Agenda and Workshop Descriptions

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. | Registration Open, Exhibitor Display, Light Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 a.m. | Welcome: Key to Understanding the Day

9:00 - 9:40 a.m. | Plenary

A Loose Confederation of Villages - A Historical Perspective on Vermont Democracy
Stephen Perkins (Vermont State Historical Society)
Exploring the formation and implementation of Vermont's democracy from independent republic to the 21st century. What was the "mountain rule"? What was the role of the "overseer of the poor"? When did paper ballots start to supplant the voice vote? How did Vermont navigate as a single-party state for 100 years? From comical to serious, Vermont's political history informs our work today.

9:40 - 10:00 a.m. | Networking and Exhibitor Display

10:10 - 11:00 a.m. | Session 1

My Vtax Sales Verification
Christie Wright and Teri Gildersleeve (Vermont Department of Taxes-PVR)
This workshop will review the process of lister sales validation through My VTax. Review will include discussion of what constitutes a valid sale, how to prove a sale is not valid and how to code sales for a more efficient process for all.

Focus on Assistive Services from the ABLE Library- Resources for Towns and Schools
Vincent Livoti (Vermont Department of Libraries)
This workshop will highlight the state and federally supported services that the ABLE (audio, braille, Large Font, and electronic) Library of Vermont can provide in direct support to both your local libraries and public schools. Institutional and individual programs for municipalities will be covered.
Agenda Building and Meeting Management
Lake Morey- Ellen Rowe (University of Vermont- Extension)
Rutland- Mary Peabody (University of Vermont- Extension)
We live in a world where groups of community members with whom we work are expected to produce results in collaboration with others. People get frustrated and discouraged when groups are not effective. It makes a big difference when you know how to plan for and lead meetings to get great results.

Town Clerks Forum, Office Procedures and Policies in Small Towns
Forum of Four Presenters
An open forum for Town Clerks and Treasurers to ask questions specifically lead by experienced Town Clerks / Treasurers of smaller towns. These facilitators are from towns with less than 3000 Population and have greater than 10 years’ experience. Bring your questions or experience to support others with your answers. Join us and learn from the experience of others.

11:10 a.m. -12:00 p.m. | Session 2

Statutory Overview for Listers and Assessors
Christie Wright and Jill Remick (Vermont Department of Taxes-PVR)
This workshop will provide town assessors, listers and other officials with basic data on statutes needed for their positions. We will review where to find statutes, how to search for statutes and how they can be used to answer taxpayer questions.

Geographic Naming/ Board of Libraries
Jason Broughton (Vermont Department of Libraries)
This presentation will showcase the work and worth of the Department of Libraries and the Board of Libraries, on a variety of topics related to library services and geographic naming.

Community Engagement on Complex Issues
Lake Morey- Stephanie Lahar (Lahar Associates, LLC. and Marlboro College)
Rutland- Susan Clark (Slow Democracy and Vermont Institute for Government)
What does it take to make progress on a community project or issue that many people have a stake in, that includes different values that need to be reconciled, and other divergent factors? We'll use examples to practice recognizing 3 different types of issues, and discuss approaches and processes that are more likely to be successful with those that are complex.

Know Your Community
Michael Moser (Vermont State Data Center at UVM Center for Rural Studies)
Participants will learn about common indicators of community wellbeing and how to access and analyze them. Focus will be on Census programs like the Decennial Census and American Community Survey and data like workforce participation and incomes, home prices, transportation, industries and more.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch
1:00 - 1:45 p.m. | Session 3

Why and How of Contiguous/ Subdivided Property Listing
Chris Miele (NEMRC) and Michelle Wilson (VALA)
This class will show you how to effectively use your Grand List software to track all transfers and subdivisions. We will also be showing you various reports that will enable you to audit these types of changes with ease.

We're All In This Together: Division of Powers and Effective Collaboration Between Public Library Trustees and Select board Members
Laura Keenan (Vermont Department of Libraries) and Jenny Prosser (Vermont Secretary of State)
This session will focus on the division of powers created by State Statute Title 22 between Select board Members and Public Library Trustees in both municipal and non-profit incorporated public libraries. The training will also discuss how libraries benefit communities and how the select board and library trustees can collaborate effectively for their community.

Opening the AARP Toolbox: Free Leadership Resources Promoting Community Livability
Gordon Miller, Fred Schmidt, and Bob Henneberger (AARP)
Learn to engage citizens in walk audits, park surveys and application of a community livability index; all strategies and solutions that make a community attractive to people of all ages! Challenges include attacking barriers to local mobility and therein improving sidewalks, bike routes and paths, opening access to cultural activities, family and neighborhood visits, church and essential services.

What is a Stormwater Utility and Why Do I Want One?
Karen Adams (Town of Colchester) and Milly Archer (VLTC)
Stormwater management is a growing challenge for local governments. A stormwater utility, operating much like an electric or water utility, may collect fees related to the control and treatment of stormwater. In this workshop we will discuss the benefits to municipalities that establish stormwater utilities, and explore opportunities for regional inter-municipal stormwater programs.

1:55 -2:35 p.m. | Session 4

Lister Forum
VALA & PVR
An open forum for Listers and other municipal officers interested in a group discussion of current issues facing property valuation within the State of Vermont.

Building Community Diversity and Inclusion through Affordable Housing
Jessica Hyman and Ted Wimpey (CVOEO)
This interactive session is designed to help local officials meet their goals for diversity and inclusion through housing affordability. We will discuss the economic, social, and community benefits of affordable, inclusive
housing; effective tools such as housing committees, housing needs assessments, and housing trust funds; and strategies for community engagement and collaboration with local and state housing entities.

**The Story of Vermont’s Quiet Digital Revolution- A Documentary on Front Porch Forum**

*Lynn Espey and/or Michael Wood-Lewis (Front Porch Forum)*

FPF is the focus of a new independent documentary from Canadian filmmaker, Peter Strauss: The Story of Vermont's Quiet Digital Revolution.

The film features some public officials, and follows the stories of several FPF members, each from different walks of life. How does participation on their local forums transform them and their communities? Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with FPF staff.

**Big News Updates on Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies- VT e911 Board**

*Dawn Anderson and Tyler Hermanson (VT e911)*

CARE was created to help elders or those needing extra help during major events that cause power outages, isolate individuals, or prompt the need for evacuation. Updates to the application make registration easier and more efficient. Let us tell you about this program that you can share with your community.

2:35 - 2:45 p.m. | Networking, Exhibitor Display, and Snack Break

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. | Capstone Session

**When Tempers Flare: Tools for Deescalating Tough Encounters**

*Officer Susan Roberts (UVM Police Services)*

Join UVM police services’ seasoned community outreach expert in a discussion regarding communication and preparedness when it comes to your personal safety. Officer Roberts will offer tips on how to be aware of signs that things have gotten enough out of hand, tactics for calming angry people and de-escalating difficult situations, and when outside help should be called, drawing on her training and years of experience.

3:30 p.m. | Complete Evaluations and Conference End