

Neighborhood News

What's happening at the State House?

Legislature is in full swing, with legislators taking action on bills, hearing testimony, and holding public hearings. The Legislature has set March 12, 2023 as the date for crossover this year.

What is crossover and why is it important?

Crossover is a deadline for bills that need to be voted out of committee in one chamber to be sent to the other chamber. Bills that are not voted out of a particular chamber by the crossover deadline will not see further action this year. If there is a particular bill you are interested in or following, you can reach out to your legislators directly by phone, email, or by visiting them at the State House. Your input may be important in helping to determine the outcome of a bill.

You can find proposed bills on the Legislature's website here (hold the control button and click the link):

[Home](#) | [Vermont General Assembly](#) | [Vermont Legislature](#)

Or type this in your browser: <https://legislature.vermont.gov>

If you are keeping track of bills that may impact Community Justice Centers, you may want to check out:

H.170—an act relating to creating a task force to examine the restorative justice approach to Vermont's criminal justice system

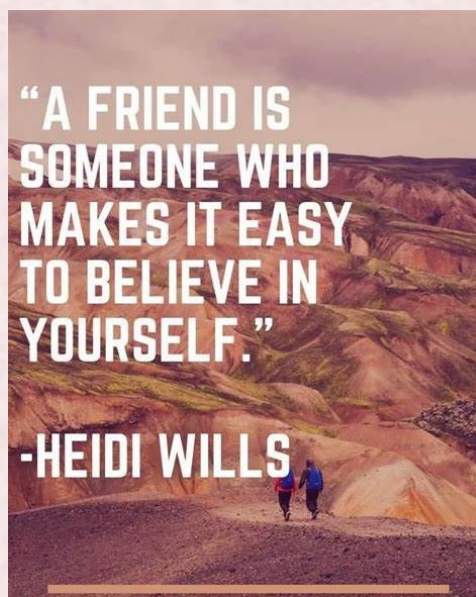
H.41 and S.13—an act relating to referral of domestic and sexual violence cases to community justice centers.



Bon Voyage to Tune Faulkner

Tune Faulkner, our Reparative Panel Coordinator, has left the building, but not our hearts. After close to 18 years of service to the Community Restorative Justice Center, as both a volunteer and a staff member, she is retiring. Tune has facilitated countless reparative panels, conducted group conferences, resolved disputes through mediation, taught the Safe Driving program and helped to initiate a Retail Theft class. We will miss her playful spirit, musical laughter, knowledge, compassion and wisdom.

Tune, we will miss you and we wish for you every good thing!



The CRJC is hiring

HOUSING COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Community Restorative Justice Center, Inc. (CRJC) of Saint Johnsbury is recruiting for a full-time Housing Coordinator. The person in this position works with our Transitional Housing Program supporting individuals referred from probation and parole. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Accept referrals for transitional housing and Navigation from the Department of Corrections;
- Update data in OMS weekly;
- Complete DOC quarterly report and send to Ex. Director;
- Facilitate all intake interviews and conduct needs assessments both in correctional facilities and at the CRJC;
- Assist participants to prioritize their needs and goals and complete service plans;
- Attend all required DOC training;
- Facilitate house meetings and submit notes to Director and DOC Staff as needed;
- Support participants in maintaining successful program participation;
- Maintain valid driver's license and insurance;
- Work with Ex. Director to manage and report budget;
- Assure that all transitional residences are appropriately furnished and supplied;
- Maintain regular contact with landlords;
- Coordinate navigation services as needed;
- Offer circles for conflict resolution for housing participants as needed.

This full-time (40hrs/week) position requires a flexible schedule that might include some evening/weekend hours. Training, education, course work and/or lived experience in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, trauma, poverty, and other related issues is desirable. The ideal candidate will be passionate about issues of social/racial/economic justice and restorative approaches to crime and conflict. Strong computer, data tracking, communication and phone skills are desired.

Additional Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in human services related fields;
- Trained in and supportive of the principles and practices of restorative justice;
- Proficient in verbal and written language skills and be able to communicate with others in person, via telephone, and by written correspondence, video conferencing, and email;
- Organized, self-actuating, dependable and trustworthy;
- Sensitive to the need for confidentiality and able to determine how and when confidentiality must be maintained;
- A team player willing to assist in general operations of the CRJC, including answering telephones, greeting the public, scheduling appointments, etc.;
- Attend weekly staff meetings;
- Facilitate or assist with mediation and group conferencing as needed;
- Willing to learn and step into other CRJC positions when needed.

[The Community Restorative Justice Center, Inc](#) is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit that strives to provide a link between city and town governments, law enforcement agencies and officers, schools, and citizens and neighborhoods to address issues of conflict and crime. The CRJC is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. BIPOC, individuals with disabilities, LBGTQ+ applicants, and people from other underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. This position is open until filled with a starting salary of \$19-\$21/hr. To apply, send your resume and a cover letter explaining your interest in the position to office@communityrjc.org. We are looking to fill this position immediately. **Please submit your application by February 20, 2023.**

The CRJC has some new faces.....



Meet Morgan Gilman!

Morgan is one of our new Court Diversion/Pre-Trial Services workers, who will be serving as the lead for the Tamarack program. She comes to us with a long history of working with folks with substance use disorders. She grew up in the White Mountains and is new to the St. Johnsbury community. Morgan has one daughter and a very feisty cat. She will be a great asset to our team and looks forward to meeting you in the community.

Meet Johannah Parker!

Johannah is a graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School. She is currently in her second year at Northern Vermont University/Lyndon, studying Criminal Justice and Psychology. Johannah is taking part in an internship with the center this semester. Johannah also plays soccer and lacrosse for the school. She is the oldest of two siblings and a native Vermonter.



How do You show Love?

In the month of February, the stores become filled with heart-shaped candy boxes, roses, cards and other gifts for Valentine's Day. Restaurants advertise elaborate dinners for couples, two-for-one specials pop up for "sweethearts" and love songs dominate the air waves. People who may be without a partner, family or close friends may feel left out or loneliness may become heightened. Recently, in our Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA), we pondered the question "how do we show love to others" in ways that are not necessarily romantic but which matter so much to the person on the receiving end. Our COSA teams want you to know that LOVE is for EVERYONE and there are many ways to show it.

- ♥ Spending time with someone
- ♥ Setting good, healthy boundaries
- ♥ Hugs, cuddling or healthy touch
- ♥ Co-regulation
- ♥ Holding space for people
- ♥ Listening fully and deeply
- ♥ Checking for understanding
- ♥ Offering kindness to strangers
- ♥ Doing a chore for someone
- ♥ Celebrate successes
- ♥ Paying attention
- ♥ Baking and making goodies to share
- ♥ Sharing joys and sorrows
- ♥ Being our authentic selves
- ♥ Developing and sustaining self-love
- ♥ Offering compassion
- ♥ Taking time to get to know someone
- ♥ Offering unconditional acceptance
- ♥ Being non-judgmental
- ♥ Writing someone a nice note
- ♥ Being radically open to what is loveable
- ♥ Helping someone to grow into their best self
- ♥ Being present in the moment with someone
- ♥ Surprising someone with a little gift or card
- ♥ Providing care for someone who is not able to care for themselves
- ♥ Accountability for our own actions while asking for the same
- ♥ Acknowledging someone's pain without categorizing it
- ♥ Saying "I love you" even if you think someone knows it



BLACK HISTORY

CELEBRATION

SAT FEB 18TH

EVENT STARTS AT 3PM

LIVE MUSIC:

KHALILAH ROSE

W/SATTA SOUND

FREEDOM SEEDS

SPOKEN WORD:

RAJNII EDDINS

PHOTO EXHIBIT & TALK

#I AM VERMONT TOO

JEWELRY BY:

SOUL SIMONE

FOOD ESPRESSO

CHOCOLATE & ART



RABBLE ROUSER
CHOCOLATE & CRAFT CO.



64 main st
montpelier vt

culture@rabblerouser.net
www.rabblerouser.net

WHILE EVENT WILL BE FREE FOR BIPOC ATTENDEES, NON-BIPOC
FOLKS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A \$15 DONATION



Winter Gear Lending Library

FREE OUTDOOR GEAR FOR ALL AGES



Visit us Online

Visit us online to learn more:
www.rentle.store/nekprosperlendinggearlibrary/shop



Reserve Your Gear

Select the gear you wish to borrow, the date, and enter in your contact information. You will receive an email confirmation with your reservation information.



Pick up and Find Your Adventure

On the day of your gear reservation, visit Rec Fit, located at 49 Perkins Street, St. Johnsbury and check in at the front desk to pick up your gear.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

The gear lending library is brought to you by NEK Prosper!
www.nekprosper.org/outcomes/physically-healthy/



SCAN ME



Free Help To Weatherize Your Home

Visit us online at
www.vtneto.org

**Do you struggle to keep your home warm
in the winter? Are your energy bills high
even though you're always cold?**

You could get **FREE** weatherization
services if you:

- ➔ meet income limits, or
- ➔ get benefits such as Reach Up,
Seasonal Fuel Assistance, or SSI.

On average, the program:

- ➔ makes about \$8,500 worth of
improvements per home,
- ➔ adds about 1,500 square feet of
insulation, and
- ➔ reduces drafts by about 40%.

Apply anytime!



WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

neto

NORTHEAST EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ORGANIZATION, INC.

800-639-3212

Serving Caledonia, Essex, & Orleans Counties



VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

NEKCA'S Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a volunteer-based program which provides Vermont residents of Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties with free state and federal tax preparation services for individuals who meet the eligibility guidelines. The program services are available from February 1st to April 15th.

Who is eligible?

Vermont residents of Caledonia, Essex, and/or Orleans counties who meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

- Individuals who make less than \$58,000 per year
- Persons with disabilities; and/or
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

What help is offered?

- Federal Income Tax Return
- Vermont State Income Tax Return
- Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim
- Household Income Schedule
- Renter Credit Claim

Contact our VITA Site
Coordinator for more info ~

Hannah Simons 802-323-3371 hsimons@nekcavt.org

The Community Restorative Justice Center Staff

Omara Rivera-Vázquez

Executive Director

Neil Favreau

Bookkeeper, Data Specialist

Tune Faulkner

Reparative Panel

Coordinator

Susan Russell

**Reentry Coordinator &
Community Development**

Stephanie Rowe

Victim Outreach Liaison

Alexis Eickleberry

Transitional Housing

Coordinator

Kathleen Hunter

Administrative Assistant

Morgan Gilman

**Court Diversion/Pre-Trial
Services**

576 Railroad Street, Suite 2

St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Phone: 802-748-2977

Fax: 802-748-3146

www.communityrjc.org

Like us on facebook



**THE COMMUNITY
RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE CENTER**

Our Mission

The Community Restorative Justice Center is committed to providing a safe environment for neighbors and parties to resolve conflict in our communities, to restore relationships, and to take responsibility to repair harms caused. We promote the principles of victim-informed restorative justice that transforms practices in workplace, school, institution, and living spaces throughout Caledonia and southern Essex Counties.

The CRJC is committed to providing a safe environment for resolving conflicts and to promoting restorative justice and victim sensitivity throughout the entire community, based on the following principles:

- ♦ Crimes and disputes are best resolved in the local communities where they occur.
- ♦ The victim has special needs and claims that are at the center of the resolution process.
- ♦ The offender has an opportunity to understand the impact of the crime, express remorse and repair the harm done to the victim and to the wider community.
- ♦ Community members have a right to feel safe, respected and involved in the issues that affect their quality of life and sense of personal well being.