



Summer 2012
Lisa C. Orman, Publisher
Chris Coffin, Managing Editor

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

“And the survey says”

By Mark Sherven, Town Chairman

Your Town Board is conducting two surveys that will help them make decisions – based on your response. It was the decision of the Town Board to follow these advisory recommendations from citizens that attended the Vermont Annual meeting. Here is some background on each subject.

Item #1

Media attention regarding the 2011 legalization of concealed carry (with a permit) raised awareness of the issue of firearms. Wisconsin has had open carry for many years but concealed carry is new to all of us.

Some municipalities are posting their buildings with a “No Weapons” sign at the front door in the belief that it will keep the building safer. Other municipalities are not posting their building with the belief that a sign at the door will do nothing, or worse, lets someone know that law abiding citizens will not be defending themselves.

Question #1

Should the Town post a “No Weapons” sign on the front door?

YES-_____X NO- _____X

Item #2

The Town does not currently have municipal wide trash or recycling pickup. Town residents have the option to buy a permit for \$125.00 per year for use of the transfer site located on Highway 14 near Mazomanie. The permit holder may take their trash and recyclables to the site every Saturday morning for drop off. Two recent bids obtained for Town wide trash and recycling pickup seemed very competitive. Road side pickup would be weekly and annual cost, per home, for the first year - \$138.00 lowest bid, and \$156.00 for next lowest bid. Price increases could be passed on to us for two reasons; If fuel hits a certain price level or if landfill costs increase.

Question #2

Should the Town pursue Town-wide trash and recycling pickup?

YES _____X NO _____X

Please return your survey to:
Town of Vermont
P.O. Box 261
Black Earth, WI 53515

All voting age residents in each household are encouraged to respond on one survey by **September 7th**.

Your Town board would very much appreciate your participation. If you have questions or comments, you can call Sherven at 437-3732.

Annual Vermont Town Picnic

The Vermont Town Picnic was most enjoyable! Though it was wet outside, inside the Tyrol Basin lodge was cool, beautifully lighted and decorated, and filled with friends and neighbors. Mike Cahill played a lovely guitar throughout the well attended event. Don and Sue McKay provided a delicious lunch and various town members baked pies for dessert.

Organizers John & Barbara Bird, John & Cathy Smith deserve a huge thank you for their efforts. Town chairman Mark Sherven introduced town board members as well as plan commission members and election supervisors, who have had a busy year with six elections!

As the only opportunity we have to gather as a township, the picnic provides time to relax and just visit.

On the way out, many were heard to say, “This was really fun!”



VERMONT'S VOICE

How To Live With Heavy Drinkers

by Earl Brandt

These days, successful CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farmers must have encyclopedic minds, computers, as well as some knowledge of the Bible (“there is a time to sow and a time to reap”). They also know that each species of plant has its own idiosyncrasies and makes its own demands and, therefore, they must be tolerant and subservient, particularly in the matter of nourishment. Above all they must acknowledge and accept that plants are heavy drinkers- as in “Don’t tell us it hasn’t rained for weeks and the temperature is in the 90s. It’s hot down here and we are thirsty. Forget about closing time. We are thirsty.”



Our friends and neighbors, Barb and David Perkins of Vermont Valley Community Farm know all about these finicky plants after 14 years on their farm at Peculiar Corners (CTY RD F&FF) in Vermont Township. They grow over 150 varieties of vegetables fruits and herbs in hoop house and field, for over 1,000 CSA Members who receive weekly deliveries from May 31-Oct 18.



The Traveling Gun, as it's affectionately called at the Farm

The Traveling Boom, in action

The Perkins quench their veggies’ thirst by using the ancient art of irrigation but with modern equipment and careful application. Five different Traveling Guns’ “shoot” water over the fields.

- The smallest can water 1/2 acre in one “run.” The largest can water over 12 acres in one run. Wow!
- A center pivot is stationary and irrigates about 12 acres.
- The newest irrigation implement is a traveling boom but with “mistlers” on a boom instead of one large sprinkler. It gives a gentler spray which is good for germinating seeds and gives an even, soft irrigation like the center pivot.
- The final type of irrigation is drip irrigation used in conjunction with plastic mulch. A plastic T-tape is laid under the plastic mulch and slowly emits water.

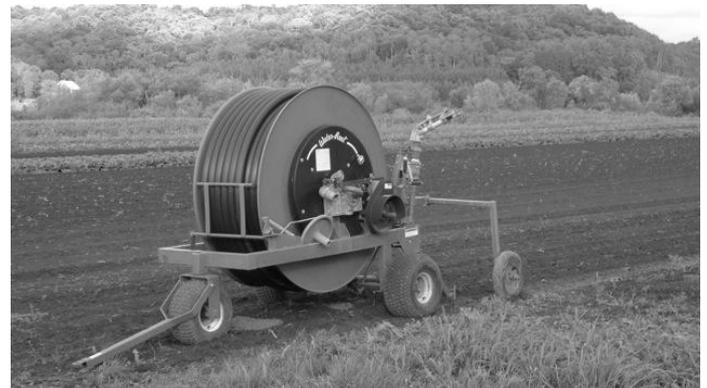
Another toast goes to the toasted workers who braved the extremely hot weather to harvest the vegetables. (I’ll spare the jokes about how hot it was in deference to the workers who wouldn’t think it was funny.)

David’s ingenious harvesting machines certainly helped but most of the vegetables had to be harvested, by hand, by Barb’s dedicated crew of Cambodian/Americans and others. During the 90°+ days Barb personally led the brave brigade into the sourcing fields, often starting at 5:30AM and stopping before noon to avoid the blazing afternoon sun.

They will probably never forget harvesting a huge field of garlic, on hands and knees, one plant a time.

So drink up thirsty plants. Water is on the house. Here’s to you!

Contents of the above article were based, in part, on information gleaned from the Vermont Valley Community Farm Website- vermontvalley.com ., which contains photos of irrigation as well as a wealth of information and beautiful photos.



The Traveling Gun, reeled up and ready to relocate

VERMONT'S VOICE

Precious Water

By Chris Coffin

Water is an amazing substance that is taken for granted every day! Our drought this past summer has made me think a bit more about this resource, where it comes from, how we use it and some of its properties. The United States Geological Service (USGS) has a great website on the subject from which I will share a bit of what I learned.

The earth and we ourselves are made up largely of water. Most of our planet's supply is salty or saline, while just 2.5% is fresh water. That fresh water is tied up in glaciers and ice caps mostly (68.6%), but also found in the ground (30.1%) and as surface water (1.3%). Rivers and lakes provide the majority of the water we use but make up just 0.3% of the fresh water on earth. About 3.4% of Wisconsin land area is water.

Water is rare in that it can be found at three different states at Earth's normal temperatures: liquid, solid or gas. It also dissolves more substances than anything else, carrying minerals, chemicals or nutrients from rocks, fields, rain and surface runoff. Water is one of the most cohesive, or sticky substances. With a high surface tension, molecules form drops that have capillary action (they like to be near each other, are attracted to each other and stick together) and so, can move through blood vessels and roots. Sound can move through water and light is scattered by it, producing rainbows. Luckily it takes a lot of heat to change water's temperature, as oceans and lakes help regulate the temperatures much of the world's people experience.

What Did NWDSS Achieve With Your Help

By Angela Velasquez

At NWDSS, our goal is to make sure our older adults are able to age safely at home and age well in our community. We believe anything less is unacceptable. Toward this end, 2011 was a year of transition, evaluation and growth— each presenting opportunities and challenges for NWDSS.

A report of our efforts during 2011 are briefly detailed below. We truly appreciate the generous commitment of time, service and financial contributions of individuals and organizations that make services to older adults possible—you have made all the difference!

- 7,772 hot, nutritious meals were served to 219 area seniors and more than
- 24,203 miles were driven by 19 volunteer home delivered meal drivers to ensure our homebound seniors were provided daily meals.
- 3,941 hours of supportive home chore and respite services were provided to
- 94 older adults, helping them to remain independent in their homes.
- 131 hours of wellness services were provided to 43 area older adults (Basic Tai Chi, blood pressure readings, podiatry and therapeutic massage).
- 209 volunteer escorted rides, totaling 7,157 miles, were provided by 21 volunteers to area seniors no longer able to drive to ensure they were able to get to medical appointments.
- 1359 Care Van rides were given to 73 area seniors so they could participate in center and community activities.
- 193 area seniors were engaged 1986 times in recreation and socialization activities offered to reduce isolation and keep the mind and body strong.
- 63 volunteers gave 4011 hours of service to meeting the needs of older adults in our community, a cost savings in labor to our community of \$84,231.
- 2600 hours of case management/advocacy services were provided to 118 seniors so they could receive the assistance, support and coordination of services required to remain living at home in our community.
- 652 times, seniors or family members called for critical information and referral regarding an aging related issue.
- 89 area seniors were helped with 66.5 hours of Case Management services to navigate the highly complex paperwork for annual enrollment in a prescription drug plan.
- 93 area seniors were screened for risks of falling caused by adverse drug events, with 14 seniors provided full medication reviews by local pharmacists in order to reduce their risk for falls.

Velasquez is Executive Director, Black Earth-based Northwest Dane Senior Services, Inc.

VERMONT'S VOICE

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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

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 Larry Ziemer 437-4292
Supervisor #2 Don McKay 437-4071
Supervisor #3 John Smith, 767-0809
Supervisor #4 Barb Grenlie 437-5856
Town Clerk Marc Robertson 767-2457
Or email: clerk@townofvermont.com

Town Treasurer Kathy Smith 767-0809
Town Patrolman Jack Schulenberg 437-5490
Building Inspector Johnson Inspections 608-444-0372

Plan Commission Members

Chair Todd Culliton 767-4145
Vice Chair Barb Grenlie 437-5856
Secretary Johanna Solms 767-2467

Jim Elleson 767-3553
Bruce Ellarson 767-4974
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Shirley Brandt 767-3030

Spring 2012

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