

Of Special Note in 2014



Robert Rydeen moved from Fremont in 2011 but leaves a legacy here, not only in his son Michael, our Town Moderator, but in the many ways he was involved in the Fremont community. Bob and Karen Rydeen moved to Fremont in 1974. Bob became involved with the Conservation Commission in 1979, through 1981; then moving to the Zoning Board of Adjustment from 1980 to 1985.

Bob was the School District Moderator in 1980 and 1981 and Town Moderator from 1984 to 1989. He was a baseball and basketball volunteer and spearheaded, with Karen, the building of the first concession stand at Memorial Fields.

Bob invented and patented a unique house-building system in 1987 known as “Unijoint Component Building System.” The system allows for three construction workers to completely erect a house in less than a week. This economical invention has been marketed worldwide.

Bob is still an active Library patron and was part of the Fremont 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, as well as the Committee who put together Fremont’s 225th in 1989.

He still volunteers to help us on Bulky Day. Thank you Bob!

Roberta Huckins Stevens: Bobbi Huckins was appointed as a Fremont Ballot Clerk in 1979 following the resignation of Mildred Balestra. She has dutifully continued to serve in that position for the past 35 years! This was revealed in casual conversation in 2014 and deserves to be noted. Thank you Bobbi for all of your help and guidance at so many Fremont Elections over the past 35 years!

Another service tenure deserving note is that of **Elizabeth “Betty” Stanley**, who has been our School District Treasurer since 1971. These 43 continuous years of service surely make Betty the longest serving School District Official in the history of Fremont! Betty was also our Town Clerk for 26 years until her retirement in 1997.

In Memoriam

We learned as we prepared the 2014 Town Report in early January that former Fremont Resident **Art Richardson** had passed away at his home in Exeter. Artemas P Richardson II was an exquisite man. He spent WWII as a Navy Intelligence officer, engaged in the planning and execution of the full range of Allied landings in North Africa, Italy, and the south of France. He served at sea, ashore, and in the air above enemy territory. After leaving the Navy, Art continued his earlier study of Landscape Architecture. He joined the firm of Olmsted Brothers, in Brookline, MA in 1948 and later became partner and later sole proprietor. In his 50 year tenure at the Olmsted office he was key to the creation and development of hundreds of designs credited to the Olmsted firm including portions of the US Capitol grounds, the Jefferson Memorial, Rock Creek Park, and the National Cathedral, among others.

In 1981, he transferred the buildings and grounds of the Olmsted firm, including its fixtures and more than a million architectural drawings, to the National Park System. It is now maintained as the Fredrick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in Brookline. Art was licensed to practice in thirteen states, was a former President of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, a Director of the NH Landscape Association, Director of the Granite State Landscape Architects, and Director of the Herb Society of America.

Art was also dedicated to civic activity. His professional interests drew him into local land planning issues. When he came to Fremont in 1979 he became actively engaged in New Hampshire local and state interests. He served as a member of the Fremont Conservation Commission from 1981 to 2000, serving as Chair for all but one of those 19 years. He was a Fremont Trustee of Trust Funds from 1984-1988, and served as a Fremont Representative to the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee from 1998-2000. Art was also instrumental in the landscaping project that reshaped the front yard at the Fremont Town Hall in the early 1990's.

Many thanks to the large number of people who help make Fremont a special place.
Volunteers and Town Officials of every variety are what keep this Town moving!
Thank you all!

* Editors Note: Special thank you to Town Historian Matthew Thomas and the *History of Fremont NH An Independent New England Republic 1764 – 1997 for some of these facts and details!*