



The Preservation Trust of Vermont

Continuing Support for Vermont Communities Since 1980

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*This newsletter is made possible in part by a donation from Sovernet,
www.sover.net.*

VERMONT NEWS

***Announcing Vermont's Tenth Annual Historic Preservation Conference:
"The Creative Community: Adventures in Preservation and Imagination."
Friday, May 21, 2004, Bellows Falls***

We are please to announce that Dayton Duncan will be this year's keynote speaker. Mr. Duncan is an award-winning writer and documentary filmmaker and author of nine books including *Out West: A Journey Through Lewis & Clark's America*. For many years he has been involved with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns on his award-winning series for public television including: *The Civil War*, *Baseball*, and *Jazz*. He is the writer and producer of *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of*

Discovery.

Bellows Falls will serve as an example of how a community's downtown can be revitalized through creative exploration: The Exner and Howard Blocks, the Bellows Falls Waypoint Interpretive Center as part of the Connecticut River Byway, and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance. Come experience the energy and successes that come through involvement with the arts!

For more information, contact Robert McBride, conference coordinator at (802) 463-3252 or ptvramp@sover.net. Registration are available now on the Preservation Trust of Vermont's website: www.ptvermont.org

Please note that the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting, originally scheduled for late afternoon, has been rescheduled to the early afternoon.

The conference is co-hosted by the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

2004 Grand Isle Lake House Retreats

The Preservation Trust of Vermont's Lake House retreats are for groups working on an historic preservation or community revitalization project. These retreats are a group mentoring experience where each group is asked to present a 10 to 15 minute case study about a challenge they're facing related to their project, followed by group discussion and brainstorming/cross mentoring. The whole idea is to bring people together from around the state who are working on similar kinds of projects in order to take advantage of the collective experience and thinking. In addition, we have resource people at each retreat to join in the discussion. We try to have about 6-8 groups of 2-4 people representing each project. The goal is to boost projects along their timeline by strategically identifying resources, solving problems, garnering peer support, and generating self-confidence and momentum.

2004 Retreat Dates:

May 17,18

June 21,22

Aug. 10,11

Sept. 13,14 (emphasis on churches)

Oct. 12,13

Check-in at the Lake House is 3:00 and we finish by 2:00 the following afternoon. The Gannett Foundation and Burlington Free Press are generously underwriting the retreats so that the cost to participants for room and three meals is \$75/person for a shared room, \$100 for a single. There are a limited number of single rooms available on a first-come basis. For a preview of the Lake House, please see our web site: http://www.ptvermont.org/lh_booklet.htm.

The retreats are part of the Preservation Trust's Field Service Program, a partnership of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, please contact our Field Representatives: Ann Cousins @ 802-434-5014; ann@ptvermont.org or Doug Porter @ 802-644-2815; doug@ptvermont.org

Preservation Grants Awarded

Since 1994 the Freeman Foundation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont have had a partnership to support preservation projects. Over \$6.9 million in grants have been awarded to help more than 307 projects in communities throughout the state. These

grants have played a key role in over \$85 million in total rehabilitation work. The latest round of grants includes

Strafford Town House and South Strafford Universalist Church: \$60,000

Since 1799 the Town House has stood on a small hill overlooking the Common in the village of Strafford, the centerpiece of a quintessential New England scene. With its simple beauty, strength and integrity of structure, it has become a symbol of Vermont, both nationally and internationally. It has been used for over 200 years for Town Meetings and elections and is the community's location for cultural and educational events. An engineering assessment revealed that the building needs structural repairs to the tower, as well as exterior painting. The Town and a building committee are actively fundraising to complete these repairs this summer at a total cost of \$145,000. This grant will help them reach their goal.

The Federal style South Strafford Universalist Church was built in 1833 when the Universalists moved out of the Strafford Town House, following the separation of church and state. There are surviving horsesheds attached to the northwest corner of the building and these, combined with the church, graveyard, and large maples surrounding them, produce a remarkable ensemble. The church had not been used regularly for the past 20 years when a local group revived the congregation in 2002 and began to care for the property. This grant, coupled with \$50,000 in funds already raised, will replace the metal roof on the church, cupola, bell deck and dome; repair the pediment cornice; repair shutters; paint the exterior; repair and restart the tower clock; repair ceiling plaster and paint the hallway.

Putney Town Hall and Noyes House: \$46,000

The Putney Town Hall is a local landmark on the Green in the center of Putney village. The hip-roofed Italianate style Town Hall was built in 1871 and features paired cornice brackets, a gabled entry pavilion, wooden quoins and oversize windows in the second floor auditorium. Over the past century, the Town Hall has shared space with the high school (1895-1906), the Town library (1896-1967), and the Post Office (1942-1963). Currently the Historical Society and Town offices are located in the building. This grant, coupled with community support and local fundraising, will allow them to fix moisture and foundation problems, and reinforce the roof structure which was rebuilt following a 1917 fire.

The Noyes House was built around 1810 and was purchased by the Noyes family in 1822. A religious society led by John Noyes, "Modern Perfectionism," used the house as its center. Their unique philosophy that included "complex marriage" set them apart from the Putney community, and in 1846 Noyes was arrested and run out of town. He fled to Oneida, New York, where he went on to found an internationally known utopian community, as well as the silverware industry. In 1990 Putney Cares, Inc. purchased the property with the goal of providing a group care home for those in need of a supportive living situation. It currently houses eight residents. Funds already committed and this grant will enable the group to move ahead with a \$400,000 rehabilitation of the house to correct moisture and termite damage to sills, porches, and the first floor structure; upgrade bathrooms and kitchen; repair plaster, and paint.

Third Congregational Church, East St. Johnsbury: \$10,000

Built in 1840, the Greek Revival style Congregational Church is located in the center of the village. Since 1998 the congregation has systematically addressed repairs, installing a new furnace in 1998, making plumbing and electrical repairs in 2000, and replacing the roof and making repairs to the

steeple in 2003. Since 1998 they have raised and spent approximately \$50,600 on the building. This grant will allow them to complete woodwork repairs and paint the exterior.

The Gray Building, Northfield: \$35,000

Built as a high school in 1877, The Gray Building has been vacant for over 10 years. Over the past several months, a local coalition was formed to rescue the building and develop a use for it. The group has made remarkable progress, raising over \$700,000 toward the \$900,000 rehabilitation cost for the exterior and first floor. When complete, the building will serve as a community center. Tenants will include the Northfield Boys and Girls Club, the School District's alternative middle school, a dance studio, and Headstart. This grant will help them complete this phase of the project.

Masonic Lodge, Bristol: \$15,000

Since 1948, the Lodge has been housed in the c.1900 shingle-style building that was formerly the First Congregational Church of Bristol. The building is well cared for and retains most original and early finishes, including the extraordinary sanctuary space with its exposed hammer beam framing, varnished paneling, and art-glass windows. Approximately 200 Lodge members and the Eastern Star use the building for their meetings. In addition, community members use the building (free of charge) nearly every day for scouting, Meals-on-Wheels, church services, community awareness events, weddings and funerals, and a senior meals program. Since 1998, Lodge members have raised funds to remodel the kitchen and dining room, install a new heating system, paint the building exterior, and repair the tower. Currently, the building requires roof replacement. Repairs will cost approximately \$25,000; the Masons have already raised \$8,000. This grant will complete their funding.

Preservation Trust of Vermont's Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Grants and Barn Assessment Grants

The Preservation Trust offers two grants programs to help with project planning: The Robert Sincerbeaux Fund grants, up to \$500, help non-profit organizations and municipalities get technical expertise to move preservation projects forward. Barn assessment grants are available for individuals to help hire a contractor to do a condition assessment of an historic barn. The Barn Assessment grants are made possible by a generous grant from the Gannett Foundation and the Burlington Free Press.

March/April 2004 Awards:

- ***Reading Christian Union Church***, built in 1861 and listed on the State Register, a \$250 grant to hire Tom Keefe to do a condition assessment. This condition assessment is meant to provide a road map for future building owners or stewards as the building is put into community use.
- ***Lamoille Grange #233*** in Morrisville received a \$250 grant to hire Tom Keefe do a condition assessment of their 1857 building, originally the first [Poor] People's Academy. There is much community interest in expanding the use of this building in order to assure its viability.
- ***The Lunenberg Methodist Church and the Congregational Church*** each received a \$250 grant to hire Jan Lewandowski to do a condition assessment. These churches are part of a collection of historic buildings on the Green that help to give the village center its special quality.
- ***The Vermont Studio Center in Johnson*** received a \$500 grant to hire Tom Keefe to do a condition assessment of the ***Kowalsky Annex and the Cottage***. The assessment will help them determine best uses for the historic buildings.

- ***The Huntington Baptist Church*** received a \$250 grant to hire Jeremiah Parker to do a condition assessment and make recommendations for repairing a leaky bell tower.
- ***Building a Better Brattleboro and the Barre Partnership*** each received a scholarship to enable their downtown directors to attend the National Main Street Conference in Albuquerque, NM.
- ***Nella Wennberg*** received a grant through a partnership of the Preservation Trust and the Burlington Free Press/Gannet Foundation to assess and make recommendations for the repair of an 1830 barn in Waterbury. The farm has been in Wennberg's family since 1966.
-

City of St. Albans Awarded Downtown Designation

The Vermont Downtown Development Board voted on April 26th to award downtown designation to the City of St. Albans under the 1998 Downtown Development Act. St. Albans joins Barre, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Brandon, Brattleboro, Burlington, Middlebury, Montpelier, Morristown, Poultney, Randolph, Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Springfield, Vergennes, Windsor and Winooski in the growing network of designated downtowns.

Governor Jim Douglas said Vermont's vibrant downtowns and villages are the very places that many people visualize when they envision the ideal, healthy, livable community. "It's this vision that brings many folks here to live and work, and it is this vision that attracts visitors and their commerce to our state," he said. "These designations are particularly impressive when you consider that just a few years ago there was almost no new revitalization in Vermont's downtowns. Today, our downtowns are centers for new investment, both public and private, and a focus for my administrations smart growth agenda."

John Hall, Vice Chair of the Downtown Development Board and Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs recognized the City's efforts, saying, "We are really pleased to be able to recognize the tremendous energy and commitment shown by this community. Their hard work is beginning to pay off, and they have great plans for enhancing the economy of this beautiful and historic downtown. I think we can look forward to some wonderful changes in downtown St. Albans."

Burlington's application to renew and expand their Designated Downtown District was also approved at the Board meeting. Downtown Designation remains in effect for 3 years, at which point it must be renewed.

In order to obtain downtown designation, a community must demonstrate a lasting commitment to revitalization through planning, capital improvements, economic development, and preservation of historic resources. The community must also have an established downtown organization devoted to managing the revitalization effort - from setting work priorities to organizing volunteers and raising the funds necessary to support its work. As a designated downtown, St. Albans is now eligible to apply for a variety of programs to assist revitalization projects, including state funds for transportation improvements, and tax credits for the rehabilitation of older and historic buildings and for life safety and accessibility code compliance.

The Downtown Development Board also awarded Village Center Designation to Benson. With 27 Designated Village Centers now in Vermont, Commissioner Hall noted, "the popularity of this new program continues to grow. Many of our communities are already working to revitalize their village centers, we are happy that through this program we can bring more state assistance to those efforts."

Several other awards were made at the Board's meeting as well. Tax credits were

awarded for the rehabilitation of historic buildings in 2 communities - \$15,000 for 69 Barre Street in Montpelier, and \$6,000 for 22 Pleasant St. in Randolph. Finally a \$15,050 tax credit was awarded for façade improvements to 85 Portland Street in downtown Morrisville.

Big Box Up-Date

Wal-Mart and its developers are continuing to look for locations for large-scale stores in Morrisville, St. Johnsbury, Derby, Middlebury, and Rutland. In St. Albans the developers expect to submit a specific proposal for a 150,000 sq. ft. store in May. It will need both local and Act 250 permits before it can be built. A local citizens group is forming to oppose the project. For more information check out this recent story in the St. Albans Messenger:

<http://www.samessenger.com/APR04/boxes0417.html>

In response to public input and concern over the future of big box development in Bennington, the Bennington Select Board recently adopted an interim zoning bylaw that caps retail development at 75,000 sq. ft. on Northside Drive and 50,000 sq. ft. everywhere else in town. This measure can be in effect for up to 2 years while the select board and Planning Commission discuss what kind of permanent restrictions to put in place. Using size caps as a method to curb big box development has been used effectively in other states, but this is the first and only town-wide size cap in Vermont.

Dozens, maybe even hundreds, of other cities and towns have enacted zoning rules that prohibit stores over a certain size. They have done so in part because they recognize that their economies can absorb only so much new retail without causing significant dislocations of existing businesses. Large-scale stores may also be out-of-scale with existing buildings and thus detract from the town's character. They can cause traffic congestion and unduly burden public roads and services.

Limiting the allowable size of retail stores will keep out some national retailers that refuse to build stores smaller than their standard formats; others will opt to construct stores more appropriately scaled for the community. What constitutes an appropriate upper limit for the size of retail stores depends on many factors, including the size of the community, the scale of its existing buildings, and its long-term goals with regard to retail development.

Some communities have banned only the biggest of the big boxes, while others have chosen a much lower threshold:

- Northampton, Massachusetts — Allows stores of no more than 90,000 square feet, about the size of two football fields, but smaller than a typical Wal-Mart or Home Depot store.
- Belfast, Maine — In 2001, voters endorsed a referendum capping retail stores at 75,000 square feet.
- Easton, Maryland — After studying the issue for several months, city officials concluded, "Once a big box retail store exceeds 65,000 square feet, it is of such a scale that its negative impacts outweigh its positive ones." Easton now limits stores to no more than 65,000 square feet.
- Ashland, Oregon — Bars stores over 45,000 square feet (about the size of a Borders superstore).
- Boxborough, Massachusetts — Set its limit at 25,000 square feet.

To prevent large-scale developments barred from a city from simply locating just beyond its

borders on county land, in some places, cities and their surrounding counties have enacted identical size policies:

- Hood River, Oregon — In 2002, the city and county concurrently adopted rules limiting retail uses to 50,000 square feet.

[Quoted from *10 Reasons Why Vermont's Homegrown Economy Matters, And 50 Proven Ways to Revive It*, by Stacy Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Published by the Preservation Trust of Vermont,

http://www.ptvermont.org/publications/HomegrownEconomy/sprawl_book.htm]

New VHS Museum Exhibit Now Open

The Vermont Historical Society opened its new exhibit, Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories, on Saturday, March 20, 2004.

Located in the Pavilion Building, adjacent to the Vermont State House, the museum had been closed since November 2001 when a large-scale construction was started to convert the Society's old museum, library, and office spaces to a permanent exhibition of Vermont's history.

The 5,000 square foot exhibit, Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories, tells the story of Vermont's people from 1600 to the present. Using Vermont's motto, "Freedom and Unity," as its thematic cornerstone, the exhibition shows visitors how Vermonters have always balanced individual freedoms and community.

Visitors are able to sit in a recreated 17th-century Abenaki dwelling, walk into a Revolutionary-era tavern, sample the smells of an early 19th-century store, and tap out a message on a late 19th-century railroad office telegraph.

A theatre in the center shows a 15-minute film on the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and Civil Union. Major sections of the exhibition feature Vermonters' sacrifices for the Civil War and World War II.

Before exiting the show everyone has the opportunity to give an opinion on what they saw, what Vermont's motto of "Freedom and Unity" means to them, or how their family history is part of Vermont's story.

"This is the place to go if you want to see and experience the breadth of Vermont at one site," says Kevin Graffagnino, Director of the Vermont Historical Society. "Visitors will get a sense of Vermont's image and identity over time and the special relationship Vermonters continue to have with the land and their communities."

The opening of the exhibition coincides with the Society's launch of its newest publication, Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont, by Michael Sherman, Gene Sessions, and P. Jeffrey Potash. "This book is the perfect companion to the exhibit," adds Graffagnino. "It is the complete, up-to-date, one-volume history of Vermont."

The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. year round and on Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m., May - October. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, students, and children. Children under six years are admitted free and a one-day family pass is available for \$12.00. For information call 802-828-2291.

St. Monica's Parish, Barre

The Barre Preservation Society (BPS) has been struggling for over two years through the city's zoning process and the courts in order to prevent the demolition of the convent located on the campus of St. Monica's Parish on Summer Street. The convent was constructed in 1939 during the Great Depression, and is very much woven into the fabric of the community's history. Local residents tell tales of how their parents sacrificed in order to fund the construction of the building. The case is now headed back to the Design Review Board for its third remand. BPS is committed to seeing the effort through to a successful outcome, but the financial costs have been significant; the landowner has substantial financial resources. Please direct questions to 802-476-7300.

Send contributions to: Barre Preservation Society, c/o Mary Welch, Treasurer, 77 Ayers Street, Barre, VT 05641. Checks should be made out to the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which is accepting contributions on behalf of BPS.

National Register News

National Register News: The National Park Service has recently listed the following Vermont property on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Daniels Building, Hardwick

The Hardwick Village Historic District National Register listing was amended in order to add the c. 1870 Daniels Building to the district. This former tannery, and later foundry for the Sam Daniels Manufacturing Company, sits next to the Lamoille River and adjacent to Main Street in the center of Hardwick Village. The 2 1/2 story, wood frame, vernacular building is typical of mid-nineteenth century industrial buildings built in Vermont. The building has been rehabbed for commercial use and was a Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit project.

Ascutney Union Church to Uncover Old Artwork in a Preservation Education Institute Workshop

by Elsie Dodge

Mike Smith, a preservation plasterer, heaves a sigh and moves his ladders to the wall behind the pulpit in the Ascutney Union Church. He starts to scrape away paint, preparing to repair another crack in the plaster. Suddenly, he notices various colors of paint underneath the layer he is removing. Proceeding carefully, he peels more paint. A design is revealed – a letter – a quotation – a mural!

Mike Smith realized that the decorations he had begun to uncover were probably valuable to the history of the 1846 building, so he stopped scraping and informed the church officials of his find. Over the next several months, the trustees of the church explored the value and significance of the wall painting.

An August 2002 analysis by UVM preservation student Lois Coulter and another by well-known art preservation specialist Sara Chase confirmed Smith's original hunch. The mural appears to be of a type known as deceptive or trompe l'oeil painting, which was usually a mural behind the pulpit, intended to suggest a recessed area. Painted decorations inside churches, while common in the 1800's, have long since been lost through renovation and redecoration, so the artwork in the Ascutney Union Church may be of significant historic value. In Vermont, only a few other churches are known to still contain wall paintings of this type. The known paintings in Gaysville and Bethel have been covered over, but paintings may still be

viewed in Chester and Jericho.

Wall stenciling and artwork from an earlier era also exist in various Weathersfield homes. Weathersfield resident Eve Noake has documented much of this wall art. Ascutney Union Church's mural may add yet another era to the art history of Weathersfield.

Now, a workshop to be held on May 14-15, 2004 conducted by the Preservation Education Institute of Windsor, Vermont, will finish uncovering the mural that Mike Smith discovered. Sara Chase, a noted architectural conservator, will explain ways of uncovering wall paintings without damaging them as well as issues of style and preservation, will lead this workshop.

The Preservation Education Institute is a division of Historic Windsor, Inc., which preserves Windsor House by providing for its maintenance and capital improvements. When needed, the organization plays an active role in preservation policy and advocacy, consults on a fee-for-service basis, and shares expertise with historic property owners and professionals. The organization participates directly in preservation activities and fosters appreciation and action by others to preserve historic properties. The Preservation Education Institute provides training for professionals and homeowners in historic preservation throughout the United States.

For more information concerning this workshop, contact the Preservation Education Institute in Windsor at 802-674-6752.

Success at Southern Vermont Recreation Center, Springfield

The Southern Vermont Recreation Center benefit auction last weekend broke all fund raising records for similar events in the area.

The Foundation completed final tallies today and announced that the Saturday Auction at Springfield's Hartness House raised \$27,512 toward the construction of the regional Recreation Center that will serve eight towns in Vermont and neighboring New Hampshire.

"Frankly, we were blown away," said Bob Flint, spokesperson for the Recreation Center. "We raised three times the amount of our most optimistic expectations."

Veteran Auctioneer Clint Martin said the Recreation Center auction results were "by far the largest of any charity event I've conducted in the area." He attributed the surprising results to the fact that "the regional Recreation Center has developed a large, enthusiastic group of supporters and the very high quality of donated auction items." He particularly singled out the hard work of Barbara Thompson and Elizabeth Chase, the organizers of the event.

In its major fund drive, the Recreation Center has received pledges and gifts of more than \$3.1 million to build the facility that will include a competition size swimming pool, a therapy pool, indoor walking track, child care, a basketball court, cardio vascular exercise area, public meeting rooms and a special children's gymnasium and indoor playground.

Fundraising activities are continuing. As Flint put it, "there's still some heavy lifting to do". Contributions to the Southern Vermont Recreation Center may be sent to Martha Wadsworth, Springfield Savings and Loan, or Diane Parker, Chittenden Bank, both in Springfield. All contributions are tax deductible.

COMMENTARY

A Tribute to William B. Pinney by Chester H. Liebs

This year marked the passing of William B. Pinney, one of the most influential twentieth-century Vermont preservationists.

A World-War-Two veteran, Bill Pinney went on to assist with the post-war reconstruction of Germany, then returned to the states where he worked at the Case Western Reserve Historical Society's Hill Farm in Ohio. Bill and his family moved to Vermont in the 1960s where he served as Assistant Director of the Shelburne Museum. In 1967 he became the first director of a small government agency, the Vermont Board of Historic Sites, which oversaw state-owned historic properties ranging from the Bennington Monument to the Constitution House. Like many state-owned historic sites' systems at the time, Vermont's was in a somewhat sleepy state. Bill quickly set out to make up for deferred maintenance and beef up site interpretation, including building a visitor's center in Plymouth in time for the Calvin Coolidge Centennial Celebration in 1972.

At the same time preservation was at a crossroads in Vermont. As a result of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Vermont, as well as other states, began to receive increasing amounts of Federal-matching funds for surveying historic properties, nominating sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and awarding grants to boost preservation projects including adaptive uses and not just museums. As a result the Board's portfolio (it became a division of the Agency of Development and Community Affairs in 1971) expanded to include protection of Vermont's built environment in addition to managing state-owned historic sites.

A lover of colonial buildings and collector of fine, early-American antiques, Bill also went through a profound transformation. With Urban Renewal decimating historic areas in Burlington and Winooski, and historic structures from railroad covered bridges to hotels like the Windsor House being threatened every day, he expanded his vision beyond that of a connoisseur of early Americana to champion preserving the entirety of Vermont's cultural heritage. Once Bill Pinney decided to do something there was little that could stop him.

Bill supported expansion of the state survey and National Register programs, successfully battled larger states to gain Vermont a bigger piece of the Federal-funding pie, and embraced the concept that historic as well as natural resources should be protected under the state's pioneering environmental-protection laws such as Act 250. He even courageously and successfully challenged the powerful Vermont Highway Department by asking the State Environmental Board to put the brakes on a massive road project, dubbed the "Brookfield Massacre" by then Governor Thomas P. Salmon, that threatened this tiny historic Orange county hamlet.

Bill then set his sites on revising the legislation authorizing his fledgling agency to better reflect its much expanded mission. This resulted in passage of the landmark Vermont Historic Preservation Act of 1975 which has guided the state's successful historic preservation programs up until the present day. Bill went on to direct the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation until retiring from state government in 1983. Bill Pinney was one of Vermont's true preservation pioneers and we all owe him a great deal of thanks.

(Professor Emeritus of History and founding director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont, Chester Liebs worked with Bill Pinney, as Vermont Supervisor of Historic Sites, from 1971-1975)

Home Shopping Networks by Stacy Mitchell, AlterNet

March 17, 2004

When Ames, a chain of discount department stores in the northeast, went belly-up last year, closing all of its 327 stores, towns like Middlebury, Vermont were left with no place to buy many basic housewares like sheets and shower curtains. Residents began driving north to Burlington or south to Rutland to shop. Concerned about hemorrhaging retail sales, city officials called in RKG Associates, an economic consulting firm.

RKG concluded that Middlebury consumers are spending nearly \$7 million elsewhere each year. The firm recommended that the city stem the leakage by enticing Wal-Mart to build a supercenter in this town of 8,500 people. Wal-Mart had in fact already been snooping around Middlebury. After a bruising battle with Vermonters ten years ago, which forced the company to scuttle plans for some stores and dramatically reduce the size of others, the relentless expander has returned to the state and intends to build as many as half a dozen supercenters.

But many Middlebury residents refuse to accept the inevitability of the low-wage retailing giant. Allowing Wal-Mart to build would ignore a vital lesson about local self-reliance well illustrated by the closure of Ames. It would render the community even more dependent – for goods, jobs and tax revenue – on a single absentee-owned corporation that might use its power to raise prices, suppress wages, extort a tax break, or simply pick up and leave one day.

These residents have their own ideas about solving Middlebury's dilemma. They want to open a community-owned department store in the center of town.

There are a growing number of successful community-owned retail enterprises operating around the country. Last week, at an event organized by the Middlebury Business Association, more than seventy residents gathered to hear from a panel of speakers and discuss the idea. The panel included environmental author Bill McKibben; Bob Fuller, owner of the Bobcat Café in nearby Bristol; Bob Rottenberg of the Greenfield, Mass.-based Cooperative Development Institute; and me.

There are three ways to structure a community enterprise. Consumer cooperatives, which have a long and successful history in food retailing, are one possibility. Another involves the community putting up the start-up capital for a business that is owned and operated by a local entrepreneur. The Bobcat Café is a good example of this. It was financed entirely by three dozen Bristol residents, who saw a need for a local watering hole and put up \$5,000 each, which was paid back over two years with a modest return and a dining discount.

Finally, there are community corporations. These are capitalized through stock shares sold to local residents (bylaws typically stipulate that stockholders must live in the state) and are run by an elected board of directors. Investors generally expect that much of their return will be in the form of community benefits, rather than financial gains.

A small but growing number of community corporations are operating stores and restaurants around the country. In Swanville, Minnesota, for example, some sixty families share ownership of the town's only restaurant, Granny's Café, which opened three years ago financed by more than \$300,000 in community capital. When the general store and lunchtime gathering spot in Hebron, New Hampshire, closed a few years back, more than half of the village's four hundred residents chipped in to buy and re-open the store as a collective enterprise.

Perhaps the most relevant examples for Middlebury are community-owned department stores that have opened over the last few years in about half a dozen towns in Montana and Wyoming. Much like Middlebury, these communities faced a gaping hole in their local economies when a regional department store chain called Stage folded in the late 1990s. Rather than allow their towns to decline, residents got together and launched their own homegrown stores.

One that's representative of the others is the Mercantile in Powell, a town of 5,500 in northwestern Wyoming. After Stage closed, a group of residents hit on the idea of a community-owned store. They drew up a business plan, filed incorporation papers with the state and began selling shares priced at \$500 each. Much to their surprise and delight, within a few months, they'd sold over 800 shares, raising more than \$400,000 in capital.

The Merc opened in July 2002. The store sells affordably priced clothing and shoes for the whole family, and may expand into housewares one day. With a Wal-Mart supercenter just 20 miles away in Cody, some Powell residents predicted that the Merc, like most small town stores focused on basic needs, would struggle and fail.

But so far, the store has been remarkably successful. It has met vital local needs, boosted sales at other downtown businesses and even turned a profit. During its first year, the Merc took in \$500,000 in revenue, outpacing projections, and generated a profit of \$36,000. The earnings were reinvested and used to expand the store from 7,500 to 10,000 square feet.

Founders cite several factors in The Merc's success, including top-notch customer service and a board made up of experienced local businesspeople. With no debt to service or stockholders demanding high rates of return, prices can be kept relatively low. "We're probably not quite as low as Wal-Mart," said store manager Paul Ramos, "but we're close and we usually do better than the mall up in Billings."

Another significant factor in The Merc's success, according to board member Ken Witzeling, is the community's sense of ownership. "When you walk down the street and talk to people about the store," he told me, "they all refer to it as 'our store.' Not 'the store,' or 'that store.' It's 'our store.'"

Back in New England, Middlebury is not the only community struggling with the loss of Ames and weighing the merits of a homegrown solution. In Greenfield, Massachusetts – which rejected Wal-Mart ten years ago in a voter referendum that drew national notice – a committee has formed to explore the idea of a community-owned department store.

Although modest in scale and few in number, these models deserve wide circulation. As the consequences of Wal-Mart and other big chains become ever more apparent, communities must not only counter their growth, but offer viable alternatives by expanding established local businesses, supporting new entrepreneurs, and, where necessary, stepping in to fill the gaps.

Stacy Mitchell is a senior researcher with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and produces The Hometown Advantage Bulletin, an email newsletter on effective strategies to curb the growth of chains and strengthen locally owned businesses. The article above was reprinted with permission.

NATIONAL NEWS

2004 National Preservation Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2004 National Preservation Awards, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Home & Garden Television. Individuals who have been involved in an outstanding preservation project completed in the past three years - or those who know of a company, organization or individual who has helped save a part of America's local or national heritage - are encouraged to submit a nomination. The coveted annual awards recognize singular success in preserving, rehabilitating, restoring or interpreting America's architectural and cultural heritage. Winners will be honored at the National Preservation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 28-Oct. 3, 2004.

The nomination deadline for National Preservation Honor Awards is May 1, 2004. To receive nomination materials: Phone: 202-588-6236, Email: awards@nthp.org, or download the form at www.nationaltrust.org.

Save America's Treasures

The Save America's Treasures public partners are now accepting applications for the FY 2004 Save America's Treasures grant round to preserve nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts, and historic structures and sites. Applications must be received at the appropriate address by May 19th-- this is not a postmark date. These grants are administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and will be awarded through a competitive process. Grants require a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match, which can be cash, donated services, or use of equipment. To access guidelines and to download an application, please click <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/application.htm>. For additional information, please contact the NPS at (202) 513-7270, ext. 6 or Save America's Treasures at the National Trust at (202) 588-6202.

Preserve America Communities

Twenty new Preserve America Communities were designated in March: White Mountain Apache Tribe, AZ; Fresno, CA; Fort Myers, FL; Rock Island, IL; Douglas, Grand Rapids, and Saugatuck, MI; Biloxi, Hattiesburg, Pascagoula, and Port Gibson, MS; Virginia City, MT; Bristol, Cranston, and Warren, RI; Franklin, TN; Burlington, VT; Smithfield and Williamsburg, VA; and, Cheyenne, WY.

The Preserve America program provides the designation to offer national recognition for what communities have already achieved and helps to enhance the contribution of heritage tourism to their economies. <http://www.preserveamerica.gov>

Congress for the New Urbanism: Local Chapter Forms

Local planners, developers, architects, environmentalists, and others involved in urban planning decisions recently organized the New England chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), the second chapter formed under the umbrella of the national organization. The CNU, best known for its visionary attempts to reform suburban development and promote better regions, towns and neighborhoods, supports an urban planning philosophy that calls for the creation of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods rather than sprawling, single-use developments.

Over the past eight years, forward-looking investors in real estate development, banking, brokering, construction and retail have recognized that current suburban development patterns are inefficient, cause traffic jams and erode civic involvement. Some have followed the New Urbanist planning philosophy by creating new neighborhoods and revitalizing old ones with new investment.

Ironically, New England has lagged behind other regions of the country in embracing New Urbanism, a form of development that reflects the traditional New England village concept. "Its very exciting to establish a CNU chapter in New England as there are important ways in which new Englanders can contribute to the national dialogue," says architect and CNU member David Dixon of Goody, Clancy & Associates. "At the heart of New Urbanism is designing around community instead of creating unrelated buildings and developments, weaving our society together instead of housing it separately. Here in New England, New Urbanism is viewed more about community building than almost anywhere else in the country. We can take a lead in this aspect of New Urbanism."

The New England chapter of the CNU will give professionals involved in development the

chance to teach one another about what works and what doesn't, pushing best practices forward. "This will give us an opportunity to look at how New Urbanism can help build better neighborhoods and a greater sense of community in village centers and downtowns," says Dixon.

The New England chapter will hold their kick-off event in Boston Wednesday evening, May 5th to examine "New Urbanism in New England: Revisiting Traditional Neighborhood Design." Confirmed panelists include: Buff Chace, developer and Town Founder of Mashpee Commons; Evan Richert, Director of GrowSmart Maine; Alex Krieger, Director of the Harvard Graduate School of Design; and Jamie Correa, Principal of Correa Valle Valle. Harriet Tregoning, Executive Director of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, will moderate. To register for the panel discussion or to join the New England chapter of the CNU, go to their website at www.cnunewengland.org.

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that was founded in 1993. It works with architects, developers, planners and others involved in the creation of cities and towns, teaching them how to implement the principles of the New Urbanism. These principles include coherent regional planning, walkable neighborhoods and attractive, accommodating civic spaces. CNU has 2,500 members through the United States and around the world. It sponsors annual conferences, known as Congresses, for the sharing and discussion of best practices in New Urbanism.

For additional information, contact Lillian Shuey Picchione, CNU, New England Chapter, Communications Director, at (617) 258-9433.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Fire Safe Rehabilitation

Fire Safe Building Rehabilitation (ISBN 0-87765-609-6) is a new book available from the National Fire Protection Association. A fire protection engineer, Cornwall resident Jack Watts, and a preservation architect, Marilyn Kaplan, have collaborated to compile basic information on issues associated with protecting our built heritage from fire. The book takes the reader from basic conservation concepts through the technical aspects of current fire safety practice. It bridges the gap between the societal goals of historic preservation and safety from fire and emphasizes their mutual intersection. More information is available at <http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/product.asp?pid=FSBR03>.

10 Reasons Why Vermont's Homegrown Economy Matters, And 50 Proven Ways to Revive It

by Stacy Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Published by the Preservation Trust of Vermont

This new 60-page publication is the result of several years of collaboration between the *Institute of Local Self-Reliance* and *The Preservation Trust of Vermont*. Detailed here are specific reasons why locally owned businesses matter and practical ways to plan for a homegrown economy, foster revitalization and unite independent businesses. Mitchell uses practical examples from successful businesses and vibrant communities all across the states to illustrate the point that everyone benefits from keeping Vermont's economy local. The book is available for \$10 from the Preservation Trust of Vermont (802) 658-6647 or as a free download pdf file from the Preservation Trust website:

http://www.ptvermont.org/publications/HomegrownEconomy/sprawl_book.htm

Road Trips through History: A Collection of Essays from Preservation Magazine

Since 1992, Dwight Young has used his column "The Back Page" in Preservation magazine to record his witty, thought-provoking, and poignant observations about historic places and how they affect us—from grand monuments to the humble front porch. Fifty four of his essays have been reprinted in this 116-page publication which includes lively drawings and color photos that illustrate the people and places highlighted in each essay.

Thru May 31st: Order a copy of Road Trips through History: A Collection of Essays from Preservation Magazine and receive an offer for a six-month complimentary membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation. And not only that, the shipping and handling will be absolutely free. This book and membership offer makes a great gift for participants and dignitaries involved in Preservation Week activities. Non-member \$15.95 / NTHP member \$14.35 / NT Forum \$11.96

<http://www.preservationbooks.org/index.asp>

<http://www.preservationbooks.org/showBook.asp?key=297>

New! Special Places in Vermont Publication

With your help, the Preservation Trust of Vermont is going to build a collection of Special Places in Vermont. Our goal is to publish a series of short paragraphs written by residents describing the off-beat, the undiscovered, and the historic spots that help to make Vermont a special part of our world.

Initially we will publish the collection on our website, and may in the future publish a book. Contributions can be varied -- from a walk through a village district or former marble quarry, to a meal at a restored hotel or breakfast at an historic diner, to the experience of a service in an 1850 church, or a swim in a pond above an historic crib dam. The possibilities are endless, and the more we all enjoy and appreciate these special places, the more we will all work to maintain them.

We welcome contributions of all kinds. If you have some place you'd like to share, please email meg@ptvermont.org. Please describe the site and tell us why it's important to you. Keep in mind that we would like to include your name and the town where you live in the future publications.

Thanks for being a part of our project!

A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home

A new book by Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004), extensively features photographic images from the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) collection at the Library of Congress. In his acknowledgements, Foster cites "the marvelous Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) collection of architectural photographs, which were so necessary to my work." <http://www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/>

Architectural Photographer Seeks Small Cottages for New Publication

Tad Pfeffer, a photographer from Colorado, is working on an architectural photography book of small cottages in Maine, NH, and Vermont. He's looking for help locating and getting permission from owners to photograph locally built cottages. His publisher is David Godine, from Boston.

Tad is looking for small, locally built seasonal cottages from the early 20th century (approximately) - not local traditional houses converted to summer use, nor primitive 'camps' or cabins, but buildings specifically designed and built for summer use. Altogether during the last 4 years he's photographed about 30 or so houses in 6 or 7 communities in

northern New Hampshire and Maine, and is now expanding his work into southern New Hampshire and Vermont.

The cottages he's looking for are small, simple, typically uninsulated, summer-only structures, but not as primitive as what might be called a 'camp'. They're also not the large and ornate summer 'cottages' for which parts of New England are famous (and which Bryant Tolles wrote about in his 'Summer Cottages of the White Mountains'), but rather much more modest houses (really cottages) which show some influence of late 19th styles (like Shingle Style), but in a reduced, vernacularized form.

He has some sample photographs posted on his web site at <http://tintin.colorado.edu> Follow the link on the left of the page labeled 'Photos and Stories' and then click on the image labeled 'Hand of the Small Town Builder'.

Please forward any leads to Tad Pfeffer pfeffer@tintin.Colorado.EDU

EDUCATION and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

***Announcing Vermont's Tenth Annual Historic Preservation Conference:
"The Creative Community: Adventures in Preservation and Imagination."
Friday, May 21, 2004, Bellows Falls***

We are please to announce that Dayton Duncan will be this year's keynote speaker. Mr. Duncan is an award-winning writer and documentary filmmaker and author of nine books including *Out West: A Journey Through Lewis & Clark's America*. For many years he has been involved with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns on his award-winning series for public television including: The Civil War, Baseball, and Jazz. He is the writer and producer of *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*.

Bellows Falls will serve as an example of how a community's downtown can be revitalized through creative exploration: The Exner and Howard Blocks, the Bellows Falls Waypoint Interpretive Center as part of the Connecticut River Byway, and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance. Come experience the energy and successes that come through involvement with the arts!

For more information, contact Robert McBride, conference coordinator at (802) 463-3252 or ptvramp@sover.net. Registration are available now on the Preservation Trust of Vermont's website: www.ptvermont.org

Please note that the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting, originally scheduled for late afternoon, has been rescheduled to the early afternoon.

The conference is co-hosted by the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

2004 Grand Isle Lake House Retreats

The Preservation Trust of Vermont's Lake House retreats are for groups working on an historic preservation or community revitalization project. These retreats are a group mentoring experience where each group is asked to present a 10 to 15 minute case study about a challenge they're facing related to their project, followed by group discussion and brainstorming/cross mentoring. The whole idea is to bring people together from around the

state who are working on similar kinds of projects in order to take advantage of the collective experience and thinking. In addition, we have resource people at each retreat to join in the discussion. We try to have about 6-8 groups of 2-4 people representing each project. The goal is to boost projects along their timeline by strategically identifying resources, solving problems, garnering peer support, and generating self-confidence and momentum.

2004 Retreat Dates:

May 17,18

June 21,22

Aug. 10,11

Sept. 13,14 (emphasis on churches)

Oct. 12,13

Check-in at the Lake House is 3:00 and we finish by 2:00 the following afternoon. The Gannett Foundation and Burlington Free Press are generously underwriting the retreats so that the cost to participants for room and three meals is \$75/person for a shared room, \$100 for a single. There are a limited number of single rooms available on a first-come basis. For a preview of the Lake House, please see our web site:

http://www.ptvermont.org/lh_booklet.htm.

The retreats are part of the Preservation Trust's Field Service Program, a partnership of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, please contact our Field Representatives:

Ann Cousins @ 802-434-5014; ann@ptvermont.org or Doug Porter @ 802-644-2815; doug@ptvermont.org

***Diversity Scholarship Program for National Preservation Conference
Louisville, Kentucky, September 28 -- October 3, 2004***

Applications are now available for the National Preservation Conference 2004 Diversity Scholarship Program formerly known as the Emerging Preservation Leaders (EPL) Program. The Diversity Scholarship Program seeks to increase the diversity of participants at the National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The program provides financial assistance (scholarships) to help community and cultural leaders, students and other professionals from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds participate in the National Preservation Conference.

Participants will gain knowledge and tools to strengthen their ability to preserve historic places and revitalize their communities through plenary, educational and field sessions, and discussion groups. Scholarship awards will pay for registration and accommodation costs.

You can find and / or direct interested candidates to locate the application at the link below: www.nthpconference.org/Generalinfo/#scholarships; or by email at scholarships@nthp.org; the faxback service by dialing (202) 588-6444 document #9006; or by calling (843) 722-8552.

Lamoille County Conservation Commissions

Only four of ten towns in Lamoille County have voted to create municipal conservation commissions. A regional workshop to encourage the formation of more conservation commissions in this county will take place on June 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tegu Building in Morrisville. Co-sponsored by the Lamoille County Planning Commission and the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC), the workshop will feature success stories from the Cambridge, Elmore, Morristown, and Stowe Conservation Commissions.

At March Town Meeting 2004, three more towns voted to establish conservation commissions: Elmore, Pownal, and Salisbury, bringing the total to 92 conservation

commissions or similar committees across Vermont. AVCC is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to fostering local conservation commissions in their stewardship of Vermont's natural resources.

For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Virginia Rasch of AVCC (223-5527 or ilovermont@aol.com).

Preservation Workshops in Williston

The Town of Williston's Historic Preservation Committee is pleased to host two Saturday workshops.

- May 1, 2004: 8:45am to 4:00pm, Save Your Wood Windows
- May 8, 2004: 8:45am to 4:00pm, Care for Your Wood Siding

Location: Williston Town Hall, 7900 Williston Road, Williston VT

Morning Slideshow:

- Survey architectural character and conditions.
- Determine original construction details and materials.
- Investigate later changes and past maintenance.
- Most common problems.
- Select treatments: materials, methods, and procedures.
- Do-it-yourself, or seek experienced contractors & tradespeople.

Morning Demonstration:

- Work-space setup and lead-safe operations.

Afternoon Demonstrations:

- Window Sash Removal.
- Broken glass replacement and glazing.
- Window Sill repairs.
- Exterior Woodwork Maintenance
- Shingle and Clapboard Repair and Replacement.
- Paint Preparation
- Best Exterior Painting Practices.

Instructor: John Leeke, Preservation Consultant, helps owners, planners, tradespeople, contractors and architects understand and maintain their older and historic buildings. He is well known for his sensitive and practical approach. He has been saving historic buildings for 30 years and has personally repaired, restored, and preserved hundreds of windows and helped others save thousands more. To get a head start on the workshop you can do a little homework on windows and siding at: www.HistoricHomeWorks.com

Morning beverages and baked goods will be provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information contact: Lara DuMond, Planning Assistant, 802 878-6704, ext. 130.

Workshops are **FREE and open to ALL** interested participants. These workshops have been made possible with the assistance of a matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation through the U.S. Department of the Interior under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Vermont History Expo 2004, Sat-Sun, June 26-27 in Tunbridge

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2004 will be held the weekend of June 26-27, from 10am - 5pm, at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds.

Daily admission costs are Adults \$7.00 and Children & Students (6-18 yrs.) \$4.00. Children 5 yrs. and under are admitted free. There is a 20% discount for groups of 20 or more. Half-price admission on Saturday, June 26, for visitors in period dress.

For lots more information, visit: <http://www.vermonthistory.org/expo/index.htm>

Ethan Allen Homestead Opening Day

Ethan Allen Homestead Museum and Historic Site announces the opening of its 2004 visitor season on Saturday, May 1, from 1-5 p.m. Along with customary tours of the historic Allen house and gallery exhibits, the Homestead will feature a new discovery area for children.

In addition to our indoor Kids' Corner, the Homestead now offers an outdoor History Playground, entitled Ethan's Secret Forest. Here, children are invited to exercise on objects that evoke a Vermont frontier farm. In Ethan's Secret Forest, families can learn how people from the past enjoyed recreation as part of their daily work.

Busy adults will also find an enhancement to their Homestead visit. This year, the museum will feature a new Express Tour, providing flexibility for those with time constraints and for those who simply want a less structured experience.

Those without a full hour to spend looking through the museum, may join our guide for a trip to the historic Allen house, feeling free to depart when their schedule requires. Many find that once they get started, they decide to remain for the complete tour or return at another time for a more thorough look.

For more information about hours and membership, please call (802) 865-4556.

Preservation Education Institute Calendar Listings

The Preservation Education Institute offers workshops throughout the year in preservation skills, technology, and practice for building professionals, property owners and others. For information visit www.preservationworks.org or call (802) 674-6752 or write PO Box 1777 Windsor, VT 05089-0021. The Preservation Education Institute is a program of Historic Windsor, Inc., a 501 c 3 nonprofit.

Revealing Decorative Paint, Friday and Saturday, May 14-15, 2004, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

A special behind the scenes program at Ascutney Church, Ascutney, Vermont. Join Conservator Sara Chase for a two-day program to reveal and document free-hand painting and stenciling. Help the Church decide whether to integrate the historic designs into its interior today or document and cover it. \$50 bring your own lunch. More info: www.preservationworks.org, 802-674-6752 or write The Preservation Education Institute PO Box 1777 Windsor, VT 05089-0021

Structural Evaluation & Repair: Timber Frame Structures: June 4 – 5, 2004

Evaluating the physical condition of a historic or existing building is the crucial first step in developing a sensitive, cost effective, rehabilitation or maintenance plan. The instruction team, comprised of an engineer and a timber framer, will discuss types of structural systems; evaluation and testing; locating common problem areas; typical examples of rot and insect damage; introductory analysis of wood and timber structures; and case studies in timber repair. A field trip will be included. Participants are encouraged to bring slides and photos of structural projects on which they are involved.

David Fischetti, PE, DCF Engineering, has 34 years of engineering experience in the repair and construction of timber frame structures. Jan Lewandoski has over 22

years of experience in the restoration of historically significant structures throughout the U.S. and Canada. Both write frequently for professional journals about the preservation and restoration of timber frames.

Location: Chaplin Hall, Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont OR Windsor House, Windsor, Vermont. Cost: HWI members/government staff: \$175, Others: \$190.

June 2004

- 11-12 Introduction to Architectural Photography
- 36-37 Vermont History Expo (www.vermonthistory.org/expo/index.htm)

Dates Pending

- American Building Design and Technology
- Paint: Historic and Contemporary Materials and Practice
- Repointing Brick Masonry
- Preservation Philosophy for People Who Maintain Old Buildings

OPPORTUNITIES for EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER WORK

Project Director, Vermont Collections Care Program

VMGA invites applications for our open Project Director position, which is currently half time with the potential to grow dependant on funding. Anticipated start date is September 1, 2004.

The VMGA Project Director is responsible for the administration and oversight of the highly successful Vermont Collections Care Program, which focuses on preventative conservation techniques and solutions for small-town historical societies, museums and galleries within the state. Grant writing, workshop development and presentation, and on-site training of staff and volunteers are all key components. As well, the Project Director manages VMGA's regrant program, which helps many of these underserved institutions to fund general collections surveys and implementation of survey recommendations.

The successful applicant will be, by training, a conservator with a keen interest in preventative conservation. Two to four years of field experience is preferred. She/he must be comfortable working with museum and historical society volunteers whose knowledge of best practices may be limited. Patience, organizational ability, problem solving, and adeptness at providing practical advice are key skills. This position requires extensive travel, primarily around the State of Vermont.

Interested and qualified applicants are encouraged to email a cover letter and resume, along with names and contact information of three professional references, to vmga@valley.net or by mail to: Project Director Search, Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance, c/o Billings Farm & Museum, P.O. Box 489, Woodstock, VT 05091. Please, no phone calls.

CPA at Vermont Community Foundation

The Vermont Community Foundation seeks a CPA to lead the accounting work of the Foundation. This position oversees all accounting policies, procedures and reports as well as ensures the integrity of the Foundation's accounting systems, software and data. Ten years non-profit accounting experience desired. Foundation and/or planned giving experience preferred. Desire to work in support of the Foundation's Ends Policy to create Healthy Vital Vermont Communities. Send application (www.vermontcf.org), letter and resume to the VCF, P.O. Box 30 Middlebury, VT 05753 EOE Or contact Faith Brown at 802-388-3355,

fbrown@vermontcf.org.

Gallery Assistant, Bryan Memorial Gallery, Jefferson, Vermont

Position Opening: May through October, approximately 24 hours per week

Jeffersonville, Vermont, art gallery seeks responsible, energetic, and friendly individual for a part-time temporary position. Opportunity to get involved with the local and regional art community in spacious, well-established gallery setting. Duties include greeting the public, selling paintings, assisting with exhibition installations, and maintaining inventory. Some weekend and evening hours required. Sales experience preferred.

To apply, submit resume and cover letter to Bryan Memorial Gallery, P.O. Box 340, Jeffersonville, VT 05464 or info@bryanmemorialgallery.org Questions? Please call (802) 644-5100.

For more information about *Historic Vermont*, to subscribe or to unsubscribe to the email version, or to submit something for publication please contact Meg Campbell, Editor.

ptv@sover.net

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