



# VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

## Recap of Town Budget 2006

By Sarah Danz, Town Treasurer

### Revenues

The town's total revenue for 2006 was \$449,914. The largest portion of that, \$288,459, came from property taxes. The remaining amount came from Private Forest Crop/Managed Forest Land Tax \$163; Dog Licenses \$212; Refund/Interest/Assessment Searches \$8,500; Site Visits/Driveway Permits/Building Permits/Recreation Permits/Business Permits \$10,730; Equipment Reimbursement \$292; Shared Revenue \$15,094; Transportation Aid \$73,996; DNR Payment-in-lieu of Taxes \$2,217, Managed Forest Yield/Withdrawal \$10,445; \$40 Computer Aid; \$20,000 TRIP Grant; and \$19,766 Carryover from 2005.

### Expenses

Of the \$288,459 collected through property taxes, \$60,151 was paid to the fire and EMS districts, 2006 operating expenses of \$383,722 were for Patrolman & Extra Labor \$63,197; Highway \$180,999; Donations/Newsletter \$2,702; General Government \$95,251 (this includes Clerk Wages, Insurance and Retirement, Treasurer Wages, Plan Commission Per Diem and Wages, Assessor, Board Per Diem and Wages, Building Inspector, Office Supplies, Elections, Insurance, Dues, Publishing, Payroll Liabilities, Telephone and Internet, and Education) Debt Payments \$31,172; Fuel Tank Replacement Fund \$2,000; Contingency Fund \$3,401; and Minimum Operating Balance \$5,000.

### Summary

With total revenues of \$449,914 and total expenses of \$443,873, the town has a surplus of \$6,041 for activity in 2006.

## Other Town News

By Earl Brandt

### PLANS FOR SEAL COATING THIS SUMMER

The following Township roads are scheduled to be Seal Coated this summer if, as our Patrolman, Dave Haugen says "all goes well" – meaning weather, funding, etc.: Anderson Drive; Bohn Rd., Broderick Rd; Danz Rd; Hoda Dr; Moyer Rd; North Rd; Rainbow Farm Rd; Ryan Rd (1) border – Moyer; Ryan Rd (2) Moyer – F; Schulenberg Rd; Shower Rd; Thumper Rd; Woodchuck Crossing; Zwettler Rd (Farm Rd).

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - APRIL 10

The Town of Vermont annual meeting will be held April 10, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall, 4017 County Road JJ. The primary purpose of this meeting is to report on the past Town Board activities. Electors (that's us) may also bring up items of interest or concern to the Town. There are specific items that may be brought up, discussed and voted upon under Wisconsin Statutes 60.

**Calling all Voters – Spring Election – April 3 – 7AM – 8PM – Vermont Town Hall – 4017 Cty JJ.** Be prepared to register, if you have not already done so, by bringing with you proof of residency such as driver's license.

### FOOD PANTRY

The Christians In Action Community Food Pantry is a coalition of nine churches in this area that helps provide food to those in need. According to a recent article in the News Sickle, written by CIACFP President

*(more, next page)*

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*(food pantry), continued from front page)*

John Gehn, food was provided for 107 families in the past year in the Wisconsin Heights and Cross Plains area, including 168 adults and 100 children, however “we expect the numbers to increase with the closing of Sunny Industries,” Gehn said.

Gehn said, “Most of our food comes from drives that go on in the villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie by the Boy Scouts, schools, and other organizations.”

The nine churches also collect food and, on alternating months, provide workers when the Pantry is open, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month, except for November and December when it is open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. The Pantry is located in the Mazomanie Community Center.

Lois O’Connell serves as Coordinator of the Pantry and can be reached at 795-2518. Families in need of food can call her at that number. Questions about the Pantry should be directed to John Gehn at 836-1914.

In Vermont Township the participating church is the Vermont Lutheran Church which is represented on the CIACFP board by David and Donna Dybdahl. The church accepts donations of food and is planning to provide volunteer workers at the Pantry February 24 and June 26. The Dybdahls will also ask for donations of money the first Sunday in February. Money collected allows the Pantry to purchase food and other items that are not donated.

## The Spring Art Tour

By Tamlyn Akins

Are you a person who enjoys art, road travel, and discovering the delights of small towns and rural areas? Do you have a family with young “artists to be?” A wonderful new event will be launched in the spring of 2007 that will delight you.

The Annual Spring Art Tour, June 8 – 10, will include three Vermont Township artists among the 25 artists involved. Visitors will have the rare opportunity to watch the artists demonstrate in the places where they spend the most time, their studios. The three Vermonters are: Linda Koenig, who will be exhibiting her watercolors at the Mazomanie Historic Art Center; Tamlyn Akins who will display her watercolors, origami, pastels and jewelry, at her Fine Art Studio, 4629 County Road JJ; and Trish Stevenson who will display her jewelry at her home, 4380 Blue Mounds Trail.

The Mount Horeb Area Arts Association is sponsoring the event and detailed information about each of the 25 artists, tour map, etc, can be found on its’ website, [www.SpringArtTour.com](http://www.SpringArtTour.com).



**An origami box by Tamlyn Akins**

## Search and Rescue in Vermont

By Johanna Solms

My husband Jack answered the door to our neighbor Trisha McConnell, who was clearly distraught. Her Great Pyrenees, Tulip, had been missing since midday, when she ran into the woods during their walk and failed to reappear. Trisha and her friend Jim had been searching all afternoon without any luck. Tulip’s advanced age, 12 (95 in human years!), and her multiple health issues were cause for concern, as were the threats of a cold night and coyotes. Trisha just knew she had fallen or been caught in wire or brambles, possibly injured.

Jack offered to walk the fields across Old Indian Trail. I didn’t want him out there alone in the dark, so I bundled up. We whistled and called nonstop. About half a mile from home, facing down the slope toward Highway F, we heard a single big “woof” from the gully below us. Could it be? We kept on calling and whistling, and eventually heard one more “woof,” but it was hard to establish an exact location. We agreed to drive to Trisha’s to tell her what we’d heard, and try approaching the gully from the downhill side.

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When we arrived, Trisha and Jim had just returned home after many hours of fruitless searching on foot and by car, but they put their boots back on and we set out across F toward the gully. Suddenly, we heard a deep “woof”—quite close by. “It’s Tulip!” cried Trisha.

We climbed down into the ravine, the only way to get uphill through the undergrowth. Suddenly Jim exclaimed, “It’s Tulip! She’s stuck!” And indeed, there she was. The old girl had slipped off the edge of the ravine and halfway down the steep bank. Her hindquarters were completely trapped under a tangle of deadfall, and all you could see was her big white fluffy head peeking over the fallen branches and her eyes reflecting our flashlights.

It took a huge amount of pushing and pulling and heaving and slipping and sliding to move all 85 pounds of Tulip plus the three of us up to a level spot. Tulip’s hindquarters were not working, but she was calm and cooperative. We inched back down into the ravine and very slowly, with many rest stops, we made our way, under and over branches, past a spot where Jim had to pick Tulip up and lift her over a fallen tree, downhill about 75 feet, to where we had entered the ravine.

It was a great relief to be back on level ground after 20 or 30 minutes of all-out effort. We started out very slowly across the cornfield. We could see Jack’s light coming towards us; he had heard our loud excitement. I shouted “get the car” and we stopped and waited until Jack maneuvered the CRV up the steep farm road and across the rutted, snowy field. Jim and Trisha hoisted Tulip into the back; Trisha squeezed in beside her beloved dog.

Hey, Tulip, no more big adventures for a while, OK? Note: Tulip is fine. No injuries or ill effects.

## The amazing Lola Forshaug

By Jane Hanson

When I first came to Vermont, I was told that I would *have* to meet Lola Forshaug. “She knows everything about Vermont,” people said. “She’s quite the gal!” Soon I did, and she is! Independent spirit that she is she could be seen gadding around the countryside in her little white car, visiting friends and, of course, her grandchildren. Nowadays, she misses the hills and valleys of Vermont as she is confined to her apartment due to health problems, but she’s as sharp as ever and loves to chat.

She was born on August 25, 1912, in Iowa County. True to her spirit of independence, she was driving at the age of 12. A graduate of Highland High School, she attended St. Olaf College, graduating in 1933. When she returned home, she was qualified not only to teach grades K-12, but also to be a social worker. It couldn’t have been a worse time for job hunting. Deep into the depression, the country was slowly trying to recover.

Her first paycheck came in February of 1934 from the Farm Recovery Act—\$60 a month. Later, she was to supervise the hot lunch program for southwestern Wisconsin. While the country was poor in jobs, it was rich in food, and even small and rural schools were able to benefit. Local families who needed work were employed to cook and bake fresh bread. Following the reorganization and codification of the hot lunch program, Lola worked for the Census Bureau. Somewhere in between these jobs, she managed to teach K-12 for 7 years. “The most rewarding job I’ve had is working with the elderly and handicapped of Vermont and the town of Cross Plains,” she said.

Because she was a good Lutheran girl, she was active in Luther League, an extremely popular and active youth and young adult organization within the Lutheran church. Because activities involved many different churches, she was to meet Arnold Forshaug, from Vermont Lutheran Church. In 1950 Arnold and Lola were married, and a year later set up dairy farming on the Forshaug family farm. They lived happily with their two sons Rolf and Eric.

When I asked her what she thought had changed the most about Vermont, she answered without reservation “the residents and the beauty of the land.” The changes have been dramatic: no longer are residents solely the closely-related third and fourth generation offspring of the first settlers, who lived miles apart but were true help-mates in times of need. Now many of us are ex-urbanites who just love getting home and getting away from it all. Her advice to fellow Vermonters: enjoy the beauty of the Vermont hills – it is a true treasure.

Lola is still as fiercely independent as ever – frustrated with her limitations, but no less a free-thinker and speaker. She is another of Vermont’s treasures.



# VERMONT'S VOICE

## CANDIDATES

**Vermont's Voice** asked those candidates who are running for office for the first time, or being contested, or running for a different position to respond to the following questions:

1. Why are you seeking this office?
2. What do you consider to be your qualifications?
3. What would you like to tell us about your background and how it might help you serve in this position?

The candidates are; Ron Jacobson running against Bill Hanson, incumbent, for Supervisor seat 1, Steve Cowan who is resigning as Chairman to run, unopposed, for Supervisor seat 3 and Mark Sherven who is resigning as Supervisor seat 3, to run, unopposed, for Chairman.

Treasurer - Sarah Danz and Clerk - Marc Robertson are seeking re-election unopposed.

### **Ron Jacobson (running against incumbent Bill Hanson for Supervisor seat 1):**

After moving to Vermont Township 10 year ago, I realized what an opportunity it was. The opportunity to walk down the road from my neighbors, yet close enough to be there for each other. With this privilege comes responsibility. We must maintain the rural nature of the township for generations to enjoy as we have. We must provide quality education for our children for them to succeed in life and for Vermont Township to continue to prosper.

I worked as computer programmer and systems analyst for 27 years in both the private and public sector and bring to you experience as a project leader and working in a state government agency. After 27 years I began a new career in real estate and have come to learn that real estate, like any other business, must be carefully planned with results that have widespread and lasting results.

As the son of a horticulturist and city forester of the city of Janesville, I have acquired a wealth of experience that has served me well in maintaining our wooded property on Moen Valley Road. It is this background that likely attracted me to this area. The years of effort I have put into this property are just one of the rewards of living here. Another is the many friendships I've made and wonderful people I've met in this close-knit community. Early immigrants came to Vermont Township seeking a better way of life. Let's keep it that way.



### **Bill Hanson (running against Ron Jacobson for Supervisor seat 1):**



My wife Jane and I have lived in the Town of Vermont since 1997. I am running for Town of Vermont Supervisor. This is my eighth year on the Vermont Town Board and I would ask you to elect me to another term on the Vermont Board because there is unfinished business with which we need to deal.

I am a retired Dane County Deputy Sheriff with 27 years of service. I have a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and an associate degree in Criminal Investigation. Currently, I own a boat repair business {Hanson's Mobile Marine}. I have farmed my 72 acres and once raised registered Red Angus. We now raise horses because we can lose money just as easily doing something we enjoy. We understand the hardships of trying to make a living off the land while paying taxes on the farm.

I have tried to be a voice in holding taxes down so that our residents do not have to be taxed out of their homes. I stand for the right of all citizens to live as they please as long as they do not hurt others. I am a

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proponent of preserving our rural character while also protecting property rights. We have to understand that we are no longer an agricultural township and that the land in Vermont is being used less and less for farming and becoming more valuable as home sites. Vermont has a great land use plan in effect and it is an invaluable guide for our township's future, but we need to develop ordinances and penalties to enforce and protect the plan. I hope to be a part of the ordinance development and implementation.

## **Steve Cowan (running unopposed for Supervisor seat 3):**

I want to continue my education in all phases of local government. I want to have more time to work on specific items such as the Town of Vermont ordinances which have not been revised since 1995. I want the opportunity to help maintain the quality of life in the Town of Vermont and keep it one of the few rural Towns in Dane County.



I have been an active member of the Town of Vermont and area for over 30 years. I have taught in the Wisconsin Heights School District and served 2 terms on the school board. I have been the Town of Vermont Chairman for the past 2 years. I try very hard to listen to all points of view before taking a particular position. I am a self employed remodeling contractor, rental property manager, and raise a few animals on my farm.

I believe education is fundamental to understanding local and world views and people. I have three college degrees from UW-Oshkosh, UW- Platteville, and UW-Madison. I have taught in High School and served on the school board. I have been Chairman of the Town of Vermont for the past 2 years. I was raised on a large dairy farm and through a diverse educational and experiential background, I have the

ability to understand multiple viewpoints and communicate effectively with people. I am an environmentalist and volunteer several weeks per year to further the cause.

Keep Vermont's rural character, supporting the town's land use plan, revisiting the town's ordinances and providing for safe and responsible recreational activities in the Town of Vermont.

## **Mark Sherven (resigning Supervisor seat 3 to run unopposed for Town Chairman):**

A few reasons that I am seeking election to the office of town chair are I enjoy working with people on issues that are important to them - thus important to us. It is also an opportunity to meet and discuss a wide variety of topics of concern with new neighbors as well as those who have lived there entire lives in the town of Vermont. The housing trends in the county have put more demand for housing in towns like Vermont. Some of the growth has been well planned, looks well placed, and did not use up an excessive amount of land. Other development projects - I cannot say the same for. We must look to the future of our development with emphasis on maintaining rural character, low density housing, a good transportation network and an ongoing respect for property owners.



My qualifications for the office of town chair include having served 4 years on the Town board, current plan commission chair and 7 years as a member of the plan commission. I have also been on the road committee since having been elected Supervisor.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in the town of Vermont. I continued dairy farming until 1997. At that time I started in the landscape business and now own and operate my own specialty tree landscape business.

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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* Steve Cowan 767-4616, cell 234-2916

Or email: [scwetlands@tds.net](mailto:scwetlands@tds.net)

Or fax, 767-2916

*Supervisor #1* Bill Hanson 767-5050

*Supervisor #2* Don McKay 437-4071

*Supervisor #3* Mark Sherven 437-3732

*Supervisor #4* Barb Grenlie 437-5856

*Town Clerk* Marc Robertson 767-2457

Or email: [vermontclerk@mhtc.net](mailto:vermontclerk@mhtc.net)

*Town Treasurer* Sarah Danz 767-6017

*Town Patrolman* Dave Haugen 767-3313

*Building Inspector* MEI 608-643-5329

## Plan Commission Members

*Chair* Mark Sherven 437-3732

*Secretary* Johanna Solms 767-2467

Jim Elleson 767-3553

Barb Grenlie 437-5856

Don McKay 437-4071

Bruce Ellarson 767-4974

Eric Haugen 767-3327

## Fire Wardens

Frank Hinze 767-3827

Fern Frame 767-3915

Shirley Brandt, 767-3030

Winter 2007

## VERMONT'S VOICE

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