

# VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

## Town of Vermont 2008 Budget

By Mark Robertson, Town Clerk

The following is a summary of the township's budget. The summary is published on the town's website at <http://www.townofvermont.com/2008%20Budget%20Summary.pdf> if you'd like to view in table form.

The General Government category of our Town budget is expected to rise 4.7% in 2008. More money will be required for elections, since there will be both Spring and Fall primaries and elections. Money has also been set aside for repainting the metal roof on the Town Hall, which is beginning to show rust in places, though this will be somewhat offset by not having to budget for replacement of the Town computer, which was done in 2007.

In the Public Safety area, payment for the new truck for the Black Earth Joint Fire District was completed in 2007, but that expense (for those in the Black Earth District) will be largely replaced by funding of the construction of the new District One EMS building. Expenses for those in the Mt. Horeb Fire District will go up about 23%, partially because of the increasing need for full-time staffing.

Our largest budget category, Public Works, consists primary of road maintenance. Based on the prior year's experience, and allowing for a modest increase in prices, we had budgeted \$91,242 for seal coating in 2007. The actual winning bid was \$98,458, or almost 8% over budget. We have more miles to be seal coated in 2008 than in 2007, and the price of oil has increased even more rapidly this year than last. We have therefore allowed for an increase in seal coating expense of about 27% but hope that not all of that increase will be required. A similar increase has been budgeted for diesel fuel, though that expense is often determined as much by the snow plowing requirements of a particular winter as the price of fuel. Also in the Public Works category is Weed and Nuisance Control; \$1,000 has been budgeted for 2008 for the control of invasive species along Town roads.

Northwest Dane Senior Services has requested an increase in their funding for 2008, so that category has increased from \$880 to \$1,100. Thanks to the continuing support by Lisa Orman and her willingness to do the printing for Vermont's Voice, the amount budgeted for 2008 printing and postage has been reduced to \$700. The Town picnic was not included in the 2007 budget since there seemed to be some sentiment that it should be held every other year. While it would have been included in the 2008 budget in any case, there now appears to be justification for including it in every budget.

The Conservation and Development category consists primarily of the Planning Commission. A 3% raise has been allowed for the Planning Commission secretary. Other expenses are expected to remain largely unchanged.

The large Town truck will be paid off in 2007, so no money is included in the 2008 budget for Debt Service. However, the small Town truck is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and may have to be replaced before the end of 2008, which will impact the 2009 budget to the extent that funds have to be borrowed.

We currently have three reserve funds which accumulate and have been set aside as separate investment fund accounts. The first is for replacing the diesel fuel tank when the need arises, to which we are adding \$2,000 each year. The second is for deposits paid by citizen having holding tanks for waste disposal -- no money is being added to that fund in 2008. Finally, the Town patrolman position is allowed to accumulate unused sick leave that can be used to pay for health insurance premiums after retirement. Since that liability is currently unfunded, \$10,000 has been included in the 2008 budget. Once a satisfactory level is reached, that number can be allowed to decline in the future to reflect the Town's actual liability for any particular year.

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## BECWA Celebrates 20 Years Of Service

By Earl Brandt

The Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA) is celebrating 20 years of service this year, as a non-governmental organization made up of volunteers who are committed to preserving and protecting this unique and important watershed and its world famous creek. BECWA President, Barbara Borns, said the Board decided to commemorate this anniversary by publishing a booklet "**Shedding Light on the History of the Black Earth Creek Watershed.**" A grant from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission as well as contributions from the banks in Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie made this publication possible. Founding Board President Steve Born wrote the forward "*Anniversary Recollections:*"

The booklet is a compilation of historical articles reprinted from BECWA Newsletters over the years plus a look to the future by President Borns. The reprints include a Borns interview with the late Otto Festge entitled "*Before BECWA.*" Just a year ago in fall of 2006, Otto Festge donated to BECWA the archives from the Cross Plains-Black Earth Valley Watershed Association. This group existed from around 1955-65 with Herman Eisner as President and Otto as secretary-treasurer. BECWA has now placed these archives in the Rosemary Garfoot public library in Cross Plains.

This little booklet is not only fascinating reading but also a tribute to the volunteer spirit as exemplified by a list of accomplishments over the years – modestly listed on the last few pages – the broad headings include: Providing a forum for public discussion on a variety of watershed issues - Hosted biannual public events, published biannual newsletter - Secured funding to have mediator assess cooperative efforts to address land development issues in the watershed - Have been a continuing presence advocating for the Black Earth Creek in communities across the watershed – Sponsored or cosponsored a variety of educational efforts to engage children of various ages in efforts focusing on stewardship of Black Earth Creek. This is indeed an impressive list of achievements, especially for a volunteer organization.

*The booklets are available, free, while they last, from Barbara Borns .ph 767-3325 or this writer, Earl Brandt. Ph 767-3030. Those interested in becoming BECWA members or contributing to BECWA will find a web site at BECWA.org.*



## VERMONT VALLEY CSA FARM HOSTS BIKE EVENT

David and Barbara Perkins, owners of Vermont Valley CSA farm, hosted a lunch Sept 29 as part of a Bike the Barns fundraising event to help low-income families to participate in the CSA program. The lunch was prepared and served by the Underground Food Co-op.

Well over 300 hundred riders started the tour with breakfast at Troy Gardens prepared by Café Soleil. Stops included the Dream farm in the Town of Berry, Perkins farm at Peculiar Corners in Vermont Township, Primrose farm in the Town of Middleton and back to Troy Gardens. In all, riders traveled 44 miles.

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## Town Notes of Interest

### TREE TRIMMING

Notice to landowners along Town roads tree trimming will soon begin along Town roads with special emphasis on Greenwald, Moe, Bell, Moen Valley, Kelliher and lower Ryan Road (Moyer Road to County Road F). Spot trimming may take place on other roads as required.

### RURAL HOUSE NUMBERS

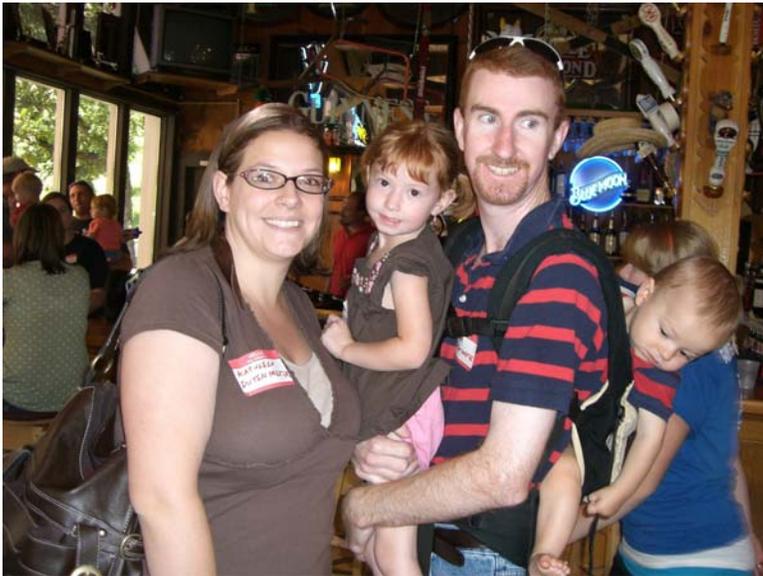
Recently I have heard of several situations in Dane county where emergency vehicles (fire departments or ambulance crews) are having difficulty in finding rural homes due to hard to see or missing rural numbers. Brush often grows up around these green reflective address numbers and can cause serious delays in getting help just when it is needed most. Another situation that is becoming problematic is when several homes are built on a private drive, there should be stacked numbers where the private drive begins, again at each fork or branch in the road, and a final number posted at a point obviously identifying the specific building. Maintaining and replacing missing numbers is each property owner's responsibility. For numbered signs contact Dane county zoning at 266-0010. Mark Sherven, Chairman - Town of Vermont

### FREE COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL

Wednesday, December 5, 12 noon, at the Vermont Lutheran Church

Men, women and children of the community are invited. The Turkey Dinner, with all the trimmings, is sponsored by Vermont Women of ELCA as a holiday gift to the community. Please call Donna Dybdahl at 767-3674 or Marguerite Parrell at 767-2427 to reserve a place at the table and tell them if you need a ride. All are welcome!

## Town of Vermont Annual Picnic



New neighbors, above



This face-paint fan is thrilled with the results of Michelle Olson's artwork



Perry McCartney and Michael Dix of Michael's Frozen Custard dish up their famous custard. Thanks!



Another new neighbor family enjoyed the gathering



Big draw for the kids: The Inflatables!

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## How to reach us:

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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.

Look for this issue of the Vermont Voice on the Vermont Web Page! Check it out at <http://www.vermonttown.com>.

## Town Officials

*Chair*, Mark Sherven 437-3732  
*Supervisor #1* Bill Hanson 767-5050  
*Supervisor #2* Don McKay 437-4071  
*Supervisor #3* Steve Cowan 767-4616  
*Supervisor #4* Barb Grenlie 437-5856  
*Town Clerk* Marc Robertson 767-2457  
Or email: [clerk@townofvermont.com](mailto:clerk@townofvermont.com)

*Town Treasurer* Sarah Danz 767-6017  
*Town Patrolman* Dave Haugen 767-3313  
*Building Inspector* MEI 608-643-5329

Bruce Ellarson 767-4974  
Eric Haugen 767-3327

## Plan Commission Members

*Chair* Don McKay 437-4071  
*Secretary* Johanna Solms 767-2467  
Jim Elleson 767-3553  
Bill Hanson 767-5050

## Fire Wardens

Frank Hinze 767-3827  
Fern Frame 767-3915  
Shirley Brandt 767-3030

Winter 2007

## VERMONT'S VOICE

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Black Earth  
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