

Deerfield Valley Community Partnership

The Deerfield Valley Community Partnership (DVCP) is in its nineteenth year of working on preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among our youth. The past year has been spent offering programming and activities for parents, middle and high school students, as well as implementing drug and alcohol awareness and activities in the community. We would like to thank the town of Halifax for your support.

Some of the highlights during this past year include:

- Implementing prevention curriculum for all Windham Southwest Supervisory students in grades 5-8
- Working with retailers on the Healthy Retailer Project to limit alcohol and tobacco advertising and improve healthy food options
- Implementing the five session Guiding Good Choices Parenting Program
- Sponsoring tobacco awareness activities and smoking cessation programs
- Working to prevent exposure to second-hand smoke in cars and homes
- Collaborating with the County-wide Law Enforcement-S.T.A.R.T. (Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team)-to reduce underage drinking
- Assisting with the sponsorship of the Blueberry Block party. A substance free community event, on South Main Street, in Wilmington
- Partnering with parents for another successful Project Graduation Event
- Partnering with the Department of Liquor Control and local retailers for retailer trainings on alcohol and tobacco sales
- Offering on-site training on identifying false IDs for retailers
- Implementing Phase II of the Be the Wall Between Teens and Alcohol Campaign to prevent underage drinking

In addition to continuing the above programs and activities, the following new initiatives will be implemented in the upcoming year:

- 1) Work to make to make outdoor spaces smoke-free;
- 2) Prevention of prescription drug abuse.

All environmental initiatives are funded by state grants. Town funds assist in paying for direct programming with youth and parents.

The DVCP meets once a month and all (adults and youth) are encouraged to attend. Partnership meetings include dinner, hearing reports of activities that have happened over the past month, brainstorming new ideas, and making decisions on use of grant funds.

For more information: check our website at www.DVCP.org or find us on Facebook or call 802-779-4718.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Hayford, DVCP Coordinator

Deerfield Valley Rescue, Inc. is a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to providing 24/7 quality pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport to the people of our community. The core of our agency is made up of approximately 20 volunteers, three full time paid staff and part time paid seasonal attendants. DVR has responded to 739 calls in 2013 of which 19 were in the town of Halifax.

This past year has been a busy for Deerfield Valley Rescue. On top of providing around the clock pre-hospital emergency medical care for the towns we serve, we have now begun assisting Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington with medical transfers one day a week.

Although we frequently work closely with the Fire and Police departments, we are a completely independent organization. We strive to maintain this financial independence along with our autonomy. It would not be possible for DVR to operate without the continued personal support from the community. The annual subscription drive continues to be a large source of our funding. In addition to raising funds for our daily operation, we are always striving to improve our services and upgrade equipment. With that said, we are currently in the process of replacing one of our ambulances. This is necessary to ensure that our fleet is in the best running condition for the communities we serve. It is our intention to have this new ambulance by early summer. If you have not sent in your subscription please do so and please consider making an additional donation towards this goal.

DVR is always looking for volunteers who would like to make a difference in the lives of others. Anyone interested in joining this vital community service can contact our office at 464-5557 or stop by for a visit at 34 Route 100 South in Wilmington.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have supported us through the years. Our membership looks forward to another year of committed service to the residents of our community and the visitors to our area.

Respectfully submitted,

Deerfield Valley Rescue
Board of Directors

Town of Halifax

Deerfield Valley Transit Association

The DVTA completed its seventeenth full year of operation in 2013, and we have served over 3,500,000 riders and traveled almost 5,500,000 miles since November 23, 1996.

The MOOVer provides rides for Halifax's elderly or disabled residents. Each week we provide rides for shopping, meal sites, adult day care, the doctors', and social events. We also provide rides to Town Meeting and on Election Day and to the Halifax senior meal. This service has improved the quality of life for over 60 Valley residents by getting them out regularly and allowing them to live at home longer in life. We average over 125 trips a week.

We also thank the residents of Halifax for their support. Please call us with questions/comments at 464-8487, and thanks for riding the MOOVer!!!

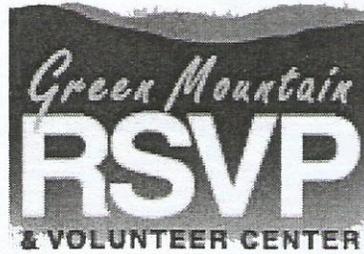
Respectfully submitted,
Randy Schoonmaker, General Manager



The Gathering Place (TGP) is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization that has proudly served the elders and adults with disabilities residents of Windham County since 1989. TGP is conveniently located on 30 Terrace Street in Brattleboro. Seniors and adult disabled individuals of a variety of ages, races, religions and socioeconomic status enjoy the benefits of the Center and its services. TGP is both a cost-effective way to minimize the stress of providing care at home and an affordable alternative to nursing facility placement. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

TGP's myriad of services and activities are designed to bring health, fun, laughter and companionship to the lives of our participants and peace of mind to their families. Our services include:

- nursing oversight
- access to on-site counseling, and occupational and physical therapies
- daily exercise program
- recreation and social activities
- nutritious meals and snacks
- personal care (showers, podiatry, hairdressing)
- outreach services
- companionship
- special events
- access to transportation and coordination of medical appointments



2013 Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center, Serving Windham County
An Invitation to Volunteer in the Town of Halifax

All over the country 350,000 Senior Corps volunteers aged 55 and over served more than 80 million hours through 65,000 organizations, improving the lives of millions of our most vulnerable citizens. Senior Corps is impacting our nation in substantive ways and making life better for those in need. Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center is a part of Senior Corps and we want to share our good news with everyone!

Last year, in and around Halifax, RSVP volunteers worked at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. They knitted for Project Linus and the Brattleboro Christmas Stocking. A Bone Builder class, open to Halifax residents is lead by two RSVP volunteers. It takes place twice a week in nearby Jacksonville at the Municipal Center. Bone Builder exercises consist of a series of weight bearing repetitions that ward of the effects of osteoporosis.

The work of these volunteers can be multiplied throughout the state of Vermont, to our neighboring states and all across the country. When you think of the impact that volunteers over the age of 55 are making everywhere, it is astonishing. If you wish to be a part of this powerful effort, please call Peter Seares at 254-7515.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Palencsar, Executive Director, Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

Request for Support from the Town of Halifax

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont (HCRS) requests an appropriation of \$750.00 from the Town of Halifax at the 2014 Town Meeting to help defray the cost of services to its residents for the Mental Health Walk-In Clinic. In the year ending June 30, 2013, our agency provided a comprehensive range of community based services to 4,738 residents of Windsor and Windham counties. The services that are available to the residents of your community are:

Adult Mental Health and Addiction Services: HCRS offers comprehensive services for adults who are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse difficulties. Adult services include assessment, treatment including individual, group, couples, and family counseling, referral services, and limited psychiatric services. It is the philosophy of HCRS that people are resilient and therefore capable of overcoming difficult experiences and recovering from mental illness and substance abuse. HCRS is committed to building on the strengths of the individuals and families of whom we serve. Our goal is to help clients and their families achieve improved wellness, health, and quality of life while addressing their mental health and substance abuse needs.

Children, Youth, and Families Program: The Children's Division provides a comprehensive system of care for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, or substance use difficulties in their life, as well as education and support for family members. We offer many services for youth and their families including psychiatry, counseling, case management, respite and case aid services, school-based services, behavioral consultation services, summer therapeutic programs, crisis response and emergency respite services, a mental health program specifically for young children up to six years old, and an employment assistance program for youth in transition who have significant emotional disturbances.

Developmental Services (DS): The DS program provides services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Services are available to people of all ages who have been found eligible, and each person being served receives an individually written program to meet his or her needs. Children with a developmental disability are served through a collaboration with the Children's Division.

Residential Services: Residential Services offers residential care from short term crisis stabilization, to intensive residential care, to therapeutic community residential services. Each program is specifically designed to offer individuals the appropriate level of care to support their personal recovery and wellness needs. The Residential continuum of care is comprised of a total of 38 beds spanning five individual programs.

Emergency Services: The Emergency Services Team has a very specific mission to act quickly in critical situations. Specially trained mental health professionals are available 24 hours a day for emergencies. Anyone may use this service when an emergency arises including individuals of any age, family or friends of an individual in crisis, hospitals and nursing homes, police, schools, clergy, businesses, and other community agencies.

We thank the Board and the citizens of Halifax for your past support and for your continued interest in Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont.

RESCUE INC.

Rescue Inc. was incorporated in 1966 to provide emergency medical services to the greater Brattleboro area. This cooperative arrangement between the eleven original towns has expanded to include fifteen towns and nearly 500 square miles. Our time tested model has consistently provided high level emergency medical care, community training and specialized rescue services at a reasonable cost.

Rescue Inc operates a fleet of six paramedic equipped ambulances that carry advanced cardiac monitoring equipment and medications, along with a host of advanced airway management equipment. We also operate a transport capable vehicle extrication truck for response to vehicle and machinery accidents as well as transport of patients at the Advanced EMT level. Our two staff vehicles allow us to provide paramedic intercept services to our communities and neighboring areas. These vehicles also serve as tow vehicles for our regional mass casualty incident support trailer and our technical rescue equipment trailer. We also operate two swift water rescue boats for response to water related incidents and flooding. Our staff consists of a combination of fifty six dedicated and highly trained career and volunteer providers, most of which live in the community. Annually our staff responds to nearly five thousand emergency medical calls, specialty care transfers, support and technical rescue calls and conducts dozens of community education programs. Throughout the past forty seven years Rescue Inc. has grown to become an essential regional asset and a leader in the field of emergency medicine and all hazard preparation and response. Our operating costs exceed \$2.4 million with the majority of our annual revenue coming from direct billing for services. Rescue receives subsidies from each of our member towns which helps to offset the financial shortfalls created by decreasing federal reimbursements and uncollectable calls. These funds also help to offset costs associated with support services such as emergency planning, standby coverage and rehabilitation of firefighters at larger fires and emergencies.

This year has been filled with regulatory change and anticipation of the effects of health care reform. This is a huge national issue that has real effects on our daily operation. As an organization we have been working to prepare for some of these changes. Our providers are in the process of transitioning to new state wide protocols and national scope of practice changes. Our operations staff is adjusting to an increased need for specialty care transfers and an ever increasing call volume. Our administrative office has had to make changes in billing practices and adjust to another reduction in federal reimbursements. Our technical rescue team is working with state and local agencies to develop a collaborative response plan. Our training department has expanded community training opportunities and continues to offer educational programs to enhance emergency medical education in the region.

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to remind all our friends, families and local residents that our subscription program is a good, low cost way to protect your entire family from the expense of ambulance transport. As an area not for profit we are always looking for volunteers, donations and bequests to help us guarantee continued service at a low cost. Details can be found on our website at www.rescueinc.org or by contacting our administrative office at 802-257-7679.

Drew Hazelton
Interm-Chief
Rescue Inc.



Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Senior Solutions fosters and supports successful aging of seniors in the Halifax community and throughout Windham and Windsor Counties.

To assist seniors in Halifax we offer a number of services, including:

Information and Assistance- Our Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119 is a toll free number which offers help applying for benefits, assistance with health insurance problems, housing needs, fuel assistance, and many other services. 9 residents requested assistance this past year.

As part of the Medicare Part D, prescription program we have trained staff available by phone, office or home. 9 residents requested assistance this year.

Senior Nutrition- Home Delivered meals are arranged and delivered and congregate meals are served three times per week at the Jacksonville Meal Site. Congregate meals are offered in Halifax and Jacksonville. 302 meals were served to residents of Halifax at the meal sites. A Registered Dietician is available to offer nutritional counseling when appropriate.

Transportation- We support various providers of transportation for both medical appointments and non-medical needs.

Case Management & Advocacy- One on one case management enables seniors to access services which help them remain safe at home. Often minimal services can prevent premature institutionalization. Some clients who require nursing home level of care are able to remain at home with family caregivers and trained personal care givers. Senior Solutions served 4 Halifax residents this past year.

Care Giver Respite- Through grants we provide respite assistance for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia or other chronic diseases.

Your town contribution generates Federal matching funds to support our activities. We do not charge for any of our services. The support of Halifax citizens is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Joyce A. Lemire, Executive Director

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Emergency Services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts, Tax Preparation, Working Bridges (resource coordination), Disaster Recovery, Thrift Stores and Textile Recycling.

In the community of Halifax we have provided the following services during FY2013:

Weatherization: 2 homes (4 people) were weatherized at a cost of \$9,307

Emergency Heating System Replacement: 1 home (1 person) received a repair or replacement at a cost of \$5,383

Tax Preparation: 4 households (8 people) received assistance with income tax preparation valued at \$209

Emergency Services: 7 households (14 people) received 51 services (including crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services), valued at \$461

Fuel/Utility Assistance: 4 households (11 people) received services valued at \$2,857

Housing & Other & Other Support Services: 1 household (3 people) received services valued at \$1,100

Emergency Home Repair: 1 household (3 people) received services such as roof repairs, structural work, plumbing, skirting, venting of moisture or misc. repairs, valued at \$4,027

Resource Coordination: 1 employee (4 in family) in a local business received services to help With employee retention, advancement, and financial stability, valued at \$437

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private, and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Halifax for their support.

Stephen Geller
Executive Director

2013 – Vermont Department of Health Town Report

At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With headquarters and laboratory in Burlington and 12 district offices around the state, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community.

In Windham County, the Brattleboro District Office moved into renovated quarters in the State Office Building at 232 Main Street in Brattleboro, 257-2880. The new space features upgraded clinic space for WIC clients. Please visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/vdhbrattleboro>

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: Statewide we served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age 5 with WIC (Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program). WIC provides individualized nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Windham County 1632 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

Supported healthy communities:

- Five Prevention Coalitions in Windham County, several community organizations and law enforcement in Windham County together received a \$130,000 Partnership for Success grant to reduce underage and binge drinking and reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse through a targeted regional approach.
- Published a new resource guide for communities: *Healthy Community Design – Active Living & Healthy Eating*. www.healthvermont.gov
- We and our community partners are working to reduce exposure to second hand smoke and reduce the incidence of obesity.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: During the statewide outbreak of whooping cough in 2012 (645 cases total), we alerted health care providers and the public, promoted Tdap vaccine, and vaccinated 6,269 people on 12/19/12 at free district office vaccine clinics – 226 people were vaccinated at the Brattleboro district office.

We created a new online Tick Tracker tool at www.healthvermont.gov/ticktracker where anyone can report tick sightings anywhere in the state.

This year (through October), we responded to 198 cases of infectious disease in Windham County.

Increased Emergency Preparedness: As part of Vermont's continuing emergency preparedness effort, in the spring of 2014 we are again making available one free dose of potassium iodide to each person who lives or works in the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Marlboro and Vernon. One of the contaminants that could be released in a nuclear accident is radioactive iodine, which can increase your risk for thyroid cancer. Potassium iodide is a drug that, taken in an appropriate and timely dosage, can block exposure to radioactive iodine.

For more information, news, alerts and resources: Visit the Vermont Department of Health on the web at www.healthvermont.gov. Join us on <https://www.facebook.com/vdhbrattleboro> and follow us on www.twitter.com/healthvermont.

1/3/2014

VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF VT AND NH
Home Health, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Halifax, VT

The Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire (VNAVNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNAVNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

VNAVNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNAVNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

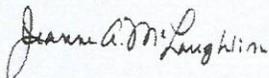
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, VNAVNH made 203 homecare visits to 11 Halifax residents. This included approximately \$8,882 in unreimbursed care to Halifax residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 155 home visits to 9 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services:** 48 home visits to 2 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

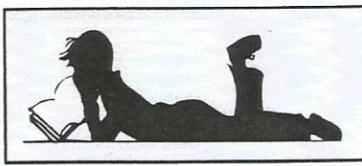
Additionally, residents made visits to VNAVNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Halifax's annual appropriation to the VNAVNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Jeanne McLaughlin, President & CEO (1-888-300-8853)



Whitingham Free Public Library

The Librarians and Trustees of the Whitingham Free Public Library would like to thank the taxpayers and contributors from the towns of Whitingham and Halifax for their generous and heartfelt support.

OUR CHECK LIST:

- ✓ Acquire a faster internet connection

We have transitioned from DSL to a faster fiber connection provided by the Vermont Fiber Connect Project. Our Wi-Fi is now offered 24/7 without a password.

- ✓ Increase library hours

By offering programs outside our operational hours we have added up to 20 hours per month.

- ✓ Increase downloadable audio book collection

We have increased our audio collection with joining One Click at a decreased rate through VTLIB (VT Department of Libraries) in addition to our current membership with Listen Up VT!, through GMLC (Green Mountain Library Consortium).

- ✓ Increase internet and Social Media presence

We have increased our Facebook fans with consistent posts and as a means of communication with our community; we have joined Pinterest, we added an e-newsletter with Mail Chimp and we continue to keep up to date information on our website: www.readwithus.org.

- ✓ Reach- out to tweens & teens in our community

We have been awarded two grants; \$300 from the Paul Post Fund and \$1500 from the Small And Inspiring Grant Program to purchase supplies and equipment to provide educational and recreational young adult programs.

- ✓ Increase programming for Seniors

We have added an additional free movie night featuring silver screen classics. We continue to offer individual computer and mobile device training as well as, a variety programs offered during Senior Meals at the Whitingham Municipal Center including a monthly book cart and music programs, such as the Rag Time event held over the summer.

- ✓ Identify and provide the needs of our community

We are listening to you. A community forum was held with residents representing the demographics of our community to address our needs and provide information to create a proficient long term plan to meet those needs. When parents voiced concerns about losing a 3 year old preschool program a two hour preschool story plus program was created to help fulfill this need.

We continue to strive to provide high quality services and materials while keeping up with ever changing technological and social trends.

We would like to thank the following volunteers from Whitingham and Halifax: Donna Bruno and Betty Witt-Operations, Sarah Axtell and Jay Pomponio- Cataloging, Claudia Greene and Willie Siedlarz – Knitting Group, Johanna Robohm- Book Group, Mark Robohm-Website, Anna Ryan-Quilt Raffle and a special thank you to Cathy Bell, Karen Sprague, and Aysha Wahlstrom for facilitating summer programs and to all of the volunteers that assist with fundraising and general support. We would like to thank our TVHS volunteers; Aaron and Ellen Boles, Todd Trumble, and Gavin Sweeter.

Visit our website www.readwithus.org to browse our catalog, download free audio and e-Books, take an online class or research your family history with Heritage Quest. Find us Facebook and Pinterest.

Kristine Sweeter, Director/Librarian
Lois Lapointe, Assistant Librarian

Daniel Kehoe
Library Trustee Chair



The Windham Regional Commission

The mission of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is to assist towns in Southeastern Vermont to provide effective local government and to work cooperatively with them to address regional issues. In the absence of county government, we provide an essential link between towns, the state, and the federal government. The WRC is comprised of 27 member towns: the 23 towns of Windham County; Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County; and Weston in Windsor County.

The Commission is composed of and governed by town-appointed Commissioners. Towns choose their own representatives to serve on the Commission. After town meeting, each Selectboard appoints two representatives to serve on the Commission for the coming year. Halifax is currently represented by Maggie Bartenhagen and Nick Bartenhagen. Each Commissioner represents their town's interests before the Commission, brings information from the Commission back to their town, and serves on at least one of a number of committees that address regional and municipal issues and concerns. Active service on these committees is very important because the WRC is organized around a strong committee structure. It's within these committees that most Commission decisions are made. The 12 professional staff of the WRC provides support to the Committees, as well as to our member towns.

The Commission assists towns with activities in a number of different areas including town plans and bylaws; community and economic development; testing, technical support and cleanup funding for the redevelopment of "Brownfields" sites which are those sites that are or may be contaminated by hazardous substances; natural resources; transportation planning, infrastructure mapping, project development and management, and traffic counts; emergency planning; energy planning; review of projects submitted for review through Act 250 (land use), Section 248 (energy generation and transmission, telecommunications), and federal permitting processes; grant application and administration; management of capital improvement projects; and mapping and geographic information system (GIS) analyses.

Our relationship with our towns is inherently collaborative. For instance, towns choose to have their plans reviewed by the Commission; town plan review and approval by the Commission is not mandatory. The regional plan, which is currently being updated, is developed in consultation with our towns and is ultimately approved by our towns. We help towns make the most of the financial and human resources they have both individually and collectively. We assist with projects between and among towns, build and augment the capacity of volunteer-based town boards and commissions, and provide professional services to towns that may want to take on a project that is beyond what they can comfortably manage with their own staff and volunteers.

Highlights from the past year reflect the range of services we provide to the towns of the region. Recovery from Irene continues, and we are assisting towns with village and downtown revitalization, applications for funding for lingering municipal infrastructure repairs and improvements, and planning for the reuse of properties towns will own as a result of buyouts. We successfully competed for additional Brownfield funding from the U.S. EPA for site testing. We are leading the region's response to the announced closure and forthcoming decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. We are transitioning the Long-Term Recovery Committee, which provided assistance to individuals in the wake of Irene, into a Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster collaborative that can be activated in the event of another disaster. We were active in the discussions of the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission, assisted with the installation of new sidewalks in Jamaica and Putney, produced bicycle suitability maps for the region as well as maps of undeveloped stream and river segments, and organized a well-attended solar workshop for town officials.

Funding for the Windham Regional Commission is provided through contracts with state agencies, federal grants, and town assessments. While town assessments make up a relatively small percentage of our budget – about 5 percent of a \$1.6 million budget for FY 2014 – it is virtually the only funding we receive that has no conditions placed upon it by entities beyond the Commission's borders. Your town's assessment makes it possible for us to leverage the resources that enable us to serve you across the range of activities mentioned above. We have based our budget on a modest increase in the per resident assessment rate from \$1.78 to \$1.83. The \$1.83 per resident rate will result in a total assessment of \$1324.92 from **Halifax** for the new fiscal year. Halifax may wish to budget additional amounts for town-specific work needed from the WRC. To see our detailed Program of Work and budget for FY 2014, visit our website (www.windhamregional.org) and click on the heading "About Us."