



Note that more Addison County communities are currently participating than are shown on the existing web pages:

<http://www.vermont-byways.us/>

<http://www.lakechamplainbyway.com/>

## **Hazardous Materials Flow Study**

Middlebury College Student, Mike Gaskin, worked with ACRPC this summer on a Hazardous Materials Flow Study update for the county. Mike did visual counts around the region of vehicles carrying hazardous materials and recorded the types of materials they were carrying by recording the placard number on the warning sign for each vehicle. Surveys were done at 7 locations. Each survey lasted about 4 hours between the hours of 4am and 11pm. Approximately 11.8% of the truck traffic on VT 22A and 4.9% on US 7 included cargo with a Hazmat designation. All other stations had a combined average of 6.8%. The overall Hazmat average truck traffic was 8.2%.

Conclusions of the study are as follows:

- VT 22A had the highest Hazmat average of 11.8% of total truck traffic
- The largest single Hazmat material hauled was combustible fuels for vehicles and home heating
- Large amounts of liquid nitrogen are hauled on VT 22A
- Most hazardous materials are moving through the area during daylight hours.

## **Low Impact Development in Addison County**

Low Impact Development (LID) is a phrase that started in Prince George's County, Maryland in 1990. Simply put, LID is a storm water management approach that models nature's example of managing rainfall at the source for increased water conservation and water quality protection. LID's goal is to mimic a site's pre-development hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source instead of piping it away. This means not only green open space, but

rooftops, street-scapes, parking lots, sidewalks, and medians are designed to capture, store and slow storm water. Vegetated swales, forested buffers, gravel filter strips, pervious paving, landscaped medians with curb cuts, rooftop gardens and rain cisterns are just some examples of storm-savvy infrastructure. By incorporating these techniques, pollutants and sediments are filtered out and water is allowed to slowly trickle back to the place we need it most - in our ground water. Conventional piping of water speeds the flow of water and increases volume - not only is this costly, but often damaging to stream banks and water quality. While here in Vermont we do have vast amounts of green space - meadows and forests - which do help to absorb and infiltrate rain, we are far from immune to storm water issues in our developed areas, our forest and agricultural areas, and within our road networks.

Currently ACRPC, with help from a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, is taking a closer look at Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol's Town Plans and Bylaws to assess how policies and regulations in our area support LID practices. Recommendations, references and resources will be offered after our review.

For examples of successful, cost-effective projects in New England visit the University of New Hampshire's Storm water Center web site: <http://www.unh.edu/erg/cstev/>

If you have questions for ACRPC regarding our LID related projects, please contact Claire Tebbs at [ctebbs@sover.net](mailto:ctebbs@sover.net) or 388-3141.

## **ACTR Update and Schedule Changes**

On August 24th, ACTR presented before the Middlebury Select Board regarding the 40% expansion of its shuttle bus services, implemented in March 2010, and to present information on the new ACTR facility. ACTR is scheduled to present this information to both Vergennes (September 14th) and Bristol (September 27th).

Since ACTR's expansion of services in March, they have recorded a 28% increase in ridership on the

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Middlebury Shuttle, 46% increase on the Tri-Town Shuttle, a 43% increase on the Saturday LINK - for a total ridership expansion of 33%. In addition, ridership on the Dial-a-Ride System increased by 10.5% over FY09 (44,552 total rides). ACTR will be implementing Bus Schedule changes on September 1st to improve time points and connections.

New schedule brochures are available on the web site - [www.actr-vt.org](http://www.actr-vt.org) - and on the buses or by calling the office at 388-1946. In addition, ACTR's bus schedule information will go live on Google Transit by the end of September.

ACTR is progressing on the federal permitting process for its new Creek Road facility. Construction is set to begin in 2011 with a tentative move-in date of 2012. ACTR is also awaiting word on its application to the Federal Transit Administration for a supplemental facility grant to improve the project's energy efficiency and lower its carbon emissions.

For more information contact ACTR at: 802-388-1946 or visit their web site at: <http://www.actr-vt.org/>

## **Addison County Dairy Farming Forum**

**When: Wednesday September 8th, 7pm ACRPC  
Public Welcome!**

Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) and the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) are sponsoring a forum to address what Addison County can do locally to make dairy farming profitable and sustainable.

### **Panelists will include:**

Roger Allbee, *the Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Vermont*; Andy Whitman, *the Director of Agriculture Sustainability for the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences*; Ethan Swift *of the Clean and Clear Program for the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources*, Jon Rooney, *Monument Farms Dairy*, Cheryl DeVos, *co-owner of Kimball Brook Farms in Ferrisburgh*, and Mark Young, *First National Bank of Orwell*.

Dairy farms in Addison County are facing very dif-

ficult times and numerous farms have ceased operating over the past two years while those that have survived frequently face milk prices well below their cost of production. There are also increasing concerns being raised regarding water quality in the Lake Champlain watershed, and the perceived causal linkage with nearby dairy farms.

Our goal for the summit will be to use the knowledge and resources each panelist and you, our audience, bring to the meeting in order to begin to develop multiple strategies to promote profitability and sustainability in the local dairy industry. We wish to create an on-going task force to implement or support the implementation of these ideas.

Please join us September 8th at ACRPC's office at 7:00 p.m. to help us launch this initiative. Please also forward this to others that you think might be interested in the topic. Thank you.

## **ACRPC and ACEDC Meeting**

**When: Monday September 13th 4:30-6pm**

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation will hold a special meeting of both organizations on Monday, September 13th from 4:30 – 6:00 PM at ACRPC's offices on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury. The meeting stems from the Challenges for Change legislation last session and will be convened for both organizations to explore how the work they currently do fits together and find areas of mutual interest for future collaboration. The Agenda will include the following:

1. A brief introduction of all present (who they are and who they represent)
2. A brief introduction of each organization to the other members either by the Executive Directors or Chairs
3. A discussion of common goals, interests, projects
4. Suggestions from each organization on how one's programs could support the others
5. Other – co-location and resource sharing, meetings twice a year of Executive Committees, MOU

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Please join us for this meeting with one of our most important partners in the region.

## **Tour de Farm**

**When: Sunday September 19th**

### **Registration Required**

The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) will be sponsoring their Annual Tour de Farm event on Sunday September 19th. This is a fun cycling event for the whole family; providing an opportunity to both enjoy the outdoors and the bounty of farm-fresh foods in Addison County.

For more information and to register, please go to ACORN's web site: <http://www.acornvt.org/>

If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Vanessa at the Rural Vermont office by calling (802) 223-7222 or email: [vanessa@ruralvermont.org](mailto:vanessa@ruralvermont.org)

## **Removing Barriers to Strengthen Communities: Fair Housing: Affordable Housing and Affirmative- ly Furthering Fair Housing at the Local Level**

The Fair Housing Project, the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development and the Vermont Human Rights Commission will be offering this workshop for realtors, lenders, affordable housing developers, property managers, and municipal officials. It will address the following:

- provide an introduction to Vermont and federal fair housing laws;
- discuss the current regulatory barriers to fair housing choice in Vermont;
- examine the legal requirements impacting municipal zoning practices;
- review available tools that enable municipalities to comply with those requirements; and
- explore planning concepts designed to encourage the development of affordable housing.

For 2010-2011, the dates and towns are as follows.

Exact locations to be determined:

St Johnsbury, VT

October 7th, 2010

1:00 – 4:00 (snacks and drinks provided)

Rutland, VT

November 3rd, 2010

10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m (snacks and drinks provided)

Burlington, VT

February 3rd, 2011

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. (light dinner provided)

To register, call or email Dani Fuoco at the Fair Housing Project: [dfuoco@cvoeo.org](mailto:dfuoco@cvoeo.org) or (802) 864 – 3334 x.109.

## **Changes to 2010-11 Municipal Planning Grants**

Changes to the 2010-11 MPG schedule include the following:

On-line Announcement: **Early September**

On Line Application available: **End of October**

Grant Applications due: **End of November**

Grant Decisions made: **Late December**

For more information or if interested in applying for a Municipal Planning Grant, please contact Claire Tebbs at ACRPC, 388-3141 [ctebbs@sover.net](mailto:ctebbs@sover.net)

Visit the programs web site at:

<http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm>

## **Mark Benz of Lincoln Receives FEMA Award**

Mark Benz was responsible for obtaining two substantial mitigation grants for the Burnham Hall municipal building in Lincoln, VT. Burnham Hall is the historic building in Lincoln constructed in 1920 that housed the local community theater and library. As quoted by the awards presenter: *“Without Mark’s diligent efforts and admirable perseverance, it is unlikely that the town would have received the FEMA mitigation grants for this project”*.

In recognition of his outstanding efforts and mitigation achievements for the town of Lincoln, Mark Benz was presented an award by FEMA on August 25, 2010 at the regional mitigation conference in Woodstock, VT, August 25th 2010.