

Thursday, May 7, 2020

News & Resources

VCW Director Cary Brown: In VSC debate, center on equity and access | VTDigger

"In this area as in others, the challenges we face also present opportunities to think creatively about what recovery should look like for all Vermonters. [How we respond will demonstrate if we have the vision and resolve to address long-standing inequities](#), enabling us to create a state that emerges stronger and more resilient."

– Cary Brown, VCW Executive Director

One Event, Many Perspectives: The Centennial of Women's Suffrage debuts Saturday, May 16th

Debuting at <http://www.ethanallenhomestead.org/suffragesymposium> live on Saturday, May 16th at 2 PM, and available on-demand afterward, Vermont-based presenters set the historical context and tell stories of the suffrage movement and its impact for Abenaki Women in Vermont, for Native Americans in Federally Recognized Tribes, for African American women, and in the role of education for women and girls.

Featuring symposium presenters: Melody Walker on "Navigating Freedom in Two Worlds"; Beverly Little Thunder with "On the Shoulders of our Ancestors and Mother Earth"; Kathryn Dungy on "...the courage of their convictions: African American Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage"; and, Susan Ouellette presents on "Emma Willard, Women's Education, and the Campaign for Women's Suffrage." This event is presented by the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum with support from the League of Women Voters of Vermont, the Vermont Commission on Women, and the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance. Learn more on our

events calendar.

Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize to be awarded at Vermont History Day Award Ceremony

On Friday, May 8 from 2:00-3:00 p.m., Vermont History Day student winners, including Best Suffrage Centennial themed project for the Deborah Pickman Clifford Vermont Women's History Prize sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation, will be honored in a virtual awards ceremony live streamed on [Vermont Historical Society's Facebook page](#).

National Women's Health Week (NWHW), is May 10 through May 16, 2020

NWHW is a weeklong health observance led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health (OWH). The week serves as a reminder for women and girls, especially during the outbreak of COVID-19, to make their health a priority and take care of themselves. You can learn about NWHW at <https://www.womenshealth.gov/nwhw> and through this [fact sheet](#), with helpful information on how women and girls can take care of their health.

Information on COVID-19 and Pregnancy & Breastfeeding is located at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>.

Lisa Manning Floyd: VSC decision is about more than money | VTDigger

"The idea of living in a Vermont where all of our state colleges, with the exception of Community College of Vermont, are clustered along our western border and in Chittenden County makes college seem even more inaccessible to young people who struggle to believe that college is an achievable goal for them. [Simply looking at the funding side of the equation will not get us where we need to be](#). It will not provide an equitable and sustainable solution. It will not turn the tide of youth flight from Vermont, and it will not ensure that the demographics that struggle

most and experience the most fragile relationships with education have equal access to higher learning.”

Reduction in Calls to Child Protection Reporting Line, Reminder to Continue to Protect Children during COVID-19 Crisis

The Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families is reporting reduced call volumes to their child protection reporting line that may be attributed to the decreased visibility of children during the COVID-19 crisis. Compared to the same time period last year, there was a 57% decrease in intakes and a 69% decrease in accepted reports. Other states are experiencing similar reductions in call volume. The reporting line remains fully staffed and open 24/7. To learn more about reporting child abuse in Vermont visit, [How To Report Child Abuse and Neglect in VT](#) and if you are a Mandated Reporter seeking more training and information participate in free online training by visiting, [Protecting Vermont's Children: Reporting Abuse and Neglect](#).

FourScienceVT

The Montshire Museum of Science, the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, the ECHO Leahy Center, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science have come together to provide at-home learning for students of all ages! To access free, high-quality STEM lessons, visit their website: <https://foursciencevt.org/>

Testing for the coronavirus in Vermont: What's next? | VTDigger

“[As the number of cases levels off and businesses slowly start to reopen](#), the state is launching new testing initiatives to contain the spread of the virus long-term. Levine announced Monday that pediatricians should start testing kids and teens with flu-like symptoms. Vermont was also selected for a pilot project with the CDC for multiple rounds of testing at elder care facilities with positive cases to get a better understanding of those outbreaks.

Levine expects an upcoming step for the state will be antibody testing — identifying not just people who have the virus, but those who have recovered from it and are now immune. Those tests are unreliable now, he said, but by June, that

may change.”

UVM team gathers peer-reviewed, published Covid-19 articles into database | VTDigger

Dr. David Krag, surgical oncologist and professor at UVM’s Larner College of Medicine, along with intern Shania Lunna have read, [described and categorized peer-reviewed and published articles about COVID-19](#) in an online reference management tool. Dr. Krag, describing the intended audience for this material, said, “It’s really everybody. It’s a person whose relative has a fever. It’s a primary care physician in the Northeast Kingdom. It’s a researcher. It’s the state of Vermont.”

Building Bright Future’s Collective Impact Work during COVID-19

“Right now across the world we are observing acts of collaboration, kindness and ingenuity. Individuals and organizations are responding to a call to action, shifting their work to use their expertise or trade towards the common goal of flattening the curve. This is not that dissimilar to the [work that Building Bright Futures is doing](#). We are leaning into what we know about the early childhood system in Vermont, the existing relationships that we have built over the last several years, and the mechanisms that we have constructed for elevating the needs and voices of Vermonters as they relate to early childhood. ”

VT Lawmakers pass hazard pay plan, eviction moratorium | VTDigger

“The Vermont Legislature [advanced two bills aimed at providing relief during the Covid-19 crisis](#): a measure that would establish a moratorium on evictions proceedings, and a bill that would provide \$60 million in pay increases to ‘essential’ employees.”

Area Hospitals Adjust Protocols for Labor and Birth | WCAX

“Area hospitals like [UVM Medical Center adjusted protocols for labor and birth due to COVID-19](#). One support person and no visitors, no leaving room during labor, and a recommendation that infected mothers separate from babies after birth and until 14 days after the initial diagnosis.”

Vermont's Midwives Increasingly Called on During Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the recent coronavirus outbreak, many Vermont hospitals have created strict restrictions on the number of visitors. These restrictions also apply to labor and delivery. In response, many Vermonters are turning to midwives to facilitate home births. [Katie Bramhall, president of the Vermont Midwives Association, discusses the increase in demand](#) for home births, safety for midwives and families and how she serves the needs of families while diminishing exposure in her recent interview with VPR.

The Impact of Coronavirus on Vermonters Experiencing Food Insecurity Insecurity | UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

The [University of Vermont reports on an online survey launched in Vermont](#) on March 29th. The survey was open for two weeks and received a total of 3,251 responses. This brief provides a summary of results from respondents experiencing food insecurity. Key findings included that respondents experiencing food insecurity were more likely to be people of color, female, live in households with children, and live in larger households.

A Vermont Judge Had Plans To Slow The Spread Of COVID-19 In Prisons. Lawmakers Scrapped Them | The Appeal

“On March 22, [a judge in Vermont made an attempt to slow the rapid and potentially lethal spread of COVID-19](#) in prisons. In a memorandum to state lawmakers, Chief Superior Judge Brian Gearson proposed an amendment to

current resentencing guidelines as part of an emergency bill to adjust court rules during the pandemic. The measure would allow courts to “reduce or otherwise modify” prison sentences beyond the usual 90-day timeline, but only if prosecutors and defense attorneys both agreed. The change would offer judges more flexibility to decarcerate during a pandemic that has so far claimed the lives of over 60,000 Americans and more than 200 people in prisons and jails.”

Elayne Clift: Imagining a new normal | VTDigger

“[What will it be like, I wonder, when this terrible pandemic ends?](#) Sure, we will never take toilet paper, pasta, or flour for granted again. We may feel less guilty about binge watching TV. Maybe we’ll even say “I love you” more often. But how will we be changed personally, professionally, culturally? What lifestyle changes will we choose to make? What will ‘community’ look like? Where will we work and how will we play?”

Melinda Moulton: Covid emphasizes reasons for prison reform | VTDigger

“[Life right now for a prison resident during Covid is complete lockdown,](#) no one can leave their cell, the food is brought to them, and there is absolutely no visitation. The prison staff must be isolated from their families and are living in a motel. But even with these measures, social distancing is still impossible. Vermont incarcerates nearly 1,400 people. Already there has been a major outbreak of Covid-19 in one Vermont prison, and there could be more.”

The Bright Side: Therapists offer free counseling for essential workers | VTDigger

“[Lisa Gardner and a few of her colleagues launched a service to volunteer their time with free therapy sessions for essential workers](#) in the area who could use support. They offer 30-minute video sessions with licensed therapists for nurses, doctors, EMTs, nursing home workers, and other essential workers, as well as people who have become unemployed because of Covid-19. Sessions can be scheduled within 24 hours. A booking service donated several months of free use

to Gardner, so all a potential client needs to do is log onto the website, confirm that their employment situation makes them eligible, and select an open time slot. Then they'll be connected with the therapist of their choice for a counseling session."

Whose "quality of life" is it, anyway? | Women's eNews

"In an interview with Vox.com [Alice Wong] [rejected the assumption that "a 'good' 'healthy' life is one without disability](#), pain and suffering. I live with all three and I feel more vital than ever at this point in time, because of my experiences and relationships. Like all of us, her "quality of Life" is what she knows it is; it can't – and shouldn't – be measured by any other criterion."

The Men Pushing to Open the Economy Clearly Don't Need Child Care | The Nation

"What I need is for somebody to come take my children. A school bus. A babysitter. A freaking traveling circus. It doesn't really matter. [My economy cannot "reopen," life cannot return to "normal" for me, until fully functional child care comes back on line.](#) I'm not the only one, but if you listen to various state governors or the president of the United States, you'd think that the only parts of the country that need to be reopened are businesses and churches. Politicians want people to get back to work as soon as possible, but they seem to have no idea that without child care, a huge swath of the workforce will remain tied to their homes."

Vermont ranked second-most 'pro-women' state

The goal of [the study was to examine and rank different states using a range of variables that directly impact women](#), including: the number of abortion clinics, domestic violence incidents, life expectancy for women, graduation rates, and the income/wage gap

Betsy DeVos releases final changes to campus sexual assault policies

["\[U\]nder reworked federal rules, alleged student perpetrators will have added protections](#), including the presumption that they are innocent throughout the disciplinary process and the right to be provided all evidence collected against them. Those students can also cross-examine their accusers and vice versa during live hearings, although it must be done through a lawyer or representative. The changes, described in a more than 2,000-page [document](#), go into effect on Aug. 14."

Vermont Equal Rights Amendments by Lynn Blackwell | Vermont History Journal

Marilyn S. Blackwell, Ph.D., independent scholar, author, and teacher focused on the history of the [Equal Rights Amendment in Vermont for this detailed piece in the journal of the Vermont Historical Society, Vermont History](#). Informative and illuminating, this story delves into the complexities of this effort, which took place during the late 1970's and 1980's, and prominently features the work and members of our commission, then named the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (GCW). "Rather than an exceptional case, Vermonters' engagement with the ERA involved a complex interplay between national and state political and social developments."

'A blow to all girls': Why the latest decision in the USWNT's equal pay lawsuit matters | The Lily

"On Friday, Helen Worden's dad sent her the link to an article: A federal judge had dealt the U.S. women's soccer team a devastating blow in its gender discrimination lawsuit. [Worden, an 18-year-old senior at Burlington High School in Burlington, Vt., couldn't bring herself to read the full article for a few days](#) — she was feeling 'disappointed' and 'pissed off,' she says."

Disabled, By Hannah Gallivan, 14, of Bristol | Young Writers Project

"They take in my wheels first,
eyes wondering why I can't walk,

why I have a walker,
what's wrong with me...
My walker's name is Clementine,
and I bring her everywhere.
But why would people care about that
when they can just stare?"

[Read more.](#)

After the virus, I hope for the great balancing | The Stowe Reporter

"I hope things never go back to normal. If there's anything good that can come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's that obstacles and inequities were laid bare for those who had been privileged enough to ignore them.

Our sudden dependence on people now recognized as essential to our lives as we lived them no longer went unseen or unappreciated."

[Read the entirety of Lisa's piece.](#)

Upcoming (Virtual) Events

Ask Me Anything with HR Attorney Alexandra Clauss | Center for Women & Enterprise VT

Friday, May 8 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Early Childhood Forum on Child Care with CDD and Vermont Department of Health

Friday, May 8 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Vermont History Day Award Ceremony | Vermont Historical Society

Friday, May 8 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Stress and Resilience as We Navigate COVID-19 | VTHEC

Tuesday, May 12 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Ten Week Business Planning Course | Center for Women & Enterprise VT

Tuesdays, May 12 – July 7, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

One Event, Many Perspectives: The Centennial of Women's Suffrage | Ethan Allen Homestead, LWVVT, VCW, VSCA

Debuting Saturday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Spring Conference | Women Business Owners Network

Tuesday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Employee Handbooks 101 | Center for Women & Enterprise VT

[Thursday, May 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.](#)

We choose events for VIEW from our [statewide events calendar](#) for women and girls. **If you'd like your event featured in the VIEW**, make sure you [add it](#).

Looking for more? You'll find many more events for women & girls in Vermont on the calendar.

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The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is a non-partisan state agency advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners, along with representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues, guide VCW's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit us at <http://women.vermont.gov>.

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