

Knowledge Bites:
Welcoming
New Residents



Newcomers benefit us all!

Tax base

When more people contribute, things cost less for everyone!

Vitality

More (and younger) people is better for businesses, schools, and community organizations

Many newcomers bring remote jobs or purchase local businesses and keep them going

Fresh perspectives add vibrancy and help us improve long-standing traditions

Volunteers

Many newcomers are eager to get involved, and many town functions and organizations need more volunteers

We've seen a lot of in-migration over the last few years ... but we'll need to do some work if we want to keep our new residents here – AND if we want them to feel able to contribute to the community



What do towns do when they become aware of new residents?

Postcard or letter to new residents, based on property transfers or voter registration

- **Wilmington** (Wilmington Works and zoning administrator)
- **Dummerston** (Dummerston Cares)
- **Putney** town clerk
- **Stratton** town clerk

Welcome packet or gift basket mailed or delivered

- **Athens** and **Grafton** (Grafton Cares, as volunteer is able)
- **Marlboro** (Marlboro Cares; only about 2 baskets a year)
- **Westminster** town clerk (mails packet if new residents don't come into the office)

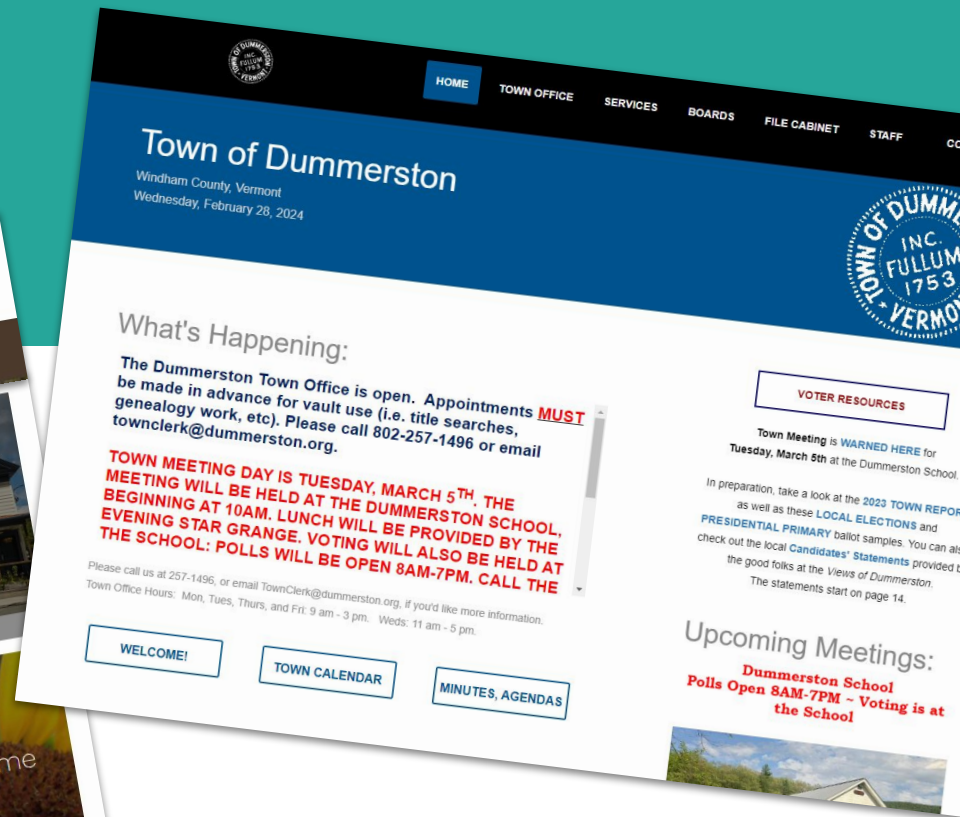
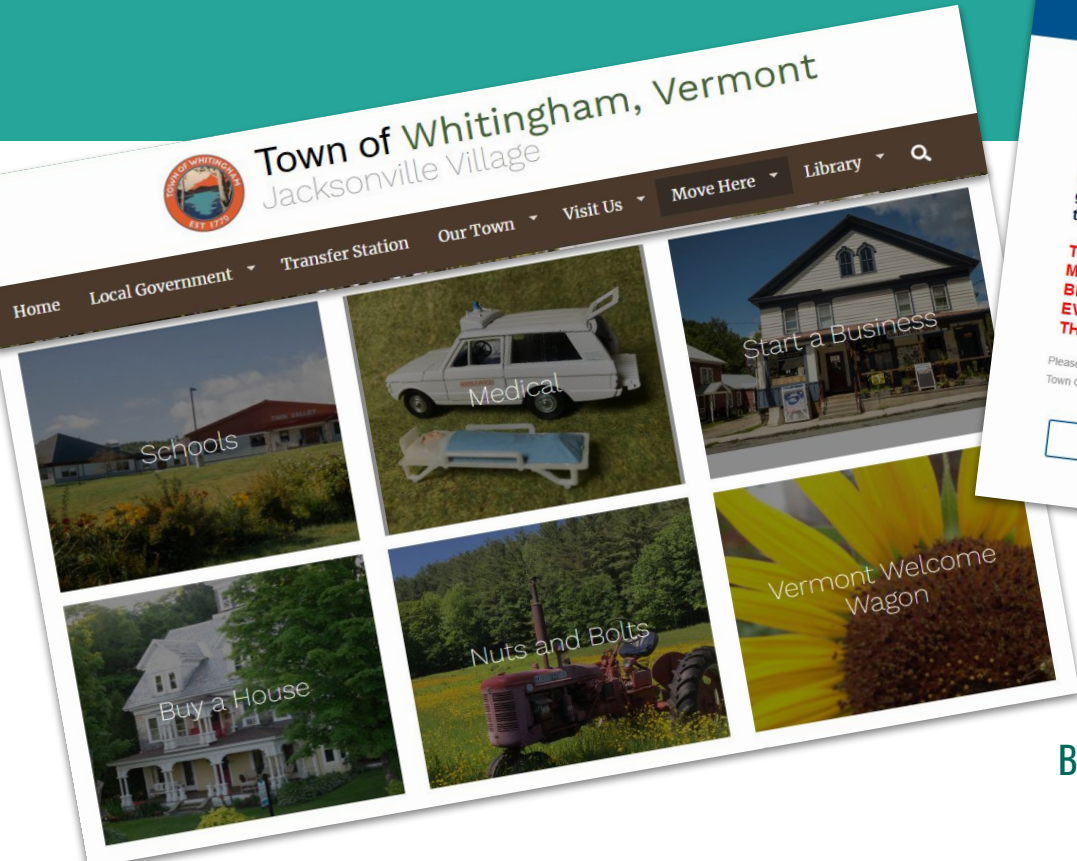
Welcome letter or packet given if newcomers come to town office

- **Brookline** town clerk
- **Halifax** town clerk

Nothing formal


- **Brattleboro**
- **Dover**
- **Grafton**
- **Guilford**
- **Jamaica**
- **Newfane**
- **Londonderry**
- **Townshend** (library may develop a program)
- **Vernon**
- **Wardsboro**
- **Whitingham**
- **Windham**

Town Website



Best practice: A "Welcome" page on the town website



 [Move to Vermont](#) [Living in Vermont](#) [Jobs in Vermont](#) [News](#)

[Get our newsletter](#)

Sign up for our monthly(ish) GROW SoVermont newsletter for new and returning Vermonters. We'll give you ...

- Details for upcoming newcomers mixers
- Alerts on local events you don't want to miss (Guilford Turnip Festival? Townshend Pickle Day??)
- Tips for living your best Vermont life (your town clerk is your friend, and yes, you need snow tires, even if you have an SUV)

[Join the Young Professionals](#)

[Connect with a local host](#)

Let us connect you with local hosts, who volunteer their time to welcome new and returning Vermonters via the Southern Vermont Welcome Wagon.

Each month we send out short bios of newcomers so that hosts can reach out to set up a personal meetup — coffee, a hike, an informal downtown walking tour, etc. Learn more [here](#) or [sign up!](#)

[Attend a newcomers mixer](#)

We're collaborating with local partners to plan newcomers mixers across the region! Find a GROW mixer at ...

- Monthly Brattleboro Gallery Walks (May - December)
- Quarterly Wilmington Works events
- Semi-annual meet and greets by the Southern Vermont Deerfield Valley Chamber
- Occasional Bellows Falls gatherings, hosted by a grassroots community members group (next one: April 13)

Check back here or [sign up for our newsletter](#) for details!

[Not here yet?](#)
You know you want to move here, but you're just not here yet. No worries, we're glad to

We'd love you to include a link to our welcome programs on your website too!

Town Email List or Newsletter

Important Announcements!

Home About Weston Residents Business

WESTON

Announcements

- **Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 5th at Theater; meeting begins at 9:00 am.**
- **ALL VOTING AT WALKER FARM THEATER ... Polls are open from the Presidential Primary and the Taconic & Green School Distr**

Stay Up-To-Date!

Please sign up for the Weston email list for town-related communications. *This is a private list for Town of Weston use only; the list will not be shared.*

First Name

Last name

Phone (optional)

Email

Town of Residence

parcel id or street address in Weston

I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms


SUBSCRIBE

Brookline Vermont

Welcome to the Town of Brookline, Vermont

A Warm and Friendly Place to Live and Visit

Situated between the West River and Putney Mountain, Brookline, Vermont is a small, rural town with a little more than 500 residents. The famous Round Schoolhouse sits across from the Town Office. Brookline may not have a "downtown," gas station, or shopping center, but it does offer a warm and friendly place to live and visit.



Town Email List

Updates, news and notices from our town email list.

Best practice: Prominent email list and/or newsletter link on website

Town Newsletter

“Every Door Direct Mail” is incredibly simple and gets your newsletter to every address in your chosen area for 2¢-5¢ per piece

Town of Wilmington

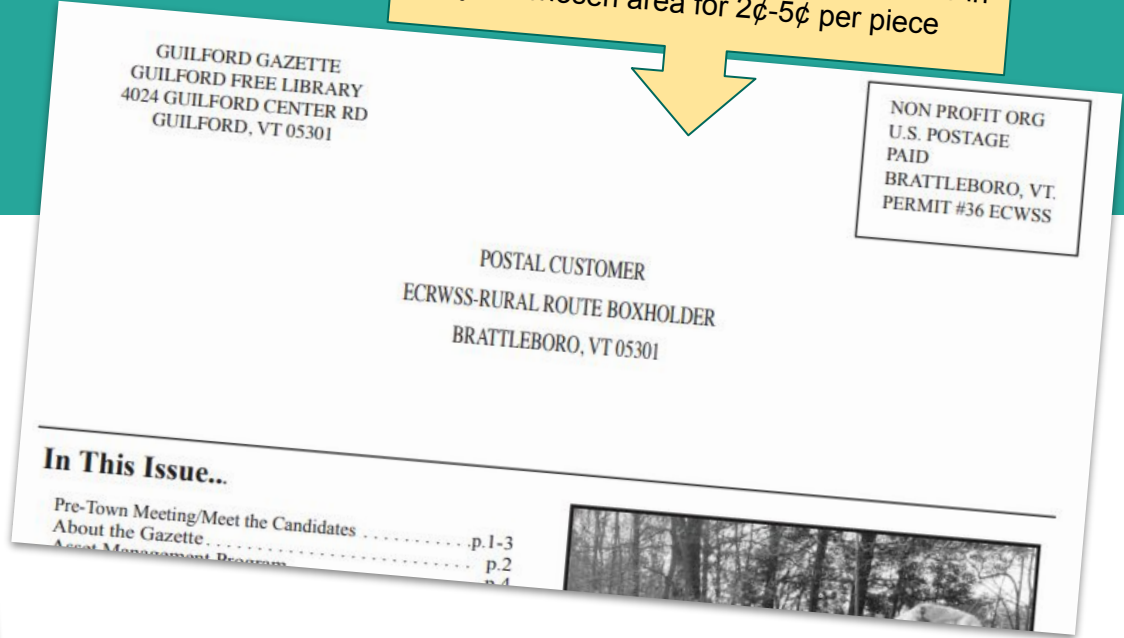

Please fill out the form below to receive the Town of Wilmington Newsletter.

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Birthdate MM / DD



Best practices:

- Easy to find sign-up form (not an email address)
- Bulk mailing to all residents (if physical newsletter) & print extras to place around town

Welcome Letter or Postcard

Best practices:

- Create a process for a regular mailing to all new residents, based on property transfer records and voter registrations
- Use the mailing to point residents to the welcome page on your website so your printed materials stay evergreen*

** Make sure you have a welcome page to point to!*

We have made a web page to help you build community connections:

wilmingtonworksvt.com/welcome



Start here to find valuable information on town government, how to hear out about local events, & ways to connect with local groups and neighbors.

Best,

The Board, volunteer
Wilmington Works

An organization with
improve and support
benefits the entire Wil
community."



WELCOME TO WILMINGTON

We're glad you chose here to call home.

**Next step:
be a part of this
vibrant community!**



Welcome Packet

Best practices:

- Mail packet to new residents who don't come in to the office
- Make packet available to download on website*

* Or include the information as links on your welcome page

Huntington Public Library
434-4583 / hpl@gmvt.net
Sunday 1-4, Tuesday & Thursday 10-2
Monday 10-6 & Friday 10-5

Library Services
Homecards A library card that allows the holder to borrow books from many area libraries as well as the hometown library. Anyone 18 years of age and older may have a Homecard.
Interlibrary Loan Service for area residents.
Online Services including:
Internet Access The DSL Internet access and public use. Wireless access available during regular library hours.
Large Print Books Large print books available. New titles are received from area libraries.
Book Delivery Arrangements for book delivery if you are unable to visit the library to request this service.
Vermont Parks Huntington State Park Drive in one vehicle. Three days.
Other Passes Lake Champlain State Museum.

Huntington Post Office Hours
434-2885
Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 4:15 pm
Closed for Lunch 12:30-2
Saturday 7:30 am to noon

Richmond Recycling Center Hours
Tuesday 8-3:30 • Thursday 9:30-5
Saturday 8-3:30
Closed Christmas

WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON, VERMONT
Cherished History

Welcome!
Here is some information about the town and town services.

Heidi Racht, Town Clerk
Katie Butler, Assistant Clerk
Phone: 434-2885 / Fax: 434-2886 / Email: hrc@gmvt.net / kb@gmvt.net

Heidi's Email List
A confidential email list for people who wish to receive news of town meetings, hearings, deadlines and community events and opportunities like IRS tax forms, occasional free stuff and volunteering.
This list gets 2-6 emails per month, depending on what is going on, email: huntingtonclerk@gmvt.net

Dog Licenses
By Vermont State statute, all dogs must be registered with the Town Clerk by April 1 each calendar year. \$13.
Current rabies certificate needs to be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.
After April 1, licensing is \$18, which includes a late fee.
Dogs picked up or requiring action by the Animal Control Officers will also incur a fine for non-registration.

Other Town Numbers
Andrea Ogilvie, Town Treasurer 434-2032 huntingtontreasurer@gmvt.net
Interim Zoning Administrator huntingtonzoning@gmvt.net
Barbara Elliott, Town Administrator 434-4779 townhunt@gmvt.com
Listers 434-5783
Town Garage 434-2710
Animal Control Officer 922-5997 (cell)
Maplewood Cemetery Lots & Burials Spencer Hill, 434-4223
Brewster-Pierce School 434-2074
Huntington Post Office 434-2885

REGISTER TO VOTE HERE

Register to Vote
For all elections, please register with the Huntington Town Clerk. Call or send an email for a Voter Registration Application.
You can also register to vote online: mvp.sec.state.vt.us
You can also register on election day at the polls.

Marriage Licenses
Available here! Bring your betrothed and fill out the form.
Proof of divorce is required (if applicable)

OTHER SERVICES at the Town Clerk's Office:

1. **Notarizing** – free service for documents, except real estate transactions (closings)
2. **Car Registration Renewals** – avoid getting a ticket when you get the sticker from the Town Clerk
3. **Vermont Hunting and Fishing Licenses**
4. **Copier** – .15 for personal copies
5. **Green Mountain Passports** – 62 years or older OR a veteran of the armed services and a Vermont resident, for only \$2 purchase a Green Mountain Passport, a lifelong card that has benefits such as free admission to Vermont State Parks. Paperwork needs to be completed and on file in the Town Clerk's Office in your town of residence. This is a one-time expense. If your card wears out, we will replace it at no cost.
6. **9-1-1 Signs** – the green number signs that shows emergency personnel and delivery people where you are. \$10

Tax Deadlines
August 15, November 15
February 15, May 15

Burning Permits
Fire Warden Ken Russin 434-2389
By State statute, a permit from the Fire Warden is needed for all fires except small campfires.
Burning of garbage is prohibited by law.

Welcome Baskets

Best practices:

- If a local volunteer organization wants to do a welcome basket, coordinate with them to make sure they get a list of new residents regularly.
- Include information about the welcome basket on your welcome webpage.



Newcomers Mixers

Best practices:

- If a local volunteer organization wants to do newcomers mixers, coordinate with them to make sure they get a list of new residents regularly.
- Include information about the mixers on your welcome webpage.



Invitation to the Town Office

Best practices:

- Flyer and/or mailing inviting people to come in
- Semi-annual meet and greet for new residents

While our town clerks are uniformly eager to be helpful and welcoming, newcomers from out of state usually don't have any idea that stopping by the town office and saying hello is a good idea ... or even allowed!



Comments & Discussion

- What intrigues you?
- What sounds doable for your town? What supports might make that possible?
- Who needs to be involved in the conversation about ways to welcome new residents?*

** Some town clerks feel empowered to do this work themselves; others feel it needs to be a subcommittee of the Selectboard, etc.*

