

# VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

*Spring elections are coming up April 7 with a primary on February 17. The following candidates (in alphabetical order) are running for office in the Town of Vermont:*

## **For Chairman: 2 year term**

Barbara Grenlie, incumbent, 9973 Greenwald Road, Mt. Horeb  
John Smith, 4016 Forshaug Road, Black Earth

## **Supervisor Seat 1**

Dean Brossenboerk, 3240 Hwy F, Blue Mounds  
Scott Moe, 4378 Hwy F, Blue Mounds  
Griff O'Rourke, 4457 Blue Mounds Trail, Black Earth

## **Supervisor Seat 3**

Todd Culliton, Incumbent, 4150 Blue Mounds Trail, Black Earth *(article was not available at time of publication)*

## **Clerk: 2 year term**

Karen Carlock, Incumbent, 4374 Hwy 78, Black Earth

## **Treasurer: 2 year term**

Kathryn Smith, Incumbent, 4016 Forshaug Road, Black Earth

We have collected profiles from each candidate with pictures in case you recognize some of these folks. Many thanks to you all and good luck!

## **Chairman (2 Candidates)**

### **Barb Grenlie**

It has been an honor to serve as your Vermont Town Chairman these past two years. I thank you, my fellow residents, for your faith and trust in my abilities and ask for your vote again this April. I am willing to spend the time needed, have the interest and passion to continue as your Town Chairman.

I have lived in the Town of Vermont for over 38 years and have served our wonderful Town for over 24 years; first as an appointed Plan Commissioner and Plan Commission Chairman, later as thrice elected Town Board Supervisor and the current, incumbent Town of Vermont Chairman.

*(both profiles continued on insert....)*



### **John Smith**

My wife and best friend Kathy and I have lived in the Town of Vermont for the past 10 years. Two years ago we purchased John and Barbara Bird's home at the end of Blue Bird Trail. We enjoy living here, spending time with family and friends as well as the outdoors, working in the yard, gardening and taking care of our prairies and watching the abundant wildlife.



With a background in engineering and architecture from the University of Toledo, I am employed as a construction superintendent for Newcomb Construction located in Madison. With almost 40 years in the construction industry, starting as a union carpenter, I have been supervising projects for over 30 years.

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## *Chairman profiles, (continued from cover)*

### **Grenlie:**

The experience I have gained over the years on the job cannot be duplicated or brought to the table by anyone else. My knowledge has its roots in Town land division petitions, practices, policies and procedures which led to my ability to supervise the creation and adoption of our current, state-mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We have revised outdated Town Ordinances to support this plan and have created new ordinances to further protect our resources such as our Mining and Blasting Ordinances and Wind Siting and Cell Tower permit ordinances. These are wonderful accomplishments but we must also continue to support our farmers, the Black Earth Fire, Mazomanie EMS and Mt. Horeb Joint Fire Departments, services to our seniors through Northwest Dane, encourage young families, maintain the quality of our roads and buildings and balance our budgets.

### **Smith:**

I am a former Town of Vermont Supervisor, member of the planning commission and road committee as well as Vermont's representative to the Black Earth Fire Department and District 1 EMS. I regretfully resigned when my former employer asked me to oversee the construction of the Great Wolf Lodge project near Boston, Massachusetts where I was the senior construction superintendent.

Previous government service included serving on the Gibsonburg, Ohio Village Council for fifteen years and as the Council president for four of those years. I was Chairman of both the Economic Development Committee and Safety Committee as well as a member of the finance and capital improvement committees. I also served on several county boards.

I'm running for the Chair to ensure that our Town is on a positive path for the future. Fiscal responsibility and land use are of great concern as well as making sure we have an open and transparent government for the citizens of Vermont. The town must be represented at the county level and I believe communication needs to be improved with not only the county, but also with the Dane County Towns Association as well as other local municipalities. If we are not represented our voice does not get heard.

With my past work serving the Town of Vermont, Gibsonburg Council and my work as a construction superintendent, I have the experience to manage and work with people to make sure our town has a bright future.

## **Supervisor Seat 1 (Three Candidates, Vacated by Larry Ziemer)**

### **Dean C. Bossenbroek**

- \* Employed by Briarpatch Youth Services since 1993
- \* Earned B.A. in English, UW-Madison, 1995
- \* I met my wife, Kira Amber, in the Town of Vermont in 1991. We married in 1997 at Brigham Park
- \* Town of Vermont homeowners since 1999.

My wife and I love living in the Town of Vermont, and intend to retire here. My decision to run for the Vermont Town Board is an investment of time to ensure the future of this beautiful place remains a bright one.

The looming issue is the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Ordinance. This would allow landowners to sell their potential development rights to another property owner. This has the dual capability of preserving the rural nature of the township as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and increasing housing density, i.e. the tax base. Attaining a balance between our collective appreciation for the beauty of our section of the Driftless Area and respecting individual property owners' rights is going to be one key to the successful outcome of the TDR issue.

We have a well written, insightful Comprehensive Plan. It is the culmination of much time and cooperative effort on the parts of many Vermonters. Current leadership has done a good job of adhering to the Comprehensive Plan. They are thoughtful and measured in their decision-making processes.



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*(Bossenbrock, cont'd)*

Any collection of individuals working toward common goals will encounter opportunities for continuous improvement. Recognizing and capitalizing on those opportunities make good work groups great. I have spent my career honing consensus creation skills, and I will use them to keep the Board, as a whole, sharp.

Through my profession over the past two decades, I have spent a lot of time building bridges between seemingly disparate sectors of society. I hold youthful offenders accountable for their actions in the eyes of the court, teach them life and job skills, and help them become better decision makers. In turn, victims of juvenile crime are compensated and the larger population benefits from the group community service projects I coordinate. I have been successful doing this in the face of constricting budgets and demands from the County. This experience goes hand in hand with our Town's reality, and I will use it to help Vermont maintain its identity.

## Scott Moe

I have been married to my wife Lori for 30 years. We have two sons, Tyler and Garrett. We moved to the Town of Vermont in 1996 when we purchased the farm next to Lori's Family Farm. I am self-employed working with Agricultural Firms handling their Safety & Regulatory Compliance. My position requires me to work with many different Governmental bodies and the regulations that they enforce.

Currently I am on the Town of Vermont Planning Commission and want to continue to work on improving the communication between Town Government and the citizens of Vermont Township. This seems like a natural stepping stone to go from the Planning Commission to the Town Board. The board has been directing the Plan Commission to improve the process and flow of our applications for driveways, rezones, house siting, CUP's, etc. to make them more user friendly. We are trying to make the process between the Town of Vermont and Dane County less cumbersome and hopefully easier to understand the requirements for each process. I would like to continue that work at the board level. We also need to continue to work on keeping the major decisions impacting the Town of Vermont at the local level not at the County level.



## Griff O'Rourke

I'm 38 years old, grew up on Pewaukee Lake and attended Hartland Arrowhead High School. After high school I enrolled at Arizona State University earning a degree in Geography. After graduation I moved to my farm in Richland County raising cattle and working with area contractors doing municipal work on road maintenance, as well as snow removal for the Town of Mukwonago in Waukesha County.

For the past five years I have owned and operated O'Rourke Co. LLC specializing in commercial property maintenance here in Dane County. I moved to the Town of Vermont two years ago with my longtime companion Mary George and children Matt (17), Mitch (16), Grady (7) and our black lab Maggie (12). Last fall I purchased 55 acres here in Vermont, two miles from our house, with the plan to raise grass fed beef and boer goats for meat as well as control the invasive vegetation overtaking our properties.

I am running for the Supervisor position because my degree in Geography is a natural tie-in to land use and zoning issues. Also I feel my experience in public works and maintenance would make me an asset to the Town of Vermont. I am committed to attending all town meetings and any other obligation required, and will always make time to meet with Vermont residents to discuss issues.

## WELCOME KAREN, TOWN CLERK

Karen Carlock was appointed Town Clerk Jan 1. to temporarily fill the position following the resignation of Marc Robinson. She has declared her candidacy for a 2-year term in the Spring Election. She is well qualified for the position due to her past employments and is looking forward to utilizing those acquired skills as Town Clerk.

She has 'hit the ground running,' preparing for the spring election and other duties and has been welcomed with open arms. Here's what Karen wrote for us about herself:

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*(Carlock, cont'd)*

"I grew up in Stewartville, MN (near Rochester) and went to Carleton College in Northfield, MN. After graduating from college, I started working at Epic where I met my husband Aaron. I enjoyed 5 years at Epic and then we decided that it was time for me to find a job that didn't involve as much travel. I began working at Dean Health Plan and was the program manager for the Medical Value Program - the goal of which was to work with the executives from the hospital, clinic and health plan and implement changes that would improve efficiency and quality. I left Dean Health Plan after we had our first daughter in October of 2012 and then was asked if I would come back on a part-time basis to help with some of the changes that were needed as part of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare or Healthcare Reform). I was there for a little over a year until we had our 2nd daughter who was born on 7/15/2014.



My husband and I moved to Vermont in November in 2011 from McFarland and absolutely love it. I am very excited to be serving the community as Clerk and have already enjoyed meeting many people I had not yet met. I chose to pursue the clerk position because I believe that it is a role that uses my skills in project management, group facilitation yet provides a new and interesting challenge as I move from the healthcare realm to local government. I have always had an interest in government and am thrilled to find a part-time role that allows me to get more involved in the community while still having time during the week at home with my daughters."

## **KATHY SMITH, TREASURER**

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as the Treasurer for the Town of Vermont. When I first became Treasurer, I thought the position responsibilities included collecting, and processing tax payments, preparing financial reports, conducting bank transactions etc. What I have learned in the last four years is that being Treasurer for the Town of Vermont is all of that but so much more. It is about people and relationships. Through my work as Treasurer, I have learned and personally experienced the rich history and the amazing people that make the Town of Vermont a wonderful place to live.

I have a BS in Elementary Education from Indiana University and 35 years of experience in non-profit management with organizations focused on serving youth, families and the community. My employment history actually began in the town of Wild Rose, Wisconsin where I worked (and played) as a summer camp counselor for five summers. This summer position turned into a lifetime career working for the Girl Scouts, YMCA and American Camp Association directing both summer camps and year round outdoor environmental education centers.

In my current position as Risk Management Director for the Wisconsin Youth Company, a non-profit organization providing after school care, day camp programs and enrichment opportunities for youth during out of school time, I have the responsibility of assessing and managing risk throughout all divisions of the company.

My husband John and I have lived here for ten years. During our free time we enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching our birds and deer, enjoying the peace of our prairies, and sharing in the possibility of a new adventure . . . beekeeping. I look forward to serving the residents of the Town of Vermont for a third term as Treasurer.

## **FAREWELL MARC**

Marc Robertson retired from his position as Town Clerk effective December 31, 2014, when he reached the age of 65, but has made himself available to assist the new Clerk in facilitating the transition.

He had served on the Plan Commission since 2000 before he was elected Town Clerk in 2005. During his tenure he served with 3 different Town Chairmen – Steve Cowan, Mark Sherven and Barb Grenlie. Marc had been employed by the UW-Madison Department of Agricultural Economics from 1973 to 1989. He and his wife Anne, who was employed in Madison as a biochemist, had already moved to the Town of Vermont in 1977, having purchased 40 acres of land on Forshaug Rd. They built a house and barn and raised sheep for their lambs and wool, and eventually started Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill.



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They plan to remain in Vermont Township and operate the mill. However Marc has built a small building in an air park near a lake not far from Frankston, Texas for occasional use.

During his tenure as Town Clerk Marc has brought stability and efficiency to the job and provided support to Town Chairman and Board. His service has been gratefully appreciated.

## FAREWELL LARRY, SUPERVISOR

Larry Ziemer has declared his non-candidacy for the position of Supervisor, seat #1 on the Town Board after having served three 2-year terms. During his time on the Board he also served on the Plan Commission for 2 years. He was appointed and served as Town of Vermont Representative on District #1 EMS and the Mt. Horeb Fire Department. In addition to these duties he represented the Town of Vermont on the Dane County Towns Association. He will be missed and his contribution to Town governance will be remembered.

Larry and his wife Pat moved to Vermont Township in 1985 and settled in on what he calls a hobby farm on Hwy JG. Once he retired from a long career with the US Postal Service Larry and Pat found more time for service to the Vermont Lutheran Church and their community.

They are now actively engaged in support of their daughter Carrie at her Holistic Veterinary Clinic she recently established in Madison. Her approach to Veterinary care has been well received and her business is rapidly growing.



## 2014 Christmas Bird Count

By Kerry Beheler

Hello everyone and thank you for counting in the Mt Horeb Christmas Bird Count on Sunday 28 December 2014. It was a historic year, as 2014 marked 25 years of bird data for the Mt H CBC! Some of our counters have been doing these territories for more than 10 years! Ken Wood maintained the historic records from 1989 through 2008. Ken will be forever in our memories. In 2014 we had 23 field parties of 54 counters, and 14 feeder counts with 23 observers. 10 new people and 2 returning counters totaled 77 birders! We have tremendous coverage and excellent birder dedication. Thank you all!

We covered 576 miles in 120 hours, with 46 miles walked in 46 hours, and 4 hours spent owling. We had an unusual count day of no snow cover, little wind, and mild temps between 18 to 25 degrees. We counted 9253 individuals of 55 bird species. In 2006 we had both remarkably similar weather conditions and birds counted (9861 birds and 52 species). This lack of snow cover likely allowed birds to disperse and find scattered natural field and forest seed stocks.

Feeder birds totaled 1201 of 28 species in 2014. The popularity of feeding and attracting winter birds has increased our historic counts for red-bellied, downy, and hairy woodpeckers and white-breasted nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, and American goldfinches. In 2014 tufted titmice and downy woodpeckers had equal numbers counted at feeders and in field territories.

We found 8 different raptor species including 3 turkey vulture, 9 bald eagle, 12 American kestrel, 2 northern harrier, and 118 red-tailed, 5 rough-legged, 3 Cooper's, and 2 sharp-shinned hawks. Thanks to open ground and mild weather, this is the first time Sandhill cranes have been found on a count day (count week only 2001 and 2006). In 2014 we counted 14 Sandhill Cranes.

Four hours of owling yielded 9 great horned and 9 barred, and 1 each of short-eared and northern saw-whet owls. No snowy owls have ever been counted in the Mt H CBC. One belted kingfisher was observed, consistently low for the Mt H count.

We found 8 different raptor species including 3 turkey vulture, 9 bald eagle, 12 American kestrel, 2 northern harrier, and 118 red-tailed, 5 rough-legged, 3 Cooper's, and 2 sharp-shinned hawks. Turkey vultures set a record high (1 in 2000, 2002, 2010). Thanks to the open ground and mild weather this is the first time Sandhill cranes have been found on a count day (count week only 2001 and 2006). In 2014 we counted 14 Sandhill cranes!

Count Day 2015 will be held Sunday 27 Dec, the traditional Sunday after Christmas. The after count compilation potluck will be held from 5 to 7 pm at the Vermont Lutheran Church meeting hall. Many thanks to Peter Gorman for continued impeccable Google territory mapping wizardry! Profound thanks to those who gather and continue the "Ken Wood Memorial lunch."

# VERMONT'S VOICE

## 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.



**Lisa and Chris**

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

## Town Officials

*Chair*, Barb Grenlie 437-5856  
*Supervisor #1* Larry Ziemer 437-4292  
*Supervisor #2* Don McKay 437-4071  
*Supervisor #3* Todd Culliton, 767-4145  
*Supervisor #4* Doug Meier 767-8860  
*Town Clerk* Karen Carlock 767-2069  
Or email: [clerk@townofvermont.com](mailto:clerk@townofvermont.com)

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

Scott Moe 767-4738  
Eric Haugen 767-3327  
Doug Meier, 767-8860  
Don McKay 437-4071

## Plan Commission Members

*Chair* Todd Culliton 767-4145  
*Vice Chair* Jim Elleson 767-3553  
*Secretary* Johanna Solms 767-2467

## Fire Warden

Shirley Brandt 767-3030

## Winter 2015

### VERMONT'S VOICE

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