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Legal Notices

## Notice of Request for Bid Proposals

From Qualified Sub-Contractors:  
J.A. Morrissey, Inc. (JAM) is soliciting subcontractor bids and vendor proposals on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) and Evermore, the parent company of Housing Vermont (HV) for the selective rehabilitation of five buildings located at three scatter sites in Winooski and Colchester. The buildings are: 309 Ethan Allen Drive and 397 Ethan Allen Drive in Colchester and 53-55, 57 and 65 East Spring Street in Winooski.

Work at the Winooski properties consists of the following: 53-55 East Spring - full exterior re-painting with other minor demolition and exterior finishes with minor electrical work related to fixture replacement; 57 East Spring - demolition, exterior finish carpentry, and electrical support for new heating systems; 65 East Spring - demolition of an existing two story porch, framing and finishes for a single story heated mudroom area, interior finishes, exterior siding and trim, asphalt shingles, interior and exterior painting and electrical; 397 Ethan Allen Drive - sitework, seal coating and/or re-paving, structural work at concrete porches and foundations, metal guardrail repairs, exterior painting, interior flooring and paint at common areas, electrical support for changes to the heating system, new exterior and interior common area lighting; 309 Ethan Allen - will include scopes listed for 397, but also includes full rehab of 12 units in two phases (5 per phase). The unit renovations include demolition, minor framing and sheetrock, new 650 system ceilings in all units, cabinets, window replacement, flooring, taping and painting, minor electrical work and new lighting throughout. The work is intended to start in May 2021 and is expected to be complete within 8 months. This project is NOT tax exempt. Please note mechanical, masonry and roofing scopes have been awarded.

Women and Minority owned businesses and small locally owned businesses are encouraged to consider bid opportunities. Bidders must be able to provide upon request references for similar size and type of projects to demonstrate the bidder is qualified to perform or provide the work being bid. Contract security in the form acceptable to the Owner and CM may be required and potential bidders shall demonstrate the ability to provide such security. The cost of such security should not be included in the bid. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Project Bid Documents will be available on Thursday March 25th through JAM's PROCORE site and Blueprints, etc. Contact Karen Bisbee (karen@jamteam.com) to request access. Bids are to be prepared on bid forms included within the specification manual and sent to J.A. Morrissey, Inc. P.O. Box 745 Burlington, VT 05402 or emailed to annie@jamteam.com on or before April 15th, 2021 at 4PM EST. Due to access and safety concerns the walkthroughs will be separated by trade. A mandatory walk through for electrical contractors will be held on March 31st at 1PM EST at 53-55 East Spring Street, Winooski, VT. A general walk through for other interested bidders will be held on March 31st at 3PM EST at 309 Ethan Allen Avenue, Colchester, VT. Deadlines for questions are due April 6th by 5PM EST and should be directed to Annie Goff (annie@jamteam.com) or 802-663-1717. J.A. Morrissey, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)

March 23, 2021

## Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Underhill is considering making application to the State of Vermont for a Planning Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A virtual public hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2021 at: Please join the hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/576864645>

You may also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 576-864-645 New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/576864645>

to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds. The proposal is to apply for \$60,000 in VCDP Funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities: Exploration by the United Church of Underhill, as a sub-grantee, to explore the feasibility of purchasing and developing the nine-acre parcel of land located behind the Church on Park Street for the purpose of creating perpetually affordable housing. Specific activities will include engineering costs, environmental assessments, legal fees and development of a site plan. Copies of the proposed application are available at [www.underhillvt.gov](http://www.underhillvt.gov). Should you require a printed copy of the proposed application or any special accommodations, please contact Andrew Strimiste at 802-899-4434 ext. 6 or [astrimiste@underhillvt.gov](mailto:astrimiste@underhillvt.gov) to ensure appropriate accommodations are made.

For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) 1-800-253-0191. Legislative Body for the Town of Underhill  
March 23, 2021

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# A year into pandemic, veterans halls are 'barely hanging' on

Philip Marcelo  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Paul Guilbeault knew the writing was on the wall for the last Veterans of Foreign Wars post in this city south of Boston when businesses across Massachusetts were ordered to close as the coronavirus pandemic took hold last March.

Within six months, the 90-year-old Korean War vet was proved right. VFW Post 3260 in New Bedford, a chapter of the national fraternity of war vets established in 1935, had surrendered its charter and sold the hall to a church.

"The economic shut-down is what killed us," said Guilbeault, who has overseen the post's finances for years. "There's no way in the world that we could make it. A lot of these posts are barely hanging on. Most don't make a huge profit."

Local bars and halls run by VFW and American Legion posts — those community staples where vets commiserate over beers and people celebrate weddings and other milestones — were already struggling when the pandemic hit. After years of declining membership, restrictions meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 became a death blow for many.

The closures have added to the misery from a pandemic that's hit military veterans hard. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently estimated the death toll in its facilities alone was approaching 11,000.

In many states, veterans posts were ordered to close like other bars and event halls last spring. Their supporters argued that the spaces serve a greater community purpose than their for-profit counterparts and should have been allowed to reopen sooner.

They say many posts quickly pivoted their community service efforts to respond to the pandemic. In Lakeview, Michigan, VFW Post 3701 made hundreds of masks for workers and operated



Craig DeOld, commander at VFW Post 1018 in Boston, poses at the empty bar rail at the post's rental space. Local bars and halls run by the VFW and American Legion say many risk permanent closure after states ordered them, like other bars and halls, to shutter last spring. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

blood drives with the Red Cross. In Queens, New York, American Legion Post 483 ran a food pantry that fed thousands. And posts from Connecticut to North Carolina have been hosting vaccine registration drives and clinics.

The closure of some halls and bars also means vets dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and other wartime trauma have lost a critical safe space amid an isolating pandemic, leaders say.

"They can talk about things here that happened to them in the war that they'd never say to their psychiatrist or even their families," said Harold Durr, commander of American Legion Post 1 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Like a number of posts nationwide, Durr says his facility qualified for federal and local pandemic relief, though most of it could only be used to cover employee salaries, not utilities and other expenses.

He says the shuttered post, which included a bar and hall, has largely relied on donations to pay monthly costs.

"We've had a rough go," says the 75-year-old Navy vet, who served in the Vietnam War. "But

we've got to stay open. We've existed for 100 years. There's no way we can let it close."

How many vets halls and bars have permanently shuttered or risk closure because of the pandemic is hard to quantify.

The national VFW and American Legion organizations say the number of posts that dissolved completely last year was at or lower than prior years. But the organizations say they do not track bars and halls because they are locally controlled.

Many posts, they say, do not run halls or bars. Still, both organizations launched emergency grant programs last fall, doling out thousands of dollars to hundreds of posts to help cover facility costs and other expenses.

"A post could conceivably lose these things and still continue as a post," said John Raughter, spokesman for the Indianapolis-based American Legion.

Some facilities have found workarounds to keep bringing in money, which goes to a wide range of community work, from hosting free lunches for disabled veterans to sponsoring high school ROTC programs

and offering free gathering space for Scout troops and other groups.

Members of the VFW Post 2718 on Long Island, New York, have been dipping into reserves and organizing fundraisers until they can fully reopen their hall. Their next effort is a first-time Mother's Day plant sale, said John McManamy, a former post commander.

In Massachusetts, the New Bedford post is the only one that's dissolved for pandemic-related reasons so far, but the state risks losing some 20% of its VFW buildings if they are forced to remain closed into the crucial summer months, said Bill LeBeau, head of the VFW Massachusetts, which oversees local posts.

Closing VFW Post 3260 in the historic fishing port city some 60 miles south of Boston has been bittersweet for longtime members.

Dennis Pelletier, a 75-year-old Marine who served in Vietnam, had his wedding reception at the hall in 1967, the year it opened. He's been a dues-paying member pretty much ever since.

"It's been a part of my whole adult life," Pelletier said. "It's been a second home at times."

But like VFW posts nationwide, the New Bedford hall struggled to draw new members. In the 1960s, it had more than 1,000 paying members; by last year, it had roughly 100, the majority in their 70s and 80s.

"The stigma of just being a bar is hard to overcome," said Delino Garcia, the post's last commander. "Younger vets want something different. You've got to be more family-oriented. You've got to make it more hospitable. VFWs are struggling to adapt to that new reality."

Guilbeault, who joined the post in 1956 after serving in the Air Force, has no regrets about winding things down.

With mortgage payments and other bills mounting, he had put in more than \$5,000 of his own savings in those final days.

He eventually recouped the money when the building's sale was finalized in September, and the remaining profits went to the state VFW.

"In a way, it's been a blessing to let it go," Guilbeault said. "If we'd kept going, we'd still be closed. There was no sense keeping it open. All we were doing was accumulating debt, debt, debt, debt."

## Putin to get coronavirus vaccine shot Tuesday

Daria Litvinova  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin said he will get a coronavirus vaccine shot Tuesday, several months after widespread vaccination started in Russia.

Kremlin opponents have criticized Putin for not getting vaccinated amid a comparatively slow rollout of the shot in Russia, arguing that his reluctance is contributing to the already extensive hesitance about the vaccine. Russia, where only 4.3% of the 146 million population have received at least one dose, lags behind a number of countries in terms of the vaccination rate.

Surveys by Russia's top independent pollster Levada Center have shown that a number of Russians reluctant to get vaccinated with Sputnik V has grown in recent months — to 62% in February from 58% in December. The Kremlin has said it doesn't see a connection between Putin not getting vaccinated and public trust in the



Russian President Vladimir Putin has not said which of three domestically developed shots he'll receive while being vaccinated. ALEXEI DRUZHININ/AP

ruary from 58% in December. The Kremlin has said it doesn't see a connection between Putin not getting vaccinated and public trust in the

Russian COVID-19 vaccine.

Putin, 68, told a meeting with government officials and vaccine developers on Monday that he

will get his shot "tomorrow," without specifying which coronavirus vaccine out of the three authorized for use in Russia he will take.

Russian authorities have given regulatory approval to three domestically developed shots. Sputnik V has been approved last August with much fanfare at home and criticism abroad, because at the time it had only been tested on a few dozen people.

But a recent study published in British medical journal The Lancet showed the Sputnik V is 91% effective and appears to prevent inoculated individuals from becoming severely ill with COVID-19, although it's still unclear if the vaccine can prevent the spread of the disease.

Two other Russian vaccines, EpiVacCorona and CoviVac, have also received regulatory approval before completing

late-stage trials experts say are necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness in line with established scientific protocol.

According to the Russian president, 6.3 million people in Russia have already received at least one shot, and more than 4.3 million have had two doses.

Putin said that 60% of Russian adults need to be vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity, which requires a total of 69.8 million vaccines. As of March 17, around 8.9 million two-dose sets of Sputnik V have been released into circulation in Russia, as well as over 115,000 two-dose sets of EpiVacCorona, the Russian leader said.

"Today we can confidently say ... that the Russian vaccines are absolutely reliable and safe," Putin said. "It is an absolute success of our scientists and specialists."