Vermont Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program website.

#### **Emergency Broadband Benefit**

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program is a new FCC program to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic. This temporary benefit will help families with challenges such as working from home, distance learning, telehealth services, or simply connecting digitally with loved ones.

The EBB will provide a discount of up to \$50.00 per month towards broadband service for eligible households. The benefit is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

**Who is eligible:** A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Qualifies for the Lifeline program;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating providers' existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

For more information and to apply, visit www.wcvt.com/ebb or call 800.496.3391.

### **Welcome New Businesses**

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

 Little Village Enterprises – Bristol ...... 453-6111 RambleBramble Farm – Huntington...434-2626 Sweet Roots Farm LLC – Charlotte.....425-3652

