

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

A New Season at Tyrol

By Chris Coffin

On a beautiful sunny day in November after 6" of new snow to start the season, Josh Faber has lots of irons in the fire. As the new general manager of Tyrol Ski Basin, Josh is directing building of terrain, fielding phone calls and gearing up for the winter season.

Josh came from the suburbs northwest of Chicago. He has had experience in Midwest skiing from a business perspective since college. Starting in St. Louis, he began working the lifts and learned all aspects of the business at a hill that was one of 13 properties owned by the same company. He later moved to Ohio to be general manager of a resort there, then eventually moving to Pennsylvania and managing 6 resorts and a restaurant.

Tyrol is the quintessential small hill near a big city and Josh hopes to capitalize on that business to promote beginner, family skiing and snowboarding. Lessons and school groups will have added emphasis this year. "Whatever we can do to make the experience more enjoyable," he says. Josh sees Tyrol in a niche for terrain parks and skiers and is working to create on-hill events to get people excited and having fun together.

"Tyrol as a hill is awesome. With the potential here we can create something special," says Faber. The website gives more insight into his motivation: "At the end of the day we are providing families, young adults and kids with an experience they will remember for a lifetime. It provides me a sense of fulfillment and gratification that we can provide a product that so many people and truly enjoy. This keeps me motivated to provide the best product possible."

One new feature recently arrived is the Magic Carpet which will make learning for beginners easier and more fun. The intimidation of a T-bar will no longer be a problem for little ones as they can just step onto the Magic Carpet and be carried up the hill. There are 3 chair lifts and a rope tow as well.



Tyrol is still hiring, he emphasizes. There are skiing perks and a fun atmosphere to combat winter doldrums. Look on the web at tyrolbasin.com or call 608-437-4135.

If you stop by Tyrol this winter you can find Josh on the hill, talking with skiers, "lefties," boarders and instructors, asking about their experiences, learning what to improve and what is working well. His hands-on approach will ensure he knows what's happening on the hill and how he can help make a visit at Tyrol a great winter memory for all.

Welcome to Vermont, Josh!

VERMONT'S VOICE

Winter 1985 Flashback

By Karen Carlock

Town tries to block Madison's advance

Wisconsin State Journal, Thursday, January 31, 1985 Section 1, Page 7

"It takes only a few minutes to drive to a place west of Madison where a traveler can feel he has stepped into the winter landscape of a Currier and Ives lithograph. The ashen snow crust spattered on curbs and gutters gives way to perfect creamy dunes that cover the wooded hills. Here is a scene that belongs under glass, snowfields broken up by dark pools and crystalline brooks flashing clean through the hollows and meadows. Winter in the state of Vermont is an airline ticket away but winter in the town of Vermont lies just beyond the surging waves of cars and trucks on Mineral Point Road."

Mineral Point Road may have transformed significantly in the past 30 years but the beauty of Vermont Township remains.

Clerk's Corner

- Internet update: the Town Board recently passed a resolution of no confidence in TDS. The board will continue its work in pursuit of potential solutions to the internet issues facing those residents currently served by TDS.
- Winter is here - please keep road safety in mind! The Vermont patrolman works very hard to keep our Town roads in the best condition possible. If you have a Town road issue to report, please contact Jack Schulenberg by phone at 607-767-2457 or 608-712-2793.
- Thank you to those who attended the November 9 Public Hearing on the 2016 Town of Vermont budget. The 2016 budget was approved and the summary is available for review at townofvermont.com
- 2016 is a big election year! If you would consider acting as an election inspector, please contact Karen Carlock at 608-767-2457. Training opportunities are provided so you can go into an election day feeling comfortable and confident.
- Interested in getting involved in local government? In 2016, two seats on the Town of Vermont Board of Supervisors will be on the ballot. If you are interested in running for the position of town board supervisor – seat 2 (incumbent Don McKay) or town board supervisor - seat 4 (incumbent Doug Meier), check out <http://www.vermonttownship.com/localgovernment/running-for-public-office> or contact Clerk Karen Carlock at 608-767-2457.

Tradition, tradition....

By Chris Coffin

Perhaps because I recently saw "Fiddler on the Roof" and the music is still in my head, or perhaps because Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up soon, I thought of tradition and why it's important in a society, culture, community or family. In today's fast-paced daily life, tradition seems like a way to return to something familiar and dependable.

A definition search online relates the following: "The handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc. from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice."

Traditions are important in families, cultures, societies, as well as ethnic and religious groups. They are the stuff of history and education when a child learns why they are done, who started them and their importance. Traditions become something to look forward to and become a source of memories. It's not totally terrible to say, "We've always done it this way." That said, flexibility has its advantages and new traditions can be started at any time!

Traditions can involve everything from food, to stories, to the way something is practiced. In their article "Creating a Positive Family Culture: the Importance of Establishing Family Traditions", Brett and Kate McKay list a few reasons to practice and

VERMONT'S VOICE

(Traditions, continued from page 2)

establish new and old traditions. Traditions can provide a source of identity as children learn where they came from as well as cultural or religious history. Children are more self-confident if they have a connection to their past and feel a part of something bigger than themselves. Tradition strengthens the family and provides a sense of security and comfort. There is a feeling of satisfaction when you know what to expect. Traditions are a constant if other parts of life are changing. They are also a source of values and a way to connect generations. Studies confirm grandparental involvement provides emotional stability in families, giving children lifelong memories of time together during holidays or family vacations. Renting the same cabin each year soon stimulates stories of past vacations and adventures.

Our familiar Thanksgiving holiday was first declared by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 according to National Geographic. At that time he declared two Thanksgivings, one to remember Gettysburg in August and a more general time of Thanksgiving in November.

Christmas traditions and celebrations come from a wide variety of sources and cultures around the world. In the United States Christmas has been recognized and celebrated in a myriad of ways since the 1600s.

Here in Vermont there are many Norwegian, German, English and Scottish traditions that came with early settlers and remain a source of connection amongst families today. Even Lutefisk! Whatever your family or cultural traditions, pizza on Friday nights or games on Sunday afternoons, enjoy the time together and celebrate with merriment and laughter!

Bird Count 2015

By Harriet Irwin

How many species of birds actually nest in Wisconsin? Any guesses?

Back in 1995, a five year study began to find the answer. The project was called Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas and hundreds of volunteers covered our beautiful state to document breeding behavior. The result was 226 confirmed species and 11 additional possible species.

A study of this type and magnitude involves a very different kind of "bird watching". It's not making a list, looking for unusual species or making a birding trip by covering miles. The goal of this project is to confirming breeding.

Twenty years later, a Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II has begun to identify the changes, additions and subtractions that have occurred since the completion of the initial project in 2000. Not surprisingly, many changes have already been noted. Wild turkeys are not found state-wide and whooping cranes and Kirkland warblers now nest with help from conservation groups. And interestingly, even some non-native "cage birds" have been released and are increasing their range in the state.

From this year's data, the ten birds that win the prize as the "most abundant nesting birds" are: robins, red-winged blackbirds, Canada geese, chickadees, starlings, bluebirds, grackles, chipping sparrows, song sparrows and tree swallows.

In the next installment closer to spring 2016, I'll describe more fully how all this happens and how you can get involved. It's a worthy cause!!



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Mission Statement: It is the mission of Vermont's Voice to provide information about our town and articles of interest to the residents of our town in order to promote a sense of community, encourage participation in and understanding of town government, and improve communication among residents. Vermont's Voice is a volunteer, citizen-run publication that encourages and depends on citizen participation in providing information, articles, or suggestions for articles, photos, criticism, and help with mailings. The cost of printing and postage is included in the town budget. Vermont's Voice is not the official voice or viewpoint of the town government.



Lisa and Chris

Keep up to date on town ordinances, meetings and other business at <http://www.townofvermont.com>.

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Winter 2015

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