

*Part of the Vermont
community since 1979*

FEATURED STORIES

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For more information about Omya's North American and International Operations visit www.omya-na.com and www.omyainvermont.net.



WHAT'S NEW



I hope you find our new format and the enhanced content in our 2017 newsletter interesting and relevant as we have decided to move from delivering this newsletter twice annually to only once per year. Our goal is to enhance this newsletter's articles with better pictures and more engaging content so that you can be better informed and gain a better understanding of what is keeping us all busy at Omya in Florence. We hope you'll feel free to let us know what you think; contact details are listed in the newsletter and we take great pride in trying to listen and respond to all the stakeholders in and around our plant.

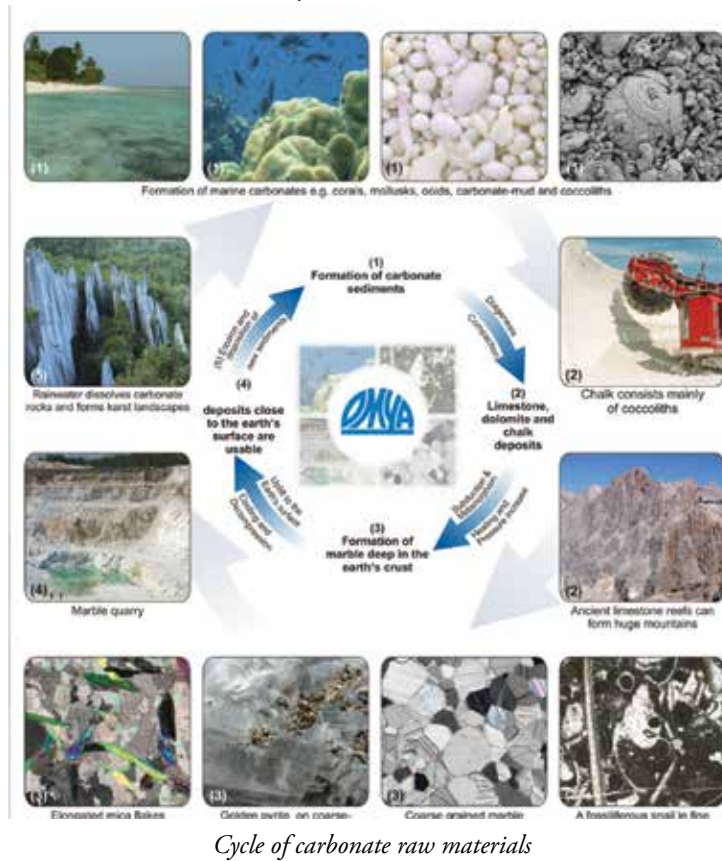
2017 has been a good year for Omya. Business has been brisk and we have remained busy serving our customers and maintaining our facility. We haven't seen many complaints from all our neighbors but the fact is when we have they've been right, almost every time, if they hear a change in sound or experience a change in activity around our plant. Our plant is a large facility with many moving parts and various entities operating within a multitude of variables and conditions. These issues are often weather related but sometimes related to our own predetermined preventative maintenance processes and ever-changing operational environment. We take each comment or complaint seriously and try to respond as soon as possible with corrective actions which will at least reduce the frequency of incidents but hopefully eliminate their re-occurrence.

We consider it a great privilege to be able to operate among a very supportive and encouraging community. We understand that we need to earn this privilege every day and will continue to operate in a responsible and prudent way to satisfy not only our many customers but also our stakeholders at both the local and State level. I do welcome your observations, comments, concerns and suggestions about Omya and the Verpol Facility here in Florence. Please feel free to contact me at 770-7617 to share your thoughts.

Best Regards,
Wayne Wilmans
wayne.wilmans@omya.com

WHERE DOES CALCIUM CARBONATE COME FROM?

Calcium carbonate plays a key role in earth's rock cycle and life cycle. Typically found as the white mineral calcite, calcium carbonate is composed of calcium, oxygen and carbon with the chemical formula of CaCO_3 , a molecule containing one calcium atom (Ca), one carbon atom (C), and three oxygen atoms (O^3). Calcium and oxygen are the fifth and first most abundant elements in the earth's crust, respectively, and calcium carbonate makes up more than 4% of the earth's crust and more than 20% of the earth's sedimentary rocks.



Although calcium carbonate can be formed from molten lava such as carbonatite-lava, it's primarily formed by sea creatures. Many sea creatures such as corals, shellfish, algae and other organisms form their shells and skeletons out of calcium carbonate by extracting calcium, carbon, and oxygen directly from ocean water. When these marine organisms die, their shells and skeletons form thick blankets of calcium carbonate muds on the sea floor. Some areas of the ocean blossom with coccolithophores or "flowering algae" each Spring, turning the waters white with hundreds of millions of tiny calcium carbonate skeletons or "cocospheres." In only a few weeks, several million tons of calcium carbonate cocospheres can be deposited on the ocean floor. In the warmer tropical oceans where these marine organisms are most abundant, the layers of calcium carbonate can be many thousands of feet thick. If one drills into these sediments, after just a few hundred feet the calcium carbonate mud turns into a chalk and finally, after about a thousand feet, into a limestone rock. The water content within the pore spaces of these sediments and rock goes from 40 percent of the volume for chalk to just 10 to 20 percent of the volume for limestone. Over thousands of years with increasing depth below the ocean floor the sediments are compacted by the overlying weight of other sediments and the pore spaces are filled with the crystallization of additional calcite. Ultimately, many thousands of feet of calcium carbonate can be deposited in the ocean floor in this way.

Omya's quarries are not located on the ocean floor, however, but rather on land. So there are a couple more steps in the process in getting the calcium carbonate from the ocean floor to the land. Over millions of years, through the slow movement of the earth's crust and the change in balance between the amount of water in liquid form in the oceans or tied up in ice sitting on land, sea levels and land levels can change by many thousands of feet. Sometimes large portions of the continents are inundated by the sea. Other times rising land levels and falling sea levels expose large areas that have been submerged for millions of years. The flooding of the continents by the ocean provides the opportunity for calcium carbonate chinks and limestones to form in many inland areas and the emergence of the continents exposes these rocks as part of the new landscape. More dramatically, mountain building events can further uplift and fold these rocks as part of a mountain chain. The additional heat and pressure from mountain building transforms and recrystallizes the chalks and limestones into a marble. Erosion of the mountains not only exposes the marbles for use by humans, but also recycles much of the calcium in those mountains for use again by the sea creatures.

Uses of calcium carbonate by humans is just one tiny part of the important role calcium carbonate plays in earth's rock cycle and life cycle.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES IN DOWNTOWN BRANDON

What does it mean for Omya Florence Operations?

Omya fully supports the exciting rebuilding and renovations planned in Brandon known as the "Route 7, Segment 6 Project." This project consists of roadway widening, new sidewalks and curbs, pavement markings, traffic signals and improvement in the roadway's water main, sanitary sewer and aerial, underground and storm water utilities. This project will be ongoing now through November 2019, with work divided in six segments (A through F). 2017 work will be occurring on Segment B along Route 7 in the immediate vicinity of the Central Park Area between the Lake Sunapee Bank and the Brandon Public Library (See Project Segment Figure and Construction Schedule).

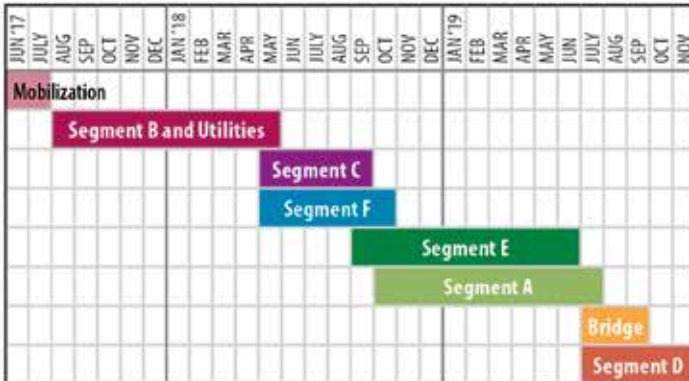
While we are confident that the end result of this Brandon project will be spectacular, the path along the way, as with any large road construction project, will be accompanied by some challenges that could cause some disruptions or inconveniences.

The most significant potential challenges anticipated are related to traffic congestion through and around downtown Brandon. The goal is to maintain two-way traffic in the active construction work zones whenever possible but delays from typical daily Route 7 traffic is inevitable. As many are aware, Omya owns and operates its primary marble ore quarry in Middlebury, Vermont and this critical feed stone is transported by truck through downtown Brandon via Route 7 to our mineral processing facility in the village of Florence. Omya holds an Act 250 Permit that allows for up to 115 round transport trips of this feed stone by truck within designated hours and days throughout the entire year. While typical truck travel is between 6:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, the Brandon Route 7 Segment 6 Project may result in travel up until the permitted 8:00 PM limit and on Saturdays with the occasional Sunday (See Act 250 Permit conditional limitation outlined in table on page 3). Any temporary deviation from these Act 250 Permit transportation limitations, if seen as a benefit to overall Route 7 traffic flow, would require public meetings with Pittsford and Brandon stakeholders and a formal permit amendment approval from the Act 250 District Commission.

Middlebury Quarry Act 250 Permit - Conditional Requirements (Transportation Limitations)

| Activity | Condition | Limit |
|-------------|---|--|
| Ore Hauling | Truck Trips Day of the Week | Monday - Saturday 6:00AM to 8:00PM and 5 Sundays per year |
| | Additional Truck Trip Time Restrictions | Between 3:30PM to 5:00PM, Limit to 21 truck trips from Middlebury Quarry to limit congestion during school release periods |
| | Total Daily Truck Trips | 115 trucks/day (maximum) |

Construction Schedule



Mobilization & Setup:

May–Aug 2017

Segment B & West Seminary St utilities

Aug–Nov 2017; Apr–May 2018

Segment C

May–Sept 2018 (Night construction 8pm–6am)

Segment F

May–Oct 2018

Segment E

Sept–Nov 2018; Apr–June 2019

Segment A

Oct–Nov 2018; Apr–July 2019

Bridge 114

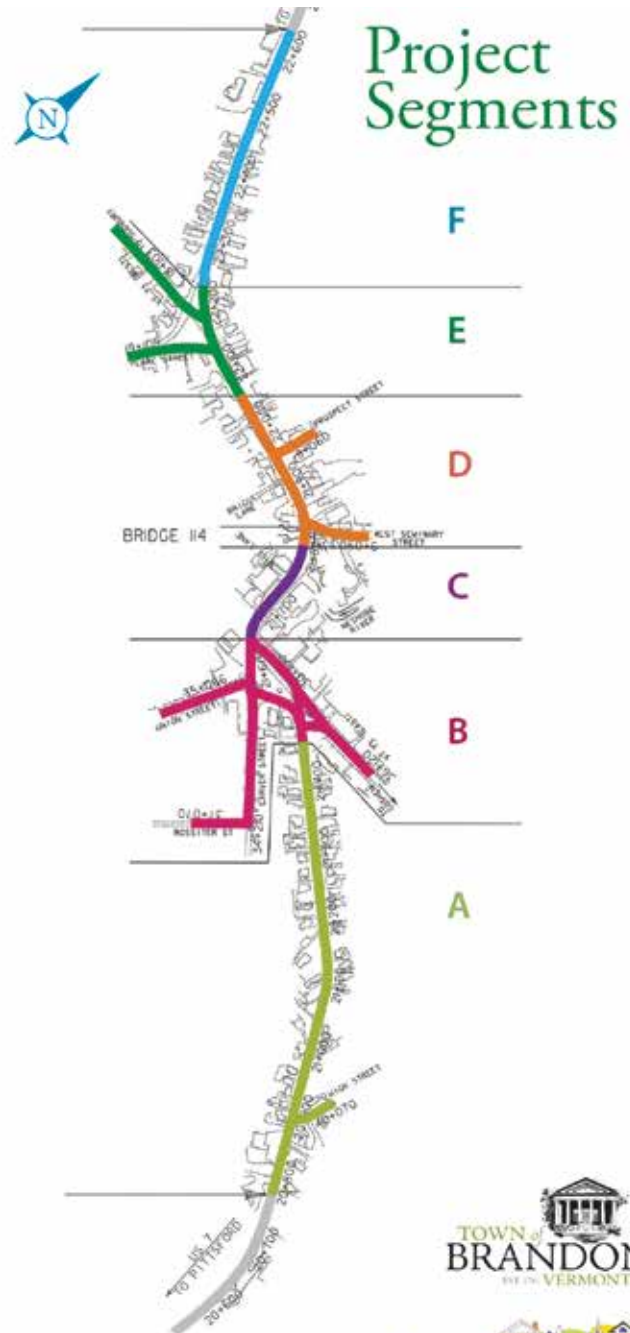
July–Sept 2018

Segment D

Jul–Nov 2019

Work hours are allowed from 6am–8pm, but work hours of 7am–5pm Mon–Fri will more likely be the norm. Night work will be limited to areas such as Center Street, critical utility points and possibly paving.

*Schedule is approximate and depends on factors such as weather



www.BrandonBuilds.com

Over this multi-year Brandon project, Omya is committed to working with our local Pittsford stakeholders, the Town of Brandon and Casella Construction to find the best balance between sustaining our current operations in the region, maintaining a reasonable Route 7 traffic flow and minimizing any disruptions or inconveniences to the local communities. Through continued collaboration and communication with our community partners, we can all look forward to the successful completion of this complex project and achieve “Building An Even Better Brandon”.

For more detailed information and ongoing updates on this important project, please visit www.BrandonBuilds.com and www.TownofBrandon.com.

OUR EVOLVING MARKET SEGMENT FOCUS

In the last two years Omya has restructured its various marketing and sales segments to better identify and effectively address its needs in market and focus innovation efforts. In the past, most people around Florence might have assumed that our Florence plant served predominantly the paper market with a few applications in the plastics and paints industries. This restructuring, however, gives us a great opportunity to highlight some other areas where the products from our plant are generally used.

The major segments our plant serves are as follows:

- Printing and Writing
- Technical Polymer Applications
- Construction
- Packaging

The many ways in which Omya serves the paper industry are covered by the “Printing and Writing” segment, with Omya offering a multitude of products used in making paper. Not all paper is equal and paper’s quality and applications differ a great deal. Omya serves markets for ordinary writing paper, newspaper print and glossy magazines as well as a slew of specialty paper for very specific market segments. We service some of the biggest paper makers in the world and our capability to supply vast quantities of products to our customers with consistent quality and availability makes us a significant leader in this market segment.

The “Technical Polymer Applications” segment is an interesting and growing segment. This segment includes applications such as rubber, elastomers, engineered plastics, PVC piping, molding, breathable films, cables and flooring. These are products we all use each and every day and to think that products from our plant here in Florence can be found in most of these daily items is remarkable. These applications test the boundaries of various new technologies and Omya is an active participant in developing new and enhanced ways to use calcium carbonate in this segment.

The “Construction” segment has been a major and thriving segment in the past but is also very prone to macro-economic pressures, which is why occasionally we see this market ebb and flow dependent upon the general state of the economy. Most recently the construction segment has been very buoyant and our material is present in products including paints, adhesives, sealants, glass, ceramics, cement based and engineered wood products. The “Construction” segment is one of the largest segments we serve and it is very important to the overall wellbeing of our company.

One area which people often forget or do not always associate calcium

carbonate with is the “Consumer Goods” segment. This segment is mostly held for Food and Pharmaceutical products and our Omya facility in Arizona is primary responsible for this segment in our region. One area where our plant does participate in this space, however, is through various tissue manufacturing customers. Who would have thought that stone from Vermont could be present in the tissue you use to blow your nose each day?

For many years the “Packaging” segment was not seen as a major opportunity – but Omya has indeed been a participant in this industry for a long time. Packaging has evolved technically over the years and applications today range from normal cardboard boxes to very specialized applications of food contact packaging which include different materials and tailored composites. Next time you eat something from a carton or drink something from a cup that’s made from cardboard or plastic remember it’s very possible that Vermont stone is in that packaging as well.

Each of these applications and segments have made the work we do here at Verpol very interesting. We know we are making some of the finest “white powder and slurries” you can find in the world – but it’s amazing to realize how it’s used in so many applications and all around us. The minerals processing industry has come a long way from the early days in 1976 when Omya purchased the “White Pigment Corporation” facility and developed it, over the last 40 years, into the third largest plant in the Omya portfolio of plants worldwide. We all continue to be challenged to step up as the next generation of opportunities present themselves. In many ways Omya is one of the driving forces which creates and keeps expanding these opportunities.

So the next time somebody asks you about that big white building they see on the horizon as they drive by Otter Valley High School you’ll have a great deal more to tell them about our plant. Remember that we would like to show you our plant and you are always welcome to call ahead and arrange for a tour. Check in with the administrative office for requirements and scheduling.

VERMONT MARBLE MUSEUM OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

Omya has been a fixture in Vermont since 1976, when the purchase of the “White Pigment Corporation” led to the development of a large manufacturing facility in Florence and the establishment of a Corporate Head Office of an international company right here in Proctor, Vermont. Although the Omya Corporate Head Office was relocated to Cincinnati in 2007, Omya still has a presence in Proctor as we occupy the Geology Building and have many logistics and geology resources that call this place home.

If you drive through Proctor you cannot help but marvel at all the marble structured buildings and features around the community. Many of these marble buildings have been repurposed over the many decades and have given a rich marble history to the town of Proctor. Pavements, bridges and churches all made from marble are prominently featured all over town. One which has seen all of these changes is the building currently known as the Vermont Marble Museum.

In 1880 the Vermont Marble Company officially came into existence and in 1934 opened the Vermont Marble museum, originally known as the Monument Shop. The shop was a showroom which displayed a variety of marble available for interiors, mantels, floor tiles, monuments and headstones. Throughout the years the Vermont Marble museum grew in popularity, eventually hosting 50,000 visitors. Today, the museum welcomes 6,000 - 8,000 visitors annually.



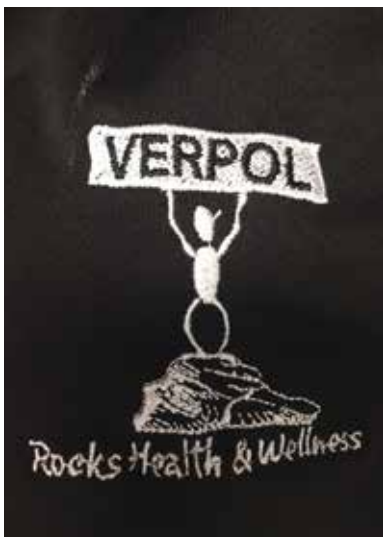
The museum itself is 45,000 sq. feet. If it's been a while since you have visited the museum, it's worth a second, third or even fourth trip! The museum has so much to see – including a Geology Room bringing to life the evolution of our planet and the formation of geological phenomena with displays and a 160' mural. Check out the new exhibit added this year and take a seat on the bench in front of a 53" flat screen TV to watch an episode of "This Old House". A home buyer goes to the Danby Quarry in Danby, Vermont to pick out a slab of white marble for their kitchen countertop; a tour of the quarry is included in the film.

One exhibit held close to our hearts is now known as The World of Omya exhibit. Envisioned in early 2002, the Vermont Marble Museum director (then Robert Pye) approached Omya about developing a calcium carbonate exhibit. Robert's vision was to continue the history of the marble industry in Vermont with a look at modern day uses. Through many joint efforts and a lot of hard work, the "Calcium Carbonate – Mineral of Life" exhibit was born. In keeping with the mission of the museum, Omya saw this as an opportunity to educate the public about its operation and its products. The exhibit became a cornerstone for people seeking information about the company, and was often a stop on company tours.

The World of Omya exhibit is a visually pleasing and informative display. As a visitor walks through, the story of calcium carbonate unfolds. It begins with the geology, moves through the quarry and mineral processing and ends with consumer products and environmental uses. The exhibit includes a video showing the mining and production processes. It's a must-see.

Be sure to stop by the Vermont Marble Museum. Visit its website at www.vermontmarblemuseum.org for more information and check out the online gift shop open year around.

HEALTH & WELLNESS ROCKS



Creating an on-site wellness program is important to any organization or corporation because, for most people, much of their time is spent at work. According to the CDC, chronic diseases account for 75 percent of total healthcare. But the good news is that chronic diseases are also the most preventable type of disease.

Omya Vermont has promoted employee health & wellness for more than six years and has been recognized by the Vermont Governor's

Council on Physical Fitness and Sports by receiving the Governor's Excellence in Worksite Wellness award.

A well-designed program can increase productivity, boost morale and reduce stress – and wellness programs encourage employees to make smart and healthy choices which can help reduce health care costs, increase vitality and diminish absenteeism.

So what are we doing in Vermont to promote worksite wellness? The Vermont Health & Wellness committee is comprised of six employees from four different departments. To make this program successful each year Omya Vermont sends out a short survey asking employees about their top health & wellness interests and concerns. This feedback is very important as it sets the three focal topics for the rest of the year. For 2017 these topics were sleep deprivation, heart health and back care – all while incorporating nutrition, physical activity, and over all wellbeing.

We kicked off last spring with a 30-day challenge where employees committed to a specific workout program such as abdominal, push-up, or total body. In the early summer employees formed teams and participated in a walking challenge. This challenge was very successful and we had a lot of involvement – so much, in fact, that we held a second walking challenge in the fall. We also had a fall golf outing and offered employees a partial reimbursement on golf lessons. For rainy days, employees could use the on-site gym which was recently moved to provide more space and new equipment was added.

Not only do we provide employees with physical challenge activities but we try to educate as well. Over the years we have done sugar campaigns, food portion displays, tobacco cessation, and have brought in multiple speakers to provide one-hour workshops and presentations on a variety of different topics including retirement planning, nutrition, dentistry, sleep, cardiology, diabetes, posture and the list goes on!

For those employees interested in nutrition, we have an on-site garden and all produce is put out for employees to take home. We also offered discounts to CSAs (Community Shared Agriculture), provide healthy snacks plant wide, and have held on-site cooking demonstrations.

When you visit the plant you will notice that many employees have stand-up workstations. We also added hand sanitizing stations around the plant in most conference rooms and lunch areas.

We were excited to bring back our on-site biometrics screening and flu shots. Screenings are offered twice a year and flu shots are available in the fall to all employees and spouses.

It's also important to bring a little fun into the workplace. We decorate for holidays, hold holiday luncheons and organize employee events outside of work. To help de-stress, on-site chair massages are available to employees twice a year where they can take a ten-minute breather during a busy day.

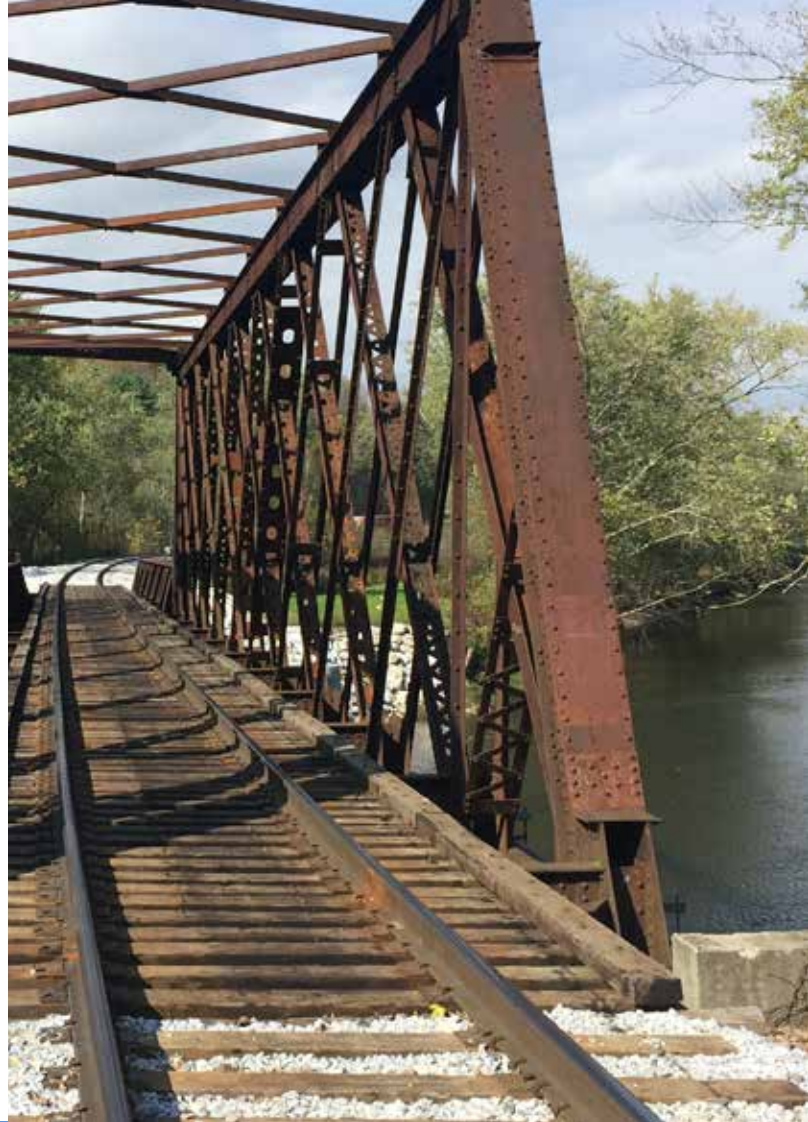
Wellness is more than being free from illness, it is a dynamic process of change and growth – "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Omya supports its employees. We want them to stay healthy and safe and make it home to their families each and every day. Our mission is to provide education and support for our employees (and their families) to make healthy choices, through; on-site programs, newsletters, community resource information sharing and benefit education.

VERMONT RAILWAY COMPLETES BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER OTTER CREEK IN FLORENCE

If you traveled on Kendall Hill Road in Florence this past spring or summer of 2017, you may have wondered about the construction activity occurring to the south as you've driven across the bridge over Otter Creek. Like many of the road bridges in Vermont showing their age or being repaired or rebuilt, our railroad bridges are no exception.

This is why the rail bridge providing railcar crossing of the Otter Creek in Florence was recently replaced and relocated this past year. The rehabilitation of this bridge, also known as "Bridge 219", clears the last longstanding barrier for Omya to ship fully loaded railcars weighing the national standard of 286,000 pound freight cars (as well as other freight transported by rail) – and Vermont also has "286" capacity from Whitehall, NY to Rutland and Florence as well as along the New England Central Railroad. The bridge replacement project included reworking the approach curves where severe slow-downs were required and now will improve trip speed for current freight movement as well as for future passenger train travel.

This multi-million dollar project was one of several improvements budgeted for the Western Corridor several years ago, with 80% of the project federally funded and 20% funded through state funds for the match on the "Jeffords Earmark". This earmark was secured by the late Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, who championed the efforts to repair and replace deficient bridges in New England prior to his retirement from politics in 2007.



PITTSFORD AND CHITTENDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE INVALUABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

For a combined service of over 68 years, Omya has employed four men who give back to their community in a multitude of ways. The Pittsford and Chittenden Volunteer Fire Departments are fortunate to have these dedicated and committed individuals.



Left to right: Ray Shortsleeves, Adam Parry, Mike Carter (Pittsford Fire Department, and Rusty Chapin (Chittenden Fire Department)

Mike Carter, Adam Parry and Ray Shortsleeves are on the Pittsford Fire Department force. Rusty Chapin is on the Chittenden Force. As needed, the four respond to the various calls for their respective communities – and each knows the importance of volunteers. They work to promote this volunteerism within the local high school, during various fundraisers and through word of mouth.

Adam Parry was recruited by his family, enjoying both helping people and being a part of a strong community. He has worked as part of the Interior Crew and is now a driver of “the trucks,” getting the water to the scene of a fire. “It’s never pleasant to be a part of a tragic accident,” Adam says. “That stays with you for a while.” The rewards, however, are deep. “Along with helping others, the Pittsford Fire Department is a great bunch of guys,” says Adam. “We think of each other as family!”

Mike Carter joined also because of family. Each fire fighter has a strength and Mike’s, as part of the Interior Crew, is to head into a burning building. Every two weeks the crew practices and holds drills. Mike works 3rd shift with Omya and, as needed, is available for the day shift fire and rescue calls. “Saving lives is rewarding,” says Mike. “When a family member comes up after you have found their cat or dog and thanks you – that feels good. And, of course, saving human lives is the ultimate.”

Ray Shortsleeves was affected by the 9-11 events that hit our nation, immediately realizing he wanted to join the department and help other people. But being on the force requires a commitment of time and energy. “I wanted to stay in my town and help my community,” says Ray. “We meet twice a month, have drills, and are provided various annual training throughout the year. The comradery keeps me committed. I enjoy helping others and the feeling of being a role model for younger kids.” As part of the Interior Crew Ray has a difficult job. “But when a moment is found and you bring it to someone - a smile comes to their face that’s priceless,” he says.

Rusty Chapin has held a variety of roles on the Chittenden force. Currently he is the 2nd Captain, which means he works on ventilation, structure support, is available for the 2nd attack and supports those on the Interior Crew. “The earlier we can get to a fire and save a structure in its early stages the better,” shares Rusty. “Communication between each one of us on a call is very important. You must look out for each other.”

Each of these men volunteers his skill, time, energy and passion – and without volunteers these four men, where would we be when we find ourselves in immediate need? Our fire departments are an extremely important structure of our community; continuing to foster interest in the fire department within our schools, families and community is important to the continuation of our volunteer departments. Vermont fire departments are primarily made up of volunteer forces, and the Cadet Program is a great way for a young adult to become involved and see what this special family and comradery is all about. Scholarships are set up at Otter Valley and at local high schools to encourage participation, and Omya supports its four employees to take the calls needed throughout their shifts.

Still, Adam Parry says it best. “I won’t lie, the rush and adrenaline you get from doing what we do in the fire service doesn’t compare to anything,” he says. “It’s great! And at the top of the list is just being able to help people in need during what may be their darkest time of their life. That’s what keeps me involved in the fire service.”

JIM PRIOR, FOUNDER AND COACH Black Ice Hockey, Creates Opportunity for Play



Coaches (left to right): Chris Prior, John Wing, Jim Prior, Rick Bussey, Brian Evans-Mongeon

At the Omya Florence plant, we have several employees who participate in outside community activities. These activities range from coaching to volunteering and much more and Omya is proud to support its employees in all they do.

Jim Prior has been with Omya for 23 years. He’s not only passionate about the game of hockey, but about providing a fun sport for kids, teens and young adults to stay active and involved in a social and productive activity.

Black Ice Hockey, founded in 1999 by Jim and his son, Chris, to assist a local high school team get more ice time, has evolved into pre- and post season teams including U10 Squirts, U12 Peewee, U14 Bantams, U16 and U18 Midgets/High School aged hockey players. Black Ice has included players from a variety of states and even countries. Jim receives a lot of volunteer help from the community. Black Ice Hockey registered its non-profit 501c3 status this year and, by organizing and having a board, Jim hopes the organization will sustain many years of providing fun and competition in the great game of hockey. Additionally, responsibilities are delegated to parents and fans, which is a great way to keep them busy and focused.

Jim loves seeing and hearing from past players. He doesn't expect a "thank you" but rather loves hearing that they enjoyed their years of playing with Black Ice Hockey. No one is turned away because of money. "Recruiting is by word of mouth and by people watching our organization," shares Jim. Fundraising provides scholarships to players along with many businesses donating money for jerseys, first aid supplies, pucks and equipment, advertising and entrance fees. Jim prides his organization on never "stealing" a player away from another team or organization. He has stayed engaged all of these years, even after his own boys left, because the kids want to be there and want to play hockey. All involved adults have a similar philosophy and mission.

"We try not to push 'win...win,'" Jim says. "We play each player, yet we're competitive." The Black Ice organization has learned from experience – these coaches, parents, and dedicated individuals review the teams performance and process at the beginning, middle and end of each year. They look to do it right. They are proud to call themselves "The Black Ice Family" -- not just a team of players. Black Ice is associated with USA Hockey for insurance purposes and the "rules" of the game.

Visit Black Ice Hockey's website (blackicehockeyteam.com) and see where the teams have played, the organizational structure and what it's all about. Black Ice Hockey is the first local team called for tournaments and has never turn down an offer. It can sometimes be hard to practice due to the distance each player travels, so practice is optional with tournaments and games played on the weekends. The more kids who want to be involved, the more teams and games are generated. Jim doesn't even mind if his players are involved in other sports elsewhere. He realizes the "Black Ice Family" isn't a perfect team and organization, but they work together to play a good game. Black Ice Hockey registers 150-200 players a year and Jim has no signs of stopping anytime soon.

"I'll keep it going as long as the kids keep wanting to play," he says.

HIGHER FINES, SAFER ROADWAYS

How Omya is Taking Steps to Keep our Roadways Safe

If you live in Florence, Pittsford, Proctor, West Rutland or Brandon you've probably encountered a freight truck traveling on a weight restricted road. For the past ten years the Omya Verpol plant has been diligently working on trying to find a solution to this ongoing problem.

The following is an approximate history of this situation since 2008:

- 2008: Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) noticed illegal signs (big blue ones) installed along the truck route.
- 2009: Communications with VTrans on "lost truck" issue; staff spoke at Transportation Community Issues Team meeting.
- 2010 (fall): Meeting with Vermont Travel Information Council in Montpelier to request approval of new state directional signs in West Rutland, Proctor and Pittsford.
- 2011 (spring): New signs approved and installed.
- 2012 – 2014: Ongoing communications between Omya with VTrans and Municipalities.
- 2014 – 2015: Additional new Omya truck signs installed in Proctor.
- 2016: VTrans' notice of illegal signs; Omya redesigned signs to meet specifications and reinstalled.

Additionally, over the past several years Omya has met with Vermont DMV Officers, freight Regional Sales Managers, neighbors, and Town Managers on ways to reduce and ultimately eliminate this problem. Through much effort and hard work by many we still see trucks traveling these posted roads. We suspect that our physical address (emergency 911 address) is what is bringing drivers in on rural roads to the Verpol plant; however, we do provide customers and freight carriers with the instructions (not the physical address), which are provided on order confirmations and load tenders.

In addition to working with the state and local town officials, Omya Vermont contracted with the Pittsford Police Department, the Rutland Sheriff's Department and Rutland Town Police Department to patrol the roads leading into the plant. Patrols are currently active five days a week and we hope the word will spread that fines are issued if caught and these fines will discourage drivers from following their GPS units down the back roads to the Verpol plant.

These state fines can range anywhere from \$300 up to \$3,000 and even more depending on the weight of the truck – even empty, these trucks are overweight. From January 1, 2017 through October 1, 2017 - 64 tickets were issued totaling over \$48,000.00.

We continue to have conversations with our customers, logistics department and sales team reminding everyone to communicate the proper route to travel in and out of our plant and we will continue working with our neighbors, surrounding towns and the state of Vermont. Know that Omya is taking steps to stop the trucks traveling these roads from causing damage to vehicles, roads, bridges and private property.

We welcome your ideas! Please contact us with any Omya related truck issues, ideas or concerns that you may have by contacting our Community Feedback Line at 802-770-7644.

SUPPORTING LOCAL PROGRAMS



Photo provided by Maclure Library. 2012 first grade class with Officer Stephanie.

Research has shown that literacy issues develop early in a child's school life and there is a strong and proven link between low literacy and crime.

Through the hard work of the Maclure Library, the "It's a Crime Not to Read" program was introduced at Lorthrop Elementary School in 2010. The initial goal of this program was to excite students about reading, get parents involved, expose children to positive role models and encourage reading while growing library awareness. Each month the Maclure Library librarian, Lorthrop school librarian and Vermont State Police go into the classrooms and read a book to the students. When the officer finishes the book, they discuss how much they love to read, stress the importance of reading, and remind the class to set reading goals and share the book with a parent.

To encourage reading at home, students receive a copy of each month's book to bring home. For the past five years, Omya has helped support this program by donating funds to purchase these books and last year over 1,000 books were handed out to first, second, and third grade students.

The "It's a Crime Not to Read" program has grown over the past several years and has become a huge success. Since 2010 juvenile circulation has risen 60% and summer reading has risen 38%. The Maclure Library supports its Pittsford and Florence residents by offering 267 children's programs, 21 adult programs and 8 family programs. Locals can stop in and use the public access computers or bring in their personal devices and connect the library's internet access. When school's in session the library even offers free tutoring in multiple subjects.

Omya is happy to help support our community and take a part in the many efforts that go into supporting these wonderful area programs which could not be possible without the help from volunteers, grants, librarians, Vermont Troopers and local supporters.

NETWORKING MIXER SEES GREAT TURNOUT

Tuesday, May 9th was a cool, wet Vermont spring evening – but that didn't affect the more than 150 people who came out to enjoy an evening of networking at the Vermont Marble Museum chamber mixer hosted by Omya.



The two-hour event included live music by Ryan Fuller as guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres catered by East Creek Catering; the museum itself was adorned with beautiful flower arrangements hand crafted by Jaga Smiechowski of My Flowers.

During the networking event the museum was open for guests to tour and the gift shop was filled with Vermont marble and stone products from around the world. The evening concluded with a 50/50 raffle and many door prizes including Verde antique necklaces, bracelets, business card holders, maple syrup and more. Don't miss the next one!



LEGISLATIVE BREAKFASTS

Help Vermonters Stay in Touch with State Leaders

Many of you may well have attended a Legislative Breakfast event in Rutland. A few years ago Omya sponsored a bus trip to Montpelier to give people the opportunity to see the government at work and to meet their elected members of both the house and senate. These were great opportunities to ask direct questions, observe a portion of the house in session and attend committee meetings during the day. We also had a lunch with the Lieutenant Governor and enjoyed more time for questions. Over the years, however, the popularity of this bus trip waned. More recently the Rutland Chamber of Commerce has asked Omya if we would co-sponsor the Legislative Breakfast series instead of the bus trip to Montpelier. As Omya is fully invested in Vermont and sees this as an important opportunity for us as a company to know both what is going on in our state and how it may affect our business, we were happy to oblige and thus we saw the inception of the Legislative Breakfast. These typically well-attended events are held in various locations in Rutland throughout the legislative session and include a breakfast or lunch.

During these Legislative Breakfasts we have the opportunity to communicate directly with our local house and senate representatives. The events are open to the public and you can check in with the Rutland Chamber of Commerce for upcoming event details. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities; Vermont is one of only a few states where it is relatively easy to get in touch and talk to your representatives. Do not let this great opportunity pass – we hope you'll consider attending a Legislative Breakfast in the future.

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE PARAMOUNT



On Friday, April 7th Omya invited its employees and their friends and families to the Paramount Theatre to see Pete's Dragon on the big screen. Over 200 attended to watch the movie that appealed to all ages.

Roots catered with light snacks including flatbread with smoked ham, house made chips with bleu cheese and fried corn tortilla with salsa and avocado cream with a concession stand which also served movie favorites like popcorn and non-alcoholic drinks.

The Paramount Theatre is a great venue for all types of entertainment and Omya continues to be proud to support it.

SUMMER-LIKE TEMPS DON'T DAMPEN FALL FESTIVITIES



An unusually warm autumn day with temperatures reaching well into the mid 80s couldn't stop the children at the pumpkin decorating table of Proctor's Fall Festival on Saturday, September 23rd.

Pumpkins, purchased from Winslow Farm and donated by Omya, were a great hit with the children, with Proctor High School students manning the booth. Other fun events taking place that day included pony rides, a BBQ put on by the

Proctor Fire Department, a bouncy house for children and a 5K run to benefit project graduation for the Proctor class of 2018.

FIRST RESPONDERS TOUR VERPOL PLANT

In an effort to continue to improve our safety environment, we held a meeting with our local first responders back in September. We met with paramedics and police officers from Brandon, Rutland Town and Pittsford. We reviewed our emergency response procedures and toured the facility with the goal of ensuring those who would respond to an emergency, will be familiar with our site and policies.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8

Community Issue Team Meeting

April 20

Community event at the Paramount (movie, open to public) *

May 4

Omya Green Up Day

May 5

Town of Pittsford Green Up Day *

May 14-18

Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes quarterly surface water monitoring)

September 15

Middlebury Quarry Open House

*Omya is a sponsor of this event

GIVING BACK

At Omya we feel it's our civic responsibility and privilege to support local efforts which benefit our community and neighbors. In the past year we have made donations to the following organizations and community groups:

- 2017 Castleton Summer Concert Series
- 39th Annual Festival on the Green
- Adaptive Martial Arts
- Barstow School - Playground
- Brandon Chamber of Commerce - Great Brandon Auction
- Brandon Fire Department
- Brandon Food Shelf
- Brandon Recreation Department
- Brandon Summer Concert Series
- Brandon Toy Project
- Camp Thorpe
- Castleton Cares - Food Shelf
- Castleton Community Seniors
- David McKee Memorial Golf
- DCF - Rutland Foster Care
- Down Hill for Diabetes
- Eagle Scout Project
- Fair Haven Concerned - Food Shelf
- Girls on the Run
- Granville Little League
- HOPE - Middlebury Food Shelf
- Italian American Club
- JR's Menu
- Leicester Central School
- Little Otters Wrestling
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
- Mendon Fish and Game
- MESA - Read a Thon
- Middlebury Maple Run
- Middlebury Memorial Sports Center
- Mill River Union High School Banner
- Mount St. Joseph Academy - Soccer Nets
- Otter Valley AAU Basketball
- Otter Valley Banner
- Patricia Hannaford Center
- Pittsford Cadet Program
- Pittsford Christmas for Kids
- Pittsford Food Shelf
- Pittsford Trail Run
- PRIDE Football
- Proctor Harvest Festival
- Proctor Little League
- Quarry Hill School Iguana Cup Challenge
- RAVE - Car Show
- Ripton Ridge Run
- Rutland Area Christian School
- Rutland Free Library
- Rutland Rugby
- Rutland Young Professionals
- Salisbury Historical Society
- Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl
- Steven's University Men's Soccer
- The Addison Independent
- The Brandon Reporter
- The Three Day Stampede
- Tom Fiske Memorial
- Vermont Folklife
- Vermont Warriors AAU Baseball
- Veterans of Foreign Wars - Loyalty Day Parade
- West Rutland - Food Shelf
- West Rutland Summer Concert Series
- Women's Shelter

You can make donation requests by mail or through our website. Simply click on "Community" and select "Donations" and choose "Donation Request Form" in the drop down menu. Mailed requests can be sent to: Omya Verpol Facility at PO Box 10, Whipple Hollow Road, Florence, VT 05744. The Donations Committee meets monthly to review requests.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

Omya is pleased to once again provide financial support for deserving students through our Omya Academic Scholarship Program. The program was designed to offer incentives for the development of Vermont's future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science. Students chosen for the scholarship awards demonstrate a commitment to learning, leadership and community involvement. This year's recipients are:

- Brendan Harvey - West Rutland School
- Owein Schoonmaker LaBarr - Mt. Abraham Union High School
- Seth Hoenes - Fair Haven Union High School
- Tyler Groh - West Rutland School
- David Sawyer - Home School
- Colby McKay - Otter Valley Union High School
- Juliann Bardin - Mill River Union High School
- Logan Landon - Proctor High School
- Sierra Thornton - Proctor High School
- Sebastian Wilmans - Rutland High School
- Braden Arnold - Rutland High School

CONTACT US

Do you have a comment or suggestion?

We want to know.

Call our Community Feedback Line at 802-770-7644 with any issues, comments or questions you may have – and we'll listen.

The Omya Community Feedback Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us through our website at www.OmyaInVermont.net. Simply click on "Contact Us" tab and select any one of the contacts listed or fill out the on line comment form.

INTERESTED IN A TOUR?

You and your organization are cordially invited to visit our facility and see what we do. Schedule a private tour or come as a group (school groups fourth grade and higher are welcome). See how our highly skilled employees use state-of-the-art processes to produce high-quality calcium carbonate products which are used in thousands of consumer applications including diapers, paper, paint, plastics, duct tape, vinyl siding, carpet, PVC pipe and more!



The Verpol plant is the largest of the Omya operations in the United States and is the third largest Omya plant in the world. Here, Omya quarries marble which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate. For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7500.

For more information about Omya's North American and International Operations visit www.omya-na.com and www.omyainvermont.net.