

THE MOBILIZER

Sarah Woodward
Program Director

Mickaela Gray
Resident Organizer

Contact Information

Phone: 802-660-3455
x 204

Toll Free: 800-287-7971

Fax: 802-651-4179

255 South Champlain
Street

P.O. 1603

Burlington, VT 05402

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Housing Cooperative Workshops & Networking

On April 13th the Mobile Home Program and Champlain Housing Trust hosted the second day of workshops for resident-owned housing communities from Chittenden county and beyond. Residents from six housing cooperatives attended the training day which focused on bring people together to network, share ideas and stories. Residents participated in trainings on conflict resolution, running effective meetings, the basics of a cooperative board, emergency preparedness, and energy efficiency. Planning is now underway for the next workshop and networking event this coming October. To find out more about the upcoming training call us.



CAT2 Highlights

In June residents at Milton Mobile Home Cooperative (MMHC), and Bunker Hill Community Cooperative put their emergency planning to the test! As part of a statewide catastrophic exercise, called CAT2, these parks and roughly 46 other communities, towns, and agencies statewide put their boots on the ground, and tested how well their plans worked.

In the words of MMHC President Karen White, "There is quite a bit to know, to be ready for a disaster. I think without this training, a lot could go wrong. I know MMHC is much better prepared now then we were before."



A Call for Emergency Planning!

What would you do if...

There was a flood, a power outage, a fuel spill, or any other emergency in your park?

Residents at Milton Mobile Home Cooperative and the Bunker Hill Community Cooperative in Windsor have both been working with the Mobile Home Program to answer those exact questions, and now its your chance! The MHP is looking for communities from across the state who are interested in planning for emergencies.

Within your park do you know....

- How to contact each other in an emergency?
- What household may need special assistance, *do you have elderly or disabled neighbors ?*
- Where to find first aid kits?
- Who has special skills, *like medical training?*
- What specialized equipment exist, *like chainsaws, generators, or tool boxes?*
- How to safely shut off utilities?

Planning for emergencies is always a great idea. "It really never hurts to think ahead, it might save a life." Dave Furman, *President Bunker Hill Community Cooperative.*

If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, Give us a call at 802-660-3455 Ext. 204.

Postcard Project: Join In!

The Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition is starting a campaign to spread the word about affordable housing, and we need your help! The Postcard Project is an opportunity to share a message about what having safe, affordable housing means to you, your family and your community. We invite you to share your story and participate. **Interested?**

Contact Michelle Sayles, 802.660.9484 or at michelle.vahc@gmail.com



Health Care Questions? Contact our Navigator Program

About 60,000 Vermonters will need to transition from Green Mountain Care to Vermont Health Connect when they have their eligibility reviewed this summer. Many others, who now lack or are losing affordable health care, are eligible to enroll in public or private coverage with financial help, through Vermont Health Connect. Health care Navigators are trained, certified staff who offer free in-person help at established community organizations that you can trust. Local Navigators can answer your health care questions, get you enrolled quickly, and help you to avoid common application errors that create delays and complications. **Contact 860-1417x115 or navigator@cvoeo.org if you or someone you know has health care questions or needs.**



Find the plan that's right for you.

Do you think health care in Vermont is affordable?

The recently proposed 2015 rates offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Health Care for Vermont Health Connect (VHC) include 10-15% rate increases. The Green Mountain Care Board has 90 days to approve, modify, or disapprove the rate requests after considering public comments. Last year, the proposed rates were lowered after review. The public comment period, during which Vermonters are asked to voice their opinion about the proposed rate increases is now open.

If you have a comment about the rates of private plans offered by providers in Vermont Health Connect, you can:

1. Fill out the Public Comment Form at, http://ratereview.vermont.gov/public_comment
2. Call 802-828-2177,
3. Mail your comments to: Director of Health Policy, Green Mountain Care Board, 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620 or

Energy Efficiency Tips

Save money and energy year round with these helpful energy tips!

- 1) **Install CFL bulbs** — Compact fluorescent bulbs can use 1/4 the energy of incandescent bulbs and last 8 to 10 times longer. A 40 watt incandescent light can be replaced by an 11— 14 watt CFL for the same amount of light!
- 2) **Check on your refrigerator** — Refrigerators are one of the most costly home appliances. To keep your refrigerator running more efficiently, set the temperature between 38 and 40 degrees. The door should be able to hold a dollar bill when closed. If it can't it's wasting energy.

For more energy saving tips for your home contact the Mobile Home Program at 802-660-3455 Ext. 204 to ask for a copy of the *Do-it-Yourself Mobile Home Energy Efficiency Guide*.



Is your address correct? Please let us know if there are any changes.

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Mobile Home Program

P.O. Box 1603 Phone: 802-660-3455
Burlington, VT 05402 Fax: 802-651-4179
www.cvoeo.org

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3 Squares VT (aka Food stamps)

Are you eligible? Why not learn more?

We can help you apply or renew your application at our office! It's quick and easy :)

For assistance, contact: **Travis Clairmont**, Chittenden Community Action
(802) 863-6248 ext. 731

This message is funded in part by the USDA, an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CVOEO Photo Booth on Church Street

Join us for *Sixties Selfies!* Remember photo booths? Well, Ruby the 1962 VW bus has been converted into a photo booth and will be on Church Street in Burlington on 9/20 and 9/21 for free photos (donations suggested).