

# BRUSH UP

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**Janice Goodman**

Hinesburg, Vermont  
482-3680

## Steve Howard, Continued from page 1

overwhelmingly positive." "There have been a couple of bumps in the road," said Howard, describing the aftermath, "some negative mail and a few people who haven't figured how to talk to me," but his constituents, family, friends and most of the politicians he works with have been enthusiastic.

Howard credits his political mentors, such people as Ralph Wright, Ann Seibert, Cheryl Rivers, Elizabeth Ready, Michael Obuchowski, and of course Ed Flannagan for giving him the idea that you have to be strong and stand up for what you believe in. Future plans include a possible run for Secretary of State next year, or maybe the Lt. Governor's office if incumbent Doug Racine vacates the seat.

Kathleen DeBold, Deputy Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund commented on Howard's announcement; "The fact that Vermont's voters judge political candidates on their qualifications rather than their sexual orientation should come as no surprise, Vermonters share a longstanding tradition of tolerance and justice, and a deep respect for human and individual rights. Steve Howard's coming out and the election and reelection of outstanding openly gay officials Bill Lippert and Ed Flanagan is a tribute to the state's fair minded majority." ▼

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