

PARKS PLACE PRESS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER / BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT

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Thanks to our many supporters.

Our Mission is to open doors by connecting people in the Greater Falls community with the programs, resources and information they need to move their lives forward.

44 School Street
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
802.463.9927

www.parksplacevt.org

let's talk!

The Greater Falls Prevention Coalition invites youth, parents, and community members to

A COMMUNITY FORUM ON UNDERAGE AND HIGH RISK ALCOHOL USE AND PREVENTION

A night of discussion, pizza, raffles
and information gathering

wednesday ~ may 14

6:00 pm at the Masonic Hall in Bellows Falls

Dinner provided by Athens Pizza

Understanding the views and experiences of everyone in the community is really important to creating an effective and successful prevention plan.

[[More info – page 5](#)]

Co-sponsored by Greater Falls Prevention Coalition and the Vermont Department of Health

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Welcome to Claudia Schlieman, New Police Social Worker

BELLOWS FALLS

Claudia Schlieman is the new police social worker in Bellows Falls. The program, which began in 2003, is the result of a partnership between Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) and the Bellows Falls Police Department. The Chief of Police, Ronald Lake, is also new to his position, making this a new beginning for both of them.

While Claudia works with the police department, she is employed by HCRS so she is able to keep confidentiality with her clients. At the same time, she can make suggestions to the police officers about the best way to intervene with a family or an individual in crisis.

What does a police social worker do? What doesn't she do might be a better question. Claudia works with people who otherwise might fall through the cracks, people whose problems usually aren't caused by one thing, but flow from a number of situations in their lives. One of the keys to the program's success is that it is tailored to creatively meet the needs of each person, whether that requires a little attention or a lot.

It is not necessary for someone to be accused of a crime to receive help from Claudia. The program provides support to people who are struggling with serious and overwhelming issues (poverty, mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction, family violence to name a few) so that their lives can move away from chaos and towards health. Because crisis does not keep business hours, Claudia is on call 24/7 so that she can provide services when they are needed.



Claudia Schlieman after a recent Patch Team meeting. The Patch Team is made up of community members and service providers who meet at Parks Place on the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome. For more information call Parks Place at 463-9927.

Claudia has a Masters of Science in Human Behavior and is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management. Last fall she attended the FBI school for Hostage Negotiators. Previously she was a crisis counselor for the United States Air Force in Germany and at numerous bases in the U.S. She also works locally with the Springfield Police Department.

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Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program

If you shop at Shaw's, please bring your receipts to Parks Place. The Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program gives nonprofits like Parks Place 1% back from the total sales of eligible purchases. It's an easy way to help us raise money.

Please bring us your Shaw's receipts, and tell your friends and family!
And THANKS to those who have already brought us their Shaw's receipts!



Barbara Ternes is the Director at Parks Place.

NOTES FROM BARBARA

Children’s Activities Fund. Parks Place’s Board of Directors created a special fund to support activities for children. I’m writing about it so more people will know about it and use it.

The Children’s Activities Fund can provide up to \$25 to pay for—just what it says—children’s activities. Some examples: Movie night tickets, bike helmets, fishing licenses, admissions fees for the Moose dance, fees for special school trips, or partial payment of camp registration fees.

Nowadays \$25 doesn’t always buy a lot, but parents and schools sometimes put this together with other monies to pay for winter sports fees or class trips. And you can still go see a movie at the Bellows Falls Opera House for under \$25. *What a bargain!*

And the good news is we have some money left in the Children’s Activities Fund, so let’s spread the word to provide more fun for kids from Athens, Grafton, Rockingham and Westminster.

— Barbara

To receive Children’s Activities Funds, fill out the simple application form that’s available at the Parks Place receptionists’ desk.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

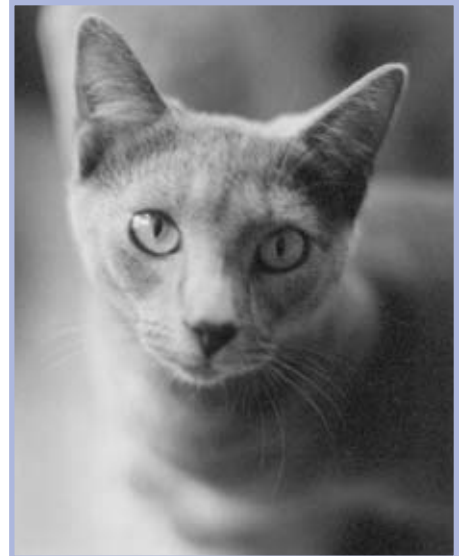
Sponsored by Vermont Spay-Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP)

The ability to help our friends and neighbors make the responsible choice to have their pets “fixed” becomes hampered when the VSNIP program has fewer funds than meets the need. Sadly, this was the reality this past year, though a very successful clinic was held at Central School in November just at the brink of the funds running out.

With the beginning of this new funding year we are scheduling another clinic for **July 14** at Central School in Bellows Falls. Once the details are worked out notices will go home through the schools, and postings will appear in local papers and other public service venues.

VSNIP offers the hope of financial support, while having these clinics in a centrally-located place offers accessibility to folks with transportation difficulties. Having pets “fixed” reduces the number of unwanted litters, greatly enhances an animal’s health, and does tend to make these animals better pets.

As always, TARPS (The Animal Rescue & Protection Society) is working to meet the needs of our community by advocating for the funding for low cost clinics, making clinics available to our community, and tirelessly advocating for responsible solutions to a growing population problem in our area.



Clinic coming to Bellows Falls on July 14!

Don’t miss our weekly TV show – Parks Place Perspectives! More info on page 8.

Meet the New Park Place Board Members



Michael Malick first came to Parks Place 11 years ago through his service on a Court Diversion Board that met at Parks Place. One good thing often leads to another at Parks Place and in Michael's case it eventually led him to his current position as a Corrections Youth Services Specialist for the Department of Corrections. Michael

works with youth, ages 17 to 22, who are under supervision after being convicted of felonies or misdemeanors. Many of his clients are bordering on homelessness, may have substance abuse problems and are at risk of re-offending for these and other reasons.

Michael is joining the board because he "believes in the mission of Parks Place and trying to help people out." He frequently uses Parks Place to meet with the youth he supervises. Joining the board is yet another way to show his community-minded spirit.



Francis X. Coyne is rejoining the Board. Soon after retiring from Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) in 1996 (following twenty-six years as a social studies teacher and coach) Ellen Nielsen of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation invited him to attend a meeting at Parks Place. "I did attend the meeting and was immediately impressed with the message and mission of Parks Place Resource Center. That began a twelve-year relationship with this very important community center where people can access programs and services that help them improve their quality of life."

Fran has held many leadership positions at Parks Place. "From attending meetings, I progressed to becoming a Board member and ultimately to the position of Board President. Following a one-year hiatus, I have returned to the Board and hope to do what I can to continue to make Parks Place a vital feature of this wonderful part of Vermont."

Fran has held many leadership positions at Parks Place. "From attending meetings, I progressed to becoming a Board member and ultimately to the position of Board President. Following a one-year hiatus, I have returned to the Board and hope to do what I can to continue to make Parks Place a vital feature of this wonderful part of Vermont."

Heartfelt Thanks and Fond Farewells



Andrea Carlson leaves after six years of service on the Parks Place Board. "What I love most about Parks Place," says Andrea, "is knowing that it is available and that it really helps people in need. It is so unique in its ability to offer such a wide array of services under one roof. Whether it is the inability to pay for rent or heat or the difficulty of finding a job to support your family, Parks Place can offer assistance. I can't imagine how our community would manage without Parks Place."

Andrea and her husband Ian are busy raising a young family. Andrea works full time as a social worker at BFUHS. She hopes to rejoin the Parks Place Board in the future when she has more time.



Dafina Jacobs leaves the Board of Parks Place after two years. Upon returning to her hometown, pregnant with her sixth child, Dafina had a bad car accident. Parks Place was instrumental in helping her get back on her feet and move forward in her life. She describes Parks Place as, "positive, progressive and caring," and states that she gained so much personally on her own path to getting help that she wanted to give back. She recently moved to Wardsboro and is preparing to pursue more education, perhaps midwifery school.



Richard Doyle is also rejoining the board after having served previously for ten years, including as Secretary, Vice President and President. Dick graduated from BFUHS in 1963 and is looking forward to his 45th reunion next month. He served his country for over 33 years in the Army and Army Reserve, retiring as a Sergeant Major in 2003. He served

his community for the same amount of time as a Local Veterans Employment Representative with the Department of Employment and Training, retiring in 2004. Dick also serves on the Boards of the Bellows Falls Area Senior Center and Chapter One, Vietnam Veterans of America in Rutland.

Dick feels that Parks Place is "the most effective agency of change I've encountered in my entire career. It allows individuals to address their problems/needs with dignity and ownership, and participating service providers to collaborate and network unlike anywhere else." Dick finds the board and staff at Parks Place to be dedicated and great fun to work with.

New Police Social Worker ...

continued from page 2

Claudia is experienced, caring and capable and Parks Place welcomes her to the community. She is only the second person to fill the position, taking over for Glenn Tirrell who held it for five years before moving to South Carolina to be closer to family.

Claudia can be reached by calling: 463-1234 in Bellows Falls, or 886-4567, ext 2113 (confidential voicemail) in Springfield.

Come Participate in the Community Forum on Underage and High-Risk Alcohol Use Prevention

On Wednesday, May 14th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Masonic Hall in Bellows Falls

The Greater Falls Prevention Coalition is hosting a Community Forum, a night of discussion, pizza, raffles and information gathering for youth, adults and community members of the Greater Falls area. The topic will be primary contributing factors to underage alcohol use and high risk drinking in our communities. “We are planning to look at the issues that alcohol use is creating in our community and seeking to find what contributes to these issues” says Robin Rieske, Prevention Consultant for the Department of Health.

The Greater Falls Prevention Coalition (GFPC) is a group of community members, agency workers and youth who are working to identify the needs of the Greater Falls community around substance abuse concerns. They are also looking for community members who would like to get more involved with the effort. “Understanding the views and experiences of everyone in the community is really important to creating an effective and successful pre-

vention plan” says Hilary Frenkel, Coordinator of the GFPC. “We will only be as successful as the community allows us to be.” They have monthly Coalition meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Rockingham Public Library.

The forum, sponsored by GFPC, is one step towards addressing the impact of issues related to substance abuse including underage drinking, high risk drinking, community norms and laws and addiction. One goal of the forum is to work toward identifying action that both the community as well as individuals can take to help decrease these concerns.

Held at the Masonic Hall on Main Street, this event is open to the public and all are invited to attend. Come add your voice to the discussion! Forum to begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include dinner.

For more information call 802.460.0359.

Contractors Receive Lead Safe Training

BRATTLEBORO

Thirty-nine contractors, realtors and landlords recently attended an 8-hour training sponsored by Lead Safe to learn how to work safely with lead paint. In addition to learning about low-cost precautions to avoid creating and spreading lead dust during a renovation, the attendees also learned about new EPA rules governing renovation in pre-1978 buildings that are frequented by children.

The EPA has issued new rules intended to protect children, workers and occupants from exposure to lead during renovation, repair and painting activities in pre-1978 housing, childcare facilities and schools. The rule require use of lead safe work practices, and training and certification of contractors and maintenance personnel who work in these environments. Tradespersons impacted by the rule include building contractors, painters, electricians, plumbers and maintenance personnel.

Lead Safe is currently the only program in Vermont that offers an 8-hour lead safe renovator training.

“Improper renovation can cause lead poisoning long after the work is completed,” says Jim McNamara, Program Director for Lead Safe. “By eliminating exposure to lead dust during and after renovation projects young children will be less likely to suffer permanent



health consequences.”

Lead Safe provides on-site consultation to anyone concerned about lead-based and pending renovation activities, and also loans HEPA vacuums, free of charge for cleaning lead dust in homes.

Lead Safe receives funding from the Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Civil Justice Foundation, and Merchants Bank.

For more information about lead poisoning prevention, or to sign up for the next training contact Lead Safe at 802.463.9927, ext. 208.

Substance Abuse

- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**
Group support for those in recovery from alcoholism.
Mon – Fri, 12:15 – 1 pm
Sat, 7 – 8 pm / Sun, 10 – 11 am
- **Phoenix House/CRASH**
Screening for driver's license reinstatement.
Thursday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Christopher Wesolowski
Contact the Brattleboro office for an appointment for CRASH interview:
802.257.1147 x. 103

Education

- **Vermont Adult Diploma Program (VADP)**
Provides a way for Vermonters over 21 to earn a high school diploma within a year.
Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Jay Callahan: 802.463.9927 x. 222
- **Vermont Adult Learning (VAL)**
Provides tutoring in reading and math, preparation for GED and Adult Diploma Program.
Mon, 8 am – 2 pm / Thurs, 8 am – 6 pm
Barbara Cain
802.463.9927 x. 101
- **Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)**
Free career, educational and financial aid counseling. Available monthly. Call to make an appointment with Michele Delhaye and ask for Outreach:
800.642.3177

Counseling

- **Youth Services Counseling**
Offers individual, family, drug and alcohol counseling, and case management.
• Chris Danforth: Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm
• Sue Dennison: Wed, 9am – 5pm
• Bianca Fernandez: Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm
Call for info & appts: 802.463.9927

Parents & Children

- **Parenting Classes**
Taught at Parks Place by the Springfield Area Parent Child Center and the Nurturing Program.
802.886.5242; 802.254.6686

Health

- **AIDS Project of Southern Vermont**
Provides free anonymous HIV testing. By appointment only: 802.254.4444
- **Lead Safe Program**
Lead poisoning prevention, information and consultation.
• Jim McNamara: 802.463.9927 x. 208
• Michelle Womack: 802.463.9927 x. 207

Offenders' Options

- **Reparative Probation Board**
Provides a sentencing option for offenders to make reparations to victims and the community.
1st Tues. each month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Ed Cooney-Moore: 802.254.5911
- **Windham County Court Diversion Board**
A local volunteer board that reviews first-time offenders.
2nd Wed. each month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Michele Wright: 802.257.0361
- **Department of Corrections**
• Mike Malick: Mon, 8am - 4pm
• Joey Holmes: Thurs, 8am - 4pm
• Garry Shanon: Fri, 7:45am - 4:30pm
Please call for an appointment:
800.287.3107

Family Services

- **SEVCA-Family Services**
Help with fuel assistance and emergency needs.
Tues, 1 – 4 pm
Susan Howes: 802.722.4575 x. 124

Benefits

- **Economic Services / Eligibility**
A caseworker meets with Economic Services recipients to review their eligibility.
1st Fri. each month, 8 am – 4 pm
Bill Lockwood: 802.885.8856

Housing

- **Springfield Family Center/Supported Housing**
Helps people obtain housing.
Richard Moore
By appointment: 802.885.3646 x. 1011

Employment

- **Economic Services/Reach Up**
Assists with training, education and employment counseling for parents receiving TANF.
Thurs, 8 am – 4 pm
Terri Morey: 802.885.8856
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
Prepares persons with disabilities for employment.
• Bonnie Olson: Wed, 1pm – 4pm
• Mike Jenzen: Tues & Fri, 9am – 3pm
802.885.2279

Resources

- **Patch Team**
A group of service providers and community members who meet monthly to discuss community needs and resources.
3rd Thurs. each month, 9:30 – 11:30am at Parks Place. All are welcome.
- **Resource Directory**
A free publication listing over 200 agencies and programs that serve our area is available at Parks Place and online at www.parksplacevt.org. (Click the "Community Resources" link.) Visit the web site or call 802.463.9927 for more information – or to get your copy.

Please note: Parks Place does its best to ensure the information we provide here is accurate, but sometimes program changes are made after the newsletter is printed. Feel free to call the contact numbers to confirm program availability and schedule information.

GRATITUDE

Thank you for your many gifts.

Nancy Staniszewski, Newton Business – a new flag,
donated in memory of her husband Walter Staniszewski
Bill Lockwood – a phone card
Wes & Jane Nies – coffee and cream
Gert Piluski – Styrofoam cups
Bill & Marlene O'Connor – coffee, sugar, cookies, pencils & pens
Diane Gallion, LaValley Building Supply
– box of pencils, coffee & sugar
Kathy Michel – mugs, tea, pads & calendar
Nancy Hood – book of poetry for reception area

- folding chairs
- copy paper (letter size)
- paper plates
- napkins
- non-dairy creamer
- sugar
- pens
- plants for our garden,
both annuals and perennials
- small calculator or adding machine

WISH
LIST

Making Your Mark with Planned Giving

Are you wondering about how you can make your mark and make a truly meaningful and lasting contribution to the community around you? One way to do this is to include Parks Place when you are managing your financial and estate plans. Leaving a Legacy Gift to Parks Place in the form of a bequest, trust, life insurance, property or gift annuity is an exceptional way to help us continue to meet the urgent needs of families and individuals in the community that you call home.

For more information about planned giving options, please call Barbara at 802.463.9927

FOOD STAMPS

The Food Stamp Program is a nutrition program, designed to improve the health of lower income individuals and families by allowing them to spend more money on healthy, nutritious food. Food Stamps help with food costs and free up money for other living expenses. If you receive Food Stamps, you are eligible for free school lunches. If you are elderly or disabled, you may receive a cash benefit.

Last year, almost 25,000 households in Vermont received Food Stamps, but that represents only about **half** of all those eligible. Many people don't apply because they don't think they will be eligible.

Find out! New rules make it easier to qualify. If you think you might be eligible, call your local Dept. of Economic Services (802-885-8856 in Springfield; or 802-257-2820 in Brattleboro)* or apply online at vermontfoodhelp.com.

Pick up an application or receive help with the form at SEVCA. For more info, call the SEVCA Family Services Specialist at 802-722-4575 ext 124. Applications are also available at Parks Place.

*Rockingham/Grafton: Please call Springfield office number.
Westminster/Athens: Please call Brattleboro office number.

I support Parks Place!



You can donate online at www.parksplacevt.org
or mail your gift with this donor form to:

Parks Place, 44 School St., Bellows Falls VT 05101

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

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PHONE

Thank you for your generous support.

Spring Cleaning: May 17



The public is invited to join the Board and staff of Parks Place on Saturday, May 17, for our spring cleaning work day. Rain date will be Sunday, May 18. Hours are 8:00am until 2:00pm and lunch will be served!

Many hands make light work!

Free Girls' Yoga on Thursdays

Girls' Yoga taught by Diana Venman at the Boys & Girls Club every Thursday evening, 6-7pm. The class is free and open to young women ages 13-21. For more information please call Bianca at Parks Place, (802) 463-9927, ext. 109

Parks Place Perspectives

Don't miss our weekly TV show broadcast live **Wednesdays at 4pm** on FACT-TV Channel 8.

The program is replayed at 3pm on Thursdays, 11am on Mondays, and 5pm on Tuesdays.

Don't miss our show!

For more info about this and other programming on Channel 8, please visit www.FACT8.com. Online information is updated monthly.



Parks Place is a United Way of Windham County agency.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: New Board Members – Forum on Alcohol Abuse & Prevention – Welcome to Police Social Worker



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