

connections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM WAITSFIELD AND CHAMPLAIN VALLEY TELECOM

WCVT Employees Help OCCC Prepare for Summer Camp

In June, a crew of WCVT employees volunteered at Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) in Richmond to help it get ready for the summer season. OCCC is a free day camp that provides food and fun for children from Bolton, Richmond, Huntington, Jericho, and Underhill. WCVT is a proud supporter and happy to lend a hand!

For more information on OCCC, visit www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org.



Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

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Visit us online at www.wcvt.com

Office Holiday Closure:

Monday, September 4, 2023

Labor Day





WCVT Gives Scholarships to Local Graduates

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 recipient is a hard-working graduate who's shown a steady improvement in his or her academics and plans subsequent education at a college or trade school.

We congratulate this year's scholarship recipients:

- Cassidy Fleming Champlain Valley Union High School
- Iyah Lavit Harwood Union High School
- Kenneth Moran Mount Abraham Union High School
- Emma Locher Mount Mansfield Union High School
- Hannah Cormier Middlebury Union High School
- Jackson Coffey Vergennes High School

In addition, Champlain Valley Union student Kassidy Jay was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Founded in 1994, FRS is the philanthropic arm of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, of which Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom is a member. The FRS Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural communities for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company that may also contribute a portion of the scholarship award. This year, FRS awarded a total of \$124,000 for 42 scholarships to students across the country.

Being selected to receive one of this year's FRS scholarships is a huge accomplishment. It was an extremely competitive process, with over 1,200 applications received. Kassidy's application was stellar and highlighted her academic dedication and pride in her rural community. We wish her the best of luck as she begins her studies this fall at Salve Regina University.

Welcome New Businesses

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

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Do You Need Assistance Paying Your WCVT Bill?

The following programs are available for households who may need assistance, and each has its own eligibility criteria. Households may qualify for one or both programs, significantly reducing their monthly bill.

Affordable Connectivity Program

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, health care, and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. For more information on program eligibility and to apply, visit www.AffordableConnectivity.gov.

Lifeline Program

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers will get up to \$9.25 toward their bill. You can use Lifeline for either phone or internet, but not both. Only one Lifeline Program discount is available per household on either a wireless or wireline qualifying service. Under the Lifeline Program, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. The Lifeline Program benefit is non-transferable. For more information on the Lifeline Program, visit www.lifelinesupport.org or call 1-800-234-9473.

You'll find more information on ACP and Lifeline at www.wcvt.com/assistance.

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