

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVI — Number Two

November/December 2005

## COOKING IT UP AT THE MELTING POT CAFÉ

*Cathi Kaplan*

Around noon is not the best time to chat with Laura Robbins, chef and owner of the newest-and-only restaurant in town. “No way,” she says with a chuckle, “I’ll be running around like crazy.”

At 9:30 the next morning, when I finally catch up with her, Robbins is still quick on her feet, serving cappuccinos to a couple vacationing from Ontario and Huevos Rancheros to a table of regulars. It is ten o’clock before Robbins, glamorous in crimson lipstick and black blouse, takes a seat. “Of course, the first year is always tricky,” she says, but The Melting Pot Café is busy enough to leave a sparkle in her eye.

Laura Robbins, who lives in Danville, is a nurse and a cook. After

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## THE LADY ON QUAKER ROAD

*Linda Royce*

Lois McKnight has been told by her family that January 13, 1914, was a cold blustery day when she arrived at the home of her parents, Fred and Ruth Dwinell, on Hollister Hill in Marshfield. Dr. Wheeler and his horse had a tough trip from Plainfield through the drifts and deep snow, many times having to follow the fence lines, but he made it and so did Lois.

Not long after Lois was born, her dad was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He died just before her third birthday. She and her mother moved in with her grandparents, Edwin and Bertha Pitkin, in North Montpelier while her mother worked at various jobs.

Lois attended grade school in North Montpelier through sixth grade. She completed her seventh year in Montpelier where her mother had found employment. At the beginning of the next school year her mother was hired as a primary teacher at the East Montpelier Village graded school, and Lois completed eighth grade there. She graduated from Montpelier High School in 1932 and subsequently worked in a secretarial position with a lawyer in Montpelier.

Lois married George McKnight in 1933. At the time, George was working on his family’s farm on Quaker Road, so they moved in with George’s parents in the home where Lois now resides.

Sometime later, while visiting her mother and grandmother in North Montpelier, Lois became ill. George and Lois moved in with them, and stayed for several years, so they could help George take care of Lois. He found employment in the North Montpelier Woolen Mill. When Lois was physically able, she returned to her job in Montpelier until her son Melvin was born in 1935.

In 1940 she accepted a secretary-bookkeeper job in the North Montpelier Woolen Mill office in North Montpelier. Around 1941 or 1942 Lois and George decided they wanted a place that they could call their own so they chose a small farm on Quaker Road, then known as the George Shortt place and where Mrs. Gerald Ibey now resides.



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## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

As November approaches with its traditional annual holiday, I am mindful of the many things for which I'm thankful. I'm a citizen of a great nation, which, for all its shortcomings, offers me substantial personal freedom, participatory government, the predictability of the rule of law, and the opportunity for economic well-being.

I'm appreciative of the state of Vermont with its tradition of self-reliant residents who tend to think through what makes sense for them rather than just "go with the flow." We're fortunate to live in a state that honors its past by supporting our farmers and their land while welcoming newcomers and new ideas. I feel lucky to live in a state where independent thinking is respected and encouraged. I'll take the snow and cold and not have to worry much about hurricanes, tornadoes, or earthquakes.

I am most thankful to live in East Montpelier and feel such a part of our local community. I am enlightened by neighbors who have lived in town for decades or generations and by those who have just moved to town, bringing with them fresh perspectives. I'm glad that our town supports its excellent schools, maintains its roads so well, and promotes the conservation of our farmland and forests. Rally Day is perhaps the most conspicuous occasion for our coming together and it continues because folks value it enough to put in the work to make it happen. My thanks to these public-minded people and to all my fellow townspeople who contribute so much of their time and creativity to our town in so many ways.

*Rob Chickering*

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### SIGNPOST BUDGET- PLEASE AND THANK YOU

*Rob Chickering, Signpost Business Manager*

First a great big thank you to the mother and daughter team of Sally Longhi and Julia Haynes for taking charge of the *Signpost* Silent Auction on Rally Day. Thanks as well to all the helpers, contributors, and bidders who pitched in to generate about \$2,250 this year for our major annual fundraiser.

Our *Signpost* annual budget is a pretty simple matter since all our staff members are volunteers and our expense categories are limited to Printing and Postage, which cost about \$850 per issue. Six issues a year, sent to all East Montpelier households, cost about \$5,100. Last year our miscellaneous expenses totaled less than \$150. On the income side of the ledger last year, we have the auction proceeds, \$625 from Advertising, \$857 from Contributions, \$120 from Subscribers, and \$30 from Interest.

If you add up the expenses and subtract the income, you see that we are facing a shortfall of about \$1,370 for the 12 months ahead.

This is where the "please" comes in. I know that every organization is asking for donations, especially this year. Many of your fellow townspeople have been very generous in their support of the *Signpost*. We simply need more donations in this year ahead to balance our budget. Please send them and your comments and suggestions to our address in the box at the left. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

EAST MONTPELIER  
**Signpost**

Published six times a year  
Mailed free of  
charge to all residents of  
East Montpelier

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

#### "Thank you" to these loyal supporters.

Allen and Maybeth Butler  
Gus and Alberta Pacini  
Fred and Joyce Jacek

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

Then her daughter Joyce was born, but Lois continued working at the woolen mill office until 1946.

During her time at the woolen mill office she had an application on file at the State hoping to obtain a position, and eventually she did, as a file clerk, with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles. She said that filing was not her "cup of tea," but at least she would be where she could keep an eye open for another position within the State.

Eventually the Legislature created a new department called the Department of Public Safety, with retired Major General USMC Merritt A. Edson as its Commissioner. He and his Deputy Commissioner were given office space in the Motor Vehicle Department until other temporary space at the Capitol building could be arranged. Lois was hoping and wishing that she could have a position in this new department. Finally, one day General Edson summoned her to his office and after a brief conversation, he asked her if she would like to transfer to the new Department of Public Safety. She knew that she did not need to go home to think about this offer; she immediately said, "Yes, General, I would, and thank you for asking me." So on July 1, 1947 she became an employee of the Vermont Department of Public Safety and remained there for 30 years until her retirement. She said that it was a wonderful 30 years and well worth waiting for!

She said that in the early 1950's her father-in-law decided that the family farm was getting to be too much for him, so he

asked George and Lois if they would be interested in exchanging farms. They agreed, and this is the home where Lois now resides. Around 1966, George decided to give up farming, and when Lois retired from her job at the Department of Public Safety, they became "retirees." They enjoyed traveling and belonged to several camping clubs. They were both very fond of music and spent many Friday and Saturday nights dancing with their favorite orchestra wherever the orchestra happened to be playing. George passed away on December 26, 1979.

Lois enjoys sewing and has spent many hours at her sewing machine. She also does some craft work, especially enjoying cross stitch. She enjoys and has a love for animals, especially horses, dogs and cats. She feels very fortunate to have made it past her 91st year. Her son, Melvin, lives in Plainfield with his wife, Maria, and her daughter, Joyce George, resides in Calais with her husband, Harvey. Lois has six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

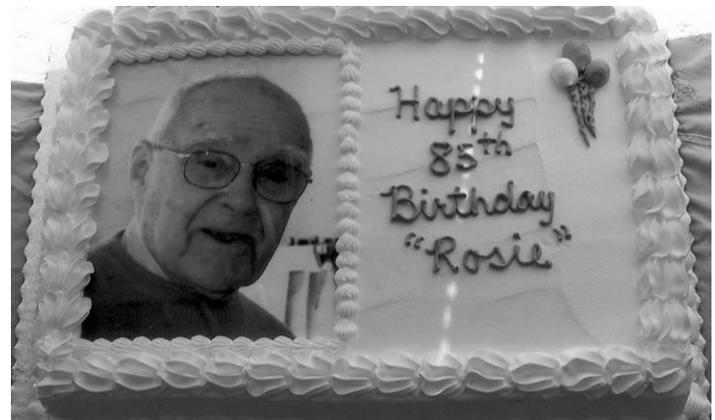
*Linda Royce has been a neighbor of Lois's for many years. She lives on Quaker Road and has worked at EMES for 26 years. She has a yarn and craft shop in her home that is open during the holiday season. She is mother of three and grandmother of five.*

*[Author's note: Lois gave this information to her daughter, Joyce, who was very helpful with writing this article.]*

**WE MANAGED TO SURPRISE ROSIE!**

I wish to thank all the people, East Montpelierites, realtors, lawyers and people from surrounding towns, for their cards and phone calls. It has been a privilege to serve the Town. A special thanks to the people in the Town Office for the surprise party and all the people that stopped in to say hello. It was a wonderful day.

*Rosie Cueto*



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*Pastor*

*Rev. David W. Connor*

*Associate Pastor*

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working both professions part-time in Massachusetts where she grew up and then in Vermont where she's lived since 2001, she got fed up. "I got tired of the flipping burgers and French fry scene,"

she says. "I got to the point where I felt what I was doing was wrong." Robbins grew up with a mom who was both a great cook and a great baker, "something very rare," she says. She remembers eating Lebanese, Chinese, and other ethnic foods at home as a child. She also remembers traveling from her home in North Andover, Massachusetts, most weekends and summers to her grandfather's farm in New Hampshire.



Danielle - Korey - Aaron - Laura

Robbins says the farms growing food in and around East Montpelier produce a "local bounty," one she is determined to put to good use. "My mission is to tap into those local resources that provide healthier eating. People don't have a lot of time, maybe don't have time to have a garden, or even to cook."

While Robbins is intentionally "not making a big fuss" about her decision to cook with local, organic food whenever possible, she is committed to cooking healthy meals for the community. Located next to Global Gifts on Route 2, The Melting Pot Café is an easy drive for residents of East Montpelier, Plainfield, and Marshfield.

As if on cue, in walk Melissa Whittaker, Carlo Rovetto, and their toddler son, Paolo. Rovetto owns Positive Pie in Plainfield, and now Positive Pie II in downtown Montpelier. When asked what he orders when he stops in, Rovetto says, "We order something different every time." On today's Melting Pot menu? Huevos Rancheros, ham and cheese wrap, maple-glazed ham with mashed potatoes, Asian shrimp salad, calzone, egg-salad sandwich, spinach pie, corn chowder, grilled cheese with pesto and tomato, portabella panini with roasted peppers and cheese, and BLT. Says Rovetto, "Everything's been great." Whittaker chimes in, "The burritos are so good!"

Not surprising. One of Robbins' house specialties, the burritos, two on a plate, are stuffed with salsa made from locally grown, organic tomatoes, Cabot cheese, and scrambled eggs. "I'm riding the tomato crop to the end," she says. "But we're transitioning into root vegetables—parsnips, carrots, beets." Robbins, who keeps a garden in Cabot, is known to her friends as "Earthworm," because, she says, "I'm always in the dirt."

You wouldn't know it from looking around the place. Near the front door, neatly stacked jars of Robbins' homemade pickles and salsa sit next to a small cash register. In the corner, a case displays Robbins' freshly made pies: pumpkin, apple, or, her bestseller, maple apple granola. The open kitchen is busy and bright with the ripe tomatoes and orange and yellow squashes Robbins will cook today.

Zippering in and out of the kitchen is Robbins' 16-year-old daughter, Danielle, nicknamed "Skippy." In the dining room, there are six tables, each draped with a printed cloth sarong. Outside, six flags wave in the wind, one each from Japan, Mexico, Italy, Germany, England, and the United States. There are also three patio tables and a collection of Tiki torches that beg a return trip some warm evening when a babysitter can be found.

"I drove by this place for years thinking it was the spot," says Robbins. "People are quiet, relaxed, happy, and resourceful here. I knew this was exactly the right place, that people would receive what I do."

It seems Robbins was right, and, indeed, reception has been warm since she first opened on June 3. "I've been overwhelmed. People come in and say 'Welcome to the neighborhood,' and 'Thank you for what you are doing.' It's so much more than I expected."

When Robbins explains that she regularly cooks to meet the needs of her customers, I'm not surprised her customers are exceptionally grateful. Wheat allergies, lactose intolerance, vegan, vegetarian, Robbins, whose son had wheat allergies as a boy, is trying to accommodate it all. "We try to meet everybody's needs and desires."

It seems those who are fast becoming regulars are saying the same. Joey Laquerre, who owns Laquerre Marine just around the corner on Route 14, pops into The Melting Pot five or six times a week. "In my trade," Laquerre says, "I can't take an hour lunch. In 15 minutes, I can have a delicious and healthy meal. The price is very affordable, the restaurant is very, very clean. Her kitchen is just like your own home."

"I just had family in from Florida," Laquerre says, "They're fussy eaters, just like me, and they go to some pretty swanky places. They were impressed."

The Melting Pot Café is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., with themed menus changing nightly. Feel free to call in advance for the evening's menu. Prices range from \$6 to \$8 for breakfast and lunch to \$16.95 for dinner. The Melting Pot is located on Route 2, just east of East Montpelier Village, 223-1303. Catering for private functions is also available.

#### Melting Pot Café Fresh Salsa

8 cups chopped tomatoes	1 diced onion
2 cups chopped green peppers	½ cup vinegar
1 tablespoon chopped garlic	1 tablespoon salt
1 bunch fresh cilantro	

*Cathi Kaplan lives on Cummings Road with her husband, Bill, and their two children, Ben and Frances.*

## HURRAY FOR RALLY DAY

What a spectacular combination of weather, people, food, entertainment, games, demonstrations, crafts, good spirit, and fun! The Rally Day Planning Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to and participated in our annual celebration. Special thanks go to Elliott Morse, our guide on the bus tour of historic school houses in town, and to Conrad and Anne Ormsbee for creating the bus route and providing their research notes; to Cliff and Shirley King whose pancake breakfast fortified Rally Day both nutritionally and financially; to Dave Coburn, parade Grand Marshall and presenter of the Citizen of the Year Award; to Mike Garand for transporting the Community Connections tent from Montpelier to the school and back again, and to the volunteers who raised the tent and took it down; to Larry Brown for donating all the printing of the schedule flyer; to Bob Watson for supplying enough coffee to get us all through the day; to Carl Etnier and Bill Merrylees for conducting the new bike safety clinic and rodeo; to the many members of the Fire Department who organize and operate the various activities they contribute each year; to Pitz Quattrone, Colin McCaffrey, and all the talented townspeople who sang, strummed, blew, rode, and satirized for our amusement in the Variety Show!

### RALLY DAY LUNCH A HIT

Hats off to Beth Ann Porter, along with East Montpelier Elementary School's new cook and food service guru, Nicole Codling, for pulling together a delicious, nutritious—and profitable!—lunch for this year's Rally Day. Together with a band of

generous volunteers, Beth Ann and Nicole served BBQ chicken and roasted corn, hand-rolled tamales, sausage, salsa, vegetable soup, apple crisp, rice pudding, and more (all homemade!) to a generous and appreciative crowd. Dudley's donated bottled water to wash it down, and the Cate Farm provided all the tomatoes for the salsa and soup. All in all, the lunch raised more than \$400 to help East Montpelier Elementary School purchase more fresh, local foods. [See why on Page 8.] Thank you, all!



This year's Rally Day Citizen of the Year is Sylvia Tosi, soon to be retiring after more than 20 years as Town Clerk and Treasurer. Sylvia rode in the parade with grandson John Mekkelsen in Dave Connor's classic convertible. Congratulations!

**Special thanks to:** Northcountry Federal Credit Union — EE Packard Enterprises — Laquerre Electric

**And to everyone who donated items for the *Signpost* auction:**

Chris & Jim Abrams  
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Marlene Betit  
David Blosser  
Bragg Farm  
Maurice & Barbara Brown  
Cabot Creamery  
Ginny Callan  
Capitol Grounds/Bob Watson  
Carver Tree Farm  
Casella Waste Management  
Cate Farm/Richard Wiswall & Sally Colman  
Center Farm/Erica Zimmerman & Kevin McCollister  
Cheshire Cat/Lucy Ferrada  
Sue Clayton

Cold Pocket Farm  
Richard Czaplinski  
Don's Driving Range  
Dudley's Store  
East Montpelier Home Center  
Nona Estrin  
Fairmont Farm  
Deborah Fillion  
Barbara Fitch  
Four Seasons/Cate Family  
Stuart Friedman  
Furniture Barn/Michael Cote  
Global Gifts & Video Box Office  
James Goodall  
Heaven and Earth Publishing  
Frances Holmes  
Jan's Beauty Boutique

Barb Korecki  
Land Care/Dennis & Hugh Hawkins  
Legare's Farm  
Manghi's Bread  
McDonough/Deyo Family  
Mekkelsen RV  
Melting Pot Cafe  
Montpelier Elks Club  
Morse Farm  
Sue Mugford  
Karin Omasta  
Pic a Posey/Joyce LaMountain  
Beth Ann Porter  
Ruby's Run  
Ken Santor  
Andy Shapiro  
Anne Sherman

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- ✓ **Bush Hogging**
- ✓ **Light Excavating**
- ✓ **Bucket Loader Work**

## 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

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email: eastmonttc@adelphia.net

### Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

### Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Jane Grinde

### 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

#### Ross Haverstick

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

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

Land records are public information. Further details on any of the property transfers listed here may be obtained at the Town Office.

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### Selectboard

Martha Holden, Chair,  
Tom Brazier, 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	Mark Lane
Gary Ricker	Fred Strong

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

Ginny Burley, Chair  
Sue Chickering

### Elementary School

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cbuni@yahoo.com

Brian Bishop 223-5332  
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Joe Buley 233-7970  
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Matthew Curtis 223-7403  
curtis-mj@msn.com

Jan Aldrich 229-0406  
Janice\_Aldrich@hotmail.com

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### Milestones

#### Births

- > Cresswell Anthony Codling, born June 5, 2005, son to Cresswell Steven & Mirando J. Davis; Sandy & Terri (Codling) Conti, grandparents.
- > Jaden West Singer, born July 7, 2005, son to Michelle Amy Lakey & Joshua Ira Singer.
- > Violet Incredible Byers, born July 19, 2005, daughter to Devon Kerry & Joe Miller Byers.
- > Brayden William Hull, born July 28, 2005, son to Erin-Elizabeth Aja Hudson & William Kerry Hull.
- > Nina Caelan Holm, born July 29, 2005, daughter of Joanne Holm and Jeffrey Ian Holm.
- > Sophia Jazmine Bigelow, born August 12, 2005, daughter to Heidi Mae Bigelow & Balin-Knut Kruse Williams.
- > Sawyer Michael Mislak, born August 19, 2005, son to Amanda Lee & Michael Joseph Mislak.
- > Finnegan Patrick O'Donnell, born August 26, 2005, son to Cristin & Patrick James O'Donnell.
- > Simon James Brooker, born September 11, 2005, son to Colleen Rose & Roger Simon Brooker.
- > Alyssa Marie Pratt, born September 11, 2005, daughter to Vicki Gail Culver and Danny James Pratt.

#### Deaths

- > Dale Ann Ellen Chastenay, August 26, 2005.
- > Deborah G. Laquerre, September 12, 2005, spouse to Jeff Laquerre, mother of Joseph M. & Jeffrey (Jarrett) Laquerre.
- > Theresa Pastore, September 12, 2005, mother of Harold & Roger Pastore.
- > Marcia Guilmette, October 4, 2005, step-mother of David & John Guilmette.

#### Civil Union

- > Elizabeth Wirth to Cate Michelle Wirth, August 3, 2005.

#### Marriages

- > William Clayton Ploof to Mary Frances Bouchard, August 14, 2005.
- > Daniel Scott Rollins to Jessica Lynn Janawicz, August 20, 2005.
- > Dean Michael Blumberg to Sara Elizabeth Coleman, August 20, 2005.
- > Robert Rockwood Mitchell to Colleen Menton Carver, August 20, 2005.

- > Bryant Thomas Nance to Jennifer Carol Gannon, August 27, 2005.
- > Brian Keith Kimball to Carey Anne Barslow, September 24, 2005.

#### Property transfers

- > Ralph F. & Catherine S. Leonard to Christopher & Colleen F. Kresco, 6 a. & dwelling, Powder Horn Glen Rd.
- > Jay L. & Denise M. Graves to Janet P. Wass, 1 a. & dwelling, VT14N.
- > Kevin Rand to Betty L. Fortin, 1/2 interest in Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- > Montpelier River Garden Initiative, Inc. to Orchard Valley School Inc., 55 a. & buildings, VT14N.
- > David B. & Ann L. Wiggins to Jeffrey L. & Lisa M. Stoudt, 2 a. & dwelling, Putnam Rd.
- > Charles E. Hoffert IV & Michelle McFadden to Timothy & Stefanie Shea, 1 a. & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- > Peter J. & Monica R. Yeamans to Anna Nelson, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- > Robert H. & Rhoda B. Chickering to Charles E. Hoffert IV & Michelle McFadden, 3 a. & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- > Terry Senter to Celine Edson, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- > Norman Ferland to Richard & Nancy Rowell, 2.3 a. & dwelling, US2.
- > Andy & Andrea Ignacio to David & Linda Janawicz, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- > Douglas J. Hill to Ralf & Renee M. Schaarschmidt, 8.7 a., Boulder Ridge Rd.
- > Joanne H. Bair, Trustee of the Ellen C. Hill Revocable Trust to Joanne H. Bair, 10.2 a. & dwelling, Center Rd.
- > Annette R. Martin to Timothy C. Bingham, 1 a. & Mobile Home, Rock Rd.
- > Dorothy A. Morse to Dean E. & Susan M. Shattuck, 5.4 a., Cummings Rd.
- > Chester & Judith Cookson to Daniel K. & Lori A. Wilson, 3.34 a. & dwelling, US2.
- > Richard G. & Carole A. Casavant to Linda J. LaFrance, 1.45 a. & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- > Eric J. & Scott J. Sibley, to Scott J. Sibley, 12 a., Sodom Pond Rd.
- > Eric J. & Scott J. Sibley to Eric J. Sibley, 15.7 a., Sodom Pond Rd.
- > John M. Lane to Richard L. & Rose M. McAllister, 7.1 a., Gould Hill Rd.

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### Selectboard

#### June 20, 2005

- > The following town appointments were made: Allen Ploof: Funding Request Committee, Frank Pratt: Facilities Committee Steering Committee.
- > Approved Access permit for David Sparrow on Dillon Road.

#### July 11, 2005

- > Voted to approve the Richard and Rose McCallister application for access (curb cut) for Gould Hill Road with a new location that meets all safety standards and is recommended by road foreman.
- > The following appointments were made: Diana Chace: Acting Zoning Administrator; Ross Haverstick: Zoning Administrator.
- > Voted to cover the costs to fully complete the town garage project. Frank Pratt and volunteers will be doing the painting at no cost.
- > Access permits approved: Allen Soule and Paul Gruhler.
- > Access permit and application for public right of way approved with stipulations for Robert and Lorie Rice with utilities outside the 60 foot right of way.
- > Voted to approve the municipal tax rate of 0.693, the municipal and school tax rate of 2.657 (homestead) and 2.644 (non-resident).
- > Excess weight permit was approved for Codling brothers.

#### July 25, 2005

- > Acknowledged the Rally Day Committee: Deborah Fillion and Matt Curtis: Co-Chairs; Janice Waterman, Sylvia Tosi, Cliff King, Shirley King, Hobie Guion, Bill Merrylees, Sally Longhi, Julia Haynes, Colin McCaffrey, Bill Jordan, Darlene Grundy, Erica Zimmerman, Barbara Brown, Sara Pearson.
- > Approved the names Mugford and Robinson for two unnamed roads in Sandy Pines.
- > Voted to issue a letter of support to Eric Scharnberg of Cross Vermont Trails for the VTrans Enhancement Grant program for 0.48 miles of trail in East Montpelier.

#### August 15, 2005

- > The Funding Request Committee does not require a total dollar limit for their annual recommendation.

- > Voted to approve the Listers' plan to use the time adjustment factor of three as an alternative to having a full reassessment as ordered by Property Valuation and Review Director William Johnson. The alternate plan would give a relatively quick and equitable result for the town. [see update in Listers' Notice]
- > After review and approval from the Community Development Program Grants Manager, the board signed the Sandy Pines Loan Deferment Agreement to allow the Housing Foundation Inc. to make necessary infrastructure improvements.
- > Approved and signed a catering and liquor license by the Thrush Tavern for the Carver family wedding.
- > Voted to apply for \$25,000.00 engineering planning advance to look at alternative septic systems for the Village and North Montpelier areas.
- > Decided to wait on electrical improvements for the Municipal Building until next year to conserve funds for the town garage renovation project.

#### August 29, 2005

- > Voted to add 35 mph signs to the poles currently holding the "dangerous intersection" signs on Towne Hill Road before the intersection of Gallison Hill Road and Brazier Road and Towne Hill. Also voted to install florescent "pedestrian" signs near the "dangerous intersection" signs.
- > Voted to obtain a heating unit with sufficient capacity for the entire town garage.
- > Granted an access permit to William Bissell and an access permit to Jon Winston with conditions stipulated on the permits.
- > Voted to appoint Mr. and Mrs. Kroll to the Vermont State Police (VSP) Community Advisory Board. When residents see what is believed to be an illegal activity they should file an incident reporting form. Don and Carol Welch are currently members of the (VSP) Community Advisory Board.
- > A letter from the Selectboard to the State's Attorney will be sent regarding the incidents at Haggett Road involving the use of an air cannon and disturbing the peace.
- > Voted to create a Town Clerk's Manual and use Fothergill, Segale and Valley to help create a Town Treasurer's Manual and procedural flow chart.

### LISTERS' NOTICE

The Town has been notified that, because our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) has dropped below 80%, we need to do a complete reappraisal of land and buildings in the Town as mandated by the Property Valuation and Review division of the Tax Department. We are one of ninety-one towns so ordered by the State. Since our last reappraisal in 1996, we were able to maintain a CLA of 92.26% to 103%. However, due to the strong real estate market, we dropped from 92.26% in 2002 to 77.38% in 2004. We expect the CLA to drop lower as transfers are received, especially land sales with three acre parcels selling at \$100,000 or more. We are currently negotiating with the State as to how and when the reappraisal will take place. A complete reappraisal will cost in the vicinity of \$102,000. We now have \$58,000 in our fund to reappraise. We will keep you informed as to how and when a reappraisal will be done.

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

#### June 15, 2005

- > Accepted bids for the following:
  - Casella Waste Management: waste removal and recycling services through 6/08
  - Ultramar for fuel oil through 6/06
  - Johnson&Dix for propane through 6/06
  - TD Banknorth Vermont for arbitrage borrowing
  - TD Banknorth Vermont for investment bid through 6/06
- > Graduation date set for 6/16/06
- > Accepted with regret the resignation of Bonnie Johnson-Aten
- > Approved the following appointments:
  - Cathleen Wilson - Director of Guidance;
  - Todd MacKenzie - Science Teacher;
  - Betty Biggs - Food Service Worker;
  - Bonnie S. Clark - Administrative Assistant;
  - Eric Keck - Special Education Teacher
- > Voted to implement the Advanced United States History course.

#### July 13, 2005

- > Robbe Brook reported that Carol Freeman has been chosen as the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Professional Development.

## TOWN WEATHERVANE - CONTINUED

- > Accepted with regret the resignation of Heather Michaud as Administrative Assistant
- > Approved the appointment of Omri B. Parsons III to the position of .8 FTE Visual Arts Teacher
- > Voted to reserve up to \$10,000 from the fund balance for repairs to athletic fields.
- > Appointed Tom McKone to the position of Assistant Principal for the high school.

### August 17, 2005

- > There was a discussion about upgrading the school's security camera. Action was tabled until the next meeting.
- > The following appointments were approved: Erik Bennett, Bonnie Stacy, Melanie Byrd, Pamela Pollack, Kristie Ferguson, and Amy Papineau.
- > Discussed the four '05-'06 School/Principal's Goals which include student learning in the classroom, guidance and counseling services, the student-centered culture, and the school's action plan. Other topics of discussion were the Teacher Advisory (TA) system, the Middle School Parents Group, formerly the Middle School Parents Advisory Group, substitute teachers, Adapt a Counselor, alternative programs, the Distributive Team Model, and graduation requirements.

### September 7, 2005

- > Ginny Burley presented the following Board goals: policies will be in place to support the school policies and goals; develop a new strategic five-year plan regarding curriculum, finance, and policies; preparation for transition in leadership; and evaluation of the leadership model.
- > Adopted the '05-'06 Student/Parent Handbook.
- > Approved the fall coaches.
- > Hired Sheryl Lamberti, Administrative Assistant.

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS FOR LUNCH

Looking for a healthy, affordable, local spot for lunch? Do you like kids? Lots and lots of kids? If so, consider joining the town's elementary school kids any day for a meal. The food is terrific, homemade and fresh, local when possible. With choices ranging from chicken burritos and spaghetti and meatballs, to just-made fruit salad or mesclun mix and fresh tomatoes with balsamic vinaigrette, EMES is no longer serving standard school fare. It's also a great deal: \$3.50 for a lunch, including dessert and milk - chocolate, if you'd like.

Lunch starts at noon and runs until 1 p.m. every day. The kitchen's new and talented chef, Nicole Codling, working with parent volunteer Beth Ann Porter, asks that you arrive at one of two shifts, either 12:15 or 12:45, to avoid waiting in long lines of hungry children. Look for menus posted monthly at the Town Clerk's office, Dudley's, and Morse Farm, or on the school Website, [www.emontpelierschool.org](http://www.emontpelierschool.org). Please remember that you'll need to check in at the front desk before you eat. Meet you there!

Meanwhile, if you're a farmer or foodie and you'd like to get more involved, please let Nicole know! The kitchen number is 223-7936, ext. 306.

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Greetings from East Montpelier Elementary School! Our school year is off to a great start. There is nothing better than starting your day by seeing the smiling faces of children. It is a great feeling to know that we are going to feed their natural curiosity about the world around them and that we are going to nurture them as we work together with parents and the community to help them grow. After one month, I can say with confidence that our hard working and dedicated staff members are doing all that they can to create a stimulating and challenging environment where each student's unique gifts can be realized.

We take seriously the fact that we have been given responsibility for our most valuable and precious resource - our children. Our goal at EMES is to educate the "whole" child through an effective education that includes strong academics and also promotes social, emotional and behavioral growth. We want to lay a foundation for our students that will allow them to be successful adults (and happy children) and knowledgeable citizens who contribute to the common good. The educational experience should be a positive one, and it should include high expectations as we work to instill in children the ability to think critically and independently, to make good decisions and to make learning a life-long endeavor.

Please know that we fully realize that we cannot do these things alone. The East Montpelier Community believes in its children and in their school. You support us in so many ways, and volunteers play a big part in our success. We have an involved and caring School Board and a very active and effective PTNO. We have the good fortune to have parents that understand the importance of their child's education and work with us to make it a high quality educational experience for all of our students. And, of course, your tax dollars finance what we do here. Please note that we are very aware that it is your hard earned dollars that fuel our school. We work to ensure that they are dollars well spent: an investment in a common future that we all have a stake in.

As I write this, we have been in session for a short time, but a lot has already taken place. I will use future issues of the Signpost to describe our rich academic programs as well as such other important parts of our school life as our annual Parent Information Night; the school-wide "Penny Challenge;" our Buddy Program between kindergarten students and fifth and sixth graders; our new composting partnership; the EMES preschool program; and our new RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) initiative.

A great many wonderful things are happening here at EMES, and we all have a great deal to take pride in. My door is always open and I look forward to meeting all the good folks of East Montpelier. It is my belief that whether or not you have children that attend school here, it is still your community school and the wonderful things that take place here should concern you and will benefit everyone in our community.

*Mitch Golub, Principal*

## Annual Holiday Craft Fair at The Cottage Shop

70 Quaker Road - East Montpelier  
November 12 — 9:00 to 3:00  
November 13 — 10:00 to 3:00

Linda Royce, Proprietor

## HORSE GIRLS

Many high school students in our town are constantly recognized for their participation in theatre, sports, dance and other activities, but several girls in our community dedicate their time to something else—horses. Cassie Burley, Callie Richardson, Clara Hall, and Reese Greene spend their afternoons and weekends at the barn with their horses. Although we may not see them riding everyday, their time and dedication have brought them to a different level than the average horse rider.

Cassie Burley, now a junior at U-32, started riding with Bonnie Hall when she was nine. She now enjoys riding her horse, Magic, and takes lessons at East Hill in Plainfield. She has participated in horse shows, but a knee injury put her shows on hold. Cassie hopes to show again soon and would like to ride on an equestrian team in college. She considers riding to be a life-long hobby that she will be able to do forever.

Callie Richardson has been riding horses for eleven years and plans to work with them for life. She is currently riding her ten year-old horse, Dublin, and has occasionally ridden in horse shows for jumping and dressage. Callie plans on majoring in equine studies when she enrolls in college next fall.

Clara Hall has been riding since she was one. Now seventeen, she plans to continue riding on an intercollegiate team when she attends college next fall. This summer she dedicated several weeks of her time to horse shows and won the Vermont Medal Final on September 24th! This fall she is going to participate in the Massachusetts Medal Finals and the New England Equitation Championship. Clara plans to take her love for horses and animals by further focusing on animal science in college.

Reese Greene is planning on joining Clara in the Massachusetts Finals and New England Equitation Championship this fall with her eight year-old Holsteiner, Caruso. Reese, now fifteen years old, started riding at the age of five with Clara's mother, Bonnie Hall. She started showing when she was nine, and plans to continue riding through high school and college. Her dream is to one day participate in the Olympics. Reese also spent several weeks at horse shows this summer, and she is proud to have won the Vermont Medal Final in 2003.

These girls do not get the hometown credit they deserve. They spend countless afternoons and weekends with their horses, and are more dedicated to their passion than most could ever imagine.

*Chelsea Hall is the daughter of Stuart and Robyn Hall. She is a senior at U-32 High School and will attend UVM next fall.*

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## EAST MONTPELIER SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

In response to Austin Cleaves' invitation to explore avenues for developing senior housing resources in town, more than a dozen folks gathered on September 14. We shared the "why" of our interests, which mainly came down to giving people who are no longer able to live in their single-family dwellings the capability to remain in town. Several avenues were put forth, one of which was creating a senior housing building with multiple units such as that recently completed in Cabot. Another was making more widely known and more accessible the current services offered by senior resource providers in the central Vermont area, such as HomeShare and the Senior Companion Program.

At our second meeting on September 28, Sue Underhill, the property manager for the Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT), described the Cabot Commons independent living project, which has eight units and a unit's worth of common areas including a kitchen and meeting room. The project is owned by the 501(c)(3) organization Cabot Senior Housing (CSH), which first coalesced five years ago under the leadership of Sue Carpenter, and the Town of Cabot. Funding came from various sources, with a large portion from Vermont State Housing Authority. CVCLT manages the property for the CSH. She recommended our first step is to do a needs assessment/survey of townspeople and to get the Select Board's support. The next meeting on October 12 was a visit to Cabot Commons and a meeting with Sue Carpenter, president of CSH.

The group plans to meet every second and fourth Wednesday, generally at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, and we welcome everyone who has any interest in this to join us.

*Cherie Staples*



## EAST MONTPELIER WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee are working on drafting a Request for Proposals to perform a needs assessment and feasibility study of the wastewater systems in the East Village and in North Montpelier. We reviewed several examples from other towns and began outlining the elements we thought ought to be included in East Montpelier's plan. Along with defining the areas to be covered, the budget, and the timeframe for completion, the assessment would survey the owners and residents within the defined area to help determine the wastewater flows and physical configurations of the parcels. It would also evaluate the area's future growth, conservation objectives, and available alternatives for wastewater disposal. The project is to include public outreach, so everyone affected has opportunities to learn what is happening and provide input. The Committee aims to have a Request ready for review by the Select Board in November prior to putting it out to environmental consultants.

The Committee meets on the first and third Thursdays at 6:30 at the Town Clerk's office. Residents are welcome to join the committee, particularly if you live in either of the areas that will be studied.

*Cherie Staples and Carl Etnier*

**WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT AT THE COBURN ROAD SWIMMING HOLE**

Environmental concerns about the loss of wetlands in the U.S. led to the federal Clean Water Act in the 1970s. Vermont's response to that act was the establishment of the Vermont Wetlands Rules of 1990. These regulations call for "wetlands mitigation," that is, when the Agency of Transportation has a necessary road project that destroys wetlands, a new wetland area must be established to balance this environmental loss. Sounds good unless they choose an area that local people have come to enjoy just the way it is!

So it is that East Montpelier has come to find itself ambivalent, if not in opposition to, the conversion of "the old gravel pit" on Coburn Road into a wetland area. On October 3, the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment held a joint hearing on the Transportation Agency's application for a zoning permit for the proposed project. Approximately twenty concerned East Montpelier residents attended the meeting as well. The primary concern stems from the current use of this area for recreation. On hot summer days several area residents go to the pond created by the gravel pit to swim and play with their dogs. Even on cooler days in the spring and fall people are often there to enjoy the beauty of the quiet water and open sky. In winter, many snow machines cross this area on a VAST trail. The Town Plan notes this area as a possible future recreation area.

The Agency of Transportation would create this wetland to mitigate the removal of wetlands caused by planned improvements to Route 2 in the Cabot-Danville and Marshfield sections. Toward the end of the summer of 2006, the State would lower the elevation of some of the land and fill the perimeter of the existing pond with soil to sustain marsh vegetation and create the wetland. Top soil and wetland plants would be brought into the area and human use during the growing seasons would be restricted for five years to allow for the establishment of the new vegetation. The VAST trail would be kept open for use in winter.

During discussion at the hearing it was made clear that swimming would not be a compatible activity with the establishment of this wetland. The purpose of the wetland is to create a safe environment for plants and wildlife. However, "passive recreation" is anticipated and the idea of establishing a walking trail was not ruled out. Members of the DOT delegation were open to the idea of meeting with the East Montpelier Trails Committee. The meeting closed with a plan for a site visit October 24 at 4:00 p.m. and a continuation of the hearings at the regular meeting of the Planning Commission at 7:30 p.m. on November 3 at the elementary school.

*Barbara Ploof*

**EAST MONTEPELIER TRAILS ON THE MOVE**

Our two summer projects went very well. Eric Scharnberg of Cross Vermont Trail directed a work group from the Green Mountain Club on a 0.4-mile section of the Cross Vermont Trail, about half way between Montpelier and East Montpelier village. This is a difficult section where, in some areas, only a steep bank of riprap separates Route 2 from the Winooski River. The GMC crew moved some large rocks and created benches for the trail bed on these steep slopes. They also cleared and shored up many other parts of the trail, using some of the bed of old Route 2, which was lower and closer to the river than the present road.

Our other new project is a 2-mile section along Mallory Brook, on the recently conserved Pratt lands. This trail will run from Dodge Road just east of East Montpelier Center to Cherry Tree Hill Road. East Montpelier Trails was awarded a Vermont Recreation Trails Program grant (federal money administered by Vermont Department of Forests and Parks) to construct this section. Most of the work was accomplished in two weeks by a dedicated Youth Conservation Corps crew. We are grateful to this crew and also to Charles Johnson and Jase Roberts who stepped in on short notice and worked hard to engineer and direct the construction of a 43-foot bridge - mostly from native materials - across Mallory Brook. We are still working out trail alignments at the trailheads, so we probably will not have a completed trail until next summer. The Mallory Brook Trail will provide public access while protecting sensitive wetlands and other areas of high ecological value within the brook valley.

In organizational business, Nona Estrin is the new president of East Montpelier Trails succeeding Jamie Shanley, who has provided outstanding leadership. If you are interested in trail work or serving on the organization's board, please contact Nona, Jamie, or one of our other board members: Mary Stone, Sandy Woodbeck, Carroll Witham, Rick Hopkins, or Kevin McCollister.

*Jamie Shanley*

**WOOLY BEAR VISITS TOWN OFFICE**

We have a pet wooly bear caterpillar here at the office. We've been watching him devour flower petals like you wouldn't believe. He or she has a long black front end which means we are going to have a nasty beginning to winter, and an orange area about the same, so winter will mellow out a little and then go back to being harsh. This is an old wives' tale that you use to predict the severity of the winter.

*Sylvia Tosi*

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

The East Montpelier Historical Society began the new year with its September annual meeting. Newly elected officers are Dave Coburn, president; Anne Ormsbee, vice president/treasurer; Florence Morse, secretary; and Paulie Coburn, archivist. Elliott Morse, Chris Reed, and Teresa Doyle will plan programs for the year. The Society will meet the 3rd Monday of each month, normally at the Four Corners School. There are no meetings in January or February.

The business completed, Elliott Morse read excerpts of letters sent home to East Montpelier by Harold (Bob) Cutler in the early 1920s as he worked in Alberta, Canada. He and some other local young men "went west," first trying their hands at working with a crew harvesting wheat. Bob described the "train" of wagons and supplies, including the "chuck" that moved along the prairie. He told of the long hours required as the men hustled to get the crop harvested in a timely fashion. One day someone put some sticks of dynamite in the threshing machine, and the Vermont boys, except for Bob and a friend, went back home to Vermont.

After the harvest, Bob became a traveling salesman, sold brushes, worked in a Ford garage and then worked for a lumber company in Alberta. Lumbermen required five meals a day to supply the energy needed for cutting trees and skidding the logs down steep trails with horses and men at a run. Bob met an untimely death when a load of logs he was managing overtook his four-horse team and hit him. His letters - his legacy if you will - to the Cutler family, describe in great detail his work and impressions of Alberta. We thank Elliott and Florence (Cutler) Morse for sharing these stories.

*Anne Ormsbee*

## THE JEAN CATE COMMUNITY FUND COMMITTEE

Residents of East Montpelier are painting the town yellow! Not with paintbrushes, but with trowels. Come next spring you'll see a splash of color at the road intersections. During Rally Day, the Jean Cate Community Fund distributed bags of a dozen daffodil bulbs and planting medium. The bulbs were donated by Dave Coburn and Alison Underhill. Compost was donated by the Vermont Compost Company. Thirty individuals or families adopted a signpost on a road in East Montpelier and have planted daffodils near it. Thanks to all who participated! Look for the cheery yellow blossoms on the road corners next spring.

The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee was established to honor the memory of Jean Cate by keeping the community spirit of East Montpelier vigorous and growing. If you have ideas about activities that would contribute to the community spirit of East Montpelier, please let one of the Committee members know. They are Wes Cate, Paul Cate, Dave Coburn, Norma Raymond, Deborah Fillion, Elaine Manghi, Bill Merrylees and Barbara Ploof.

The Lobby Window in the Town Office has recently been changed by Conrad & Anne Ormsbee of the E. Montpelier Historical Society. It depicts the making of a beam for the early homes and barns in East Montpelier. This project was an EMES 4<sup>th</sup> grade class assignment to make a museum artifact for the Colonial Day held this past spring. Henry Guion's project is displayed. It shows pictures of how he cut down the tree with an axe, used a bow saw to shorten the log, hewed the log with an adz, made a hole with a bit and brace and used a drawknife to smooth the surface. All of these pieces are on display for the next two months or so. It is a great display!

*Sylvia Tosi*



## WES CATE'S REMARKS ON PRESENTATION OF THE CATE FAMILY BENCH BY THE FOUR CORNER SCHOOL BOARD ON RALLY DAY

Speaking as the old man of the family, many, many thanks. We appreciate this. Community is what we are. All of us. The thing that makes East Montpelier the kind of community it is are the people in it who care about the place and are willing to do something to support it.

I don't know this to be true, but I think it is. This particular Four Corner School is owned by all the people in the town, and they are all members of the Society. I am not sure that that exact situation is duplicated anywhere in Vermont. It speaks well for our town. And I think it may be well for us, as we think of the future, not only to be thankful for all those good people who have been before us in this town, but also for all of those who may come after us. If we do everything we can to help them become a part of the living community, they will become not just people who live here overnight, but people who care what happens here. We thank you.

  
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## 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)	2nd Tuesday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	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
Wastwater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30	Town Office

## NOTICES

### TOWN OFFICE DATES

**November 11 Veteran's Day, Office Closed.**

**November 15 Property Taxes**  
**They must be received in the office by 5 p.m.**

**November 24-25 Thanksgiving, Office closed.**

**December 23-26 Christmas Holiday, Office closed.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Orchard Valley School — Meeting the Middle School Child:** Tuesday, November 1, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Orchard Valley School, Route 14 North. Join a presentation and informal discussion about the social and educational needs of the middle school child presented by members of the middle school and high school faculty of the Lake Champlain Waldorf School.

**Winter Fair:** Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 - 4:00. Enjoy holiday crafts & decorations, children's activities, delicious food, live music, puppet shows and storytelling. Twenty of the area's finest vendors will be selling crafts, seasonal gifts and wares. Come join the festivities!

**Old Meeting House Concerts** A special weekend of music November 11 and 12. The Bluegrass Gospel Project will be performing at their "home church" at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at Bear Pond Book Store.

In January, Haydn's *Seasons: Fall and Winter* will be performed. Instrumentalists, singers and dancers will be members and friends of the OMH. Pat Pritchett, choreographer; Jane Morse, Pianist; Celina Moore and others, soloists. Watch for dates and ticket availability.

**Contradance**—organized by Colin McCaffrey and Jessica Moseley, it will take place in the EMES gym on Friday, November 18, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Cider will be served. Admission is by donation—\$2-\$3 per person—to cover the cost of our caller, Larry Becker of Middlesex, and our fine musicians. For information call Jessica at 454-1049—dial zero for my voice mailbox. This is a family and community event for all ages. Dances will be taught as we go! No experience necessary! Non-profit, community event.

**2nd Annual Cookie Swap and Carole Sing.** December 7 from 6:30 to 8:00. Place to be announced. Sponsored by the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association.

Deadline for next issue: December 1, 2005 — to Barbara Ploof — 223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

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November/December 2005

Inside: Lois McKnight  
The Melting Pot Café

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