

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XV — Number Four

March/April 2005

CANDIDATES HAVE THEIR SAY

BOB LABBANCE

Marty Miller

Candidates were invited to introduce themselves and prepare an item for the Signpost. The following questions were offered to guide their responses:

Why have you decided to run for this position?

What can you contribute to the work of the position if you are elected?

Planning Commission

Lois Flanders

My name is Lois E. Flanders. I live on 595 Brazier Road. I am running for a position on the Planning Commission. I am a 1988 graduate of Johnson State College with a B.S. in Environmental Science. My focus was in Rural and Urban Planning. I have worked on both a family farm here in East Montpelier and a mass production farm in Panton, Vermont. I am presently a Special Educator at the

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For some people, the proverb regarding not crossing a bridge until you come to it means prudent deferral of a decision. If there were one bridge, a real one and regrettably not proverbial, that Bob Labbance could, in retrospect, have deferred crossing, it was a small wooden bridge at the 6th hole of the Keene (N.H.) Country Club last August 31st.

Carrying his golf clubs on his back with straps like those associated with a backpack, Bob fell off the slippery, rail-less bridge into a shallow creek where his head struck a rock. In what can be described as if it were a scene in a Hitchcock movie, Bob remained conscious but was paralyzed and underwater. "Everything was kind of jangling, tingling, but I never lost consciousness," Bob said a few weeks after the accident.

Fortunately, Bob's playing partner at Keene that day was Kevin Mendik, who raced to the creek and pulled him from the water. Using a cell phone, a call for help was made. It was determined that Bob needed the resources of a major medical center. A helicopter transported him to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

The rest of this part of the story is a portrayal of a determined patient, an extraordinary support system led by his family and many friends, excellent medical care and a recovery that may leave little or no residual damage from this near death experience.

The accident had narrowed the spinal corridor in part of Bob's neck, causing a collapse of the corridor sufficient to paralyze him. Surgery at Dartmouth enlarged the corridor by insertion of bone between some of his cervical vertebrae. After lying immobilized on his back at Dartmouth for over a week, he was transferred to the Fletcher Allen Health Care rehabilitation unit in Colchester (VT) for occupational and physical therapy. Against all odds, recovery started to seem attainable through the grueling rehab sessions, which involved relearning how to walk and do almost every function done daily without pause or forethought by most of us. "I learned and appreciated that the nervous system controls everything, and that I had sustained a major injury to my system." Bob reflected.

Bob is thankful for the extraordinary support of his family and many friends who were ever present when he was hospitalized and needed encouragement. Looking back, he seemed overwhelmed and a bit tearful as he recounted the efforts of his hospital visi-



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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

What is happening to our sense of civic responsibility? Is that "freedom" the politicians talk about so frequently something we are simply happy to take for granted? Are we so engrossed in our own lives, our pursuit of self interest, possessions and the bottom line that we no longer are active participants in our own government?

Every so often someone poses the question, "Vermont is changing, but in what ways?" One way is the sharp decline in the old Vermont belief that every responsible citizen has a duty to participate in making hometown government function. Perhaps the person runs for office in the town or town school district. Perhaps serving on a town committee would be a contribution. Above all, one always went to Town Meeting every single year to catch up on how the town was operating and to cast a vote on the basis of what had been learned in the discussion. Just being there whether you ever joined the debate gave you the feeling that you were part of the community.

If we don't revive our Town Meetings, inevitably the state will move in to fill the void, and we can forget even the vestiges of local rule. In Revolutionary days, Tom Paine was worried that too many farmers would not leave their farms to fight the British. He called them "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" meaning they were shirking their responsibilities.

I strongly believe that we will cease to be a great town if "the summer soldiers and sunshine patriots" continue to ignore Town Meetings as we lose our identity and slowly sink into the miasma of Central Vermont suburbia.

Weston A. Cate, Jr.

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church

Angelo Tillas, Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.
Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House

Rev. David W. Connor
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge
Co-Pastors
Worship - 9:30 a.m.
child care is available
Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church

Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School -
9:30 a.m.
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

"Thank you" to these loyal supporters.

Richard and Alice Angney
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Bob and Lois Webster

Contributions are always welcome. They can be mailed to the address at the left.

EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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East Montpelier

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Do you have a son, daughter, father, mother, sister, brother in the military? We would like to send them a copy of the Signpost if you will give us their address.

Due to alleged security restrictions, the addresses can not be obtained from the military. Call or email any one of the Signpost staff (list on the left) or send the address to *Signpost*, PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651. We will see that their name is added to our address list.

Thank you.



N · O · T · O · W · N
C O M M U N I C A T I O N S
C O M P A N Y

tors to bring some humor and sense of normalcy to a situation, which did not look like it would have a happy ending. As he tells the story, it is clear that he attributes this outpouring of emotional support as an important factor in his recuperation.

So who is our neighbor Bob Labbanco? His life story, in some respects, is similar to those of others who migrated here from more urban areas. He grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut. The Country Club of Fairfield was where he spent a lot of time as a caddy and also as a golfer. He graduated from Bates College and then spent the next 20 years on the management side of the food service industry. His experiences ranged from running the food service at Vermont Law School (which included the South Royalton House Restaurant as well as catering) to taking part in managing the food service at the Killington Ski Area. Although the food service business allowed him to work with his wife, Kathie Hickman, he had no plan to spend his entire working life in that business.

Bob had done a lot of camping in Vermont. He noted that there were Vermont books for hikers, fishermen, skiers, and for others who participated in outdoor recreation, but there were no books describing Vermont golf courses. Sensing this void as an opportunity to merge two of his favorite activities, golf and writing, in 1987 he published a book describing the golf courses of Vermont. He replicated the book on Vermont courses with books on Maine and New Hampshire golf courses. Since these initial forays into golf literature he has done what many other golfers dream about — played golf on probably all of the best golf courses in America as part of his work.

The other part of Bob's work is writing about a variety of golf-related topics, from the hows and whys of turf care to golf history, *Keepers of the Green: A History of Golf Course Management*. When Bob discusses the writing of this book, it is clear that his passion for golf and its history has not been diminished by his accident as he recounts, almost with awe, his meetings with those responsible for many years for the so-called 'care and feeding' of some of the legendary golf courses in the United States.

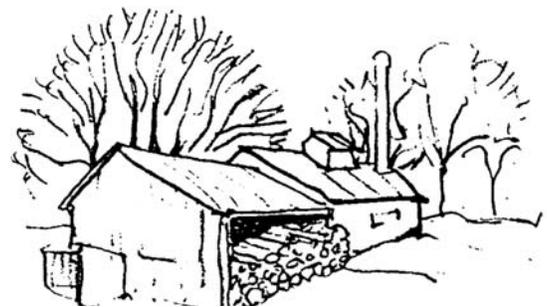
When Bob first came to Vermont to work after college, he lived on Stoneybrook Road in a section of Stockbridge near Notown. Originally unclaimed by the surrounding towns,

Notown was annexed by Stockbridge in 1885. Bob liked the name so well he used it to identify his current business — Notown Communications. He operates this firm with partner and friend Patrick White whom he credits with holding the business together during his recent recuperation. Notown "offers public relations, editorial and photographic services to the golf industry" as stated on its website www.notowngolf.com.

Writing and photography have been a major part of Bob's work. He is an award winning photographer and the author of twelve books on golf-related topics, numerous articles for golf magazines and a novel, *Golf In The Year 2100: A Fanciful Glimpse At The Future of Golf*. Among his books are the histories of many golf/country clubs, which contracted with Bob for this service. He found the research for these club histories very interesting. He reviewed lots of original documents and had access to members who had been part of club history for many years. This archival type research was a treat for him as a history buff. He expressed concern that the use of the Internet as a research tool has become so widespread that students might not appreciate the significance (or even the existence) of original sources in the interpretation and recounting of events long past. For the future, Bob hopes to utilize his writing experience to teach others (especially high-school kids) the same skills.

Bob, Kathie and their children Griffin and Simone have lived in East Montpelier since 1997. He is looking forward to the arrival of golf season by which time he hopes to overcome a lack of full movement in his backswing. His friends are also looking forward to it, saying he will get no strokes because of his 8-handicap (For non-golfers, a single digit handicap can be claimed by very few amateur golfers). With a grin and a remembrance of what he's gone through, Bob's response was a cheerful "I can handle that."

Marty Miller, longtime East Montpelier Moderator, is a lawyer, newly retired business executive and aspiring golfer.



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Union Elementary School in Montpelier. I also have a small perennial garden design business called "The Relentless Gardener." I believe in thoughtful and esthetically pleasing development in East Montpelier with sound environmental laws. I believe in "Long Term Planning," for the protection of farm land, existing aquifers and sound management of our wildlife and wetlands. I would consider it an honor to serve this community as my mother Anne and father Ralph did while I was growing up here.

Rick Hopkins

I currently serve as an East Montpelier Planning Commissioner, and my three year term is drawing to an end. I am eager to continue to apply my land use planning experiences in a manner that helps the town and its residents achieve its growth and development goals.

I feel that I can contribute a good degree of fairness and a working knowledge of the town's land use regulations if I were to be re-elected. During my tenure on the EMPC, I served on a committee which oversaw the development of the recently revised Town Plan. I have been actively participating in the EMPC's effort to revise the town's zoning regulations. I have regularly attended the bi-monthly meetings of the EMPC to hear and decide upon a wide variety of applications.

Mark Lane

I have lived in East Montpelier all of my life. I have dealt with the Planning Commission in the past. I would like to help in the planning of the community of East Montpelier.

Ken Santor

I have served for six years as Planning Commissioner and feel I have been of service. [I can contribute] fair and equal advice for all town residents.

Marilyn "Lyn" Blackwell

I am running for a second three-year term on the Planning Commission. I enjoyed helping to complete the new town plan and hope to continue to work with other commissioners to improve the current zoning regulations. In the next year, we hope to complete a revised set of zoning regulations that will provide more clarity and consistency for townspeople. If re-elected, I will work to maintain East Montpelier as the neighborhood community we know and appreciate.

East Montpelier Elementary School Candidates

Jan Aldrich

I believe I still have a lot to offer the community and school. I have experience and over 12 years of history with the school and

board. I've seen many changes over the years, mostly positive, a few not so positive. I still enjoy working on the school board, and it helps me stay in touch with the families and our school.

I would bring many years of valuable leadership skills and experience not just at the local level but at the supervisory board level too. I've been involved in many aspects of the school over the years including, but not limited to, helping to develop the employee evaluation process, knowledge of our K-6 curriculum, Vermont Frameworks and the new Grade Level Expectations, served on three negotiation teams, developing budgets and serving on many committees. Last, I will continue to take the time necessary and make the commitment to do a great job as a school director.

Julia Haynes

I have decided to run for a second term on the EMES School Board as a way to stay involved in education.

If I am re-elected, I will contribute common sense to the School Board process.

Bill Kaplan

Cathi and I have two children, Ben, 6, in first grade and Frances, 4. I am a volunteer educator at the school and after school for the Community Connections Program; founding partner of Morse Farm Ski Touring Center; started my commercial real estate business 20 years ago; project manager for national land trust; graduated from Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

I decided to run because I believe there is nothing more important than each child's education and this is a way to align my efforts to help. East Montpelier has a history of turning out fine students, and no one argues how important that is. In times where many are stretching to meet increasing demands with the same resources, community communication and involvement can be the glue. I will work to ask and listen to all questions because I am a strong believer that given enough information the decision makes itself.

I have never run for public office, and it's hard for me to "toot my own horn." A boss once told me, "If you don't... someone will use it as a spittoon!" So, with your permission: I've been attending East Montpelier School Board meetings for going on two years as an interested citizen. I've contributed quite a lot, but the clearest example may be the phone system: A good phone system has been needed at our school for years, partly for expediency and especially for safety reasons. There was never room in the budget, so I volunteered to help. We organized fundraising and made the project possible. Now East Montpelier Elementary School has a state-of-the-art phone system. This is just one example of how I can help to transfer the focus back to our children and away from money complications.

I've built a business over the last 20 years. I am able to help see what it takes to deliver what the community has come to expect. We can provide for our children at a cost we can afford.

U-32 School Board Candidates

Susan Chickering

First I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the voters of East Montpelier for giving me the opportunity to serve the community in the role as School Director this past year.

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NAMES TO BE PRINTED ON THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Having worked in school systems for over 20 years as a school counselor, it has been very educational for me to serve in this position and gain this new perspective. I have learned a great deal and I believe that I bring an important viewpoint to the discussion table because of my direct contact with students, teachers and administrators on a daily basis in my current job. I would welcome the opportunity to continue as school director, thus maintaining the consistency that currently exists. My ultimate goal is to provide the best possible, fiscally responsible education we can for our children to prepare them for the labor market and to be contributing, independent, conscientious citizens.

Richard Curtis

I had the opportunity to serve on the U-32 board from July 2003 through March 2004, having been appointed by the East Montpelier Select Board. I have decided to run again as I feel that I can make a positive contribution to the education of my children and the student population by providing sound leadership at the board level.

I will be bringing to the table experience in budgets, facilities management, personnel management, knowledge of state standards and previous board experience. I enjoy working with people and have a vision to provide the best education possible for our children.

Trustee of Public Funds

Mary Ann Cerasoli

I feel that I have the abilities to oversee the public funds of the town. As Assistant Town Clerk, I can oversee the daily and weekly happenings within the office.

I have run loan obligation programs for 25 years while working for the federal government and feel this background adds to my abilities.

Auditor

Pauline Coburn

The Select Board appointed me to finish the term of Tracy Phillips. My 18 years as Assistant Town Clerk has given me an understanding of the business of the town. This will help to do an efficient town audit.

- Moderator for 1 year Marty Miller
- Selectman for 3 years Tom Brazier
- Lister for 3 years Rosendo Cueto
- Auditor for 3 years Pauline Coburn
- Trustee of Public Funds for 3 years Mary Ann Cerasoli
- Town Law Agent for 1 year No Candidate
- Town Grand Juror for 1 year Burr Morse
- First Constable for 1 year No Candidate
- Second Constable for 1 year Paul W. Haynes
- Planning Commissioner for 3 years . . . Marilyn "Lyn" Blackwell
(Vote for not more than Three) Lois E. Flanders
Richmond (aka Rick) Hopkins
Mark Lane
Ken Santor
- Cemetery Commissioner for 5 years Elliott Morse
- School Director for 3 years Janice Aldrich
- School Director for 2 years Julia Longhi Haynes
(Vote for not more than One) Bill Kaplan
- U-32 School Director for 3 years Susan Chickering
(Vote for not more than One) Richard W. Curtis, Jr.

TOWN MEETING POTLUCK LUNCH

Town meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Join us for lunch and catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors. 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, \$5.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year!
- *Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning.

Please note that we encourage everyone who can to bring a dish as this is truly a potluck. If too many people buy lunch, then it is possible that we will run out of food. It hasn't happened yet, but the kitchen crew is always a bit tense wondering if there will be enough food! However, if the only way you can eat with us is to purchase, please do!

Kitchen volunteers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer, or for more information, call Rachael Grossman 223-3177.

The PTNO will be handling the coffee, donuts and goodies beginning at around 9 a.m. Want to help? Let Lindi Johnson know - 223-0384.

The Elementary School is handicaped accessible.

BABYSITTING AVAILABLE

Four students from the U-32 Spanish class will provide babysitting at Town Meeting. They have a trip to Mexico planned for this April so donations will be welcomed.

WELCOME TO TOWNSPEOPLE NEW TO OUR TOWN MEETING!

For the third 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 1st.

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: eastmonttc@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk - Maryanne Cerasoli

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit

email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

(Mon.-Tue. 9:00-5:00, Wed. 9:00-12:00)

Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto

(Mon.-Fri. 9:00-11:30)

Zoning Administrator

P. Jane Grinde

(Tue. & Thur. 2:00 pm-5:00 pm)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair,
Martha Holden, Edie Miller

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Deborah Fillion	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Tracy Phillips
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Pat Biggam	Sandy Conti
Jeff Cueto	Steve Kappel
Cliff King	Gray Ricker
Fred Strong	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair
Sue Chickering

Elementary School

Jan Aldrich, Chair 229-0406

Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Brian Bishop 223-5332

bbdbishop@adelphia.net

Joe Buley 233-7970

jbuleyjr@adelphia.net

Matthew Curtis 223-7403

curtis-mj@msn.com

Julia Haynes 223-1651

pjhaynes@madriver.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Milestones

BIRTHS

- ◆ Charles William Haynes, born May 30, 2004, son of Julia Longhi & Paul Wesley Haynes.
- ◆ Emily Jean Dion, born December 2, 2004, daughter to Amanda Jean and Seth Adam Dion.

MARRIAGES

- ◆ Bruce Dwaine Marshall to Pauline Rita Marshall, married December 17, 2004. (Renewal of vows)

DEATHS

- ◆ Esther D. Bresnahan, died December 2, 2004, mother of Carole Shouldice.
- ◆ Lois C. Hanna, died December 9, 2004, spouse of James H. Hanna.
- ◆ Nancy S. Clayton, died December 16, 2004, spouse of Kenneth R. Clayton and mother of Putnam Clayton and Barbara Ploof.
- ◆ Gladys Dunkling, died February 1, 2004, mother of Pam. and Jon Dunkling.

LAND TRANSFERS

- ◆ William D. & Joan M. Kirby to Patrick A. & Sara K. Kirby, 2.0 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- ◆ Karl E. & Lois E. Strassberger to Stephen B. & Lisa J. Pratt, 1.77 acres & commercial buildings, US2.
- ◆ Mildred Heller to Roger J. & Barbara A. Clark, 76 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- ◆ Patricia J. Wells to Robert C. & Wendy H. Benway, 1.01 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- ◆ Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to David Heller, 31.7 acres, VT14.
- ◆ Georges R. Desboeufs Estate to Bruce & Malinda J. Johnson, 40.5 acres & dwelling, Sodom Pond Rd.
- ◆ Hilde Sibley to Michael J. & Cheryl Rus, 3 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- ◆ Shawn A. & Cynthia A. Marshall to Bruce D. & Pauline R. Marshall, 0.97 acres & dwelling, Old Railroad Lane.
- ◆ Douglas J. Hill to Jon & Linda Hutchins, 3.2 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- ◆ James H. Hanna Jr. to James H. Hanna Jr., life estate, Steven W. Hanna & Karen L. H. Allen, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- ◆ Douglas A. Royce to Linda Lee Royce, 0.35 acres & shed, Quaker Rd.

- ◆ Gladys Linton Brock Estate to Richard Linton Brock, 20 acres & dwelling, Cutler Heights Rd.
- ◆ Darryl A. Johnson to Eric Obeldobel & Monica E. Urquhart, 10.65 acres and dwelling, VT14S.
- ◆ Robert W. Phillips, II & Deborah A. Phillips to Serge Isabelle & Stephan Isabelle, 10 acres and dwelling, VT14S.

Land records are public information.

Further details on any of these property transfers may be obtained at the Town Office.

Selectboard

October 18, 2004

- ◆ Appointed Pauline Coburn as Town Auditor until Town Meeting Day 2005, replacing Tracy Phillips.
- ◆ Approved combining with the Plainfield/Marshfield Broadband Committee and Wireless Revolution for vendor services for step two of the grant application process.

November 1, 2004

- ◆ Appointed to the East Montpelier Fire Department Facilities Steering Committee: Diana Chace, Rick Barstow, Edie Miller, Kathleen Audy, Bill Kaplan, Brian Phillips, Bruce Bjornlund, Bill George, Andy Shapiro.
- ◆ Approved the new "Application for Public Right of Way" and "Application for Access and/or Work in Right of Way" forms. There is a \$35 fee per application.
- ◆ Access Permit approved with conditions for Robert and Virginia Bragg
- ◆ Approved \$600 for wireless sound system for town and school meetings.

November 29, 2004

- ◆ Approved Gully Jumpers' request for use of short sections of town roads.
- ◆ Restated the town will not purchase signs for the County Road Neighborhood Watch Group.
- ◆ Continued discussion of a roundabout or a signal at VT14 and VT2.

December 20, 2004

- ◆ Richard Czaplinski announced his plans to step down from the position of Sewage Officer in 2005.

January 3, 2005

- ◆ Discussed and drafted an article of warning for changing the town fiscal year to July 1 to June 30 including an initial 18-month tax cycle with two payment dates.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Board of Adjustment

October 25, 2004

- ◆ Granted a variance to Rubin Bennett to build a garage.
- ◆ Final approval for Ronald and Claudette Marienelli for a conditional use permit for an accessory dwelling unit.

November 22, 2004

- ◆ Granted a variance to Jessie Taylor to build a shed/garage.

January 24, 2005

- ◆ Variance granted to Dave Rogers to remove an outbuilding and build a garage in the same location.

Planning Commission

November 4, 2004

- ◆ Discussed village septic issues. Will ask Select Board for information of current status.
- ◆ Sketch plan approvals for Deb and Rick Gordon and Tracy and Brian Phillips were about to expire. Requests for extensions for both were approved.

November 11, 2004

- ◆ Tabled a motion to reduce front setbacks in Commercial District A & Industrial District B to match that of Residential & Commercial District C.

November 18, 2004

- ◆ Granted approval for the final site plan review for a six-lot subdivision of a 37.7 acre parcel owned by Robert and Virginia Bragg on VT14N with the condition that the width of the road serving the lots be a minimum of 18 ft. wide.
- ◆ Blackwell, Fillion, Hopkins, Welch voted in favor of limiting multi-family dwellings permitted in Residential District D to 6 units. Carver and Phillips in favor of 12-unit limit.

December 16, 2004

- ◆ Approved permit for Steven Miracle for business use of an existing accessory structure at his residence on Barnes Road.

- ◆ Continued review of Zoning Regulations and agreed to revert to current regulations where no consensus for change exists.

Elementary School

October 7, 2004

- ◆ Ray Proulx facilitated discussion on Zero Based Budgeting in preparation for a staff meeting on October 26.

October 20, 2004

- ◆ Audit of Food Service found some forms filled out incorrectly. Auditor said the school should have a separate budget for food service.
- ◆ Declared a Board granted tuition waiver cannot be paid for if a family is not in town.
- ◆ Agreed to move forward with the proposal that each elementary school in the supervisory union keep its own monies set aside for Early Education.
- ◆ Community Connections was awarded a grant and, as a licensed daycare, EMES can access grant money for qualified families for after school programs like Community Connections.
- ◆ Goals of the technology committee are to continue to train personnel to take over the operation of the EMES website which was set up by Margaret McCoy and to foster digital camera usage.
- ◆ Kevin Hudson's bid for snowplowing was accepted.

November 9, 2004

- ◆ Granted a tuition waiver to a family for the rest of the 04-05 school year.
- ◆ Reviewed first draft of the FY 06 school budget which includes a 9% increase. Recommendations made to look at the whole budget for reducing the increase. Nancy Thomas reported a significant increase in the number of students with special needs as well as an increase in the severity of needs.
- ◆ Dennis Beloin reported there is a draft of a three year technology plan for the district. Thanks to Ellen Knoedler, Kathy Christy, Matt Curtis and Margaret McCoy for their efforts on the EMES plan.

- ◆ Peg Meyer reported 83% of students are achieving the state standards in the Developmental Reading Assessment. EMES students are above the average in the math and language arts New Standards Reference Exams. These test scores provide evidence of effective teaching and learning.

U-32 Jr. & Sr. High School

November 17, 2004

- ◆ Approved the following appointments: Margaret Keys - 0.1 FTE English, Janie Barnett - 0.1 FTE English.
- ◆ Approved authorization of Bob Rea to proceed with Dana Gravel for the rest of the site work.
- ◆ Authorized the expenditure of \$7,500 from the construction fund to have Francis Flood finish the front entry-way.

December 1, 2004

- ◆ Approved the Technology Plan for State Submission.
- ◆ The following course proposals were approved: TRAC 1, Advanced Metal Technology, and Democracy in Action.
- ◆ Winter coaches were approved.
- ◆ Approved an additional 0.1 FTE for George Olson.

December 8, 2004

- ◆ Approved the following new course proposals as recommended by the Curriculum Committee: Guitar Ensemble and Java Computer Programming.

January 5, 2005

- ◆ Voted to accept the FY 2006 budget and district warnings as presented.
- ◆ Accepted the following resignations: Dianne Truman - Academic Coordinator, Walter Opuszynski - Paraeducator.
- ◆ Approved the following appointments: Carol Senning 0.2 FTE Math, Amanda M. Mathewson - Paraeducator.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TOWN OFFICES

Jessie Taylor



TOWN MEETING DAY

Things have come around full circle. One year ago, when interviewing Sylvia Tosi about her job as

Town Clerk for the first article in this series, we spoke briefly about Town Meeting. This current article is to explain in a bit more detail about the wonderful institution of Town Meeting. As I was speaking with Sylvia, she pulled out the same large wall calendar (2005 version) that she had referred to last year. The calendar, published by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, has all the critical dates leading up to Town Meeting. There are deadlines for filing a nomination petition, deadlines for warning articles and ballot petitions and more. School Board reports are coming in as well as committee reports, the town budget and so on. The voting machine is reprogrammed for the current meeting. All this information comes streaming into the Town Offices at an ever-increasing speed like a river heading for the falls.

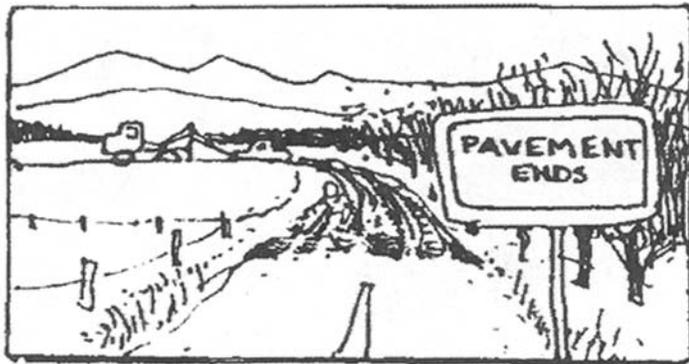
The Town Report is finalized and sent to press about two weeks before Town Meeting. It is then mailed to the registered voters of East Montpelier for perusal. The Town Moderator, Marty Miller, spends a good amount of time prior to Town Meeting reviewing Robert's Rules and familiarizing himself with each warned article.

Articles to be voted on by Australian Ballot are those which involve money of \$10,000 or more. All others are put out on the floor for discussion and voice voting. Marty's primary job as

moderator is to conduct the Town Meeting. The articles to be discussed are brought forth and, if after discussion, it seems that a voice vote has been close, the Moderator then has the authority to call for a show of hands.

On hand during the Meeting are members of the Board of Civil Authority for the East Montpelier. In the event of a close vote, it is the BCA members that count the ballots. They, too, are the ones who tally the absentee ballots and, on some occasions, take ballots to people who, for emergency reasons, can't make it to the polls. Also present and presiding are the Town Clerk (taking minutes), the Selectboard and School Board Members. They are there to help with any discussions that arise, answer questions and explain any issues that might need clarification.

Town Meeting Day is a cherished part of Vermont life. The meeting itself is like the pool at the bottom of the falls. All the energy and momentum culminate in the quiet, yet moving water below. There is something very warming about a regular gathering in the gym on the first Tuesday in March. Everyone is still wearing big boots and scarves, but there is always a hint of spring in the air. It is a time to see neighbors, even if from across the room, a time to put a face to a name, and most importantly, it is a time to make decisions about our Town as an inclusive, participating body. Having a real say in the running of the town is important, and a good turnout always adds to the feeling of accomplishment for those who organize the meeting as well as those who participate. We have a wonderful town, and some great people making it what it is today. Thanks to all.



INCREASE IN DOG LICENSING

Dog licensing fees have changed again. Fees have increased as of July 1, 2004 as the State has implemented a spaying and neutering program for which an additional fee of \$2 will be collected on each dog/wolf hybrid licensed. Please refer to your Town Reports for more detailed information as to license fees and Rabies Vaccination Certificates. After initial rabies vaccinations, new rabies certificates are now good for 36 months.


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MARCH EVENTS

Storytime Beach Party

Tuesday, March 1, 2005 10:00 a.m.-12 noon

You've heard of "Christmas in July?" Well, this is a summer beach party in mud season! Wear your shorts, Hawaiian shirts, flip flops and sunglasses and have a sunny time with Mary Jane! Of course, you'll have to wear your snowsuit over your beachwear to get from your house to the library, but it will be worth the fun!

Henry V: War in Shakespeare

Wednesday, March 2, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Olivier, and Branagh. Peter Saccio, Shakespearean scholar and Dartmouth professor, examines the presentation of politics and war in Shakespeare's play and in the film adaptations of Laurence Olivier (1944) and Kenneth Branagh (1989).

Film clips will be shown.

Vermont Reading and Discussion Series

Monday, March 7, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Crime and Punishment with Professor Kathleen Dana. Read or re-read this classic Russian novel by Fyodor M Dostoevsky in three sessions: March 7, March 21 and April 4. Professor of Northern Studies at Sterling College, Dana rates *Crime and Punishment* as one of her favorite books. For the first session, participants should read the Introduction and Part One. Dana will give a good deal of background on Dostoevsky and this book. For the second session, read and discuss Parts 2, 3, and 4. And the final session, read and discuss Parts Five and Six and

the Epilogue. We have 35 copies of *Crime and Punishment* at the library for this program. To learn more about Professor Dana visit the Sterling College website at: <http://www.sterlingcollege.edu/cns/faculty.htm>.

Bread & Roses

Wednesday, March 9, 2005 7 p.m.

By local playwright Lea Wood. Co-sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

APRIL EVENTS

A Pruning Workshop

Saturday, April 2, 2005 10 a.m. -12 Noon

Co-sponsored by the Central Vermont Master Gardeners Program. This will be a lecture AND hands-on workshop. We will start with a program in the library and then go outside and prune the shrubs around the library! Please register at the Adult Circulation Desk in March.

The Fourteenth Star

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 7 p.m.

Historian H. Nicholas Muller, III, discusses Vermont's history from its declaration of independence from Britain in 1777 until it joined the United States in 1791. A First Wednesday program co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

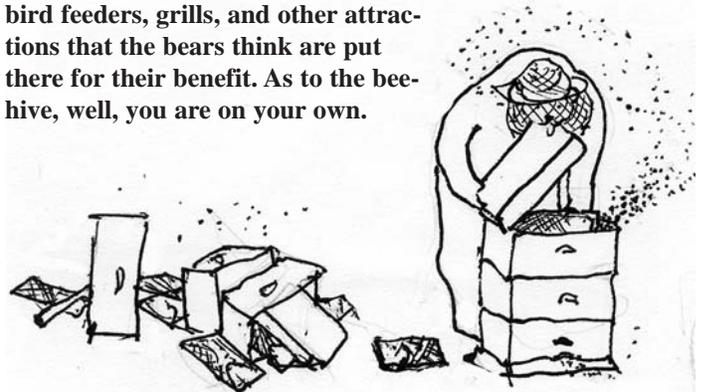
All programs are free, open to the public and ADA accessible. See you at the library!

FOUND: ACROSS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE, 2 SPECIAL ORDER DOORKNOBS

A couple of teachers were walking through the Washington Electric parking area and found two boxes of doorknobs. They were not wet or damaged. The Town Office staff contacted East Montpelier Home Center and Allen Lumber to see if it was anything they had sold in the past month. No one at Washington Electric had lost them either. No one at the Fire Dept. had any knowledge of where they might have come from.

So, if you can't open your doors, give the Town Office a call — 223-3313

It's spring - remember to take in the bird feeders, grills, and other attractions that the bears think are put there for their benefit. As to the beehive, well, you are on your own.



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THINGS OUR KIDS DO

SNOW POEMS FROM MRS. PASTORE'S FIRST GRADE CLASS

Sledding by Simon - Grade 1

Snow falls
Like little diamonds
Every time I slide
Down I go
Digging a path
In my sled
No one can pass
"Giddie up go."

Skiing by Dashielle - Grade 1

Skiing is fun
Kicking snow
In my boots
I go fast
Never crashing
Going on trails.

Snowballs by Alexa - Grade 1

Snowballs 1,2,3
Nose made from carrots
Only two buttons for eyes
Wooden sticks become arms
Mouth made of buttons
Always happy and full of love
Now we have some fun.

Hockey by Guy Grade 1

Hockey is fun
On top of the ice
Covering up the puck
Kicking the puck in the net
Entering the rink
You can play hockey too

CAROLING

First Grade Students

On December 22, 2004 Mrs. Pastore's and Mrs. Pomerantz's first grades and East Montpelier 5/6 grade chorus went caroling. We sang lots of songs. One was called *Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah* with a solo by Derek Cote. Another song was *Frosty the Snowman* with a solo by Alexa West. We went to Lincoln House, Woodridge Nursing Home and Heaton Woods. The people there were happy that we sang for them. We had fun sharing the holiday spirit! We were glad our music teacher, Ms. Dunkling, taught us those beautiful songs.



NICOLE FERRADA

Zanny Klein

Like many teenagers, Nicole Ferrada, a junior at U-32, is busy with a part-time job and various extra curricular commitments. Her after-school-activity of choice is cheerleading, and her paycheck comes from Damsels, a clothing store in downtown Montpelier. However, unlike many employed teenagers working at various stores around the region, Nicole doesn't just sell the items on the shelves, she makes some of them as well.

"I started designing clothes when I was really young," Nicole recalls. "It all began because my mom owns a children's clothing store (Cow and Lizard), and I was always around her while she was working." Nicole soon developed the skills to sew things herself. "I have my own sewing machine, so I make my own patterns and then sew them up." Nicole's many days spent at Cow and Lizard (now called The Cheshire Cat) paid off this fall when the owners of Damsels saw something they liked. "My co-worker, Liz England, wore a skirt I had made," Nicole remembers. "It was a mini-skirt with a wide band of yellow at the top, the bottom poofs out and is made of tulle; a netty, meshy fabric." Nicole made seven more at her bosses' request. Though the design itself just came to her, the skirts took a little over half an hour a piece when she was making the set of seven. The skirts were put up for sale on the shelves of Damsels and sold in no time.

Nicole sees this as a first step towards fashion design, a career she has foreseen since she was little. She plans to keep working at Damsels for now, a job she enjoys because of the people she works with and an atmosphere she likes. Though central Vermont isn't a world center of design, she likes being around the fashion industry here, as secluded as it may be. Nicole plans to study fashion design in college and pursue the profession. "My first choices are Parsons School of Design and Syracuse University," Nicole reports. These are among other colleges she will visit in February.

Zanny Klein is a junior at U-32.

Vermont Technical College has announced that the following students from East Montpelier were named to the President's List or the Dean's List for the fall semester.

President's List - Highest Academic Honors

John E. Helme & Brent J. Kievet-Kylar

Dean's List - High Academic Honors

Rachel T. Pinard & Lisa J. Pratt

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Recipes
Ina Pray

3 cups flour
2½ teaspoons cream tartar
1¼ teaspoons soda
1 teaspoon salt sifted together

1 egg well beaten
sweet milk to mix soft
2 tablespoons lard

RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

“Taste-Tested” with hints and up-date as needed
by *Paulie Coburn*

Paulie’s Comments

You will need about one cup sweet milk - this makes a soft dough that will be somewhat hard to handle. Let the dough rise about 15 minutes before you cut the donuts. Cover the cut donuts with a towel while heating the deep fat fryer.

You will notice that there are no spices in this recipe therefore the donuts are just the greatest thing to serve with maple syrup, sugar on snow or with a little maple cream.

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

THE EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anne Ormsbee, VP/Treasurer

FORTY YEARS AGO

Nineteen hundred sixty-five was a year of changes in a decade of changes. On March 2, 1965, the town held its last meeting in the Village Hall on US Route 2 in East Montpelier before moving its meetings to the new elementary school.

It was the last year town officers were elected from the floor. Thereafter they were elected by Australian ballot. It was the year the town lost its single representative to the Vermont House, when it was joined with Calais and Woodbury to form District 60. It was the last year townspeople voted from the floor whether “license for the sale of malt and vinous beverages be granted in this town” and “spirituous liquors be sold in this Town.” The next year it was by Australian ballot.

While we may no longer have the old Village Hall in which to vote on whether the Town goes wet or dry, do attend our town's meeting on March 1. The Historical Society's upcoming meetings include a discussion of local geology with Chris Stone on March 21 at the Four Corners Schoolhouse and a visit to the Cate farm on April 18. All are welcome.

THINGS TO DO IN MARCH AND APRIL

Four Corners Schoolhouse Association

The association has two more evenings planned to help you drive away those winter blues. March 4 is Game Night. Bring your favorite game and join in the fun.

April 1 features comedy and karaoke. Call Barbara Dall at 229-4870 for more information.

The Old Meeting House

Rehearsals for *The Wiz* are underway at The Old Meeting House. This “super soul adaptation of the *Wizard of Oz*” will be presented by members and friends of The Old Meeting House on April 22 and 23 and April 28 through 30. More information about the performances will be available on the OMH calendar at www.oldmeetinghouse.org as the time of the show approaches.



Then, close on the heels of *The Wiz*, will be another performance, this time by Nightingale, a Vermont-based trio of fiddle, guitar, and piano. They will perform at The Old Meeting House on Friday evening May 6.

April 21 the *Wiz* 5-K Race will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Parish House. Registration from 5:00 to 5:45 - call Tim Noonan 223-6216.



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Barre Call Recreation Department 476-0257
Berlin **Berlin Mall** - Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m to 5 p.m.
Calais **Elementary School** - Mon.-Fri., 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
East Montpelier **Elementary School** - Mon.-Fri., 6:45 to 8:15a.m. and 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(schools not available during vacations and holidays)

Physical activity can:

- * decrease stress and depression
 - * increase strenght and endurance
 - * improve bone density
- Bring:
- * a friend
 - * drinking water
 - * pedometer

Call Anne Ferguson

Vermont Department of Health - 479-4200 for other sites.

PARISH HOUSE CAFE

All are welcome to come to lunch every Wednesday at noon at the Old Meeting House. Lunch is free, but donations are appreciated and are used for the church mission projects. Homemade soup, salad, and desserts are served along with fresh bread from Manghi's Bakery. Jessie Taylor of East Montpelier and Vicky King of Montpelier are the organizers and founders of the cafe.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thursday	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.	Last Tuesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

NOTICES

March 1, Town Meeting Day 9:30 am - Polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Australian Ballot items, town and school offices — including U-32 board member. East Montpelier Elementary School

April 1: Last day- Dog Licenses due. 9:00 - 5:00 Town Office.

March 16: Rabies Clinic at Fire Station, VT Route 14, across from town office. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 1	Storytime Beach Party	10:00 a.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
March 2	Henry : War in Shakespeare	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
March 4	Game Night	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
March 7	Vermont Reading and Discussion Series	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
March 9	Bread & Roses	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
March 21	Historical Society meeting - Local geology with Chris Stone	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
April 1	Comedy and Karaoke	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
April 2	A Pruning Workshop	10:00 a.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
April 6	The Fourteenth Star	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
April 18	Historical Society meeting - visit to the Cate Farm	7:00 p.m.	The Cate Farm
April 21	The Wiz 5-K Race	6:00 p.m.	Old Meeting House

Deadline for next issue: April 1, 2005 — to Dave & Darlene Grundy — 476-4300 {ddgrundy@aol.com}

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Inside: Bob Labbanca &
 Candidates Have
 Their Say

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