



ADVOCATE

Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

VRPA PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Melissa Cate, CPRP,
VRPA President

Welcome to fall and a new era with VRPA. As you all must know by now, Betsy Terry retired at the end of July and Jessica Brodie has joined us as our new Executive Director. Jess has enthusiastically jumped in with both feet and has been a pleasure to work with. If you have not met her (or even if you have!), please plan on attending the Vermont Conference on Recreation at Lake Morey October 10-11. Not only will you get to meet the amazing Jess, you may also have the opportunity to visit with VRPA's newest retiree who is still serving on the conference committee! The Conference always amazes me in its breadth of offerings; it is the unique combination of fun and learning in a stunning setting! It is VRPA's "flagship" event, which I always look forward to and always walk away from impressed and refreshed.

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FLY BETSY, FLY!



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76th Annual VT Conference on Recreation

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down and Labor Day weekend is just around the corner. As we transition from summer to fall, please consider investing in yourself and your communities by joining us at the 76th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation this October 10th and 11th at The Lake Morey Resort.

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CONFERENCE KEYNOTE



VRPA Executive Committee Officers

President Melissa Cate, CPRP (Burlington)	865-5399
President-Elect Ally Vile, CPRP (Essex)	878-1342
Secretary April Cioffi, CPRP (Rutland)	773-1822
Treasurer Jenn Turmel, CPRP (Colchester)	264-5643
Past President Scott Hausler, CPRP (Hartford)	295-5036

Executive Committee Members-at-Large

Rob Peterson (Vt State Parks)	279-8329
Matt Frazee (Stowe)	253-3054
Brett Leonard, CPRP (South Burlington)	846-4137
Drew Pollak-Bruce, CPRP (SE Group)	735-2370

VRPA Office

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VRPA Newsletter

The VRPA Advocate is published three times a year by the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, including commentary on subjects of interest to Vermont’s recreation professionals and volunteers.

Editor: Jessica Brodie

Next issue submission deadline:
November 2, 2019
Send to: Jessica@vrpa.org or by mail to:
VRPA, PO Box 33
Brownsville, VT, 05037



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019/2020

September 18	VRPA Executive Committee & Conference Committee Meeting
September 24-26	NRPA Conference, Baltimore
October 10-11	76 th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation, Lake Morey
November 7	VRPA Executive Committee Meeting
November 21	VRPA Performance Showcase
December 5	VRPA Quarterly Meeting
January 7-9	Northern New England Conference, North Conway, NH
Jan 23	VRPA Executive Committee Meeting
March 13	VRPA Quarterly Meeting
March 24-25	CPO Course
April 8	VRPA Executive Committee Meeting
April (TBD)	CPSI Course
May 13/14	VRPA Annual Meeting
June 4	Maintenance Workshop
June 7	VRPA Summerama Summer Staff Training
July 18	VRPA – St. Johnsbury State Track Meet

For full descriptions of upcoming events & trainings visit, vrpa.org

Mission

The mission of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association is to provide training and resources to help Vermonters to “Create Community through People, Parks and Programs.

Advertising Rates

(Member/Non-member)			
1/8 page ...	\$25/50	1/2 page	\$100/150
1/4 page ...	\$50/100	Full page....	\$150/300

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VRPA PRESIDENT'S Perspective

As the VRPA Executive Board has worked through the transition of Executive Directors, it has reminded me that change is not always as scary and unpleasant as I always expect it to be. For example, having an empty nest is not quite as horrible as some of you parents might imagine! In both my personal and professional lives, I am trying much harder to accept (and embrace) the reality of change. As exemplified with the change of the seasons, change is inevitable so I might as well stop lamenting the cooler nights that accompany the end of summer and instead look forward to soaking in the hot tub on those cooler nights this fall!

Change within an organization like VRPA does not only mean a change in leadership, it also means changing over time as we pivot and redesign our programming and revenue streams in order to keep our organization sustainable. Your VRPA board has worked very hard over the last decade to diversify and broaden our offerings so that we are no longer reliant primarily on discount ticket sales to keep our organization afloat. I commend Betsy and previous boards for their vision and hard work in strengthening programs like Summerama and for expanding others like the

Maintenance Workshop. Perhaps the best example of strengthening through change was expanding the Vermont Conference on Recreation from one day to two – which provides a greater variety of options for attendees as well as increased revenues for the association. Because of the efforts of the board and the countless volunteers who plan and execute VRPA programs, our organization is as strong as ever. We encourage and welcome new ideas and new participants. There are so many ways to

support VRPA - submitting an award nomination or newsletter article, assisting at one of our events, helping secure auction donations and so much more! So I ask all of our members, if you are even slightly interested in being more engaged in YOUR professional organization, please reach out to Jess or a board member – we will happily find a way to put your skills to work! And...it just might be the change you are looking for! In the meantime, I hope that you too soak in the change of the seasons! See you at Lake Morey.

Melissa Cate
Melissa Cate, CPRP
VRPA President (2018-2020)

Change within an organization like VRPA does not only mean a change in leadership, it also means changing over time as we pivot and redesign our programming and revenue streams in order to keep our organization sustainable.

PLAY

Play never told me you can't
or don't
or you shouldn't
or you won't.

Play never said be careful!
You're not strong enough.
You're not big enough.
You're not brave enough.

Play has always been an invitation.
A celebration.
A joyous manifestation.
Of the cans
and wills
and what ifs
and why nots.

Play isn't one thing. It's everything. Anything.

Play doesn't care what a body can or cannot do.
Because play lives inside us. All of us.

Play begs of us:
Learn together.
Grow together.
Be together.
Know together.

And as we grow older,
As the world comes at us with you can't
or don't
or you shouldn't
or you won't.
We come back to what we know.
That imagination will never fail us.
That words will never hurt us.
That play will always shape us.

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"We do not
stop playing
because we
grow old,
we grow old
because we
stop playing"
-unknown
favorite quote

Message

from the Executive Director



On July 1st I started as your new Executive Director for the VRPA. A dream job, really, where I could apply my past Parks & Recreation experience in a setting where I am also helping so many professionals throughout Vermont. I am thrilled to be here and would like to thank everyone that has reached out and welcomed me to VT! I look forward to meeting hopefully ALL of you at our conference this October!

Shortly after I started, I was fortunate enough to attend the Annual Council of State Executive Director's meeting in Grand Prairie, TX. There, I was able to meet the other state executives from around the country, hear from many great session speakers, and tour some amazing recreation facilities in the area. I spent that week listening and learning to all the other states so that I could bring all that knowledge and wealth of ideas back to Vermont. It was such a great meeting and experience!

During these first two months as Executive Director I have been doing a lot of listening and learning. There are so many hard-working professionals in this state, and I am so amazed by all the great programs, events, and activities that all of you are providing! Over the next several months I want to continue to learn about what is valuable to you so I can help deliver more of those things. I want to listen to members and hear the challenges you face in your communities so I can help provide solutions. I want to hear all the great programs and events that you run so we can showcase those, and maybe share some ideas for

other communities. And I also want to serve all of you the best that I can. This is your association and I am honored to be here to help!

As I look to the year ahead, we have so many great meetings and training coming up and I hope that all of you are able to participate in them! I would like to thank all our members that have joined VRPA, and an extra big thank you to those that have volunteered so much of their time on our various committees to help plan all these wonderful events for everyone. It is amazing to see all the talented and hard working professionals come together to do great things – keep up the amazing work everyone!

I couldn't end my thoughts without talking about my kids. As some of you know, I have three young kids that are excited to be here in Vermont as well. I am living in the Upper Valley, and have already warned Scott in Hartford to be on the look-out for some Brodie children in his programs, but I also need to warn the other local towns as well – Hartland, Windsor, Woodstock...some Brodie children may all be coming your way! Look for all of us on bikes, skis, and even horses – we will likely be all over!

I would love the opportunity to meet all of you this year, so let me know of any family or adult events that I can come check out in your communities! Until September, keep up the amazing work, and I look forward to seeing you all at our Conference in October! ■

Jessica Brodie
Jessica Brodie
Executive Director

Muriel More

What influenced your decision to choose the career you did?

I have always loved the outdoors, especially camping and hiking. Every summer my family took vacations to various parts of the U.S., including to national parks like Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Growing up, I spent many happy summers at resident camps and was never homesick. In my early twenties, I took a 100 mile horseback trek in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area of the North Cascades National Park. This, and other recreation experiences, led me back to school to do graduate work in natural resources and recreation management.

What professional positions have you held, with what organizations?

Director, Forest Resources Planning Program, MA Division of Forests and Parks
Program Services Director/Camping Services Director, Michigan Trails Girl Scout Council, Grand Rapids, MI (now part of the Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore); Program Services Director, Bay Path Colonial Girl Scout Council, Newton Upper Falls, MA (now part of Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts).
Founder and Director, Take the Kids Tours, Inc., which offered organized travel opportunities for grandparents

and grandchildren.
Independent Research Historian specializing in parks and recreation history.
What do you consider your greatest career accomplishments? Career (including as a volunteer):
“Authored the Massachusetts Forest Resources Plan that guided agency forest policy and program decisions.

Organized and wrote most of the Environmental Impact Report on Forestland Management Practices on both public and private lands in Massachusetts.
Directed 18 day camps and administered all day camp operations for the Michigan Girl Scout Council.

Organized and led a Girl Scout cross-country expedition from Massachusetts to the Girl Scout National Center West in Ten Sleep, Wyoming. One night on the way, we camped on the Sioux Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, one of the poorest areas in the country. Tribal leaders came out in the evening to speak to the girls – an incredibly eye-opening experience for all.

Received 2013 Theresa S. Brungardt Friend Award for research contributions on recreation and parks history in Vermont.
Authored “75 Years of Inspiration;

a Brief Conference History” to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the VT Conference on Recreation.
Co-authored with Candice Holbrook, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, “Theresa S. Brungardt: Through the Lens of Photography” for the 75th Anniversary of the VT Conference on Recreation.

What have been your biggest professional challenges?
At the time, being one of the few women with a graduate forestry education and, subsequently, being one of few women in forestry in both my agency and nationally.

As a “first generation” forest resources planner, I needed to broaden the perspective of agency administrators and foresters to include long range policy and program planning with public involvement.
Developing a business from scratch.

Professional advice from lessons you have learned...
Stay involved; you have much to offer and recreation has many needs.
Often, it’s not the highways, but the byways that prove to be the most important. This was wonderful advice I received from the Vermont historian, Lillian Baker Carlisle, that I’ve always felt applies to much more than historical research.

How and when did you become involved with VRPA?

I became involved in 2013 though the VT Conference on Recreation. In my historical research on Theresa Brungardt, I located members of her family (after a year’s search) and contacted Betsy Terry about inviting them to the Conference to help present the Brungardt awards. Thirteen family members attended the Conference in 2013 and 2-6 members have attended annually since then.

I have been a member of the Conference Planning Committee since 2014.

What are some of the benefits you value most as a member.

The connections and networking with other VRPA members.
The weekly VRPA news update and quarterly meetings I’m able to attend.

The camaraderie and work ethic we’ve achieved on the Conference Planning Committee.

Personal Recreation Interests?

Traveling, especially to national parks, preserves, monuments, historic sites and battlefields. We have now visited over 200 national park sites and try to hike at every one.
Playing piano and percussion. I take regular piano lessons studying 20th and 21st century piano repertoire. I was the timpanist for 11 years with the Amateur Musicians Orchestra in the Burlington area.

I also love walking, reading, gardening and classical music concerts.

Family/Background

Born in Springfield, IL (the “Land of Lincoln”); one of 4 siblings and the oldest of 3 sisters.
Married for 47 years to Tom More; one son, Alec. Tom and I are retired; Tom after a 40 year career in the U.S. Forest Service and West Virginia University. Our son is a transportation planner with HDR Engineering in Seattle, WA. We share our South Burlington home with 2 Newfoundland dogs, one a 3 month old puppy.

Education:
• Ph. D. Forestry (The University of Massachusetts)
• MS Forestry (The University of Michigan)
• BA History (MacMurray College)

Anything else?

Was the “Engineer for the Day” and operated a 1910 steam engine at the Nevada Northern Railway Museum to celebrate my 75th birthday. Quite an experience to take it through tunnels, up and down steep grades and blow the whistle at all road crossings.
I now have over 50 years involved in history, natural resources and recreation. I’ve seen fascinating changes in recreation and natural resources management and it’s wonderful to still be engaged. ■



MILTON

Wellness TEAM

*Mary Thompson, Worksite Wellness Coordinator &
Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator, Town of Milton*

“For much of the week, most Vermonters spend more than one third of their day at their workplace. The programs, policies and environment at their worksite significantly influence employees’ health... worksites can take steps to improve employee health, leading to financial benefits, reduced health care costs, and a more productive and engaged workforce.” [Source](#).

Why Wellness?

Since the fall of 2017 we, the Town of Milton Wellness Team, have been steadily engaging in the enhancement of workplace wellness as an added benefit to our municipality workplace. Our workplace, charged with the undertaking to increase efficiencies, reduce costs and maintain high quality customer service is quite a demanding forecast for a daily work life. How could we continue to do all required of us and maintain a healthy, viable, committed work life? Perhaps if we understand and embrace the value of worksite wellness. Perhaps by this avenue we will be able to provide more value to our employees as our employees are being asked to provide more value to our residents and customers.

The goal of the Town of Milton Wellness Team is to promote wellness in the workplace with the charge that these efforts will transition easily between other areas of our employee’s lives. Creating an environment that supports and edifies wellness in the workplace encourages commitment to a daily regimen of high quality service and an increase in productivity. We found that understanding a culture of wellness goes beyond bulletin boards filled with pictures of Brussel sprouts or apple baskets. Providing the opportunity for restful space away from the steady click of typing emails, ringing phones and whirling copiers is a large part of wellness in the workplace. Easing mental stress as well as providing ergonomic enhancements with standing desks or seating accommodations make a significant impact to the quality of work life.

One of the challenges we faced in our efforts while undertaking this process was coming to understand the extent of our municipal campus and learning how we could support our offsite workers. We have employees not only in our offices but also serving in the field. We identified that hydration was a significant challenge for our employees in the



field. They usually found themselves purchasing bottled water at their own expense, then refilling those bottles in the most available sink. The wellness team utilized a portion of grant money to purchase two bottle-less water cooler systems; one for each offsite workplace. This option was the most cost effective and “go green” solution to their hydration challenge. Because we were able to provide a lasting, refreshable solution, our “in the field” employees

have an enhanced workplace and a higher quality of work life.

Growing opportunities for comradery through worksite fitness challenges, breaking up a workday with “Walk @ Work” events and creating an environment for sharing through development of “the harvest basket” and recipe sharing are hopefully ways we are starting to engage one another more fully. There is more to our “becoming” a workplace with wellness as a sustained focus. Yet with active leadership, an impassioned wellness team, and a willing workforce; wellness in our workplace will prevail! ■

New Bike Rental Partnership at Burton Island State Park



Vermont State Parks is excited to announce a partnership with Local Motion, Inc. to provide bike rentals at Burton

Island State Park. New for the 2019 season, a fleet of rental bicycles will be provided for park visitors to use while visiting the island.

“Burton Island has always been a fantastic place to explore by bike,” says Ryan Baker Dunn, Marine Operation Supervisor for Vermont State Parks. “The 253-acre island has miles of trails and park roads on picturesque Lake Champlain with views of the Green and Adirondack mountains. Aside from a few staff work vehicles, there are no cars on the island, making

it a safe, quiet environment for biking. Vermont State Parks has also invested in work tricycles to further minimize vehicles in the park, making Burton Island is a great place for the whole family to ride.”

Local Motion is a non-profit organization dedicated to “helping Vermont communities become more walkable, bikeable, and livable.” Their mission and experience with bike rentals made them an ideal partner to work with Vermont State Parks on this initiative. The fleet of adult and kids bicycles will be available for half-day, full-day, and multi-day rentals. Bike rentals start at just \$15 dollars for half days and \$25 for full days, with additional days for \$15. Rentals will be first come, first served, and helmets will be provided with each bike rental. Many of the bikes also have baskets that come in handy for beach gear or store purchases. ■

For more info on Burton Island State Park & Local Motion visit vtstateparks.com/burton & localmotion.org

AROUND the STATE



Around the State



Tennis in the Parks

Providing Community Tennis in Vermont Service Representative, USTA

‘Tennis in the Parks’ is a learn and play-based program that USTA New England developed to meet the tennis needs of recreation and youth serving organizations.

USTA New England will find and hire tennis instructors that are trained to present **Net Generation** youth tennis to junior players. These qualified instructors have also been background screened. Six 1-hour tennis lessons are offered weekly that will help juniors learn the basics of serve, rally and scoring in fun and engaging ways.

The goal is to offer affordable, inclusive tennis in communities that currently struggle to find qualified instructors, offer tennis in underserved towns and to promote and grow this great game!

New program participants will receive a youth sized Babolat racquet, a **Net Generation** T-shirt and age appropriate tennis ball to keep! Red/Orange/Green tennis balls are used in the tennis programs with lessons planned by ability.

Vermont has launched the first two ‘Tennis in the Parks’ in Randolph and Barre City with enthusiastic instructor, Tyler Cain. These programs have been well received and the interest in tennis is contagious! ■

If you want to learn more about presenting this program in your community please reach out to Karen Didricksen, who is the Vermont Representative from USTA NE.

didricksen@newengland.usta.com

Karen Didricksen | didricksen@newengland.usta.com



Zane Rodriguez of Norwich, VT, won the National Championship in the men's javelin for the 60-64 age group with a throw of 167ft. This topped the runner-up by almost 20 ft!

VERMONT SENIOR GAMES' ATHLETES THRIVE AT NATIONALS AND LOCAL EVENTS

By George Moltz
Games Coordinator, Vermont Senior Games

A record number of Vermont Senior Games athletes represented the state at the 2019 National Senior Games in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sixty-nine Green Mountain State athletes competed in 186 events, ranging in age from 50 to 90.

After the two weeks of competition concluded, the final tally shows Vermonters earning 34 medals during the course of the competition. Green Mountain state athletes garnered a total of 13 golds, 9 silvers, and 12 bronze medals – 25 of which were won by women.

Yet a deeper analysis of the results yields a great appreciation of the depth of the Vermont team. In addition to the medals, athletes at Nationals earn ribbons (and podium honors)

for finishing in 4th through 8th place in each event. VSG athletes came home with 37 such ribbons.

That the 69 VSG athletes returned from Nationals with a total of 71 medals and ribbons reflects very positively on the truly high level of commitment and performance by our state's senior competitors.

In addition to the events at Nationals, the Vermont Senior Games has staged several local competitions this summer as well with support from the Governor's Council.

The Pickleball tournament, a three-day affair held at the Robert Miller Center in Burlington on July 12-14, attracted a record field of 84 participants. The doubles competitions proved to be the most popular events.

VSG broke new ground with its summer track and field meet, teaming up to partner in the Sprinticity Classic at Burlington High School on July 13. It was a great event in that it brought together youths and senior competitors in the same meet. As VSG Games Committee member Betsy Terry commented, "the Burlington track was great, the concessions were great, and the timing team was great." Hopefully this relationship with Sprinticity can continue in the future.

The Vermont Senior Games showcases numerous elite athletes, and one of the best showed off her talent at the Colchester Triathlon on Sunday July 28. In a remarkable performance, 61-year-old Adamant, Vermont athlete Donna Smyers completed the tri course in a mere 1:09:17, finishing 12th overall in the race and crossing the line as the second female competitor, trailing the women's winner by only 23 seconds.

Indeed, Smyers' race was so impressive that she was the first VSG athlete to



Donna Smyers of Adamant, VT in the transition area at the Colchester triathlon on July 28, 2019.

finish, beating all the men. And that's no surprise, since Donna Smyers is a USA Triathlon Hall of Fame member and has earned six Ironman World Championship age group titles. It was truly a pleasure to watch her compete.

Finally, the annual VSG golf tournament at the Neshobe course in Brandon brought together senior golfers from throughout the state on August 12.

VSG will be staging tennis, 5K and 10K runs, and the 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the months to come.

2020 in Vermont is a qualifying year for the 2021 National Senior Games, which will be held in Florida. VSG is already working to enhance existing events and introduce others to provide athletes with the greatest opportunity to qualify and represent our state. ■

Health Care Shares From *Farm* to Patient



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps—Health Care Shares (HCS)

Blood pressure? Check. Cholesterol? Check. Pasture-raised chicken?

For most of us, the first two are what we expect from a visit to our primary care doctor's office . . . but here in Vermont, on any given day, you might just find a farmer's market outside your primary care medical home.

When Fairfax resident Julie Mesick visits her team of providers at Milton Family Medicine, she comes home with a reusable bag of fresh vegetables and a nutrition book with recipes showing her how to sneak vegetables into her family meals. Along the way, she has taken a liking to a few new vegetables, like kohlrabi.

Julie's is one of more than 400 families or nearly 1,000 Vermonters who benefit from the Health Care

Share (HCS), a nationally award-winning project of the Farm at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC). The HCS offers improved access to healthy food for patients through UVM Medical Center family medicine practices and other independent hospitals and providers across the state. A visit to the primary care team includes a weekly free farm share, a nutrition program notebook and vegetable preparation demonstrations. Participants are identified by their

health care providers, based on need, chronic diet-related illness and/or children in the home.

UVM Medical Center and Central Vermont Medical Center together have 6 of the 14 total HCS drop-off sites in the state, each staffed by a location's Practice Supervisor and a dedicated group of volunteers. UVM Medical Center currently coordinates at four primary care sites – Milton Family Medicine, Colchester Family Medicine, Hinesburg Family Medicine and Winooski Family Health.

The HCS runs from early July until November, but the work to grow the produce occurs all year. Led by the hard work of 50 youth and young adult VYCC Corps Members on crews, the Farm program at VYCC also puts 920 volunteers to work alongside VYCC's talented farming staff. Says Lisa Hoare, UVM Medical Center program coordinator, "The food distributed to participating families is grown, harvested and packaged by Vermont young people, ages 15-26 years old, who are employed

by the VYCC. These youth and young adults receive a share as well along with farm education and important leadership training. This program supports youth on both the giving and receiving end and promotes health improvement not only nutritionally but as a community connection."

"We believe great things happen when young people team up on projects that matter here in Vermont," said Breck Knauft, VYCC's Executive Director. "Young people consistently rise to the occasion of not only improving their lives, but the lives of their neighbors. The Health Care Share project is a terrific example of this."

This effort reflects a shift to primary prevention of disease by prescribing and supporting a healthier diet. Data results from the Health Care Share are promising— in 2018, nearly half the participants reported a change from food-insecure to food-secure at the end of the program. Participants also reported reduced intake of energy drinks or sports drinks, soft drinks or soda, as well as more episodes of eating green leafy vegetables at the end of the program.

Emily Clairmont, registered dietitian at the UVM Medical Center, says, "improving your nutrition will affect your health from your mind to your heart. The Health Care Share project effectively reduces the barrier to access to healthy foods to allow individuals to increase intake of vegetables that provide essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytonutrients. And the data show this is happening." ■



Facility Feature

Facility Improvements at the Wendell A. Barwood Arena

Hartford Parks & Recreation

A near \$1 million-dollar project this summer will complete additional improvements to the Wendell A. Barwood Arena, located in White River Junction.

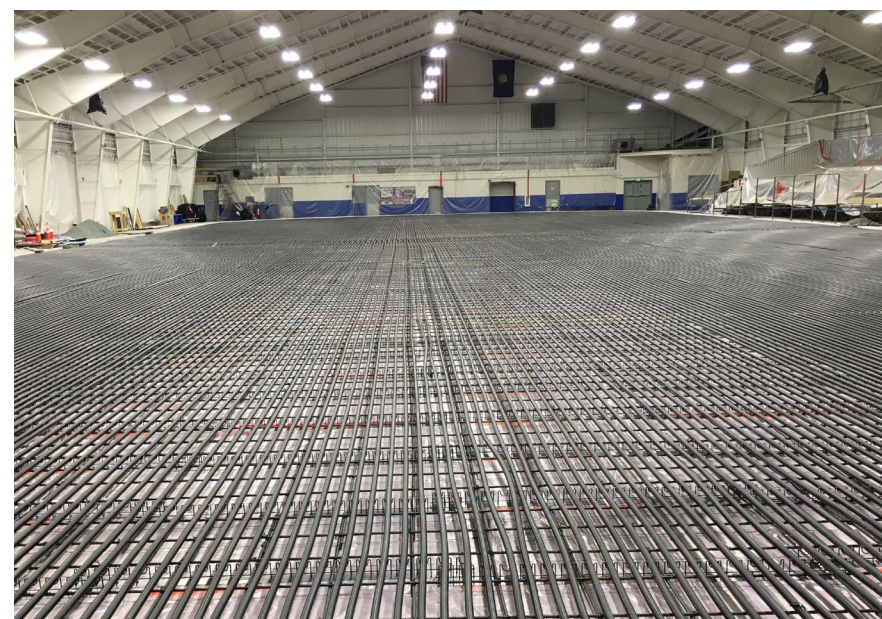
Last March, voters in the Town of Hartford approved funding in its Capital Reserve and Unassigned Fund Balance to complete what was identified as an incomplete project back in 2014. That project

included a new roof on the existing building shell and a 7,000 square foot addition that included 4 new locker rooms, enclosed lobby, concession stand and added Zamboni room along with storage space. One original locker room was restored to accommodate two referee changing rooms.

After spending nearly \$2.4 million in redevelopment funding on the front of the house providing the new spaces and modernizing the facility, the issue of the operational plant, which was neglected for years and not part of the original project, was now a necessity. In the summer of 2018, the Selectboard approved funding that replaced the 26-year-old Carrier Refrigeration Unit. The \$600,000 system included the installation of 6 Ice-3 Fluid to Fluid Heat Pump systems manufactured by Emerald Technologies. The new system includes the use of glycol verses brine for the refrigerant.

Soon after the refrigeration project got off the ground, the Department hired Preferred Mechanical to complete an audit of the refrigerated floor and dasher board system. That report, completed in April of 2018, identified the cold floor steel header and piping were not designed correctly. The report also found there was an immense amount of suspended iron in the exiting acidic brine coupled with demonstrated external corrosion. This lead to steel failure in the system and the floor needed to be replaced. Additionally, the Assessment identified numerous safety hazards with the dasher board system. It was highly recommended to replace the dasher board system verses attempting to repair. The Dasher boards were approaching 28 years of service.

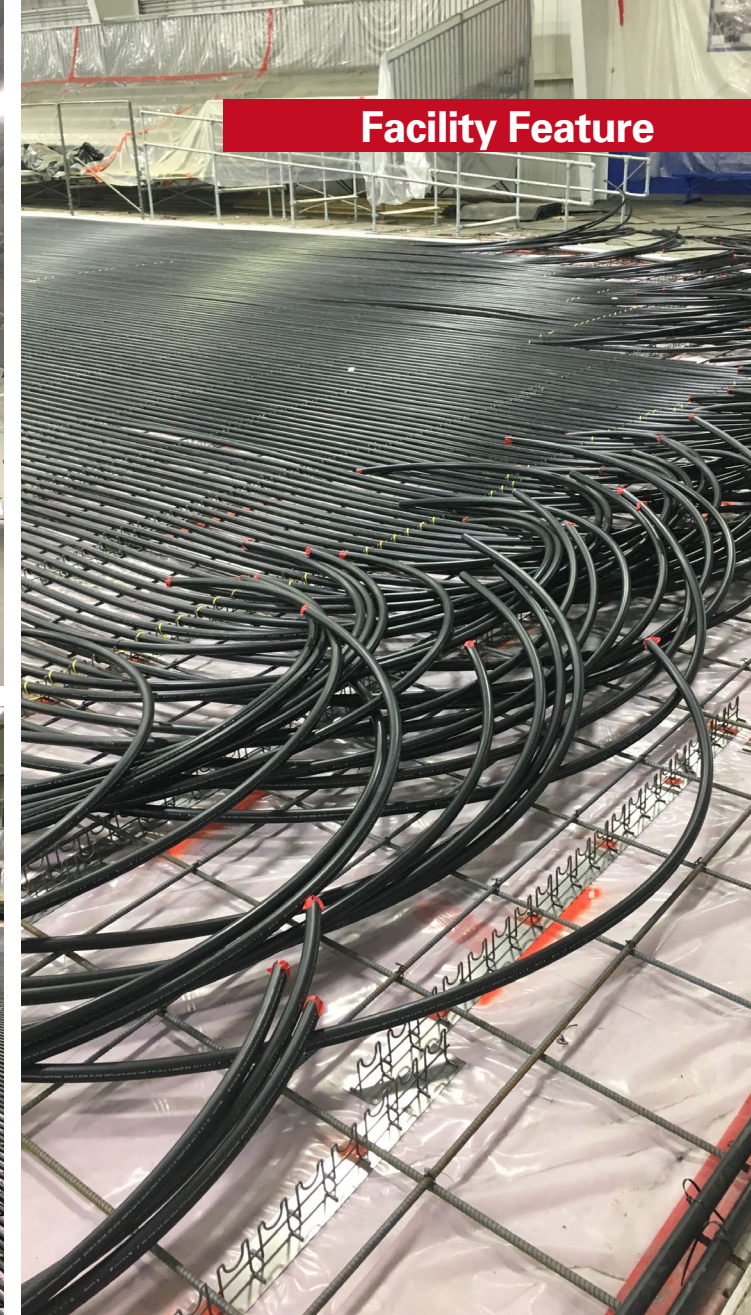
After several months of deliberation the WABA Completion Project received the support of the Town Manager and Selectboard. Funding options were presented and secured in the FY 2020



budget. At the Hartford Town Meeting last March, voters approved the Town's operating budget and spending \$925,000 dollars to implement the WABA Completion Project. This included removal and replacement of the refrigerated floor cold loop and adding a warm loop system for future year round operations. The floor project is under construction now with an estimated concrete pour the end of August. The floor work is being completed by

Parent Construction and Preferred Mechanical. In addition, the project includes renovation of the Zamboni room floor which had limited draining from the previous project. A new Becker Arena Dasher Board System is being manufactured and will be delivered and installed in late September. New dehumidification will be installed later in the season along with a 400-seat bleacher system in the Spring of 2020 to complete the construction project. On top

of all the renovation work, the Department will be accepting delivery of a new electric Zamboni. The existing 28 year old Zamboni will be retained and used for weekly ice maintenance during operations. ■





Network • Learn • Empower

76th Annual Vermont Conference on Recreation

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Thursday & Friday, October 10 & 11, 2019
Lake Morey Resort | Fairlee, VT

Your conference committee has been hard at work pulling together this year's conference, which features Neelay Bhatt, a nationally renowned keynote speaker, high quality education sessions, ample time for networking with colleagues and exhibitors and finally, Vermont's Finest Silent Auction with thousands of dollars in merchandise, gift cards and products. Last, but not least, the conference features excellent food and entertainment, including a beautiful fireworks display on Thursday evening!



Will you help us reach our goal of 150 registered attendees?

If two days with your colleagues on beautiful Lake Morey isn't enough to motivate you to attend, we have something special for you to consider! As an incentive to boost attendance at our 76th conference—we've created the "Push for 150" challenge. Our conference means little without you, our recreation community, and to inspire you to come, we'll be giving away a free conference registration package and hotel room for the 2020 conference...**if we get 150 registered delegates**. Last year we had 125 conference registrations. Will you help us reach our goal of 150 registered delegates? We'll randomly draw a lucky winner at the end of the awards luncheon out of the total registered delegates (if we reach 150). Please help us reach our goal by inviting someone new to the conference this year!

This is our association's largest event and consequently your best opportunity to network with Vermont's diverse recreation community, including municipal and state recreation professionals, recreation non-profits, volunteers and commercial partners from throughout Vermont, New England, and beyond. We really hope to see you there!



Conference KEYNOTE

The Conference Committee is Thrilled to Announce that Neelay Bhatt is Coming Back to Vermont

Neelay Bhatt's career on five continents includes Disney, The Super Bowl, The Olympics, and several years of consulting, public speaking and training. TEDx, the global platform for ideas, describes him as a business and communications visionary, and his service on the National Recreation and Park Association's Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that 'no child is left indoors'.

Most recently, he was chosen by the Indianapolis Business Journal as one of Indy's Forty under 40 leaders having an impact on the city. As Principal at PROS Consulting INC., headquartered in Indianapolis, he has led 130+ strategic and master planning, sports facility development, customer service training, and marketing and branding projects. These projects

have recommended facility development and infrastructure improvements totaling over \$2 billion USD and are helping to shape a better vision for parks, recreation, and sports all over the world.

Neelay continues to champion the transformational power of ideas while serving as curator and co-organizer for TEDxIndianapolis, TEDxIndianapolisWomen and TEDxCollegePark (MD) and has led a TED Global workshop in Canada, presented multiple TEDx talks and continues to coach TEDx presenters as well.

He is an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School and the #1 ranked Sports Management Program at Ohio University, and his keynotes and presentations on empathetic leadership, magical customer service and the art of storytelling have benefited executives, professionals, and students from North America to China and from Europe to New Zealand. ■

16TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE

VRPA 2019

Join us for the
16th Annual Vermont
Performance Showcase on
Thursday, November 21, 2019
from 9:00am - 3:00pm at Lake
Morey Resort & Conference Center
in Fairlee, VT!

The stage will be alive with 24 different performances! Additional artists will be there with exhibit tables to share their talents with you and book your performance needs. As always, there will be LOTS OF NEW PERFORMERS. Throughout the day door prizes will be drawn, including a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate good towards the booking of a show given by any performer in the program booklet.

Here is what you can expect:

- Sample some of the region's finest performers...see 24 live mini-performances!
- Musicians, storytellers, bands, puppets, comedy, magic, mime, and more.
- Book with others and save \$\$\$\$. Great opportunity to BLOCK BOOK performers!
- A program book listing all showcase artists, exhibitors & their contact information.
- Reasonably priced registration includes coffee breaks & lasagna (meat & veggie) lunch!
- Network with colleagues and hear about their experiences with performers.

SHOWCASE SCHEDULE

8:30-9am	Registration and refreshments Performer exhibits open
9-12pm	Showcase performances every 10 minutes
12-1pm	Lunch and visit with performers
1-3pm	Showcase performances every 10 minutes

Don't forget to book your room to stay at Lake Morey the night before!

Know other local businesses or organizations who book performing artist for events or programs? Help us spread the word and grow this showcase! Please forward this to everyone in your community who hires performing artists for events & programs. Thank you! ■

Cost

Includes a showcase program
booklet, lunch & coffee breaks
By November 1
VRPA Member:.....\$55/person
Non-Member:.....\$65/person
After November 1
VRPA Member:.....\$65/person
Non-Member:.....\$70/person

RECAP

2019 VRPA/ ST. JOHNSBURY STATE TRACK & FIELD MEET

On August 3rd, just under 300 youth Track & Field athletes from around Vermont gathered at St. Johnsbury Academy for the VRPA State Track & Field Meet. Originally scheduled for July 20th, the meet was postponed for the first time in its history due to excessive heat on its original date. Moving it to August 3rd was "definitely the right call", quoted by so many participants who still made an appearance on the rescheduled date.

The day kicked off at 9:00 am with the girls & boys Shot Put. Events that followed included the High Jump, Softball Throw, Long Jump, Discus Throw, 1600 Meter Run, 80 Meter Hurdles, 50 Meter Dash, 100 Meter Dash, 400 Meter Dash, along with 50 & 100 Meter Relay races. All events were timed by 802 Timing out of Essex Junction, VT.

Ribbons were handed out to the top six runners in each Boy & Girl age category. Along with ribbons, "Large" and "Small" team category winners were also announced. Taking the top spot in the large team category again this year was St. Johnsbury, who had 65 registered participants. Following St. Johnsbury in the large team category was Champlain Valley with 21 participants. Taking the win in the small team category was a new team winner this year, "Kurn Hattin" with 9 participants. Following Kurn Hattin was Newport Parks & Recreation with 13 participants.

The plaques will be updated and presented to the team winners at our Annual State Conference on October 11th at 12:00pm at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT. Everyone is welcome to attend our conference, and we encourage anyone interested to do so for some fantastic educational sessions and great networking opportunities. More information about our Annual Conference can be found on our [website](#).

T-shirts were provided to all participants and volunteers thanks to our generous sponsor, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. We extend our greatest thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, staff, and host facility for all your help making this event possible!

We received some great feedback about the event after the slight scheduling changes from previous years and how people really liked the new schedule. It was so great to see so many families enjoying a beautiful day cheering on the athletes. There were some amazing young, hard working & talented kids that participated, and we can't wait to see you all again next year! ■

Happy Running!

Jessica Brodie

Jessica Brodie
Executive Director
Vermont Recreation & Parks Association



UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Don't miss these great
VRPA Upcoming Events &
Trainings

Be sure to check our
website and our weekly Rec
Check-In emails, a VRPA
member benefit, for more
details and updates as they
become available!

If you have any suggestions
for future trainings,
workshops, or special events
please let us know! Email
Jessica@vrpa.org with your
suggestions. We hope to
see you all soon!



October 10-11

Annual Vermont
Conference on Recreation



November 21

16th Annual Vermont
Performance Showcase



December 5

VRPA Quarterly Meeting



January 7-9

Norther New England
Conference



March 13

VRPA Quarterly Meeting



March 2020

CPO Training Course



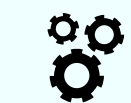
April 2020

CPSI Training Course



May 2020

VRPA Annual Meeting



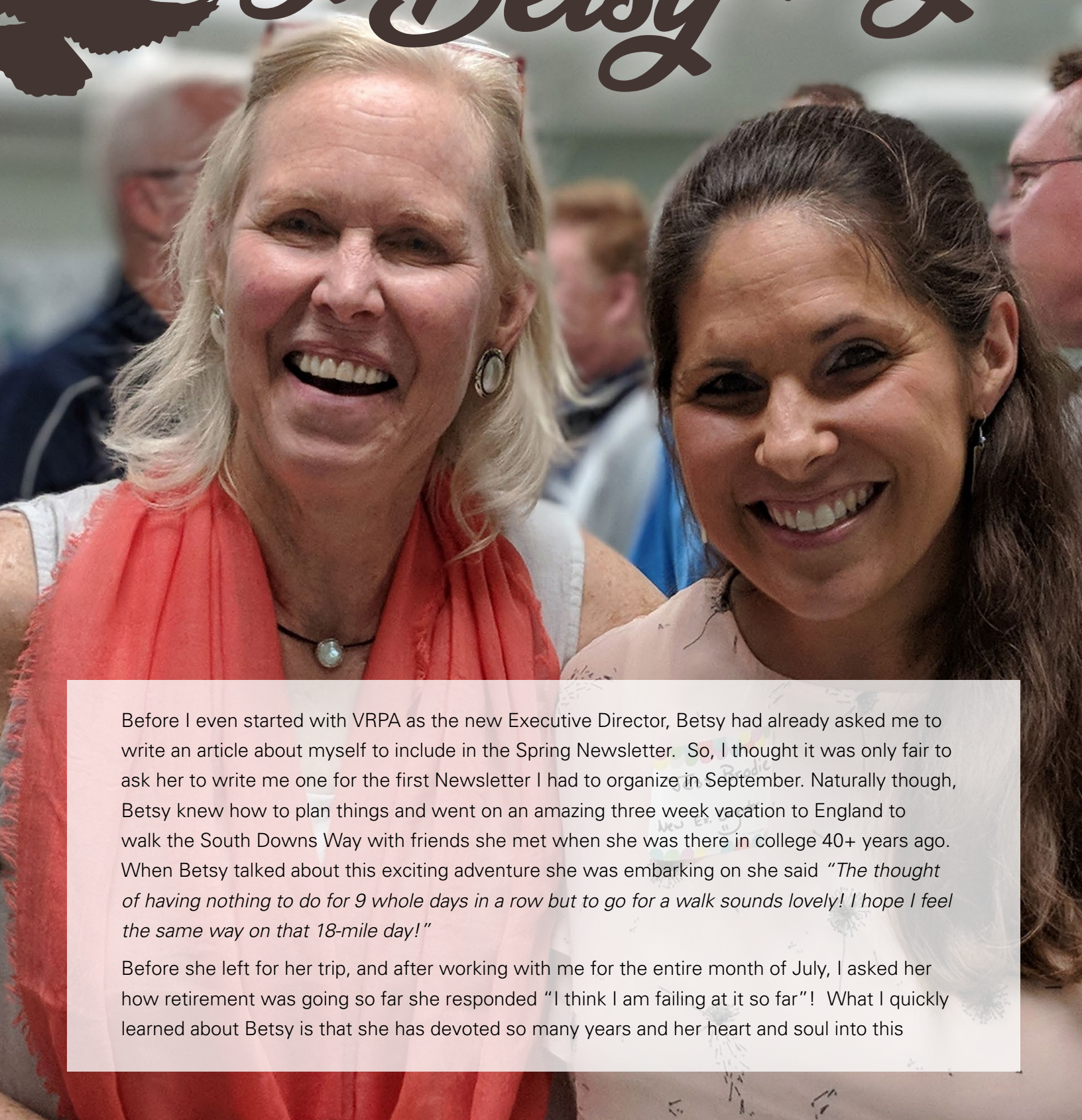
June 2020

Maintenance Workshop



VRPA Summerama
Summer Staff Training

Fly Betsy Fly



association, that simply walking out the door was not an option for her. Betsy put in so many extra hours the entire month of July crossing off her to-do lists and sharing valuable insight and information with me, not because she had to, but because she wanted to. She is still a member of the conference committee and is still communicating with session speakers leading up to the conference, and she will still be at the conference in October – continuing to help I am sure!

Back in June, members of the Executive Board organized a retirement party for Betsy that I was fortunate enough to attend. There was an amazing turnout from so many VRPA folks that attended to wish Betsy the very best in her retirement. So many spoke such kind words, that there were definitely some tears being shed – but we won't name names! The best was the surprise appearance of Betsy's daughter showing up to support her mom in her final "farewell" to so many Betsy has called friends for so many years.

When I attended my first "Council on State Executives Directors" meeting in Texas this summer to represent Vermont, Betsy sent the following kind words to the other Executive Directors around the country: *"Here I sit in Vermont, thrilled that our new Executive Director, Jessica Brodie, is going to be meeting you all later today, and at the same time feeling a little sad that I am not there too. This is my first retirement (almost!) test to be missing something that has been special to me. I have so many great memories from these*

summer meetings – an incredible mountain high park visit in Grand Junction last year and a ride over the Telluride Pass to get there, canal rides with (lots of) margaritas in San Antonio, Mama Mia in that beautiful outdoor theater, a barge cruise in Minneapolis and my first personal intro to the wonderful LSI folks, an inspirational tour of neighborhood rehabilitation and community-building in Detroit, a long, windy bus ride in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and so much more. I think I have only missed one in 18 years. To everyone who helped organize them and to all our sponsors, thank you so much!!! Every year, I sat there like a sponge, madly writing down all the great ideas that you shared, implementing many of them here in Vermont. Honestly, you have all made me better at my work as Executive Director. From the bottom of my heart, thanks for sharing so freely. Together, the CS&ED group is quite a force and I am proud to have been a part of this for all these years!"

What Betsy didn't remember when she said she was "failing at retirement so far" was that she was just about to start an amazing new journey that will lead her to many new amazing places! Fly Betsy, fly! We wish you the best in your retirement.

Love,

Your whole VRPA family
Jess & the Executive Board



Before I even started with VRPA as the new Executive Director, Betsy had already asked me to write an article about myself to include in the Spring Newsletter. So, I thought it was only fair to ask her to write me one for the first Newsletter I had to organize in September. Naturally though, Betsy knew how to plan things and went on an amazing three week vacation to England to walk the South Downs Way with friends she met when she was there in college 40+ years ago. When Betsy talked about this exciting adventure she was embarking on she said *"The thought of having nothing to do for 9 whole days in a row but to go for a walk sounds lovely! I hope I feel the same way on that 18-mile day!"*


Before she left for her trip, and after working with me for the entire month of July, I asked her how retirement was going so far she responded "I think I am failing at it so far"! What I quickly learned about Betsy is that she has devoted so many years and her heart and soul into this

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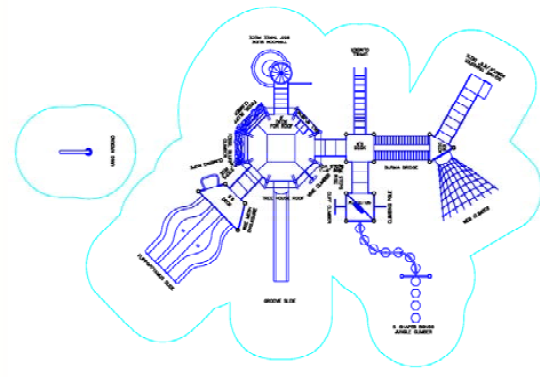
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Benefits of membership in the Vermont Recreation and Park Association:

- Align yourself with 400+ professionals & volunteers who operate with a shared mission, vision, and values.
- Access tools and resources to position recreation and parks as essential community services.
- Develop strategies to advance and thrive within your profession and as an agency/organization.
- Build your skills and your professional network too.
- Shape our profession today and tomorrow.

As a VRPA member, you will receive:

- **Recreation Check-In**
Weekly information and happenings, via email.
- **The Advocate - VRPA newsletter**
Three issues a year, via email.
- **VRPA Membership Directory**
Annual directory of member contact information, electronic format.
- **Discounted Fees**
Conferences, workshops and event registration fees, and advertising rates.
- **Professional Assistance**
In person and online.
- **VRPA website**
Access the VRPA website at vrpa.org.

APPLICATION & ANNUAL RENEWAL

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

OFFICE PHONE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL

CLASSIFICATION (See next page for classification descriptions)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agency (check one)	No. of Persons	Membership Fee
<input type="radio"/> 1-4 staff	_____	\$285
<input type="radio"/> 5-10 staff	_____	\$395
<input type="radio"/> 11+ staff	_____	\$510
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Professional	___1___	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Board/Commission*	_____	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial**	___1___	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree (check one)	___1___	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life	___1___	Complimentary

* (Includes ALL board/commission members)

** (inc. link from VRPA website)

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Payment being mailed ☐ Total amount due \$ _____

New memberships received in the months of Nov, Dec and Jan are half price. New memberships received in the last three months of our fiscal year (Feb, March and April) are full price and include the following year membership also.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

Would you like to become more involved with VRPA? Listed below are the various VRPA committees. Please check if you are interested and someone will contact you. Thank you for your interest!

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Showcase |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summerama | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Track & Field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> State Conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern NE Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways you'd like to help: _____ | | |

Is there a VRPA member who influenced your decision to join? _____

Are you a member of NRPA? ☐ No ☐ Yes, who? _____

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY RENEWED YOUR 2019-20 VRPA MEMBERSHIP, IT IS TIME.
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RENEWED, THANK YOU!

Online: vrpa.org | Mail: send printed application to VRPA, P.O. Box 33, Brownsville, VT 05037

Questions? Call the VRPA office at 802-878-2077



Vermont Recreation & Parks Association

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