

‘Recipe For Community Meals’ Workshop: Meal Site Info

Atkins Field Summer Monday Meals: For the past two summers, CAE has hosted a 10-week summer meal series in a community green space and timber frame pavilion owned by CAE. In 2023 and 2024 the property and entire Granite Street neighborhood were flooded with two to three feet of rushing water, ruining community gardens and flooding basements. The meal series became an opportunity for our neighborhood to come together. Town officials presented flood information for neighbors and started a conversation that has led to a long-term project to make the property more flood resilient by redesigning the water flow with experts and neighbors.

- When: Summer Mondays 5pm (TBD in 2026)
- Where: Atkins Field Pavilion, 140 Granite Street, Hardwick, VT
- Contact: CommunityConnections@caevt.org

The Barton Hub: Community meals are provided in Barton twice a week in cooperation with Northeast Kingdom Organizing, the Barton Community Giving Garden, and several other organizations who take turns cooking on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This meal sprang out of an interest expressed by the community to combat social isolation. The Barton Hub hosts a food pantry, an elder caucus, discussion of issues such as housing, and action meetings. Decisions are made by the community itself: diversity, equity and inclusion is served by making sure all voices are heard and included.

- When: Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pantry open 9 am - 1 pm, lunch is served noon - 1 pm.
- Where: 17 Village Square, Barton, VT (Barton Memorial Hall)
- Contact: organizing@nekorganizing, Allyson@caevt.org

The Civic Supper:

This weekly free or pay-what-you-decide supper takes place in the headquarters of The Civic Standard, a small cultural community center based on Main Street in Hardwick. The meal is prepared by a combination of Civic staff members, neighborhood volunteers, teenagers helping out after school, and drop-in visitors from near and far. These meals serve 40-70 people each week and are supported by local individual and business donations (of funding, ingredients and labor), plus occasional small grants. It's a town-wide dinner party, a low-barrier homemade get together that is reliable, simple, and celebratory - usually for no particular reason at all.

- When: Every Wednesday at 5:30
- Where: 39 South Main St, Hardwick VT
- Contact: thecivicstandard@gmail.com

Hardwick Community Lunch/Recipe for Human Connection: This monthly meal is an evolution of a decades-old meal run by volunteers that was revived after the pandemic through high school student involvement. During the school year, Hazen Union High School students prepare the meal at a local church, serving about 100 people (~50 take-out/deliveries and ~50 in-person). The students participate in the meal as part of a class called Recipe for Human Connection that explores how food helps us connect with each other and the broader community. This class is a collaboration between Hazen Union and the Center for an Agricultural Economy that was born during the pandemic and is now in its sixth year.

- When: Third Thursday of every month from Noon - 1pm
- Where: United Church of Hardwick, 216 Main Street, Hardwick, VT
- Contact: Reeve Basom, reeve@caevt.org

Sterling College Community Dinner: Started as a class project for the Local Sustainable Food Systems course here at Sterling College in the Spring of 2022, this once weekly meal continued on after the course concluded, due to its exceptional attendance. Students launched the meal as a way to bridge the gap between the College and the local community, and offer an opportunity for a nutritious, locally produced meal, that typically highlights food grown right here on campus. Often the meal is tied with college programming, complete with guest speakers, community panels, student showcases and even the occasional movie. The meal serves around ~150 people in person, and community members are able to take food to-go for neighbors that cannot attend. While initially intended to be simply a meal to share with neighbors, the students have been able to assess real-world issues such as food insecurity, food access, and economical barriers within their community through intentional data collection over the last three years.

- When: Monthly
- Where: Dunbar Dining Hall at Sterling College
- Contact: Liz Chadwick, echadwick@sterlingcollege.edu