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to Libby by **February 1, 1997**, so hurry and call!



Let's meet at the School

by Creston Gaither

Vienna's annual Town Meeting should be held at the Cape Cod Hill School in New Sharon.

Cape Cod's practical advantages are obvious: space, restrooms, and parking. The 1995 meeting was held there and went smoothly. Yet several arguments against this location have been raised.

First, it's said that "tradition" requires us to have Town Meeting within our town boundaries, even if we must abandon the Town House itself. But a far more important tradition, I think, is that everyone can attend the annual meeting with comfort and dignity. For tradition to be meaningful it has to be alive, which means that — like any living thing — it changes a bit every year. It grows. It's time for our ideas, about where we meet, to grow. Just a little bit: remember, all the other meetings (there are more every year) will still be at the Town House.

I've also heard the complaint that the school is "too far away." I'm not sure that all of the people who believe this know where the school is: it's less than two miles from the town line (on a paved State highway) and some Vienna citizens live closer to it than some others do to our own Town House. The extra hassle exists but it's a matter of a few minutes per year.

More importantly: Cape Cod is **OUR SCHOOL**. We helped pay for it; Vienna people helped design it; we vote in the district that runs it. Vienna people have played volleyball and taken French there. **It's part of Vienna, no matter where it lies.**



Sweets for your Sweetie

Valentine Musical Celebration
of Love Songs

with

Nancy Landsman

Saturday, February 15th

10:00 a.m. to Noon

The Dam Shop

Couples get special treat!!

Come and join us for the fun!

Flying Pond Improvement Association Who Are We? *What Do We Do?* and Who Cares?

by Norman Erickson
President, F.P.I.A.

As President of the F.P.I.A., I am often asked questions, many of which fall into categories similar to one of the above.

Let me attempt to answer them with the hopes that local residents (my friends and neighbors, both in Vienna and Mt. Vernon), Town officials, summer residents, sportsmen who enjoy both summer and winter fishing, visiting boaters and swimmers, and all people who enjoy the scenic views or the deep, clean waters of Flying Pond can better understand our role and, in their own way, help us achieve our goals.

WHO ARE WE? Our bylaws state that all shoreland property owners are automatically members. Two categories exist: "Members" and "Members in good standing." "Members" have the right to attend and be heard at any of our meetings, participate in any of our activities, and receive our Annual Report.

"Members in good standing" are those members who pay their annual dues (\$10.00 per family); they have all of the above privileges and in addition can hold one of the five officers' or three directors' positions. They also have voting rights on matters that come before us at the Annual Meeting.

Total membership approximates 200, with close to 85% holding "Good Standing" status. Our membership roster also includes several people who know us and share our love and dedication to Flying Pond.

WHAT DO WE DO? Flying Pond, as we know it today, is a beautiful lake of about 360 acres. Many islands exist that lend even more scenic value. A large portion of the lake has water depths of from 30 to 90 feet, making it capable of supporting both warm and cold water fish populations.

The F.P.I.A. dam controls the water level of the lake and therefore plays a vital role in the well-being and beauty of this valuable resource. Our bylaws state that the care and maintenance of the dam is one of our high priorities.

Monitoring and trying to maintain a high level of water quality is also one of our objectives. Our members are very active in this endeavor. Work parties remove truckloads of debris from the shorelines. Trained monitors spend endless hours each summer measuring water clarity and doing several chemical analysis tests. Many of our members speak at public forums at the State level regarding our concerns about such issues. Water quality is important to all of us.

In addition to fulfilling the objectives of our bylaws, mem-

Reflections on the Past Year

by Diane Vandal
Health Officer

Living in this community while facing the unexpected death of my husband, Robert, taught me three things about human nature. One: people have genuine instincts to be helpful; Two: help comes from unexpected places; and Three: I was grateful to find the willingness of people to allow me to talk, walk, yell, laugh or whatever I needed in order to create my own unique way of coping. Generosity and support are rooted in everyone and came pouring out in abundance from people I know as well as those who may still be strangers.

Most surprising for me is what I have learned about myself - the drive to function and survive, which is so strong those first three to four months, and to finally learn to thrive and develop a peacefulness surrounding his absence.

Goals, principles and philosophy of life and death inevitably change. Whereas once my life had a job at its core, with my life as a leftover around the periphery, I am now exploring a personal life at the center with work surrounding and supporting this center. I stop more often. I have developed a liking to sit quietly and listen to the wind for long periods of time. I listen to music with greater attentiveness as I hear melodies I've never heard before, and communication with people is more honest and direct — and this is reflected back to me.

What has been very satisfying is my acceptance of the inevitability of death. Death is no longer something to fear. (I was terrified of death before the accident.) I have shared thoughts about wills, burials, cremations and memorial services and taken the opportunity to make decisions which were impossible to discuss before. The true cycles of life and death are more meaningful to me. What is there, is the beauty of endings and new beginnings which are woven together.

I am moving to Massachusetts but not saying good-bye to Vienna. I have neighbors house-sitting and dog-sitting, though I did give permanent notice to my all-consuming job of

Let's meet.....Continued from page 1

And above all, Vienna kids go to school there. Town Meeting at Cape Cod offers us an excellent chance to stay in touch with our kids' education and experience, and I mean "our kids" inclusively: we are all responsible for all of them, especially for their schools. I suspect that at some level the kids feel honored that we might meet at their school, of which they are (hopefully) proud; and slighted that we might not.

When the kids whine (who wouldn't) about their long bus rides to schools in other towns we tell them that Vienna once had its own schools (it did) and that we gave up this tradition for the numerous advantages offered by going elsewhere. One day a year, let's practice what we preach.

Reflections.....Continued from page 2

seven years at a home health care agency. This was long overdue.

Happy New Year, Good Health to All and Best of Luck in all your adventures. I appreciate the support and encouragement I have received from all.

After mid-January, I will be living in Marblehead, Massachusetts, taking a sabbatical with family and friends in and around the Boston area. Due to this move, I am resigning as Public Health Officer for Vienna. Dianne Black will be taking my place; she will be ready to take over soon.

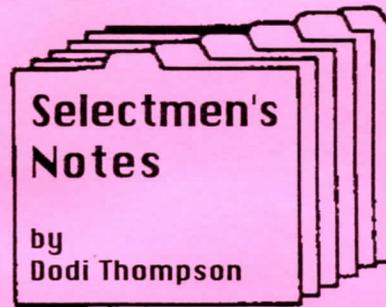
Flying Pond.....Continued from page 2

bers participate in the annual "Loon Count." They keep records of (and have prepared charts of) both high and low water levels that have occurred in each of the last ten or more years. Our successful boat parades are a yearly highlight that seems to attract almost 100% participation.

Our Annual Meeting and an informative program ends one year but ushers in another. Not surprisingly, many of our "year-round" members have been and continue to be active in Town affairs. It is safe to believe that if something is happening in either of our two towns, one or more of our members is probably involved!

WHO CARES? Certainly our members care, as evidenced by the substantial investments they have made and continue to make in their properties. The Towns should care because our members' properties make up a substantial portion of their tax base without contributing to the cost of town services. I know that I care — and am proud to be a member and officer of the F.P.I.A.

Flying Pond is a natural resource treasure. WE HOPE THAT YOU CARE, ALSO!



Nomination papers for Town officers are now available from the Town Clerk, Jo-Ann Pillsbury. The signed papers must be returned by January 28th. Absentee ballots will be available

from the Clerk by February 1st. The election, and the Town Meeting, will be held **March 15th** this year.

The Town now has a three-year contract (effective last November) with Capitol City Transfer, of Augusta, for our trash and recycle pickups.

Bruce Gurney has the snow-plowing contract for three years. The first storm was a little difficult due to equipment breakdown, but hopefully things will go smoothly the rest of the season. If you have any questions or concerns about snow removal or sanding in your area, please contact Bruce (293-2492) or one of the Selectmen.

Tim Smith (293-3493) **Laura Reville** (293-3156)
Dodi Thompson (293-2670)

DR. SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library completes an annual report for the Maine State Library every October. It is always interesting to look back at our yearly statistics.

Our October '95 - October '96 year shows a circulation of 7,252 library materials. Two thousand six hundred and seventy patrons' visits occurred at the library during our 572 open hours. 935 people are registered patrons; this includes Vienna and out-of-town library users. Ninety-five books were requested on interlibrary loan. Of these 95 requests, we were unable to fulfill only eight.

These figures represent increases in every area over last year.

(From the *Mt. Vernon Newsletter*, December 1996)

THE MINNEHONK RIDGE RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

representing riders from both Mt. Vernon and Vienna, meets in the Club House on the North Road (by Lee Dunn's house) on every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on January 13th. Come join us — and bring some snow! If you would like further information, call Lee Dunn, President, at 293-2179.



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someone to coordinate, collect, and/or write the articles. Call
Libby * (293-2362) for details.... THANKS !!