

PARKS PLACE PRESS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER / BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT

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INSIDE

2

Development News

Parks Place is about connection.

SEVCA Class: Become an Income Tax Assistant

3

Lead Safe Homes News

4

Rockingham Library Scheduled Events

Park Place Welcomes New Board Member Sabrina McQuaide

5

Two New Counselors for Youth Services

6

Resources & Programs

A listing of what's available at Parks Place.

7

Meetings at Parks Place Gratitude

Thanks to our many supporters.

Our mission is to connect people with programs, resources and information.

44 School Street
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
802.463.9927

www.parksplacevt.org

The Patch Team: A Community Collaboration

Parks Place's Patch Team is a group of community members in the Greater Falls area that gets together once a month to collaborate, discuss and brainstorm solutions to problems. The name "Patch" comes from the British term that refers to a geographical area served by a locally-based team of social service and community members.

A Patchwork of Participants

At Parks Place Patch Team meetings, members share their knowledge and expertise from Youth Services, New Beginnings, Women's Crisis Center, VocRehab, Vermont Adult Learning, and SEVCA. Local schools, churches, libraries and other organizations also join the meetings to share what is happening in their programs. Together, over 100 members make up the Patch Team.

Last year's topics varied from fuel assistance and housing help, to the rise in domestic abuse, to adoption issues. This year, the group will explore educational opportunities, navigating the HCRS (Health Care and Rehabilitation Services) system, and parenting, among other topics.

One of the reasons a Patch approach works so well is that it finds ways of meeting the needs of a community in proactive and positive ways. Because Patch Team members are more in-tune with what is happening locally they are more inclined to intervene on issues before they turn into a crisis. Members exchange information, share ideas and coordinate activities—it's a true collaborative effort. It's also a wonderful way to meet and work with a diverse group of people that are enthusiastically approaching issues and trying to address them now, not in the distant future.



Patch Team members meet at Parks Place on a recent Thursday.



"The Patch Team keeps me connected to the people and services in my community – and motivates me to work collaboratively to find solutions."



All Are Welcome

The Parks Place Patch Team meets the third Thursday morning of each month from 9:30-11:30 am. All are welcome. Please feel free to call for more information or stop by to listen and join the group. Contact Robyn Weisel at 802-463-9927, extension 201.

PARKS PLACE

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

ROBYN WEISEL, Development Director

Connection..Why Parks Place Works

Parks Place is all about connection. People connect here with their counselors, their mentors, their support systems and their friends. Everyday an individual or family makes a connection at Parks Place that helps to direct them in positive ways.

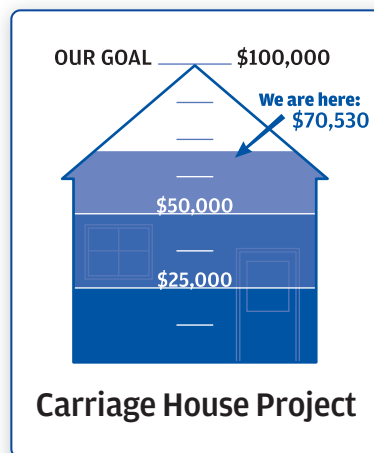
As an employee of Parks Place I too have made connections. I've met with a provider from VocRehab who helped support my daughter's summer work. I talked with Lead Safe Homes about how to safely remove paint during renovations on my house. One of the providers from SEVCA helped me navigate the Medicaid system, and VSAC opened up a door to my daughter's future that I didn't think existed.

Annual Appeal Fundraising

To-Date: \$12,086
GOAL: \$15,000

Carriage House Building Project

To-Date: \$70,530
GOAL: \$100,000



Parks Place works because it facilitates connections. People work here because it connects them to their clients in a welcoming and personal way. People volunteer because they've made meaningful connections here. And people come for services at Parks Place because they know it's the first step in connecting them to a positive direction.

To make a meaningful connection to Parks Place and send a contribution, please mail to: Parks Place, 44 School Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 Or contact Robyn Weisel, Development Director at 802-463-9927, ext:201, robyn@parksplacevt.org.

Become a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant!

Do you like helping people?

Then the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, sponsored by SEVCA and the United Way of Windham County, may be just what you're looking for.

The Internal Revenue Service promotes this program that involves helping community members who cannot afford professional tax assistance. The VITA Program helps those with low-to-moderate incomes. Trained Volunteer Tax Assistors explain the many special credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. Volunteers will help individuals complete and electronically file their returns – all for FREE!

Who are these volunteers?

People just like you – college students, law students, homemakers, members of volunteer or community organizations, and business people. Volunteer Tax Assistors receive (for FREE) the instruction and training and certification materials necessary to prepare basic income tax returns.

Training and certification is generally conducted in December and in January.

Although this may seem like a long way away, now is the time to sign up! Training and certification is conducted at locations that are convenient for both instructors and volunteers.

If you have a skill and would like to help, we can find a way to involve you!

To volunteer or to get more information about the VITA program, please contact: Harold Lafayette at SEVCA Inc. – 802.722.4575, ext: 199 – hlafayette@sevca.org



By
**BARBARA
TERNES,**
Director

Parks Place: What You Didn't Know

It's not a secret, but most people don't know that Parks Place was started for children. In 1992, community members came together, worried about children and looking for ways to make a difference in their lives.

Responding to their deep concern about children, this group created a "Family Resource Center." In 1995 it was re-named Parks Place Community Resource Center.

Parks Place's founders understood that families and individuals in this area couldn't travel to the programs that could lift them out of poverty, help them find jobs, get high school diplomas, confront substance abuse issues, learn new parenting skills and through these efforts create a healthier family.

Seventeen years after a group expressed their concerns about local children, Parks Place houses an exceptional variety of programs. Children, their parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and neighbors come to Parks Place where they create healthier lives and brighter futures. We see a lot of adults coming into Parks Place, but what we're after is healthier, happier children.

www.parksplace.org

Check out the improved Parks Place website!
And – don't forget to "friend" us on Facebook!

Lead Safe Homes News

Lead Safe Homes has been successfully addressing childhood lead poisoning in the community since 2005. The program has made tremendous strides educating contractors, landlords, parents and the medical community about the risks of lead and ways to reduce risk. Lead Safe Homes offers resources for parents and do-it-yourself homeowners concerned about the health and safety of their families.

Understanding that a healthy environment for children extends beyond the hazards of lead based paint, Lead Safe Homes is partnering with other housing improvement programs. Lead Safe Homes Outreach



Lead Safe Homes' Outreach Specialist Christine Lynde, along with Dusty the Dog, enjoy a visit at the Squeaky Sneakers Childcare Center in Springfield, Vermont. Dusty helps teach young children the importance of healthy eating habits and thorough hand washing to keep them safe from potential lead poisoning.

Specialist, Christine Lynde, attended the three-day SEVCA Weatherization Mobile Training. She can now identify mold and air quality hazards, poor ventilation systems, heating or cooling inefficiencies and improper insulation techniques.

Lead Safe Homes is the only lead poisoning prevention program in southern Vermont and a valuable resource for families living in some of the oldest housing stock in Vermont. It provides consultation to anyone with concerns about their home or childcare center. The program also lends High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuums free of charge to those wishing to clean up lead dust, and helps families pinpoint the source of lead exposure.

If you are interested in learning more about lead safe work practices and Vermont lead laws, Lead Safe Homes regularly sponsors Essential Maintenance Practice (EMP) classes. Participants will learn about lead safe work practices and become EMP certified upon completion of the class. For more information, call Christine Lynde at 802-463-9927 ext. 207.



Christine Lynde with friends at the SEVCA Weatherization Mobile Training.



Sabrina McQuaide

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Saxtons River, Vermont.

Tell us about your family.

I am a single mother of two wonderful children, Jared, who is 9, and Breana, who is 7. I have one brother and no sisters. My family is very close, and I spend all of my time with my children. They are my whole life.

What has Parks Place meant to you?

Parks Place... Wow where do I begin? Parks Place helped me grow as a mother, a woman and as an individual. I came to Parks Place with a goal to get back into the work force. After a while of working and volunteering there, a job became available at a law office. I applied and got the job.

Without Parks Place, I would not have had the skills I needed to do this job. It was my stepping stone to a successful future. Parks Place is a very unique organization. When you walk through those doors you feel like you belong, you can just feel the love and caring it has for people. I have never seen anything like Parks Place. It is just wonderful.

Why did you want to join the Parks Place Board of Directors?

I wanted to be on the Board to give back to Parks Place because it has helped me in so many ways. I feel this is a way for me to help now. I am absolutely honored to be on the Parks Place Board.

What are some of your hobbies/interests?

My hobbies include spending time with my children.

**ROCKINGHAM
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

WINTER 2009

ADULT PROGRAMS

– All events are free & open to the public –

Monday, Nov. 16, 5-6:30 pm

MEDIA MENTORING PROJECT (MMP)

Details TBA

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7pm

ART from the WILD

Join accomplished Putney artist Susan Brearey for a look at her beautiful renderings of animals and the wilderness. A partnership of The Nature Museum at Grafton, Mt. Ascutney Audubon and RFPL

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7pm

POETRY

with **PATRICIA FARGNOLI & TIM MAYO**

An evening with

NH Poet Laureate Patricia Fagnoli and award-winning poet Tim Mayo

YOUTH PROGRAMS

– ONGOING –

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Fridays 5-9pm

STORY TIME

Tuesdays @ 10:30am

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

1st & 3rd Mondays @ 5pm

EVENING STORY TIMES

2nd & 4th Mondays @ 5pm

SOMETHING COOL AFTER SCHOOL

Thursdays @ 3:30pm

NOVEMBER BOOK GROUPS

Independent readers and middle school / high school book groups

802-463-4270 | www.rockingham.lib.vt.us

65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Youth Services Welcomes New Counselors

Alysa Vallender

YOUTH SERVICE COUNSELOR

I grew up in Clifton, VA, near Washington DC, and went to school at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. I received my BS in Kinesiology, but I have always been drawn to working in the social service setting.

I first learned about Youth Services while researching potential places of employment when I moved here 2 1/2 years ago. I was very excited when the case management job opened up. By then I had some related experience working with foster children in Greenfield, MA.

I come from a very large, complex family; I have 9 brothers and sisters (all half or step siblings)—I am the second oldest. I love being the oldest sister and enjoy sharing experiences with my younger siblings. Locally, my husband, step-brother and I live together with our two cats and one dog.

I have enjoyed being at Parks Place because of the community access. There are so many great resources for our clients. Parks Place also provides a wonderful opportunity for networking with other service providers.

My hobbies include almost anything outdoors: snowboarding, mountain and road biking, kayaking, hiking, camping, and playing lacrosse. My motto is to always uphold the quality of my life to my standards.



Ruston Mitchell

AMERICORP VOLUNTEER

I grew up on the High Plains of Amarillo, Texas. After a couple of years of community college in Amarillo, I packed my bags and headed off to the mountains of Montana to finish my education. After three years at the University of Montana in Missoula I graduated with my B.A. in Environmental Studies and a Minor in Chemistry. I've always had a strong sense of community, and after receiving my degree I decided to give back by working on community-based issues. I soon discovered that the organization that allowed me to use my abilities to the greatest extent was AmeriCorps. Joining AmeriCorps ultimately led to my service at Youth Services and my work at Parks Place. I view Parks Place as the heart of Bellows Falls; this is where the community can come for services and resources. Being a part of Parks Place makes me truly feel like a part of this community, and I will do my best for it and our community.



VERMONT 211

Dial three simple numbers on your phone, and connect to a wonderful resource in Vermont!

It's the 2-1-1 connection, and it's your link to many health and human services and organizations in your community. 2-1-1 can connect you to programs and services such as child care, education, employment, health care, alcohol and drug programs, parenting workshops, senior resources, transportation, youth and family services, and much more.

All information is free and confidential, and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just dial 2-1-1!

www.vermont211.org

Substance Abuse

- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**
Group support for those in recovery from alcoholism.
Mon – Fri, 12 – 1 pm
Sat, 7 – 8 pm / Sun, 10 – 11 am
- **Phoenix House/CRASH**
Screening for driver’s license reinstatement.
1st Thursday, 4 – 5 pm
Christopher Wesolowski
For an appointment for CRASH interview: 802.257.1147 x.103
- **Private Counseling**
Susan Williams, BA, LADC
802.376.5173

Education

- **Vermont Adult Diploma Program (VADP)**
Provides a way for Vermonters over 21 to earn a high school diploma within a year.
Thursday, 9 am – 1:30 pm
Jay Callahan: 802.257.9449
- **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 – 4 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: 800.642.3177

Resources

- **Patch Team**
A group of service providers and community members that meet monthly to discuss community needs and resources.
3rd Thurs. each month, 9:30 – 11:30am
All are welcome.

Housing

- **Springfield Supported Housing**
Helps people obtain housing.
Rich Moore and Kathleen Sargent
By appointment: 802.885.3034

Counseling

- **Youth Services Case Management**
 - Bianca Fernandez: 802.463.9927 x.201
 - Alysa Vallender: 802.463.9927 x.202
- **Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)**
Offers individual counseling for adults, teens and children. By appointment.
Call 1.888.888.5144
- **Rockingham Area Collaborative**
By appointment:
 - Patty Stickney: 802.463.9927 x.236
 - Chris Danforth: 802.463.9927 x.236
 - Phil Brubaker: 802.257.4561
 - Norm Skorstad: 802.257.4561
 - Mark Killgallon: 413.522.9158
 - Sue Dennison: 802.376.9977

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
Claudia Schliemann: 802.463.1234
- **Windham County Court Diversion Board**
A local volunteer board that meets with first-time offenders.
2nd Wed. each month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Patrick Fleming: 802.257.0361
- **Department of Corrections**
 - Mike Malick: Mon, 802.885.3544
 - Joey Holmes: Thurs, 802.885.3544
 - Garry Sharon: Fri, 802.885.3544

Health

- **Lead Safe Homes**
Lead poisoning prevention, information and consultation.
• Michelle Womack: 802.463.9927 x.208
• Christine Lynde: 802.463.9927 x.207

Employment

- **Economic Services/Reach Up**
Assists with training, education and employment counseling for parents receiving TANF.
Thurs, 8 am – 4 pm
• Terri Morey: 802.885.8873
• Helen Miller: 802.885.1419
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
Prepares persons with disabilities for employment.
Please call for an appointment.
• Bonnie Olson & Larry Seavey: 802.885.2279
• Karin Thomas: 802.885.8952
• Ben Coplan: 802.251.2141
• Joe Sorrentino: 802.885.8952

Family Services

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

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

Benefits

- **Economic Services / Eligibility**
A caseworker meets to review eligibility.
1st Fri. each month, 8 am – 4 pm
Bill Lashua: 800.479.6151

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.

*You and your guests
are cordially invited to*

A RECEPTION TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS AND RECOGNIZE OUR LEGISLATORS

Tuesday, December 8 ~ 4 to 6 pm

We look forward to seeing you!

PARKS PLACE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
44 SCHOOL STREET, BELLOWS FALLS

Please RSVP by December 1

3SquaresVT

3SquaresVT (formerly Food Stamps) is a nutrition program designed to help you stay healthy by allowing you to spend more money on healthy, nutritious food. 3SquaresVT can help you make ends meet in this challenging economy.

If you have questions or would like to apply, contact your local SEVCA office at 1-800-464-9951. Information is also available online at vermontfoodhelp.com

What is PIRC Vermont?

The **Parent Information & Resource Center** of Vermont — known as *PIRC Vermont* — is part of a national network of federally-funded PIRCS.

PIRC Vermont is operated as a project of the Vermont Family Network (VFN) in partnership with the Vermont Parent Child Center Network.

PIRC Vermont provides support, information, and training to parents and educators across Vermont in order to help children of all ages succeed in school.

PIRC Vermont can help families from all walks of life to be active partners in their child's education.

Please contact us with questions and information at 800-800-4005 or go to www.pircvermont.org

GRATITUDE



Thank You, Chittenden Bank!

Chittenden Bank of Bellows Falls donated \$1000 to the Parks Place Carriage Building Project. In photo: Robyn Weisel and Barbara Ternes with Chittenden Bank's Joanne Sprague and Katie Dearborn.

Our thanks to everyone who has generously donated to Parks Place.

Ray Brewster - cups, plasticware
Marie Frenette - cups
Piluski - cups
Jose & Sharon Espinosa - printer
Karen Gustafson - condiments
Nancy Hood - paper/games
Erica and Bob Patch
- paper & paper towels
Ron Rupp (VHCB) - HEPA vacuum
Betty Haggerty - coffee filters,
paper plates, labels
Our Place - cups
Roberta Sperling
- Halloween decorations

WISHLIST

Folding Chairs
Card Tables
Tissue (boxes)
Brita Water Filters
Hand Soap Bottles
Cookies
Coffee
Tea & Tea Towels
Pens
Copy paper
Spoons (plastic)
Paper plates

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

TOWN / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

Thank you for your generous support.

United Way of Windham County Profiles Parks Place on its New Website!

Check out the nice article written by Kate Jellamo on the United Way of Windham County website! Their first profile highlights the wonderful things Parks Place does, along with a slide show.

United Way of Windham County has been a generous supporter of Parks Place and we are thrilled to be their first profile on their new website!

To read the article and see Parks Place photos, go to:
www.unitedwaywindham.org/community.shtml

Vermont State Senator Susan Bartlett stopped by Parks Place when she visited Bellows Falls recently.



Don't miss 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-Thurs / 11am-Mon / 5pm-Tues. Info at www.FACT8.com



Parks Place is a United Way of Windham County agency.

The Patch Team – Spotlight on Sabrina McQuaide – Two New Youth Services Counselors

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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