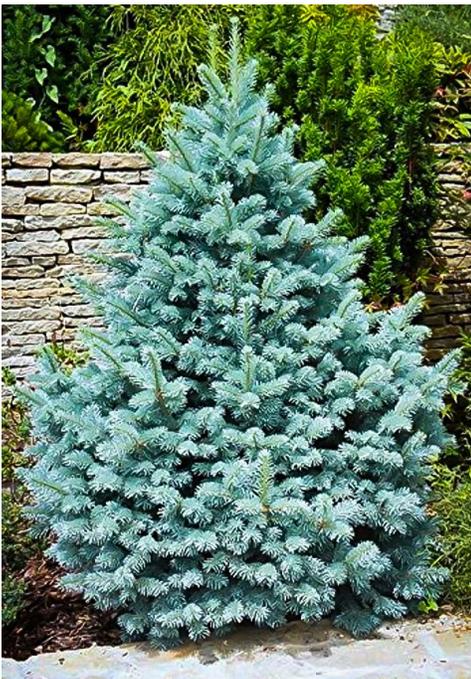
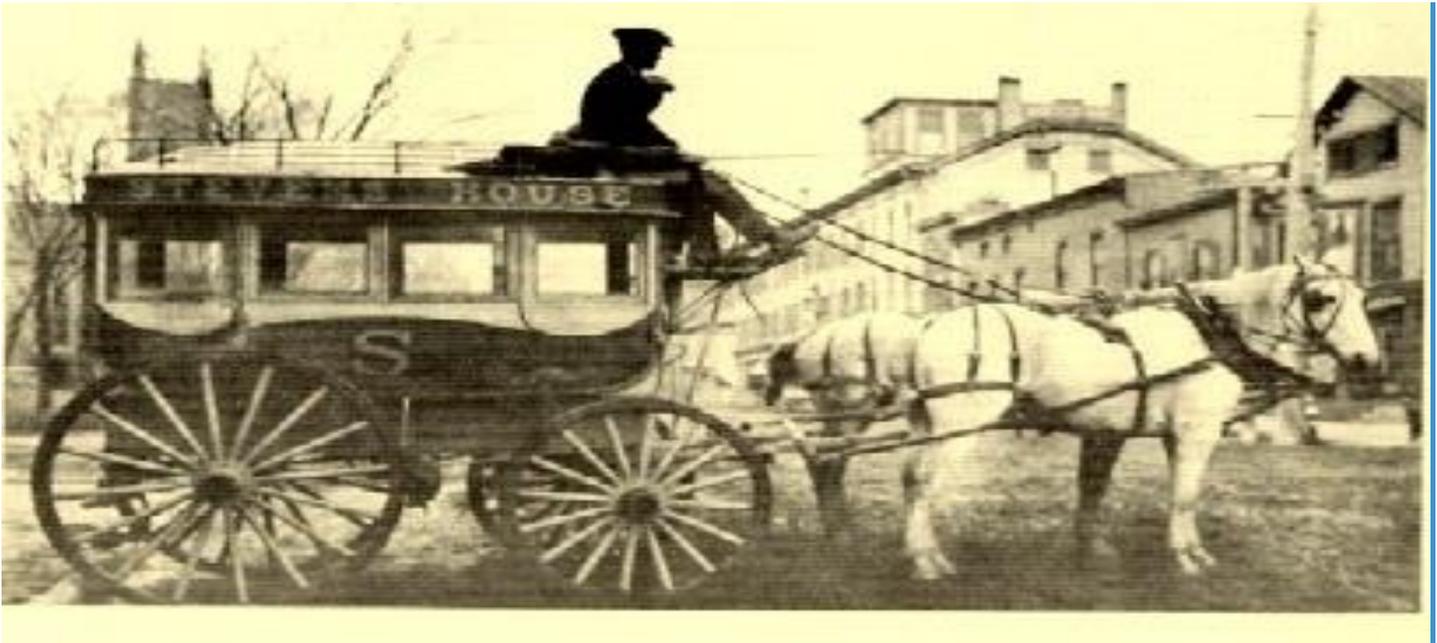


# THE CLUB CHRONICLE

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!  
MAIN STREET VERGENNES EARLY 1850'S



Duffer the Memory Tree- Back Packs and School Supplies- New Furniture- Music Programs- Fishing with Captain Obie- Food- Friends- Games- Walking Club- Arts & Crafts- Chess

## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON WE MISS YOU

September 9<sup>th</sup> can't come soon enough for us. We are looking forward to seeing you in person and welcoming you to a club bursting with change, but still the same safe and caring place for all of you to come.

### Celebrating Graduation and College with Michael Davis

When Michael Davis stopped into the club this week, he could hardly contain his excitement. He had just completed this paperwork and background check so he could start his flight training. The sky is the limit and, in this case, it is the next frontier for our Vermont Youth of the Year. Starting his Professional Pilot Program at Vermont Tech Center is not only a dream come true, it is one that makes him dig deep and take a deep breath. "Like anyone my age I am excited," shared the YOY. "I am also nervous about keeping my schedule in the right order so my grades are at the top of my class. I want to do my very best."

In addition to helping get the club ready for the opening, he has been preparing to compete on the next level of the YOY competitive cycle- Youth of New England. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, he will be interviewed, give a speech and compete virtually with over a dozen other YOY's from Boys & Girls Clubs around the New England Region and at military bases.

This past week he was also beyond excited to participate in a special project with the BGCA Whatever It Takes to Soar Project, where he will get to help interview the Navy Elite Pilot Group the Blue Angels and bring a message of challenge and growth to clubs around the country.

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH

### CELEBRATING COLE

Welcome your August Youth of the Month! Going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade this upcoming school year, you can find Cole keeping himself busy between ripping around on his dirt bike too running his own small at-home business of selling eggs!

Cole isn't just your average 10-year-old. From the age of 3, Cole had been wanting to have his own Chickens. From finding odd jobs to saving up each cent he earned, Cole had saved enough money to acquire his own Chickens to which he turned into a business of selling eggs to the locals in his area!

"Brave is my favorite Chicken, she is a Bantam Chicken" and while you may think that might be all, Cole has Roosters and Quail! He is not only creating his own business, but Cole has also been named top Youth Fundraiser with Homeward Bound – Addison County's Humane Society.

Fundraising over a total of \$4,000 during his time volunteering with Homeward Bound, Cole takes pride in his engagement by staying active helping with the Cats at the humane society too!

Cole has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes since the Summer of 2019, taking part in back to back summer camps held at the Club. He has certainly enjoyed his time as a member here and looks forward to continuing to take part as a member of the club. Taking part every day in this year's Summer Virtual Camp, Cole certainly enjoyed activities such as creating Model Rockets "because those were so cool seeing them launch off" or science experiments mixing Mentos and Coca-Cola!

## HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLUB

### 1. GO TO THE WEBSITE

[www.bgcvergenes.org](http://www.bgcvergenes.org)

2. Complete a new member form for 2020-2021.
3. Read and sign the COVID Safety policy.
4. Both of these forms must be emailed, mailed or brought to the club for your youth or teen to attend.
5. Sign up on the website for two days a week that your member would like to come. On Thursday check back at the website and if another day is still open, then you can sign up for a total of three days for the upcoming week.

### Celebrating Cole Continued

In the coming weeks, Cole will be returning to school since March of 2020, where he is excited to see his friends again. You can catch Cole playing endless games outside to trading Pokémon cards with his friends. We wish Cole all the best of luck with this upcoming school year and can't wait for his return back to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes!





## EXCITEDLY WELCOMING A NEW CEO

September will not only welcome in a new year at the club, but a new CEO as well. We are delighted to announce that Kathryn Nelson will be joining the staff and will be leading the Boys & Girls Club Team of professionals.

## Some Fun Facts About Kat

- I live with my husband, Steve, in Shelburne, VT and we have a 5-year-old Welsh terrier named Roscoe. Roscoe looks like a cuddly teddy bear but doesn't always act like one!
- I love to be active and outside. Recently, I have been hiking, playing golf and doing lots of yoga.
- I have traveled to Africa, Europe and Asia, and even lived in Beijing, China for 10 months.
- I love puzzles, all sorts!
- I have an ear for music and have previously played the oboe, saxophone, and a little bit of piano. I might need some encouragement to pick those up again!



## MEET KAT NELSON- NEW CEO OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER VERGENNES

To the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes community,

In just a few weeks, I will be joining the team at the Club and begin a new journey with all of you! My excitement continues to grow with each passing day and I simply can't wait to get started. I am eager to hear from and engage with you, the community we serve, as your needs will guide me in leading us to a bright future!

One thing that draws me to this community is the commitment to foster, caring, productive and responsible citizens. This truly resonates with me; in my own leadership, I am constantly looking for the best in others. Furthermore, when I find something great within an individual, I make it my mission to ensure that they also recognize greatness in themselves. Over the last 13 years, I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of young people through Camp Dudley and Camp Kiniya. I am excited to bring my experiences to the table in a way that will enhance what's already in place at the Club and continue to guide us in delivering our mission. The dedication that our team has to this community is evident and has energized me to fully immerse myself as soon as possible.

**"I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming months. When we do get the chance to meet, I hope you will share some of your interests with me too!"**

**Kat Nelson**

CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

**"I am incredibly honored to have been selected to lead and serve the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes. Thank you for welcoming me to this community! "**

## WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU EXPECT & REMEMBER

MESSAGE FROM INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR COOKIE STEPONAITIS

COVID-19 HAS CHANGED MANY FACETS OF LIFE HERE IN ADDISON COUNTY AND AROUND THE WORLD. BUT FOR ALL THE CHANGE, IT HAS BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT FOR US WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT. IT IS FAMILY, COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS AND REACHING OUT TO EACH OTHER SO THAT NO ONE FACES THIS CRISIS ALONE. THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB HAS BEEN A PARTNER FOR YOU SINCE THIS PANDEMIC STARTED WITH THE MEALS FOR ALL PROGRAM AND STRIVING TO CREATE A SAFE AND INVITING CLUB FOR YOUR YOUTH AND TEENS TO RETURN TO. IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING HOW TO BE SAFE AND USE BEST PRACTICES IN THE SAFETY SIDE OF THINGS, WE HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AND EXPANDING THE PROGRAMS AT THE CLUB TO INVITE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AREAS. YOU WILL SEE MUSIC, SIGN LANGUAGE, CHESS, WALKING CLUB, ARTS & CRAFTS AND MORE. THERE WILL BE KEYBOARD LESSONS, BASS GUITAR LESSONS, GUITAR LESSONS, JEWELRY MAKING AND EVEN AN SAT/ ACT PREP COURSE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES-SENIORS. AS ALWAYS THERE IS A CARING AND DEDICATED STAFF WHO WILL ENGAGE AND WELCOME YOUR YOUTH AND TEENS. THE FOOD IS NUTRITIONAL, HOME MADE AND IS GREAT AFTER A DAY AT SCHOOL OR ON THE GO. IT IS A SAFE PLACE TO MEET WITH FRIENDS, MAKE NEW ONES AND EXPLORE ALL KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES TO LEARN AND GROW. PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO THE SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> OPEN HOUSE AND SEE WHAT IS AWAITING YOUR CHILDREN AND TEENS.



Cookie Steponaitis and Vermont Youth of the Year Michael Davis

### OPEN HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>-

5:30-7:00 PM- Wednesday, September 8th

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes

20 Armory Lane

Vergennes, Vermont

Please arrive not before 5:30 and bring a mask. COVID-safety protocols will be in place and small groups will be given tours of the club and answer any questions. If you have membership forms and COVID safety forms signed, please bring them to hand in. This Open House is informational and for the parents. The club members will be welcomed and have all explained when they attend after school.

Below are some of the new images waiting for our members in the club.

