

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XIV, No. 4

March/April 2004

## LIVING WITH THE "BIG VIEW"

*Kim Watson*

The drive up North Street from Montpelier is like a drive into the heavens. Up and up the road climbs, revealing perhaps the finest landscape in Vermont. There's the old Sparrow Farm against a setting of the Worcester Mountains, "the Big View." North Street continues, past a marshy area. Partridge and wild turkey may be seen on a slow drive out this way. Further on, a rock ledge flanks the road on the left while the right drops away towards a pond below. Above sits a farmhouse and weathered barn, a quintessential Vermont scene. Years ago, it was known as the Hale farm. In 1973, Richard ("Dick" to all who know him) and Jane Staudt moved here from Montpelier, 3½ miles below in the valley.

The road above their house was once impassable in the winter, but North Street has seen modest development since the Staudts moved to the area. Dick and Jane have adapted to the increase in traffic and change in neighbors since their move over thirty years ago. Their old farmhouse was transformed into a warm, loving homestead, shared by them and five children. It was normal for the entire family to go sledding down the road, as few vehicles passed in the winter. The children have long since gone, but Dick and Jane still share a passion for the countryside and a devotion to East Montpelier.

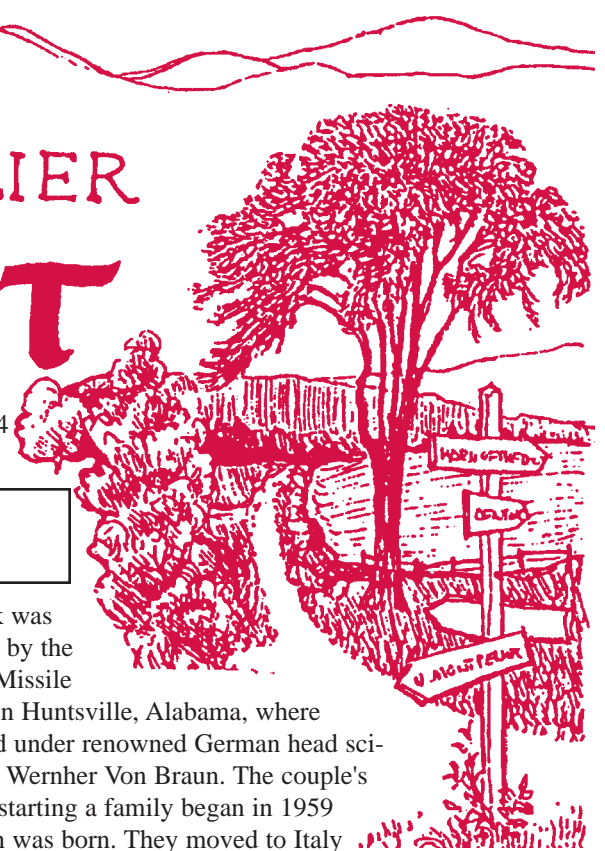
Jane grew up in Wallingford, Vermont. Her father, "Big Tall Walt" Lindsey was high school principal in Swanton, Wallingford and Alburg. After attending nursing school at Mary Hitchcock in Hanover NH, Jane and two girlfriends left Wallingford in 1954 for a road trip to the wide-open American West. They found Saginaw, Michigan, appealing and ended up meeting the men of their dreams. Dick, a young lad from Saginaw, attended the University of Michigan, receiving his degree in mechanical engineering in 1957. Dick and Jane were united in marriage in August 1958, and dreamed of returning to Vermont to live in an old farmhouse. But that future was put on hold.



Dick was employed by the Chrysler Missile Division in Huntsville, Alabama, where he worked under renowned German head scientist, Dr. Wernher Von Braun. The couple's dream of starting a family began in 1959 when Erin was born. They moved to Italy to be with Dick while he worked as a field service engineer for the Missile Division, which was attached to the Italian Air Force. Kevin, the Staudt's second child was born in Bari, Italy. Shortly after returning to Ann Arbor in 1962, daughter Tami became the third Staudt offspring. In 1964 an enduring story unfolded when Jane, on the way to the hospital, gave birth in the back seat of their car to Megan, the fourth member of their growing family. Daughter Kristyn completed the family in 1974. She resides in Barre Town.

Back at the University of Michigan Dick received a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, then his Ph. D. in Educational Psychology in 1966. Though Jane's parents had since moved to Maine, Vermont beckoned. The family moved to Montpelier where Dick went to work in the Research and Development Division of the Department of Education. After living in Montpelier they finally realizing their dream of moving to the country. Yet dreams require hard work, and they put in endless hours to rehabilitate the old farmhouse. Dick did almost all the work himself; many of the boards were hand-planed. The renovation was done with recycled materials. Moving to the country allowed the Staudts to own horses and a pony and more room for their Irish wolfhounds. At one time, the Staudts had over 18 puppies.

The Staudts have spent many a winter shoveling their driveway. They recalled the hardest winter when there were 43 inches of snow the weekend after Easter. After picking up the kids at U-32, their car got struck on Brazier Road. The kids got





## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TOWN OFFICES

Jessie Taylor

This is the first of the promised articles on the operation of the Town Offices.

The Town Offices were a beehive of activity on the mid-January morning I was there. No matter that it was still -10 degrees at 11:00 am. Cars were coming and going, tires crunching, exhaust puffing away. Inside, a man

was at the counter getting a dog license. Someone else was just finishing up a bit of research (\$1.00 for ½ hour with the archives), a meeting was going on in the adjoining room, the phone was ringing - all persons were busy.

Sylvia Tosi, Town Clerk and Treasurer, finally managed to extract herself from her desk. We began to chat. One of the first things Sylvia showed me was a large 2' x 2' wall calendar, published by Vermont League of Cities and Towns & The Chittenden Bank, containing all the statutes and deadlines for the upcoming Town Meeting. It really is quite a process. Sylvia rolled her eyes as she pointed out all the pertinent dates highlighted in yellow. There are deadlines for filing a nomination petition, deadlines for ballot petitions, deadlines for warning the articles and so on. Plus, myriad other information is pouring in at the same time: reports from all the various committees, budgets, projections, and proposals. This information is collected in the Clerk's Office for the Auditors to make up the Town Report by yet another deadline of 10 days prior to Town Meeting.

The pace of pre-Town Meeting continues well into March, for every bit of information from Town Meeting has to be documented and filed away. The vault at the Town Offices is a room about 10' x 12'. The long sides are filled top to bottom with shelves full of bound books, files, boxes and bags. Sylvia was a bit hesitant at first; how do you explain a job you've been doing for 21 years in half an hour? She began to look around, and then, starting on one side, she took me on a tour of practically every shelf in the vault. This shelf contains old Grand Lists (the first recorded in 1849), this one is the Selectboard Reports and Land Records, over here are the survey maps, tax maps. On the floor in a corner are four cloth sacks, bulging full. Apparently the actual physical ballots from previous elections have a deadline of their own - 22 months for general elections! There was more and more: cemetery reports, hunting/fishing licenses, notarizing documentation, official paper for birth/death certificates, and two whole shelves of odds and ends being saved for posterity. The whole room has an aura of history.

Sylvia began as Town Clerk and Treasurer in 1983. Over the years there have been many changes, most of them technological. Sylvia smiled as she recalled typing up the first few Grand Lists. It wasn't until 1985 that there was a computerized list. A system of individually hanging survey maps has replaced the old system of "the big, cumbersome book." Two years ago, a double row of shelving was purchased, with front sections that roll to one side allowing access to the shelves behind them. How they managed previously is a mystery. Book restoration has also been a big, ongoing project. Every year, a couple of the old Record Books are cleaned and rebound. Sylvia randomly took down the Land Records book from 1935. We spent a moment looking at the impeccable penmanship - page after page of it. Sylvia fondly ran her hand over the pages. She casually mentioned that, when she began in 1983, they were on book #32. Today they are finishing up #82. One can tell that she has a deep connection with all that is encompassed in the room. It is a certainty that our town has had a dedicated, caring professional at the helm all these years.

Terri Conti, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer and Ginger Hopkins, part-time Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, were working in the front room as I left. I spent a moment with them to get a feel for some of the other aspects of the Town Office. Terri, who has been Clerk for two years, stated emphatically that she loved being involved in the town where she lives. Each season brings something different. Late winter is dog licensing, early spring brings tax bills. There are building permits, marriage licenses and death certificates. Then there are the ongoing things such as insurances, payrolls, bills, repairs and so on. Fall rolls around with tax time and then, the buzz of Town Meeting starts again, completing the cycle. We all laughed as Ginger likened it all to a roller coaster.

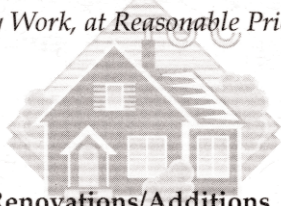
Terri then became contemplative, all joking put aside when she stated that she felt a deep sense of history was being preserved and perpetuated at the Town Offices. It's a documentation of the evolution of change, she said. She's right. It is indeed a little pot of gold that we should not take for granted. The energy and efficiency of our Town Office doesn't happen all by itself.

It would be nice if some time over the next year we could stop in, visit, and show our appreciation to those who make things tick.

### AUDY CONTRACTING

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out and packed down the snow in front of the car. They made it home, thanks to big boots and strong willed kids.

Both Dick and Jane have dedicated themselves to many years of community service. Dick served on the U-32 School Board for over nine years. They opened their home to foster children and housed exchange students. Their involvement in the "Fresh Air" program led to their hosting disadvantaged kids from New York City. They have been active members of Bethany Church in Montpelier since 1967. Jane has worked at Heaton House and for the American Red Cross for over 20 years. Jane loves dolls and has collected many during their travels. She has been a long time member of the Green Mountain Doll Club.

Many folks know Dick and Jane as standouts in the business community. In 1976 they founded Wedgewood Fitness and Health Club in Berlin, Vermont. An opportunity arose in 1978 to purchase Fountain of Youth Fitness and Health Club in White River Junction, something they claim they were "talked into buying." Wedgewood was sold in 1998 and thrives today as First In Fitness. The Fountain of Youth found new ownership in 2002, finally allowing the Staudts more leisure time.

Jane's dad, "Big Tall Walt", lived to be 98 and spent his last few years living with Dick and Jane at their farmhouse. The Staudts have enjoyed every Christmas together as a family. In addition to their five children, they have six grandchildren ranging from ages two to 11. They have traveled to many places around the world, South America, Central America, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Alaska, Oregon, Thailand and Tahiti, and they soon will be making a journey to Egypt. They still continue their volunteer efforts on many community service projects such as spending time at the homeless shelter in Barre. Dick and Jane enjoy reading, walking, playing bridge, and spending time with their grandchildren. They find satisfaction in their walks along the road, thankful for the beauty of the place they call home.

We are blessed to have the Staudts as neighbors and friends. They have cared for and served the community very well for years.

*With their two daughters, Julia (15) and Liz (14), Kim and Bob Watson have lived across the street from the Staudts for over 17 years. Kim works as a Quality Assurance Manager for Stone Environmental, Inc. in Montpelier, and they are the owners of Capitol Grounds Café and Roastery in Montpelier, where Bob spends his days, and sometime his nights, working.*

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**KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY**

Phone: 223-3338 Website: [kellogg-hubbard.lib.vt.us](http://kellogg-hubbard.lib.vt.us)

**Library Funding on Town Meeting Day**

Following a series of meetings of the Kellogg-Hubbard Community Advisory Committee, which represented each town in the library's service area (East Montpelier, Calais, Middlesex, Worcester, Montpelier, and Berlin), the Kellogg-Hubbard Board of Trustees developed a strategic plan for future funding and made several changes in its funding formula. Here are the changes in a nutshell:

Base community support on library use: The Board adopted a more equitable municipal funding formula, based on most recently available library use figures for each town, rather than population. In East Montpelier, there were 720 cardholders and a circulation of 27,179 as of September 2003. Based upon this formula, the Library's request to East Montpelier will be \$11,438 and will be voted by Australian ballot. This resulted in a decrease of \$4,000 from last year's original request.

Ask library patrons outside our legal service area to pay their fair share: Beginning in 2004, the Library will solicit financial support from patrons outside the legal service region by requesting a fee of \$8.50 per person. The anticipated income from this new charge is being deducted from our town requests. While the library formerly gave free service to all Washington County residents, the Board felt that in the interest of fairness to our taxpaying communities, it was necessary to take this step. East Montpelier residents will have free library cards.

**New Library Trustee from East Montpelier**

At its January 21st Annual Meeting, the Kellogg-Hubbard Board welcomed Charlie (Susan) Catlin as the new member from East Montpelier. Charlie will be replacing Petie Ferris who continues to volunteer at the library. The Board appreciated the interest expressed by several very qualified East Montpelier residents. However, Charlie's experience with children and her interest in children's services were considered by the Board to be a special asset at this time.

Charlie has lived in the Central Vermont area for twenty years. She and her husband Mark and their three children moved to Montpelier when Mark began a large animal veterinary practice in the area. Four years ago, when they became empty nesters, the Catlins moved to Brazier Road in East Montpelier, where they built a house off the grid. Charlie taught 6th grade at Main Street Middle School for twelve years before retiring in 2000. She now works on the *Signpost*, taking over from Rob

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## HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

Chickering as the Records Editor. Also active in the Old Meeting House, she has been a long time member of the choir, has taught Sunday School over the years and served on church committees. If you'd like to get in touch with her to talk about the Library, she can be reached by phone at 229-4273 or by e-mail at shcharlie@hotmail.com.

### Community Day at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library

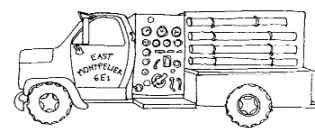
The Kellogg-Hubbard invites East Montpelier residents to its First Annual Community Day on Friday, February 27th. Here's a schedule of events for the whole family:

- 10:00-11:30 am: Café Kellogg. Complimentary coffee and muffins with your morning paper.
- 10:30-11:00 am: Children's special musical story hour. Sing along with special guests. Loads of fun for our youngest patrons.
- Noon-1:30 pm: Micro-fiction writing workshop. 300 words or 30 seconds, whichever comes first. Experiment with an exciting new genre and read the results out loud at this brown-bag lunch workshop.
- 3:00-4:30 pm: Historical library tours. Discover the people, events, and architecture that have made the KHL such a special place for over 100 years.
- 3:00-5:00 pm: After-school fun for children. Stop by for crafts and an afternoon snack.
- 6:00-7:00 pm: Puppet Show. A lively and fun show for children and the young at heart.
- 6:00-8:00 pm: Informal evening gala. Gather with old friends and new at this after-hours party. Central Vermont local celebrities read from their favorite heart-warming or imagination-sparking literature. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and the swinging sounds of jazz quartet Penny Arcade.
- 7:30 pm: Join us in a toast. Raise a glass of sparkling cider to celebrate our library and the Central Vermont Community!

*Hilari Farrington*

### EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The East Montpelier Fire Department topped off 2003 with over 260 calls, a very busy year. The department's brand new fire truck, "Engine Two", was delivered in mid-December and was promptly put into action that very day when we responded to a chimney fire. The new truck is equipped with state of the art equipment and is an essential addition to our department. It is housed at our Templeton Road station. Training to understand the truck and its systems is ongoing. We welcome the public to stop by any Tuesday night from 7:00-9:00 to see the truck. We are still discussing having an open house in May.



The Department hosted a transition course for EMT basics in January. Robin Copping is taking the first EMT-Intermediate transition course at CVMC for eight weeks and will then will take the State Exam in March. This is a pioneer program that all EMT-Intermediates will eventually have to take. It is an upgraded course that will enable EMT-I's who have passed the course to provide even more sophisticated care in the emergency field.

We appreciate the ongoing support and kind remarks from our fine community. For those of you who are not aware, the Fire Department also provides mutual aid to our surrounding towns whenever needed on a reciprocal basis. This mutual aid not only serves for the immediate emergency but is also excellent training while working with other fire departments.

*Robin J. Copping, Chaplain EMT-D*

### RECREATION NEWS

There are a few projects planned for the Rec. Board Clean Up/Green Up Day on May 1 at 9:00. We would like to build some team benches, repaint the shed and rebuild one of the dugouts. The usual clean up entails raking, clearing dead tree limbs and clearing out the fence line and tree line. This "green up" is essential to getting the field area ready for spring activities. We can't do it alone and would appreciate any extra help we can get. All are welcome. Please bring rakes, shovels and work gloves. Consider joining our group and bringing new energy to our Board. We welcome new members and ideas. Call Ginger Hopkins at 229-4375 for additional information .

### CHURCH BELLS



**Old Brick Church**  
*Angelo Tillas, Pastor*  
Sunday Services at 10:00 am  
Prayer Meeting Saturday at 10:00 am  
Phone: 223-1232



**Old Meeting House**  
*Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor*  
*Rev. David W. Connor, Pastor*  
Worship - 9:30 am  
Child care is available  
Phone: 229-9593



**Crossroads Christian Church**  
*Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor*  
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 am  
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

### "PARISH HOUSE CAFE"

The Old Meeting House serves lunch every Wednesday at noon. Lunch is free, donations are appreciated. The hostesses for the lunches, and founders of the Parish House Cafe, are Jessie Taylor of East Montpelier and Vicky King of Montpelier. All are welcome.

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MILESTONES

BIRTHS

- > Cody Paul Moshinski, September 2, 2003, son to Kami Joy & Eric Paul Moshinski
- > Sabrina Marie Gallison, October 23, 2003, daughter to Janelle Ann & David Roger Gallison.

MARRIAGES

- > John Benedict Fletcher, Jr. to Patricia Jean Wells, December 7, 2003.

DEATHS

- > Lawrence Joseph King, October 20, '03.
- > Eileen L. Peck, November 21, 2003, mother of Sharon Chambers.
- > Estella P. Dodge, November 23, 2003, spouse of Ernest Dodge.
- > George F. Dimick, December 16, 2003, father of Scott Dimick.
- > Franklin York, January 24, 2004, spouse of Terry York.

LAND TRANSFERS

- > David J. Epstein and Elissa Best to Melanie J. Guleserian, 12.0 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- > Chad E. & Amy B. Scribner to Laurie Hulsman and Christine Jacobs, 12.5 acres, VT14N.
- > David Rogers to Judith Hunter, 7.58 acres, Gray Rd.
- > Dorothy A. Morse to Steven J. Glendinning and Amy E. Hill, easement, County Rd.
- > U.S. District Court to U.S. Marshals Service, 0.3 acres and dwelling, Carleton Boulevard.
- > U.S. District Court/Marshals Service to Kenneth Hale, 0.3 acres and dwelling, Carleton Boulevard.
- > Nathan R. & Dorothy A. Danforth to K. A. Leasing, LLC, 1.95 acres & commercial buildings, US2.
- > Steven W. & Lisa K. Gilman to Robert G. & Elaine M. Wagner, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.
- > David & Elizabeth Swenson to Charles J. Ininger, 1.96 acres & dwelling, VT14S.
- > Dexter & Susan L. Merritt to Montpelier River Garden Initiative, Inc. 55.0 acres & buildings, VT14N.
- > Carole B. Shouldice to Carole B. & William C. Shouldice, III, Co Trustees, 51.0 acres & dwelling, County Rd.

Selectboard

Edie Miller, Chair,  
Martha Holden, Tom Brazier

December 1, 2003

- > Discussed budget.
- > Marlene Betit told the Board that the State could charge municipalities fees for storm water discharge. Storm water discharge permits are required.

December 16, 2003

- > Approved request from the Gully Jumpers to use short designated sections of town roads.
- > Town Forum will be held on 2/28/04 at 9:30 am at EMES.
- > The Selectboard has received for review two preliminary designs for VTrans Bridge #68, Village Bridge.

December 29, 2003

- > Reviewed the status of VTrans projects: Bridge #68 (Village Bridge & intersection), Bridge #69 (Sodom Pond Brook Bridge by Municipal Building), Bridge #71 (Singing Bridge in North Montpelier), Bridge #74 (Carpet Barn Bridge), & Right of Way requests for Routes 2 & 14 intersection.
- > Discussed need to clarify responsibilities of and remuneration for the Constable and Animal Control Officer. Records should be kept of the number of calls they receive & to which they respond.
- > Treasurer reported on payroll services information from Chittenden Bank. Starting 2004 payroll will be bi-weekly.
- > Discussed the possibility of conversion of Town Tax Maps & linking with the NEMRC database. Costs will be added to 2004 budget for discussion purposes.
- > Proposed a joint meeting with the Planning Commission & Board of Adjustment to discuss the position of Zoning Administrator.
- > The Ambulance Service contract ends in 2004. Ms. Betit is gathering rate information from Barre Town & Montpelier.

January 12, 2004

- > Voted to purchase a ten-wheel truck with wing, plow & sander for \$108,841.
- > Don & Carol Welch & Tim Meehan are representatives to the State Police Community Advisory Board. They will convey any State Police or general law enforcement concerns to the State Police.

- > Ms. Miller will ask the Zoning Administrator to add taking minutes for the Planning Commission to that person's job description.
- > Ms. Betit will research the statute which indicates that in order for a municipality to expend grant money there needs to be a warned article approved by the voters.
- > Ms. Miller requested the year to date budget figures from the Fire Department & an audited copy of the 2003 Fire Department budget be brought to the Town Office for informational purposes.
- > The Fire Department applied for another Homeland Security grant to be used for training & equipment.

January 15, 2004

- > For the 2004 budget, both the 1st Constable and the Animal Control Officer will be paid \$500.00. Both officers will track the type & volume of calls received to be reviewed for the 2005 budget.
- > The Zoning Administrator will receive an increase in pay & will prepare the minutes for the Board of Adjustment & Planning Commission meetings.
- > Discussed the drafting of an article for the warning concerning the Fire Department request for a vehicle for spreading chloride.
- > Ms. Miller will draft a timeline & list of requirements for budget requests from the Fire Department in order to make informed budget decisions about major purchases.
- > There will be an increase in funds budgeted to work on the Cate Farm Bridge & Coburn Road project in anticipation of additional damage this spring.

January 26, 2004

- > Approved the 2004 Budget & Articles of Warning. If passed there would result a municipal tax rate increase around \$0.76.
- > Received information on the Mallory Brook Project. Will consult with Conservation Committee Chair, Sue Chickering, concerning the use of funds.

Planning Commission

Carol Welch, Chair

December 4, 2003

- > Reviewed sample printouts for the computerized zoning permit information documents as part of meeting the goal of



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



using computers for the permit process.

- > Discussed budget.
- > Received information about the development of a subdivision regulations checklist for use by the planning commission & applicants.
- > There are 100 copies of the Town Plan available at the Town Office provided by CVRPC.

## December 18, 2003

- > Reviewed the Grant Agreement to rewrite the zoning regulations. Request for proposal to hire the consultant to do the work will appear in the newspaper in January. Will work on criteria for evaluating proposals in Jan.
- > Zoning Administrator will convey to the Merritts the requirements of the survey needed to complete their application to subdivide a parcel south of Coburn Road.
- > Discussed upcoming wind power workshop; development impact fees; conditional use subdivision on VT2 in Zone A; Zoning Administrator job description.

**Board of Adjustment**  
*Jeff Cueto, Chair*

## December 8, 2003

- > Postponed election of officers until January 2004
- > With the acceptance of the Town Plan, the Selectboard is interested in a Development Review Board & addressing the Zoning Regulations.
- > Discussed the issue of regional planning vs. local planning control & the designation of town growth centers & affordable housing.

### Elementary School

*Jan Aldrich, Chair 229-0406*  
 {Janice\_Aldrich@hotmail.com}  
*Joe Buley 233-7970*  
 {jbuleyjr@adelphia.net}  
*Lucy Ferrada 223-7681*  
 {lferrada@aol.com}  
*Julia Haynes 223-1651*  
 {julia@vsha.org}  
*Robert Rikken 223-4262*  
 {rrikken@adelphia.net}

## December 2, 2003

- > Discussed funding formulas & anticipated revenues as they relate to drafting the

school budget.

- > Discussed the need for creative scheduling of chorus & instrumental music programs to avoid conflicts with classroom instructional time.
- > Discussed staffing for next year.
- > Discussed changes to preschool & play-group schedules.
- > Received information about anti-bullying program for grades 5/6.
- > Received information about having a supervisory union food manager & collective food buying.
- > Authorized Carol Randall to sign a 3-year lease-purchase agreement for a copier.
- > Requested continued study for a technology staffing proposal.

## December 16, 2003

- > Discussed FY 05 budget.
- > Agreed by consensus to work toward a long-range financial & educational plan based on a pledge for the school from staff & community.

### U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

*Ginny Burley, Chair*  
*Richard Curtis*  
*East Montpelier Members*

## December 3, 2003

- > There will be a French III trip to Quebec in April & a French IV & V trip to NYC in February. There will be no Spanish trip this year.
- > Discussed moving the WCSU office to the U-32 campus.
- > Board members were invited to attend the Student Administration discussion meetings on 12/16 - 17.
- > Began ongoing discussions of alternative options for obtaining a diploma.
- > Discussed FY 05 budget with total increase of 6.2%.
- > Winter coaches presented & approved.
- > Approved Benjamin D. Brown as para-educator.
- > Discussed solution to the problem of shoplifting in the cafeteria. Student council is also looking into the situation.

## December 10, 2003

- > A community forum was held prior to the Board Meeting to discuss the Board recommended renovation of the Shapiro Community Building for use as the WCSU administrative offices. Avoiding upcoming increases in rent & utilities, eliminating the need for a courier serv-

ice, and consolidating the entire staff were among the benefits of the plan.

- Concerns were expressed about keeping the building available for community members & winter sports, having adequate parking, and campus safety.
- > Mark Chaplin, Science Department Head, distributed Science Long Range goals & reported a revamped grades 9 & 10 science curriculum based on analysis of test results.
- > Approved a school choice agreement between U-32 & Montpelier School District for five students from each school.
- > Accepted the resignation of Laura Book as paraeducator.

## January 7, 2004

- > Scheduled department reviews for January, Guidance; February, Tech. Ed.; and May, Foreign Language. These will occur during scheduled board meetings.
- > Students are encouraged to leave cash & valuables at home.
- > School closings can be found on-line at [www.u32.org](http://www.u32.org).
- > Final FY 2005 Budget discussion included a question about status of Alpine Ski team, maintenance budget & concern for equity in funding of activities for all students & all activities.
- > Discussed Shapiro Building Renovation for WCSU business office. Will look at other options & do outreach to the community concerning the project.
- > Jon Winston reported the roof is leaking near the atrium & there are some heating & cooling issues. Suggested meeting with school attorney.
- > The principal will discuss with the theater department issues & options regarding a proposed Sunday matinee for the April musical.
- > Approved the Admission of Resident Students Policy.
- > Approved the motion to appoint Mary Ellen Simmons 0.5 FTE math teacher.

**Correction:** The U-32 report for October 5, 2003, stated that Amy Herrick had resigned. It should have noted that she had resigned only 30% of her position. She did so to spend more time with her young child.

# Preparing for Town Meeting

## AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING - 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

Names to be printed on the Australian Ballot

Moderator for 1 year	.....Marty Miller
Selectboard for 3 years	.....Edie Miller
Auditor for 3 years	.....Deborah Fillion
Lister for 3 years	.....Sabine Frost
(vote for not more than one)	.....Earl Montague
Lister for 2 years	.....Ross Hazel
Town Law Agent for 1 year	.....Dennis Carver
Town Grand Juror for 1 year	.....Tim Carver
Planning Commissioner for 3 years	.....Tim Carver
(vote for not more than three)	.....Rob Chickering
	.....Wm. Gray Ricker, IV
	.....Carol Welch
First Constable for 1 year	.....Dennis Carver
Second Constable for 1 year	.....Timothy Meehan
Trustee of Public Funds for 3 years	.....Sylvia M. Tosi
Cemetery Commissioner for 5 years	.....Gary Hudson
EMES School Director for 3 years	.....Mathew Curtis
(vote for not more than one)	.....Lucy Ferrada
EMES School Director for 2 years	.....Brian Bishop
(vote for not more than one)	.....Robby Porter
U-32 School Director for 3 years	.....Virginia "Ginny" Burley
(vote for not more than one)	.....Tim Hudson
U-32 School Director for 1 year	.....Sue Chickering
(vote for not more than one)	.....Richard Curtis, Jr.

### WARNING ITEMS OF NOTE

For the complete Town and School Warning, consult your *Town Report* or contact the Town Office .

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the town vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept and to spend grant funding received during 2004 without a vote of the Town.

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town prohibit its constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. This limitation is authorized by Title 24 Section / 1936a.

**ARTICLE 20:** For discussion only: The use of Fairmont Farms loan repayments to the Town of East Montpelier; The Town made a loan of \$218,000 to Fairmont Farms from a grant from the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) administered by the State of Vermont. Repayments on this loan began in 2000, and will be complete in 2007. The policy of the VCDP is to recapture 50% of the original loan principal unless the funds are assigned to a Nonprofit Community Development Organization (NCDO). The recommendation of the Revolving Loan Committee is to:

> Assign \$125,000 from the current Fairmont Farm repayment balance and future loan repayments to the Central Vermont Revolving Loan Fund (CVRLF) recognized by the State as an NCDO, for economic development (ED). CVRLF will be responsible for the administration of the program that will be designated for the use of East Montpelier residents for three years. After three years the lending activity will be reviewed and the Selectboard will determine if the ED funds should continue to be earmarked for East Montpelier residents or allocated for regional use. Assigning the loan to the CVRLF will negate the need to return funds to the VCDP and will give the Town and the Central Vermont region access to an additional \$109,000.

> Assign \$125,000 from the current repayment balance and future loan repayments for a housing program and contract with the Central Vermont Land Trust (CVLT) to administer this fund on behalf of the Town. The Town will negotiate with the State for authorization to use the Central Vermont Revolving Loan Fund as a conduit for the housing funds to CVLT and thereby remove the recapture requirement.

## TOWN MEETING INFORMATION

PTNO will sponsor morning coffee and donuts etc. beginning at 9:00 am before Town Meeting. D. J. Montague is in charge, and you may call 223-6542 to offer her your help or make items to be sold for fund raising by the PTNO.

Baby sitting will be provided as in past years from 9:00 am to noon and from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This will be a fundraiser for the 5th and 6th graders' trip to Quebec later in the spring. Sarah Kinter and other adults with 6th graders helping will be doing baby-sitting for donations to fund their trip. For information on this, please call Sarah Kinter at 229-2040.

Girl Scout cookies will be available in the school lobby to benefit Troup 496. Denise Graves is in charge of this group.

### WELCOME TO TOWNSPEOPLE NEW TO OUR TOWN MEETING!

For the second year, the *Signpost* is hosting a welcome gathering on Town Meeting day for people who are attending their first East Montpelier Town Meeting. Whether you are new residents, long-time residents who haven't attended before or young people newly of age to vote, this gathering is for all of you.

Our *Signpost* Welcome Table will be set up in the hallway from 9:00 am. Come meet your neighbors, learn a bit about the town, ask questions and give us your address to receive the *Signpost*. You may also pick up back issues to help orient you to what goes on in town. We hope that when you leave the meeting later in the day you will feel better acquainted with the town and its people. See you on the 2nd.

### TOWN MEETING POTLUCK

Town Meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Here's how it works: bring a dish to share - salad, main dish, bread or dessert. Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. For example, if two people in your family will be eating lunch, bring a dish that will serve eight people. If you can't bring a dish to share, \$3.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! You can drop your dish off in the kitchen in the morning.

If you would like to volunteer to help out or if you have any questions, call Rachael Grossman at 223-3177. Join us for lunch and catch up with old friends and new neighbors!

### EAST MONTPELIER TOWN/SCHOOL FORUM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 — 9:30 AM EMES

This is a public hearing and informational meeting concerning Australian Ballot Articles and other warned articles for the March 2, 2004, Town and School Meeting. Candidates for Town and School Offices will be introduced. This will be the only opportunity to discuss the Town Budget and other articles that are to be voted on by Australian Ballot. School district business is scheduled to come first, followed by town business, at both the Forum and the Town Meeting; subject to the will of the voters.

Please bring your *Town Reports* to the Forum.

For more information with regard to any Town Meeting issue call the Town Clerk's Office - 223-3313.



## THINGS OF NOTE



### RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

“Taste-Tested” with hints and up-date as needed

by *Paulie Coburn*

#### Maple Nut Cake

Lois McKnight

1/3 cup shortening	2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup light brown sugar	1 cup chopped nuts
2 eggs	1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sweet milk	1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cup flour	

Method: Cream shortening, add sugar and yolks of eggs, vanilla and milk. Add dry ingredients sifted together. Add chopped nuts and mix in the beaten whites of eggs.

Is good with frosting made by cooking 1 cup brown sugar and adding 1 beaten egg white, or a plain white frosting may be used.

#### Paulie's Comments

Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Cook the frosting in a double boiler for five to seven minutes. Then remove and stir until you can spread it on the cake.

In spite of the fact that there is no “maple” in it, it sure tastes good.

Lois and George McKnight lived in East Village at the crest of the hill on Quaker Hill Road. She just celebrated her 90th birthday and is probably the only one of the women who contributed to this cook book that is still living.

The *Community Cook Book* was “sponsored” in the early 1940s by The Friendly Circle.

#### EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Anne Ormsbee, V.P./Treasurer*

Vermont towns have a rich and varied history related to the mining and use of mineral resources. Roger Bailey of Fairlee spoke to members of the East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies about copper mining in Strafford, Corinth and Vershire; talc, in Moretown and Waterbury; asbestos, in Eden and Lowell; slate, in Fair Haven and Poultney; iron, in Fair Haven, Bennington and Wallingford; soapstone, in Bridgewater; marble, in Dorset and Danby; and, of course, granite in Ryegate, Barre, and other Central Vermont sites.

Imagine the excitement in Bridgewater when gold was discovered in 1851. Mining there was discontinued after only three or four years, however. East Montpelier and Calais will join 18 other towns at the Vermont History Expo on June 26 and 27 in Tunbridge to tell the stories of miners, mining and mineral artisanship in Vermont. Our towns will exhibit their history related to the Adamant granite quarries as well as other small, short-lived kinds of stone quarrying done in our areas for local use.

#### CASEY, MCCAFFREY & SUTHERLAND

**in Concert Saturday, March 20, 7:30 pm**

The Old Meeting House is pleased to present another great concert. The lineup includes three native Vermonters who are known as some of the finest composers and songwriters of traditional acoustic music in our state. Patti Casey, Colin McCaffrey and Pete Sutherland draw from their repertoires to present a show that displays the magic they have found in performing together.

Our own Colin McCaffrey lives at Cate Farm, with his wife and children. Immersed in music, he is a singer/songwriter, composer, arranger, teacher, studio musician, sound engineer and record producer. His songwriting and playing are rooted in traditional folk and American forms. He has recorded an album, "What We've Got". Frequently a guest in such bands as *Big Table*, *Uncle Gizmo*, *The Sevens*, *The Clayfoot Strutters* and *Assembly* (formerly *Pop Corn Behaviour*), Colin is intimately connected with the vibrant folk tradition of fiddle-tune based music in the world of the Contra dance.

*Tickets: \$12 adults/ \$6 children, available at Bear Pond Books & the Old Meeting House. Call Barbara Ploof (229-9593).*

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## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

### CVCOA

Twenty five residents of East Montpelier received direct services from the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) last year. CVCOA is a private, non-profit corporation that helps elders remain independent as long as possible in their own homes. David Grundy and Lorrie Raymond serve our town on the Board of Directors.

Federal, state, and local funds provide a variety of services for elders, either directly or under contract with local organizations. This includes case management, information and referral, community and home delivered meals, senior center services, transportation and a number of volunteer opportunities for people of all ages.

The case manager for East Montpelier is Suzan Condon. She's been trained to assess needs and create care plans for individuals that include public, private, and volunteer resources. CVCOA contracts with Twin Valley Senior Center to provide community and home delivered meals for seniors. Noon meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Twin Valley Senior Center located in the basement of the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield. Meals are also delivered to the homes of elders who can't get to the meal site.

Transportation is provided under contract with the local transportation authority, Green Mountain Transit. Under this agreement, rides are provided to elders to get to and from meal sites, medical appointments and shopping.

Other services such as legal aid, health insurance information, assistance from the AmeriCorps Neighbor to Neighbor or the Senior Corps Senior Companion Programs, and referrals to other agencies can be obtained by calling the Senior Help Line at 1-800-642-5119.

It is estimated that CVCOA services to East Montpelier residents is well over \$20,000. Support from residents of East Montpelier is greatly appreciated. Requests for information and assistance are welcomed. Call 479-0531 or 1-800-642-5119.

### SHORT STORY FROM EMES FOURTH GRADER



There once was a boy. He lived with the turtles. He and slept with the turtles. He kissed them and hugged them. He loved them. He had no parents. No family at all. He was found in a tree, a red tree. He was found by a turtle named Ackola. They loved and they loved. Forever and ever.

*By Sean Grade 4*

### CENTRAL VERMONT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Central Vermont members of the League of Women Voters of Vermont are organizing as a local League unit. The geographic area includes Montpelier and surrounding towns of Barre, Berlin, Calais and East Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Plainfield, Stowe, Warren, Waterbury and Worcester.

The League of Women Voters provides its members the opportunity to gain unbiased insight into political issues through study; to act on issues based on information provided by those studies; and, in keeping with its founding principles, to encourage and enable the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

A non-partisan political organization, the League was founded in 1920 to help newly enfranchised women participate in the political process. The League is organized at the local, state and national levels, and no longer limits its membership to women.

The League is always non-partisan, and neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. However, the League does provide information about candidates and ballot issues through candidate debates, voter guides, the web site [www.DNet.com](http://www.DNet.com), and forums on issues. The League also encourages members as individuals to participate actively in the party or campaign of their choice.

While the League is non-partisan, it does take stands on political issues. Members study issues and from those studies and member discussion formulate support positions. Those positions, reviewed every year by the membership, are the basis for political action (lobbying, campaigning for or against town meeting articles, ballot questions, etc).

Anyone interested in learning more about the League may contact Kate Rader at 229-4737 or [radercatherine@gmavt.net](mailto:radercatherine@gmavt.net).

### U-32 LIBRARY OFFERS ON-LINE SERVICES

The U-32 Librarian Dan Greene wants the East Montpelier community to know that they have access to three great on-line database resources. The U-32 Library subscribes to the Vermont On-line Library, EBSCO Magazine Database and the World Book Encyclopedia On-line. You can use these wonderful resources from home. You need a computer, internet service and the information in this article.

The Vermont On-line Library URL is [http://infotrac.gale-group.com/itweb/vol\\_m761u](http://infotrac.gale-group.com/itweb/vol_m761u). The VOL is hundreds of full text periodicals and newspapers including the New York Times.

The Second database is EBSCO periodical database. Here there are also hundreds of full text popular and general interest publications including newspapers and periodicals. The URL for this is: <http://www.ebscohost.com>. The Username is: u32.

The third database is the award winning Encyclopedia World Book. This includes articles, atlas, pictures and more. The URL for this is: <http://www.worldbookonline.com> The Username is: u32library.

For each of these databases, you will need a password. They cannot be published here, but can be obtained by emailing Dan Greene at [dgreene@u32.org](mailto:dgreene@u32.org). He will email you the passwords.

## FOR INDOORS AND OUTDOORS RENOVATIONS - BIG AND SMALL - CALL JAY GRAVES

Barbara Ploof

Being able to do what you've always wanted to do is a luxury many people have decided to do without. This was true for Jay Graves until he started his own business, Yard Ware of Vermont: Indoor and Outdoor Renovations.

Jay's dad was an electrician, and a very good one, says Jay, but not a carpenter. Jay and his brothers assisted their father rewiring and remodeling their childhood home, which had to be one of the oldest houses in Vermont. Jay was interested in learning the wiring aspects but was even more intrigued by the carpentry that was needed. He loves to look at the way an old house is built and figure out how its builder put it together. It's like a good mystery. He finds that to be one of the most interesting parts of his current business. He is glad to do any project, big or small, new construction, or remodeling part of an older home. One challenge on older structures is figuring out how to make the new work fit with the original building. That is also the fun part.

Jay has been in design and engineering work for over 25 years. He started out working for large enterprises like IBM and UVM as a project manager. Though this was good work in terms of pay, it took him away from home, and often he was not the one to put the hammer on the hip. Last year, when he completed his latest project manager mission, rather than travel and be away from his family, Jay opted to start his own business. He knew a lot of local home projects were waiting for a carpenter to help. Jay comes with lots of building experience, including completely gutting and rebuilding his former home in Jericho, building two historic reproduction homes on Bliss Road and remodeling his current home (circa 1830s Cape) on VT14 in North Montpelier. He has remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, put on new additions and is willing to do whatever is needed. He'll gladly put in a window or a door, build a deck or a shed and save time out from his bigger projects to do the smaller jobs in a timely way. He even installed curtain rods and hung curtains for someone a few weeks ago!

Jay really looks forward to each workday, more so than he did when working for other businesses. He reads up on the latest building materials and methods and learns from information on the testing and evaluation of new technologies. Most of the time he works alone, but he doesn't mind having the homeowner lend a hand if he or she so chooses. He subcontracts with local busi-

nesses as needed and has a network of specialists on whom he calls.

Jay looks forward to the day when Erik, his six-year-old son, can help. Erik definitely shows an interest in that direction. He got his own toolbox for Christmas and proudly changed the door handles in the kitchen for his parents. Jay's wife Denise and his daughters Sarah, Lindsay and Emily are supportive of this new change in family life. Sarah, a freshman at St. Lawrence University, has talked about becoming a landscape designer. Maybe that will work into Jay's dreams, which extend beyond his current business to the time when he might have a garden center and nursery as well. He likes outdoor carpentry projects and makes lawn furniture, storage buildings and swing sets. The latter he says are the best because you know there cannot be a more satisfied customer.

It sounds like Jay's the one to call if you are thinking about a building project. He says he really enjoys talking with people and would be glad to hear about the building project you have in mind.



Barbara Ploof and her husband Allen live on Barnes Road. Though mostly retired she works part time as an administrative assistant at the Old Meeting House. Her parents recently moved to town and live with Barb and Allen in an apartment in their house.

### Local Lumber

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## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs.	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
U-32 Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	1st Tuesday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	6:30	Town Office
Revolving Loan Committee	At call of the chair	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

## EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, Vt 05651  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00-5:00 F 9:00-Noon  
Phone: 802-223-3313

**Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi**

email: eastmont1@adelphia.net

**Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti**

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

**Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins**

**Town Administrator - Marlene Betit**

email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

(M-Tu 9:00-5:00, W 9:00-12:00)

**Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto**

(M-F 9:00-11:30)

**Zoning Administrator - Diana Chace**

(Tu & Th 3:00-5:00)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

## EVENTS CALENDAR

February 28	Town Forum/Australian Ballot information meeting	9:30 am	EMES
March 2	Town Meeting Day - Polls open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm	9:30 am	EMES
March 11	Rabies Clinic -	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Fire Station in East Village
March 16	Historical Society - visit to Vermont History Center	7:00 pm	Barre
March 20	Casey, McCaffrey and Sutherland in Concert	7:30 pm	Old Meeting House
April 1	Last day to register dogs at \$5.00 neutered or \$9.00 for un-neutered	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Town Office
April 2 & 3	<i>Kiss me Kate</i>	7:30 pm	U-32
April 4	<i>Kiss me Kate</i>	2:00 pm	U-32
April 20	Historical Society - Ann Ormsbee will talk on Historic Properties in Town	7:00 pm	TBA
May 1	Recreation Field green-up and spruce-up	9:00 am to done	Recreation Field
May 1	Green Up Day	All day	All Over Town

Deadline for next issue: April 1, 2004 — to Dave & Darlene Grundy — 476-4300 {ddgrundy@aol.com}

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March/April 2004

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Graves and the Town  
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