



VT AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION NEWSLINK – November 13, 2007 EDITION
a bi-monthly newsletter dedicated to Affordable Housing issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

--VAHC MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING

November 14, 2007 from 9:30am-11:30am at the Vermont Center for Independent Living, 11 State Street, Montpelier. Come to this monthly meeting to hear from Roger Thompson and Anne Whiteley of the ANR and Liz Curry from CHT speak about septic system changes, and to discuss the legislative agenda for the 2008 session. For more information contact Danielle Rose at (802)660-9484, or danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org.

--TICKETS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CONFERENCE

VAHC has two tickets for any of our members who would like to attend this conference (for more information see below). Speak to Danielle if you are interested in attending or would like more information, danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org or call (802)660-9484.

--FAIR MARKET RENTS FOR VERMONT COUNTIES NOW AVAILABLE

On our website you can find a convenient PDF spreadsheet of the Vermont HUD Fair Market Rents for 2008, by county. If you would like more information about this data, contact danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org, the document is on our Resources page under "HUD Data" <http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/resources.php>.

--CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL: ONLY 4 FORUMS REMAINING

There are only 4 forums left: Morrisville, Middlebury, Rutland and St. Johnsbury. More information about the remaining county-wide forums can be found on the legislature website here <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/workgroups/ChildPoverty/>.

--TD BANKNORTH CHARITABLE TRAINING FUNDS

Grants up to \$1,000 from the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation Non-Profit Training Resource Fund will be awarded to eligible organizations for employees to attend approved classes and courses that will enhance their job performance, as outlined on the website at http://www.tdbanknorth.com/community/training_resource_fund_guidelines.html?state=VT&city=.

--WINOOSKI COMMUNITY CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

November 13, 2007 at 11:00am at the former Mr.G's shopping center, Mallett's Bay Ave, Winooski, Vermont. For more information contact (802)655-6410 or erinrs@gmavt.net

--CENTER FOR COMMUNITY BUILDERS 2007 CONFERENCE

November 14-16, 2007 at the Maritime Institute, Baltimore, Maryland. The topic of this conference is Community Control and Benefits in Land Use. Go to www.centercb.org to register or contact Liz Johnson at (510)893-1377.

--3RD ANNUAL VT COALITION OF RESIDENTIAL PROVIDERS CONFERENCE

November 16, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Rutland. The topic of this conference is New Directions in Residential Care, contact Heather Curavoo, Spectrum Youth and Family Services, 802.468.8888, hcuravoo@spectrumvt.org.

--ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CONFERENCE 2007

November 17, 2007 from 8:30am-5:30pm at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. The topic of this conference is Mobilizing the Grassroots for a Greener Vermont. Workshops include messaging and media, the art of effective public speaking, Democracy in action: lobbying testimony and more, how to execute a great event, running for office, a crash course in citizen planning, utilizing web-based tools for your campaigns, coalition building, corporate campaigning, and Fundraising 101. For more information contact vtenvironmentalaction@toxicsaction.org or call (802) 223-4099. The website for the conference is <http://www.toxicsaction.org/VTenvironmentalaction.html>.

--VERMONT PLANNING CONFERENCE 2007

November 30, 2007 from 8:00am-2:30pm at Vermont College in Montpelier, Vermont. Healthy, Efficient, Vibrant 20st Century Communities. For more information contact: Sue Minter at (802) 828-3119 or sue.minter@state.vt.us, or visit the website: http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/planning_conference.htm

--NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSING FORUM

December 3, 2007 from 1:00-3:00pm at the NH Charitable Foundation in Concord, NH. For more information contact Maggie Fogarty, MFogarty@afsc.org.

--FAIR HOUSING TRAINING CONFERENCE

December 4, 2007 from 1:00-4:00pm at the National Life Building in Montpelier, and via video conference at local RPCs. For more information contact Kim Ianelli at CVOEO (802)864-3334x 108.

--2008 ANNUAL HOUSING POLICY CONFERENCE AND LOBBY DAY

February 25-26, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Join hundreds of advocates, including residents and NLIHC's state partners, at this important gathering in the nation's capital. Detailed conference information and registration materials will be available at www.nlihc.org by December 1, 2007.

Have an Announcement or Event you'd like to see here? Email it to Danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

--VITA (VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE) PROGRAM COORDINATOR

October 29 2007—Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
<http://www.cvoeo.org/htm/cvoeo/jobs.html>

--MOBILE HOME PARK MANAGER

October 25 2007—Vermont State Housing Authority, Montpelier, VT
<http://www.vsha.org/employment.cfm>

Have a Job Opportunity you'd like to see here? Email it to Danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org

REPORTS & NEWS HEADLINES

--STUDENTS RAISE AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS

Just as Thanksgiving has become the holiday of food and plenty, the week before -- this week -- has become a focus for hunger and privation. College students at three local campuses are busy organizing for homelessness-awareness week. That means not just attending lectures and films, but for some, spending a night out in the cold.

Nov 13 2007—Burlington Free Press

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071113/NEWS02/711130324/1007/>

--ERODING SECOND HOME MARKET THROWS VT ECONOMY OFF BALANCE

Vermont's second-home market is drying up, throwing the state's economy off balance, the state's economist said. For the first time since the last economic downturn about a half-dozen years ago, Vermont's economic output, known as "gross state product," is expected to fall this year when adjusted for inflation.

Nov 13 2007—Burlington Free Press

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071113/BUSINESS/711130303/1003>

--DISABLED WOMAN SUES OVER BANNING OF GUIDE HORSE FROM HOME

A disabled woman who wants to use a 100-pound miniature horse as a service animal — pulling her wheelchair — has filed a human rights complaint against her landlord for not permitting it in her apartment. Patty Cooper, 50, of Waitsfield, who has brittle bones and suffers from celiac disease, says the 32-inch tall tobiano pinto would be an ideal helper.

Nov 13 2007—Times Argus

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071113/NEWS01/711130362/1002/NEWS01>

--GREEN, AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON DISPLAY IN BURLINGTON

A proposal for a green affordable housing complex created by Ramsay Gourd Architects in Manchester will be on display, along with proposals from other Vermont architects at the Metropolitan Gallery in Burlington through Nov. 15.

Nov 10 2007—Rutland Herald

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071110/NEWS02/711100358/1003/NEWS02>

--UVM STUDENTS PLANNING 'BOX CITY' TO HIGHLIGHT PLIGHT OF HOMELESS

Some 100 University of Vermont students will give up the comforts of home for a night of sleeping outside in a box Nov. 13. The event on the Chittenden-Buckham-Wills campus green is part of the Box City Homelessness Awareness Project, an effort to raise awareness around the issues of homelessness through experiential learning.

Nov 9 2007—Burlington Free Press

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=21

--FACE OF HOMELESSNESS IS OFTEN VET'S

More than 195,800 military veterans were homeless on any given night last year, and there are "troubling" indications that many service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan could face the same fate, according to a study released Thursday. The report, from the National

Alliance to End Homelessness, found that veterans make up one-quarter of the U.S. homeless population.

Nov 9 2007—Seattle Times

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=20&category=

--NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK CONFERENCE REPORT

The New England Housing Network is a coalition of affordable housing and community development organizations in the six New England states. The Network works on joint activities to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing in New England. On September 17, the network convened a conference involving close to 400 people, who spent a day discussing key issues in federal housing and community development policy. This document represents priorities developed by workshop attendees.

Nov 8 2007—CHAPA

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=6

--'ROSIE'S GIRLS' BUILD PLAYHOUSE FOR KIDS AT MORNINGSIDE SHELTER

The children weaved in, out and around their brand new clubhouse, too busy with their games to think about the work or significance that went into it. But for the adults at Lifeskills Housing at Morningside Shelter, the addition to the yard was welcome and appreciated on multiple levels.

Nov 8 2007—Brattleboro Reformer

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=13

--ADVOCATES SAY CODE ENFORCEMENT NEEDS AN OVERHAUL

Low-income housing advocates are pushing for an overhaul of the system that assures that rental housing is liveable and safe. They say the codes that govern health and fire safety are spread over too many agencies, and that they're poorly enforced.

Nov 8 2007—VPR

http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/78077/

--LISTEN: VPR TALKS ABOUT FIRE AND SAFETY CODES FOR RENTAL HOUSING

Renters' advocates say the state's fire, health and safety codes are fragmented and that enforcement is almost non-existent for those landlords who ignore the rules.

Nov 7 2007—VPR

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=9

--NEIGHBORWORKS AMERICA RECIEVES \$140,000 GRANT FROM TD BANKNORTH

NeighborWorks® America announced that it received a \$100,000 grant from the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation to support specific community needs identified by community leaders who attended the 28th NeighborWorks® Community Leadership Institute held in Boston October 25-28, 2007.

Nov 8 2007—BusinessWire

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=14&category=

--LARGE CROWD OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

More than 100 people participated in a forum held Monday evening by the Vermont Child Poverty Council to identify the causes and reduce the occurrence of child poverty.

Nov 6 2007—Bennington Banner

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=19

--WORKS FOR WOMEN TO UNVEIL NEW STRUCTURE

Gov. James Douglas is set to perform a ribbon-cutting honors for a new three-bedroom modular home in Springfield that was constructed by women incarcerated at the Southeast State Correctional Facility in Windsor. This project, spearheaded by the nonprofit Vermont Works for Women, is part of the Department of Corrections (DOC) Workforce Development Program. The governor is set to cut the ribbon on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Nov 6 2007—Rutland Herald

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=18

--TD BANKNORTH GIVES A MILLION-DOLLAR BOOST TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation and TD Banknorth Inc. today announced 51 grants totaling \$1 million to support affordable housing initiatives in eight Northeastern states. In the second year of its successful "Housing for Everyone" grant competition, TD Banknorth focused on transitional housing and homeless shelter space programs.

Nov 5 2007—BusinessWire

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20071105005109&newsLang=en

--VERMONT COUNCIL TURNS SPOTLIGHT ON CHILD POVERTY

The Vermont Child Poverty Council will be hosting public forums over the next few weeks as they begin work on an ambitious goal: Reducing child poverty in the state by half in the next 10 years. State Sen. Doug Racine, D-Chittenden, who serves as co-chair of the council with Rep. Ann Pugh, D-South Burlington, said that the group hopes to get a true picture of poverty in Vermont through the meetings.

Nov 4 2007—Rutland Herald

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=17

--LOCAL LEGISLATORS PLAN OVERHAUL OF RENT RULES

The era in which tenants throughout the state have been afforded an abundance of rights while landlords have few legal recourses may come to an end when the new legislative session begins in January. State Representatives Judith Livingston (R-Manchester) along with Patti Komline (R-Dorset) plan to propose legislation that would fast track the eviction process.

Nov 2 2007—The Manchester Journal

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=7

--TRUST FUND FACES TOUGHER CHALLENGE IN SENATE

The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign scored a hat trick in the U.S. House of Representatives with the passage of three bills that established and funded a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, H.R. 2895 (see *Memo*, 10/12, 9/21 and 5/25). In the Senate, passage of a bill presents a different and tougher set of challenges. Given the one-vote majority in the Senate and a Senate process that is based largely on consensus, success in the Senate will require an even greater degree of bipartisan support than was achieved in the House. The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign is focusing on development of this consensus. The first goal is to have a Senate trust fund bill with bipartisan co-sponsorship introduced in 2007 prior to the Senate adjourning for this session. More information can be found here: www.nhtf.org.

Nov 2 2007—NLIHC, Memo to Members

<http://www.nlihc.org/pubs/issue.cfm>

--‘WE NEED HELP’ FORUM EXAMINES CHILDHOOD POVERTY IN VERMONT

When you think of the word “poverty,” what images come to mind? The out-of-work individual? An inner-city family? The so-called “welfare bum”? If these are the pictures that meet your definition, then it’s time to rethink where you stand.

Oct 31 2007—County Courier

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=16&category=

--VT THINK TANK: PUBLIC ASSETS INSTITUTE

Paul Cillo is offering chocolate kisses to anyone who can answer a few basic questions about the state budget process. "When does Vermont's fiscal year begin and end?" he asks from the head of a large conference table in the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

Oct 31 2007—Seven Days

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=10&category=

--HOME PRICES FALL IN AUGUST FOR 8TH MONTH

U.S. home prices fell nationwide in August for the eighth consecutive month, offering little hope of a turnaround anytime soon, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller index released Tuesday. Things could get worse, said Yale economist Robert Shiller, who helped create the index.

Oct 30 2007—Times Argus

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=8

--WILLISTON BECOMES FIRST COMMUNITY TO DESIGNATE A GROWTH CENTER

The Vermont Downtown Development Board approved Williston's proposal to designate a 700-acre area surrounding Taft Corners as a growth center, making Williston the first Vermont community to take advantage of a program to focus development in downtown areas by providing economic incentives.

Oct 30 2007—Burlington Free Press

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=5

--CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL HOLDS FORUM IN NEWPORT; HOUSING A KEY ISSUE

Laurie Bergeron struggled out of poverty as a young mother, becoming a homeowner only to lose it all after violent domestic abuse. Alicia Ward, a student at Community College of Vermont, now dreams of becoming a nurse. Those dreams were only possible because of support she found when she came to Vermont as a young, poor mother.

Oct 29 2007—The Caledonian-Record Online

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=4

--NEIGHBORWORKS OF WESTERN VERMONT LAYS OUT LOW-INTEREST PROGRAMS

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is looking to help would-be homeowners and existing homeowners with several low-interest loan programs. NeighborWorks, which promotes affordable housing, received a \$492,000 Community Development Financial Institution grant this year from the U.S. Treasury with the money going into the organization's revolving loan fund. That money is used for down-payment assistance and home rehabilitation. Some money is also made available for home purchases.

Oct 29 2007—Rutland Herald

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=15&category=

--JUST THE FACTS, PLEASE

When the Legislature's Joint Fiscal Office released its latest tax study recently, Gov. James Douglas missed a great opportunity to give Vermonters some good news. The study looked at a dozen states and found that low- to moderate-income taxpayers – in other words, the large majority of Vermonters – pay less than their counterparts in the other states.

Oct 28 2007—Times Argus

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=11&category=

--ADMINISTRATION TO VT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS: RE-REVIEW YOUR BUDGETS

Michael Smith, the secretary of administration, sent out a note to the heads of agencies and departments in state government last week as they prepared proposed budgets for next year. It wasn't a Halloween greeting, but it may have scared some of them. "Please re-review your budget," he wrote, in part. "Currently, budget requests exceed the amount of revenue available as projected by the revenue forecast revised in August of this year. You will need to work with your budget analysts to revise your requests further."

Oct 27 2007—Rutland Herald

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=3

--REPORT PREDICTS \$100B IN HOUSING LOSSES

A report released Thursday by congressional Democrats predicts the housing market's meltdown will cost the U.S. economy more than \$100 billion by the end of 2009.

Oct 25 2007—Boston.com Business

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=12&category=

-- DISABLED WOMAN, LAND TRUST WORKING ON HORSE HOUSING

The Central Vermont Community Land Trust usually has no objection to a service animal like a seeing-eye dog moving into its apartments. But Patty Cooper's service animal is a horse of a different color: a black and white miniature horse, to be exact. (Note: corrected link)

Oct 21 2007—Times Argus

[http://timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071020/NEWS01/710200356/0/FRONT PAGE](http://timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071020/NEWS01/710200356/0/FRONT_PAGE)

--NEW ENGLAND HOUSING NETWORK LETTER TO SENATOR DODD

Read the suggestions made by the Network to Senator Dodd surrounding the Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA). This link is a PDF.

Oct 9 2007—CHAPA

http://205.134.225.120/~vahc/news_item.php?id=6

ABOUT THE VT AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION

The coalition is committed to ensuring that all Vermonters have decent, safe and affordable housing, particularly in the state's low and moderate-income residents, elders and people with disabilities. The Coalition's 65 plus members represent most of Vermont's non-profit affordable housing developers, community land trusts, housing and homeless advocacy groups, public housing authorities, regional planners, funders, state agencies, and other organizations and individuals with an interest in affordable housing.

Thank you to our members and friends for continued support.

If you have not paid dues this year or would like to become a member, please email Sarah Wendell Launderville at sdwhap@vcil.org or call at 800-639-1522.

If you have questions or comments about this NEWSLINK, please email Danielle@vtaffordablehousing.org or call at 802-660-9484