



Keys to the Valley Newsletter

Welcome to Spring

While most of the population stays home during the coronavirus pandemic, our health workers, food distributors, local leaders and essential service providers are working around the clock to keep us all safe and well. This crisis reminds me of both our frailty and resilience, and in relation, the frailty and resilience of our communities' homes. We need our homes. We need them to be safe. We need our essential service providers to be close to work if they need to be. Right now, our homes help us to stay apart in isolation, but by doing this, we will come back together.

Keys to the Valley seeks to bring our far reaching 67 communities together to face the entrenched housing challenges. Some of these challenges have been highlighted by the pandemic. Here, in the Upper Valley, Lake Sunapee and Springfield regions – there are not enough homes and the cost to build is high. Those homes we have often need repairs or are too expensive for many new homeowners. Many of us are getting older and want to age in place. Many of us are without homes. Many of us need support finding or in our homes – for a moment, day, year or always – whether that be physically, mentally or economically. We need to know more about what challenges we all face and what solutions we might best bring to bear to solve them.

Right now, Keys to the Valley is focused on informing every one of our 67 communities about Keys to the Valley, and asking every household and walk of life to participate in a public survey. Champions from across the region have volunteered to help us in this effort. The responses will give us all further insight into the challenges we face and the solutions to help change things.



*Plainfield, NH
Photo by Braxton Freeman*

Public Survey

People should be able to find a clean, safe place to live when they need it and keep it when they have it – something emphasized by the current crisis. Help ensure our region has enough homes now and in the future.

[Take the Survey](#) and [Help Spread the Word](#)

Or Visit www.keystothevalley.com

Questions? Contact info@keystothevalley.com



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Woodstock, VT
Photo by Braxton Freeman



Pomfret, VT
Photo by Braxton Freeman

HOMES IN FOCUS

Do It Yourself. Home Fixes.

There is much to appreciate in the unique character of our older homes. History surrounds you. Small details can surprise you. And sometimes there is just something about the smell of the place. But... many of these homes, as well as our newer homes, need repairs or retrofits to be safe and meet the residents' current need. Work might be needed on a leaky faucet, chipping paint, drafty window, an entry ramp, etc. Further, many of our pre-1978 homes may have lead paint, a health concern particularly for those under 6 years of age. For all of these challenges, there are things you can do yourself! With good advice, support and safety first we, as a community, can keep the valuable homes we already have in working condition.



Learn more from:

- ✓ [100 Home Repairs](#) by Family Handyman
- ✓ Home Improvement Resources by [US HUD](#)
- ✓ [Renovate Right](#): Lead Hazard Info by US EPA

COVID-19 Local News and Resources

GRANTS

[Hoehl Family Foundation](#) - Emergency Grant Round for Food, Housing and Healthcare.

NEWS

[Virus poses more hardships for Upper Valley's homeless population](#) by Valley News

[Shelters work to protect homeless population from COVID-19](#) by VT Digger

[Internet access, technology become vital in rural areas during COVID-19 pandemic](#) by Valley News

[Vermont COVID-19 Affordable Housing Updates](#) by VHFA

[2020 Census Officials Urge Remote Participation](#) by NHPR

DONATE Food, Time and Funds

[Vermont Community Foundation COVID-19 Response](#)

Windsor County – Volunteers Needed at [Senior Solutions](#)