

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVI — Number Four

March/April 2006

TOWN MEETING DAY ISSUE

MOVING TO A DIFFERENT FISCAL YEAR

Dave Coburn

Ever since the town has existed the town's budget or fiscal year has been the same as the calendar year. We opened a new set of books in January and closed them at the end December—simple. As long as every other government entity around us did it the same way, it worked just fine. But then things began to change. One by one they began to shift to a fiscal year that began in July and ended in June. This worked better for the state, for example, since the Legislature that established the budget never seemed to get done until June anyway. Then the Legislature decided that the school districts in the state

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THE CANDIDATES SPEAK

(in alphabetical order)

AUDITOR (3 YEARS)

DON WELCH: I have lived with my family on Bliss Road in East Montpelier for 37 years. I retired from National Life in 1997 after 34 years in an actuarial career. Following retirement, I worked for six years for Systems Pros in Hartford, Connecticut, as a business consultant. In East Montpelier, I have served on a town financial advisory group that helped the Selectboard develop more detailed budgeting and better monthly financial reports based on that budget. I also served as an elected auditor for the U-32 district, during which time we modified the accounting processes and reconciled financial balances. Ultimately, we recommended that the district engage professional auditors due to the size of the budget and complexity of the accounting requirements.

I am running for the open position of auditor. I am interested in reviewing the role of the elected auditors as it relates to that of the professional auditors. There may be more effective ways the elected auditors can carry out their duties. Also, there is the challenge of changing the fiscal year from a calendar year to July 1 through June 30. The Town Report is an important instrument in carrying out the many tasks required by a small town like East Montpelier. Our Town Report has received many awards over the years. The past auditors are to be congratulated for their careful work preparing this report.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (5 YEARS)

MAURICE CERUTTI: No statement submitted.

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES (1 YEAR)

You will notice that there is a new town officer to be elected this year—Collector of Delinquent Taxes (CDT). It came to our attention, very recently, that state law provides for this office to be elected unless it is carried out by the local constable. Until 20 years ago, the constable did the work of the CDT. In 1985, when a new constable took over, he did not want to take on the job of CDT, and the Selectboard at that time appointed Norma Raymond. Selectboards since then have continued with yearly appointments of Norma Raymond. We thank Dennis Carver (who has petitioned to be a candidate for the office) for bringing this to our attention. Norma Raymond learned of this situation too late to file a petition and has indicated that she will be a write-in candidate.

DENNIS CARVER: No statement submitted.

NORMA RAYMOND (WRITE-IN CANDIDATE): I wasn't aware until notified very recently that I should have petitioned to have my name on the ballot for Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Many say that Vermont's Town Meeting Day provides one of the purest forms of democracy that remain in our society today. The rare and unusual nature of our annual tradition was brought home to me a few years ago when, as part of a national conference for school board members, I arranged a simulation of an annual School District Meeting. Afterward, I was approached by many who had one of two reactions: either they were envious of the opportunity for true community interaction; or they couldn't believe that what I had presented was a real-life situation. It was the latter folks who feel so distant and divorced from decision making at the local level that they really thought I was presenting something from another era.

Some say that Town (and School) Meeting is outdated, inconvenient and not in tune with today's technologically driven society. I contend that it is a tradition that reminds us of not only of our heritage, but also of our values and our sense of community, which are important reasons why all of us live here in this rural state in the 21st century.

In his farewell address in 1985, former Governor Richard Snelling said, "Vermont has always preferred to ask many of its citizens each to contribute a little to the process rather than ask a few to contribute a lot. There is a role and a task for everyone."

So, take on your role in this democratic tradition and attend the pre-meeting forum on February 25. As for THE DAY itself on March 7, the community-prepared lunch is reason enough to draw you to the elementary school.

Eddie Miller

Continued from Page 1

should be on the July to June fiscal year, so that meant all of them, including East Montpelier's, had to change.

Therefore, the Selectboard realized last year that it was time to bow to the inevitable and accept the fact that East Montpelier's town fiscal year had to be changed to begin in July and end in June. The question then was, "How to make that happen?" Somewhere along the line a six-month budget had to be fit in to get from the end of December 2006 to the start of July 2007. So, rather than put it off, they proposed that it be done at the beginning of 2007, and the voters agreed at the 2005 Town Meeting.

Confused yet? On the Australian ballot this year there are several items that will pay the bills in 2006 and for the first six months in 2007. Article 3 asks for money to pay the bills for 2006, the last of the calendar year budgets you will ever see. Article 4 asks for the money that will pay the bills for the first six months of 2007. You will hear this referred to as the "transition budget." At next year's Town Meeting (2007), you will be asked to vote on a budget for a fiscal year that will begin on July 1, 2007 and end on June 30, 2008.

And that was the easy part. Now we come to the collection of taxes. The tax bills for the money you vote to raise in Article 3 for the 2006 budget will be sent in August as usual, and then come due on November 15. Nothing new there. What is new is how the "transition budget" tax bills will be collected. These will come due on March 15, 2007.

There is no better reason to come to the Town Forum on February 25 than to have all of this explained. See you there.

Dave Coburn

EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

Published six times a year.
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charge to all residents of
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I have done this work very successfully for more than twenty years and I am seeking "write-ins" on the ballot on Town Meeting Day.

Over the years I have helped many taxpayers in East Montpelier get through a serious situation in which they have found themselves relating to delinquent taxes. Many have sent me notes of appreciation and gratitude for giving my time to work with them.

The Selectboard has been generous in their praise for my success in collecting these taxes for the benefit of the town.

Many teams of auditors have mentioned the accuracy and clarity of the records I have always kept.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR (3 YEARS)

JULIE ROCHAT: As a candidate for the three-year term on the East Montpelier Elementary School board, I would greatly appreciate your support on Town Meeting Day.

EMES is a wonderful school which shares many of the complex challenges faced by schools throughout Vermont. Rising fixed costs and shrinking enrollment necessitate that we adopt creative approaches to achieve academic excellence and personal achievement by all students.

As a parent of five, trained educator, and coach, I am committed to helping EMES, with energy and determination, meet those goals.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR (2 YEARS)

MARLENE BETIT: Children: Jennifer - nine and Mary Katherine - two and a half.

Experience:

- Computer instructor at CCV - two years
- Bank officer and manager - 10 years
- East Montpelier Town Administrator - 6.5 years
- Currently - Financial Examiner for the State of Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance and Health Care, Division of Banking.

Education:

- Bachelor's of Business Administration

- Associate in Banking; and
- Industry specific coursework.

I have always believed a comprehensive education equals opportunity and choice. I hope to use my skills to support the educational needs of our children while ensuring associated costs are sustainable.

FIRST CONSTABLE (1 YEAR)

TIM MEEHAN: No statement submitted.

LISTER (3 YEARS)

ROSS HAZEL: No statement submitted.

MODERATOR FOR SCHOOL MEETING (1 YEAR)

MICHAEL DWORKIN: I've learned a tremendous amount by listening to my neighbors at town and school meetings over the last 21 years in East Montpelier. I know it wouldn't have been possible without good moderators like Marty Miller and Wes Cate. If my taking a turn as Moderator makes sense now, I'll try to make our meetings run smoothly, to give folks a chance to speak, to consider and decide, in ways that are fair and efficient.

My background? Well, I went to Middlebury College (where I met my wife, Loring Starr) and Harvard Law. I spent five years in DC, mostly on environmental law. We came back to Vermont in time for Sam and Alice to be born in '84 and '86. I helped the Public Service Board from '84 to '95, spent four years with an engineering firm in Burlington, then chaired the Public Service Board for six years. Now I teach Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School in South Royalton, trying to ease problems that I've cared about most of my life.

I know I'll need to learn a new set of meeting-rules to be a good moderator. If you elect me, I'll do that and to try to apply the rules with fairness, efficiency, and common sense in moderating our meetings next year.

MODERATOR FOR TOWN MEETING (1 YEAR)

MICHAEL DWORKIN: See "Moderator for School Meeting"

Continued on Page 4

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church

Angelo Tillas, Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 am
Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House

Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge
Pastor

Rev. David W. Connor

Associate Pastor
Worship & Sunday School- 9:30 am
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church

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



"Thank you" to these Signpost Supporters

*Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to
PO Box 184 East Montpelier, VT 05651.*

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| Roy and Joanne Bair | Irene Stotts and Becky Reed |
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| Allen and Barbara Ploof | Florence Young |
| Nancy and David Couch | Alban and Margaret Richey |
| Michelle Walker | Dario and Darcy Cacicio |
| Lois and Bob Webster | Thelma Welch |
| Richard and Alice Angney | |

Here is what one recent contributor to the Signpost had to say: "Happy Holidays! Each time I receive the Signpost I tell myself that this publication deserves all the support I can give (then promptly forget until the next issue arrives.) Now I am putting a bit of money where my mouth is! Thank you for a wonderful service. Keep up the good work."

PLANNING COMMISSIONER (3 YEARS) Vote for not more than 3

MARK LANE: No statement submitted.

KEVIN MCCOLLISTER: I'm Kevin McCollister and I'm running for a seat on the East Montpelier Planning Commission. My wife Erica Zimmerman and I have lived here for 11 years, currently at the Center Farm in East Montpelier Center with our children Ethan, aged seven, and Nadia, who is two. I work as a project manager for Northern Power Systems in Waitsfield. In the evening and on the weekends, I'm usually working on our small farm where we raise sheep and chickens, or making repairs and renovations to the old farm house. For the last year, I have been a member of East Montpelier's Trails Committee.

East Montpelier is a wonderful community to live in and raise a family. The town's assets, including the patchwork of historic farms and forests, antique and contemporary homes, efficient thoroughfares and country roads, innovative and proven businesses, traditional and alternative schools and churches, provide us with a rich variety that makes our town a great place to live.

East Montpelier has seen tremendous change since 1849, and it will continue to evolve into the future. The Planning Commission needs to work with clearly defined policies and regulations and must recognize present needs while maintaining our commitment to protect the town's unique character. As our town grows and changes, we must ensure that it remains an exceptional community for our children, grandchildren, and their children to call home.

JACK PAULEY: I would like to see East Montpelier stay a picturesque rural community. When necessary I would like to see orderly growth implemented by our zoning regulations. We have been rewriting our zoning regulations to conform with revised state regulations. I would like to see this process through to completion. Having been a Planning Commissioner for six years, I would like to serve another term.

TRACY M. PHILLIPS: No statement submitted.

SECOND CONSTABLE (1 YEAR)

PAUL HAYNES: No statement submitted.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER (3 YEARS) Vote for not more than one

TIM CARVER: As a candidate for Selectman, I'd like to thank Martha Holden for the wonderful job she did on the board for the past three years. If Martha had decided to run again, I would not have challenged her.

I have lived in East Montpelier for about 30 years with my wife, Ann Marie, and our three children, Colleen, Barbara, and

Emily, who attended East Montpelier Elementary and U-32. We worked very hard to make these institutions responsive to the community. For years I have been an active supporter and participant in the town meeting process and active in discussions about town and school budgets. I have served as town Grand Juror and Planning Commissioner for over 10 years. I am our town's representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Our family has opened our land for hunting and recreational use by participating in the East Montpelier trail system.

I have practical working knowledge of our town roads and landscape. For many years my family has run the Carver Family Tree Farm. I believe my business experience, family ties to the community, and my practical hands-on approach to the issue of running this town would be very helpful and I am hoping the community will give me the opportunity to serve them.

Ann Marie and I love East Montpelier, as does our family. We want our children and our grandchildren to be able to live here and enjoy the special place that East Montpelier is. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as your selectman.

STEPHEN JEROME: Stephen Jerome was born at Heaton Hospital in Montpelier and raised on Center Road in East Montpelier. He currently lives with his wife Lois Polento Jerome at 1305 Brazier Road. Steve retired from the construction industry four years ago and is now working part time with Vermont Local Roads Program. This is the State of Vermont Local Technical Assistance Program Center at Saint Michaels College in Colchester. The center provides technical assistance to all of Vermont Municipalities on issues that range from "How to Maintain Gravel Roads" to writing ordinances and policies. Steve has also been the town representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District for the past three years. While on the board he has held a position on the Program Oversight Committee, the Financial Oversight Committee, and the Executive Board. "I have always tried to give back to the community in which I live and would like to continue my service to the town as Selectperson. My experience working with municipalities, serving on the Central Vermont Solid Waste District board, knowledge of state statutes and the continuing education that I have received through the University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, and University of Wisconsin will help me provide a solid contribution.

TOWN CLERK (3 YEARS)

TERESA (TERRI) CONTI: I have been the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer for three and a half years. Before I began, I had only set foot in the Town Office to obtain a marriage license,

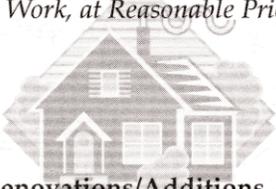
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and once a year to pay my taxes and register my dog. Over these years, I have had the pleasure of learning a very exciting job in town under the watchful and knowledgeable eye of Sylvia Tosi. The many different duties and responsibilities that she has performed over the last 23 years continue to amaze me, and I would be honored to carry on. I will welcome the opportunity to use the accumulated experience, knowledge and skills from 20 years of customer service in the insurance industry and the valuable information I have acquired from great teachers like Sylvia, Pauline Coburn, and Rosie Cueto and many other mentors along the way. I have learned many things about this town that has been my home for the last 12 years. I have been a member of the Recreation Board for most of those years. I even coached T-ball when I first came to town. My husband, Sandy, and I have participated in a number of town activities over the years. He currently serves on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. My sons, Cresswell and Sheldon Codling, attended East Montpelier Elementary School and U-32.

RICHARD CURTIS JR.: I am running for the office of Town Clerk. I have lived with my family on Quaker Road for the past 20 years and currently have two children attending U-32. I grew up in central Vermont and worked 24 years for Vermont Plastics holding the positions of Production Manager, Safety Officer, and Vice President/ Plant Manager. I worked for Waterbury Companies of Randolph as Product Manager for five years. I currently work at the East Montpelier Home Center and am attending Johnson State College working towards a degree in history. I have served East Montpelier in the following ways:

- 1993–1996, Planning Commission, Chairman 1995–1996
- 1997–2000, East Montpelier Elementary School Director
- 2003–2004, appointed to the U-32 School Board
- 2003–present, Zoning Board of Adjustment, currently Chair
- 2005 to present, Justice of the Peace
- 2005 chaired a committee for EMES proposing a maintenance budget and projected long term maintenance plan for the next five years.

My proven leadership abilities, my experience in public service and my love for East Montpelier make me the candidate of choice. I look forward to continued service in East Montpelier as your Town Clerk. Please vote for me on Town Meeting Day.

TOWN GRAND JUROR (1 YEAR)

Burr Morse: No statement submitted.

TOWN LAW AGENT (1 YEAR)

DENNIS CARVER: No statement submitted.

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Retaining Walls, Rock Gardens
- ✓ **Rototilling** Gardens &
for Removal of Topsoil
- ✓ **Bush Hogging**
- ✓ **Light Excavating**
- ✓ **Bucket Loader Work**

TOWN TREASURER (3 YEARS)

TERESA (TERRI) CONTI: See “Town Clerk”

RICHARD CURTIS JR.: See “Town Clerk”

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS (3 YEARS)

TERESA (TERRI) CONTI: See “Town Clerk”

RICHARD CURTIS JR.: See “Town Clerk”



IMPORTANT DATES FOR VOTING

VOTER REGISTRATION: You can register to vote in the upcoming Town/School Meetings at the Town Office during their regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Friday. However, the last day to register will be Monday, February 27, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

TOWN FORUM: Saturday, February 25, 9:30 to noon, East Montpelier Elementary School. This will be your only opportunity to discuss all school district and town warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted on by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report!

TOWN/SCHOOL MEETING DAY: Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 a.m., East Montpelier Elementary School. The School District Meeting will be first this year followed by the Town Meeting. Babysitting will be available in the kindergarten room. Starting at 9:30 a.m., Mrs. Gannon’s fourth grade class will be selling goodies from La Brioche and coffee to raise money for their trip to the Boston Museum of Science.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING: March 7, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., East Montpelier Elementary School.

EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTING: Ballots will be available by February 15, 2006. Call the Town Office, 223-3313, or go to the office to obtain a ballot and vote. All ballots returned by Town Meeting Day at or before 7:00 p.m. will be counted.

RECEPTION

IN HONOR OF SYLVIA TOSI

TO THANK HER FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER AS TOWN
CLERK/TREASURER

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, FROM 11 A.M.– 3 P.M. AT
THE TOWN OFFICE

*Contributions to a money tree for Sylvia may be made
through Terri Conti at 223-3313*

TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313

Office Hours: Mon.–Thurs. 9:00–5:00
Fri. 9:00–Noon

Clerk/Treasurer: Sylvia Tosi

email: eastmonttc@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Jane Grinde

Town Administrator: Lisa Rice

(Mon.–Thurs. 9:00–1:30, Fri. 9:00–Noon)
email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

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	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair
Sue Chickering

Elementary School

Bill Kaplan, Chair 239-1851
cbuni@yahoo.com

Brian Bishop 223-5332
bbdbishop@adelphia.net

Joe Buley 233-7970
jbuleyjr@adelphia.net

Matthew Curtis 223-7403
curtis-mj@msn.com

Jan Aldrich 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

Aurelia Grace Farnum, born December 4, 2005, daughter to Kimberly Krystal & Gregory James Farnum.

Marriages

David Loren Blosser to Sally Ann Redpath, December 31, 2005.

Deaths

Dorothy Aiken Morse, died January 15, 2006. Mother of Sherwood, Elliott, and Burr Morse and Susan Shattuck.

Property transfers

Carroll E. Witham Jr. & Joan N. Witham to Carroll E. Witham Jr. & Joan N. Witham, Center Rd. 3.3 acres & dwelling

Robert E. & Lorie Rice to Sharon Boguzewski, Jacobs Rd, 7.58 acres.

Emile & Ginette Gosselin to Layne & Cindy Gregoire, US2, 10.1 acres & dwelling & campground.

James Bryan Shanley to James Bryan Shanley & Kimberly Ann Kendall, Sparrow Farm Rd. 7.6 acres & dwelling.

Susan E. Austin to Anthony P. & Susan E. Austin, US2, 4 acres & dwelling.

SELECTBOARD

September 19, 2005

Voted to buy a storage container for safely containing oil and gasoline at the Town Garage.

October 17, 2005

Considering a change from a Yield Sign to a Stop Sign by the Four Corners School.

November 7, 2005

Voted to authorize Road Foreman Garand to plow the turn-around on Fitch Road to allow for use by school buses.

Appointed Richard Czaplinski as Deputy Septic Officer to back up Officer Etnier when necessary.

December 5, 2005

Voted to increase the Town Auditor's pay to \$12 per hour beginning January 1, 2006.

Voted the following: 2.5% increase for Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk, and Highway Personnel; increase to \$12.50 per hour for Zoning Administrator; increase to \$12 per hour for Chief Lister; Town Administrator remains the same.

Motion carried to execute bookkeeping contract with Fothergill, Segale and Valley not to exceed \$18,600.

Motion carried to set Saturday, February 25, 2006 as the date for the Town Forum.

Approved the annual request from the Gully Jumpers for use of town roads for snow-mobile crossings.

Decided after an executive session to:

- 1) hire David Coburn to input numbers and update Articles of warning as needed during the interim Town Administrator vacancy;
- 2) offer the Town Administrator position to one of the applicants pending resolution of salary and hours.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

November 16, 2005

Voted to approve a 0.2 FTE staffing increase for Foreign Language due to middle school class sizes.

Tabled the issue of approving the security camera proposal until specific procedures are discussed and approved.

Approved a motion to join the Winooski Valley School Choice Collaborative, agreeing to set the cap at ten students in and ten students out.

December 7, 2005

Approved appointment of Emily Smith: 0.14 FTE Foreign Language Teacher.

December 14, 2005

Carried a motion with one opposed and one abstention to approve a security camera proposal for \$11,600 from the fund balance to upgrade the system and cover the loading dock, all front parking areas, Shapiro building, and main entrance.

Voted to approve a bylaw change that would set the date of the district annual meeting to Town Meeting Day.

Passed a motion to approve four new course proposals that are cost neutral: Alternative Power and Energy Systems, Advanced CAD & 3D Modeling, Life Choices and Family Ties, and 8th Grade Strings.

Voted to accept the letter of retirement from Principal Dorothy Blake, effective June 30, 2006.

Voted to accept the medical certification for continuation of health insurance for an employee on unpaid leave due to personal illness.

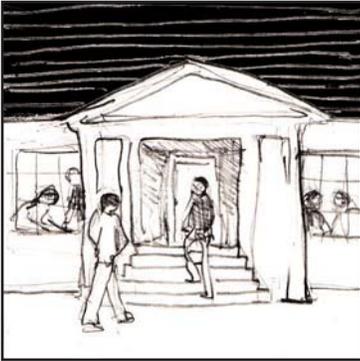
January 4, 2006

Unanimously passed a motion to approve the FY07 final budget.

Passed a motion to approve the concept of East Montpelier Trails Association using U-32 property for trail development/conservation.

CHANGING POSITIONS

To say merely that East Montpelier is undergoing some change in its administration is a wild understatement! In addition to a change in the position of Town Clerk and Treasurer (we will elect a person other than Sylvia Tosi this year—for the first time in 24 years) and a new Zoning Administrator this fall (Ross Haverstick), two other long time town employees have recently turned over their responsibilities.



Richard Czaplinski has served as East Montpelier's Town Sewage Officer for 17 years. His knowledge about the subject, his consistency and fairness, and his outstanding ability to work with townspeople on sometimes difficult issues (not to mention the scrumptious homemade bread he brings to municipal potlucks), make us very regretful that he will no longer be in this position. To ease his withdrawal pangs (and ours), Richard has agreed to be backup to our new Officer. We offer enormous thanks for Richard's excellent public service and wish him and his new wife, Kinney Connell, health and happiness in the next phase of their lives.

What tempers that feeling of loss over Richard's departure is the fact that we have a wonderfully qualified replacement here in town—in the person of Carl Etnier. Carl lives in the original Sparrow farmhouse with his wife Diana Chace and brings world-class education and experience with regard to water and septic issues to our small town. Carl has already contributed expertise to the Committee on Septic Waste Disposal, and we look forward to working with him to ensure the health and safety of our town.

A familiar face to many residents, Town Administrator Marlene Betit, is also now in the "former" category. Marlene, who delivered over 6 years of outstanding

service to the Selectboard in particular and to the Town of East Montpelier in general, left her position in early December and is now a financial examiner with the Vermont Department of Banking, Insurance and Health Care Administration. Fortunately, her devotion to East Montpelier has resulted in her willingness to work (on her own time) with her replacement and to help the Selectboard through this year's budget preparation. Many thanks are due Marlene for her knowledge and professionalism in this position. As she is running for a seat on the School Board in March, we have a feeling her contributions to East Montpelier will continue in full force.

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Rice as our new Town Administrator. This feels like a real "welcome home" as Lisa grew up in Montpelier and has lived with her family in East Montpelier for 17 years. With her general experience as an East Montpelier citizen, taxpayer and parent and her professional experience as a business owner, we know Lisa will make significant contributions to our town. Please stop in and meet her.

Selectboard member Edie Miller



MORE ON THE EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS

This past August two trails were built. First, the Youth Conservation Corps constructed an east/west trail between Johnson Road and the old Minister Road. With Charles Johnson volunteering daily as foreman, they also built a 44-foot log bridge over lovely Mallory Brook using hemlock trees cut on the property (donated by the landowner) and put in place by Rosie, the horse, and crew. Charles and Ken Hertz recently finished the rustic decking of cedar—also donated by the landowner. Both bridge and trail are incomplete; the bridge railings will be done next summer, wet areas will be treated, and steps are planned where the trail crosses several gullies. Trail signs are not up yet, but the trails can be accessed from Johnson or Minister Roads.

The second trail is the old Minister Road, which runs generally north/south and intersects the smaller Mallory Trail. It goes from Brazier Road to the top of the big field on Cherry Tree Hill, and continues to be a popular snowmobile trail. Ditching and restoration of this very wet road was done thanks to the trails grant and generous help from Patrick McCoy Excavation. In addition to its use for snowmobiling and skiing, it is now available for light use in spring, summer and fall, but is not yet marked with signs. In addition, we may be digging more ditches in this area.

This has been a huge community project, and it's good to see our town trail system continuing on this beautiful woodland. Thanks to the landowner, the many townspeople who contributed generously, and to the Trust for Public Land. Remember that during hunting season, walkers are reminded either to avoid the area or to wear blaze orange. Question or comments may be directed to Nona at 223-7745 or nona@vtlink.net.

Nona Estrin

TOWN MEETING POTLUCK

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. Though it hasn't happened yet, 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!

Being part of the kitchen crew is a great way to meet your neighbors or catch up with old friends. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177.



VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

What does it take to make a town run smoothly? A lot of folks who are willing to spend their days and evenings taking care of business. People who will give up three or four evenings a month to serve on a board or a committee. Folks who will come out with their shovels, hammers and chain saws to build a trail, clean a ball field, plant a flower bed. People who are willing to leave a warm bed in the middle of the night to fight a fire or help with a medical emergency. People who will work 18 or 20 hours a day keeping the roads open and who will call a can of chicken noodle soup Thanksgiving dinner. And all for modest pay and benefits or, in many cases, no pay at all. People who spend hours raising money to buy the supplies and equipment it takes to provide the services they give to the town. One might think that the novelty of all of this would wear off rather quickly. But the record shows otherwise. On October 17, Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz presented Vermont Public Service Awards to 18 East Montpelier citizens for 20 or more years of service. In some cases for many more than 20 years. Those honored are:

Bruce Bjornlund	Thomas Brazier
Wes Cate	Pauline Coburn
Bernard Corliss	Rosendo Cueto
Bill George	David B. Grundy
Peter Hill	Edith Miller
Martin Miller	Elliott Morse
Conrad Ormsbee	Norma Raymond
Anne V. Sherman	Sylvia Tosi
Jonathan Winston	

Dave Coburn

EAST MONTPELIER

by Sylvia M. Tosi

E is for the Eastern sunrise which renews each day,
A is for All the farms we see,
S is for Sunlit hills,
T is for the Times we look forward to,

M is for a Memorial to our past,
O is for the One and only time we pass this way,
N is for the Natural beauty abounding,
T is for the Testimony to our heritage,
P is for Preserving our forest and open fields,
E is for the Ecology of all,
L is for Looking to the future
I is for our Incredible destiny,
E is for the Enrichment of our young,
R is for the Realization of Community Spirit.

If these ideas were recalled
 Each and every day
 Our Town could be the Best.
 The Best for every one of us
 With the caring and awareness of all
 This Community Spirit could command
 A certain goal to be achieved
 To make EAST MONTPELIER the best.

FOUR CORNER SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

At recent meetings of the Board of the Four Corner Schoolhouse, the following actions were taken:

Officers were reelected: President: Rachel Senechal; Vice President: Hobie Guion; Clerk: Rose Riley; Treasurer: Pauline Coburn; Scheduler: Elaine Manghi; and Special Activities: Barbara Dall.

The fiscal year was changed to July 1 to June 30 to mirror that of town.

Thanks to Sandy Woodbeck for a great program on January 16 about cross-country skier safety on the town snowmobile trails, and also to Andy and Jennifer Christiansen for leading the December sing-along.

Looking ahead: The preschool will be moving to EMES at the end of this school year. Our space will, therefore, be available for activities. Any groups or individuals who might like to use the building should call Elaine Manghi at 229-5811.

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KELLOGG HUBBARD LIBRARY

YOUR LIBRARY AT THE CROSSROADS

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library will be holding the second of two public meetings during the Annual Open House on Saturday, March 4 from 4–5 p.m. The purpose is to speak with the community about library funding and to answer your questions. Everyone is welcome to attend and share ideas!

ANNUAL LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4

This is the Library's 110th anniversary, and in response to popular request the Library will be holding the event on Saturday. It will be a second chance to attend a community meeting on library funding and a unique opportunity to stay "after hours" for a special event called "Night of Stars." The Library is hoping that local bakers will contribute to a "cookie potluck" throughout the day. If you can help out, contact Rachel Senechal at 223-3338.

SCHEDULE OF SATURDAY EVENTS

All day from 10 a.m.

- Hat-making in the children's library
- Art exhibits (see below)
- Cookie potluck—contributions invited!
- Historic photos in the Hayes Room

10:30- 11:30 a.m.: Special Story Time with Gemma, the Library Dog

1:30-2:30 p.m. Writers' Workshop: "Found Poetry" with Calais author, Jody Gladding. Participants will be looking for poetry in unexpected places and will be sent through the library to search for "found poems."

3:00-3:30 p.m. Slides of historic Montpelier postcards: Vermont Room librarian, Claire Gilbertson, will offer a presentation of the Library's historic postcard collection.

3:00-4:00 p.m. Children's art opening: Children's art from East Montpelier and Calais Elementary Schools will be on display. Enjoy refreshments, and celebrate the great work by our young artists and their teacher, Heidemarie Heiss-Holmes.

3:30-4:00 p.m. Artist's talk and exhibit by mixed-media artist, Samantha Talbot Kelly.

4:00-5:00 p.m. Community meeting on Library funding.

5:30-7:00 p.m. Reception, followed by "A Night of Stars." Each year the Kellogg-Hubbard invites local celebrities from Montpelier and the five U-32 towns to read from a work that has mattered to them. In the past, celebrities have included authors, judges, newspaper editors, policemen and politicians, and have included such East Montpelier notables as Burr Morse, Nona Estrin, and Georgiana Miranda. Watch the library's website to find out about this year's readers. This has been considered one of the most inspiring programs that the Library has offered. Don't miss it!

To contact the Kellogg-Hubbard Library: Phone: 223-3338; e-mail: info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us; website: www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us.

East Montpelier Library Board Representative: Charlie Catlin: 229-4273

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card.

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What was life like in East Montpelier in the 1860s? Was it all work and no play? The 1868 diary of a 17-year-old young man relates his daily activities as he helped his parents and siblings with all sorts of chores through the seasons.

Spring and summer required drawing manure, plowing, 'dropping seed,' planting potatoes, washing and shearing sheep, mending fence, laying up stone walls, then hoeing corn and potatoes, haying, berrying, and cutting oats. As fall approached, there were apple-picking and paring, making cider and vinegar, harvesting corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and turnips, husking and shelling corn, threshing oats, butchering a pig, beef, chickens, turkeys, and geese, and banking the house. Winter saw logging, chopping and splitting wood, care of animals, and "breaking out the road," a seemingly endless task that winter. At last it was time to tap trees, boil sap, and boil off the family supply of maple sugar. Year 'round there was churning and care of animals and equipment.

Along with farm work, this young man, among other things, went to district school, went "a-hunting," "wound quills for mother to weave," helped fill five bed ticks, and attended district school meetings at the Morse School and Town Meeting (although he was not old enough to vote).

But what about "for fun?" Hardly a day went by but what there were visits back and forth with neighbors and extended family, for business and/or pleasure. They played whist, Authors, and euchre in the evenings, attended singing school, lyceums, corn roasts, and corn huskings. The young people sometimes played baseball and even went to the circus in Montpelier one summer afternoon. In the month of March the diarist attended weekly dancing school with his sisters, and on the 31st, he 'danced all night till went home with the girls in the morning. Tipped over twice on the bare ground. Rather hard sleighing all around. We had a first rate supper and a good time. Got home about six o'clock in the morning."

How are YOU wintering?

Anne Ormsbee



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BUILDING COMMUNITY—ONE DINNER AT A TIME

Everything about the nature of our lives—the demands of work, the thinning out of extended families, the excessive diversions, the busyness, the economic worries—are counter-communal. There really isn't much time, for most of us, to have leisurely random chats while out doing errands, long aimless evenings of making meals and gossiping, or visiting without deadlines at the bedside of an ill or elderly friend. So when we take the time to build community, it is like shoring up a foundation against the battering demands of modern life. The building of a sense of community—Jean Cate's great gift—proves to be a task of endless small gestures and patient, expansive tolerance. It needs a workable framework of intimacy that doesn't intimidate, and a steady pace of events that doesn't overwhelm. Here in our section of East Montpelier, some of us have been trying our hand at deliberate community building for about 20 years. With Jean Cate's spirit in mind, we keep at it.

My husband Stuart and I were building our house on Brazier Road in 1986, and construction was barely underway when Nona Estrin showed up with a funny little map that is still pinned to our kitchen bulletin board. It showed every house and occupant in our local sub-neighborhood. Misspelled names and all (Nona accepts our teasing with equanimity), the warm feeling of inclusion was unmistakable.

A newer neighbor, Bill Merrylees, had a similar experience: "When we closed on our house in the neighborhood 8 years ago, we didn't move in for the first month, but instead spent time redoing floors, painting, etc. During that time a hand-drawn neighborhood map with names and phone numbers appeared in our mailbox, along with an invitation to a potluck that Sunday. We went, and I have to say, I've never felt so welcomed by a group of strangers. Introductions and conversations flew around the room, and we realized that we had many things in common with these new friends, including an interest in feeling connected with those around us. In an era when there seems to be little time or opportunity to chat across the fence, we had landed in to a neighborhood that had a system for staying connected."

Our primary system of staying connected is, frankly, eating. The dawn of our history found us having just one big party in



the summer, with the abundance of late garden harvests spilling over impromptu outdoor picnic table tops. It didn't take but a couple of years before we evolved. Renee Kievit-Kylar recalls: "At some point, a smaller group decided to hold potlucks more often, once a month, and we would sometimes have political discussions, bring in local candidates, watch slides of people's travels. We put together our own talent show, and sent a singing group off to Rally Day. Then there was the time Norma Raymond allowed me to dye her beautiful white hair orange, on a dare, for Halloween."

These monthly pot-lucks continued happily for some years, until a few of us intrepid souls decided to up the level of communal interaction. The big leap of faith came a few years ago, when we jumped to a daring new format: Weekly, hosted dinners. No more potlucks! Each dinner is now "hosted" by one family, with a complete meal ready and waiting for whoever shows up. The times are standard (5:30-7:30 p.m.), and families choose their nights based on their own schedules. Dinners can be as small as half-a-dozen, or swell to nearly 30 with kids and random visitors. It is perfectly legitimate to rush in and grab a meal to go, or to spend the full two hours comfortably chatting, rough-housing with kids on the carpet, debating current events and helping with wash-up. Beyond the delicious opportunity to visit and share life's important events, there is the simple old-fashioned pleasure (one that recalls the best moments of childhood) of pushing open a frost-rimmed outer door on a dark winter night, meeting the embrace of fragrant home-cooking and gentle voices, and feeling deeply taken care of.

Certainly, there is ebb and flow. Some families are steady participants, others move in and out as their lives and proclivities dictate. Over the years there have been walking groups, a yoga class, movie night, weddings, graduations, the marking of births and deaths, sustenance during crises, and sharing of power equipment and heavy tasks. On a modest scale, with the enlivening principle of voluntary engagement, we have worked to sustain a sense of community... in the spirit of Jean Cate.

Ellen David Friedman



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EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On January 11 we celebrated EMES' 40th birthday. It was an awesome day—simple yet elegant. Anyone and everyone who has been part of EMES' past was invited. We had an all-school assembly where our present students heard about the memories of past students and staff members. One of our special guests was Mr. James Aitchison, EMES' first principal.

It was a touching moment when the lights went out and the students sang the Vermont state song, while on the screen a presentation showed East Montpelier's school buildings from the past to the present. Our guests then stayed for a delicious lunch, and after the meal we passed around a microphone and folks shared their wonderful memories. The day concluded with our students singing Happy Birthday and everyone having cake. It was a real thrill to hear all of the stories and great memories that have taken place here.

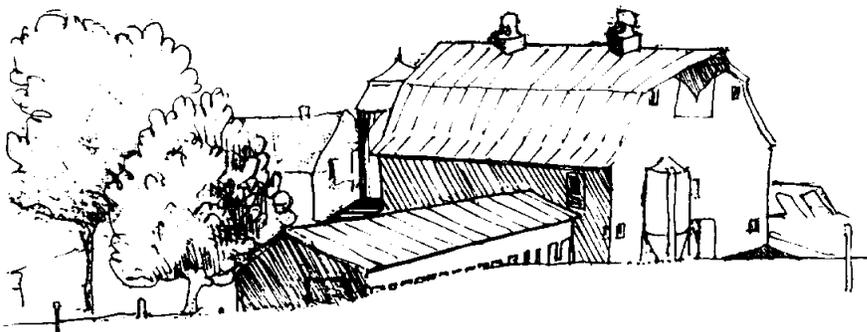
As much fun as the day was, it served a larger purpose as well. For our current students, it was a day of living history. It also served as a reminder to all of us that we (EMES staff and students) are part of something important and meaningful that has been going on for a long time. For our guests, it brought back good memories and let them know that what took place here for them still has significance and meaning. Our school is an important part of a strong community and has been for a long time. This was a way for us to show our appreciation of that. Finally, it was not really the building's birthday that we were marking, but the actions of a great many people who have passed through these halls over the past 40 years. Buildings do not make memories, people do. For 40 years the citizens of East Montpelier have been breathing life into this building; that is what we were celebrating. To the fine folks of East Montpelier, congratulations on 40 years of making your school a place that matters!

Mitch Golub, Principal

ORCHARD VALLEY SCHOOL ADDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Starting with the 2006–2007 school year, OVS will expand its curriculum to include grade 7; grade 8 will be added the following year. The middle school Waldorf curriculum is especially rich in the sciences, the visual and performing arts, mathematics and languages. Woodworking, handcrafts, movement and community service are also emphasized, preparing students for the opportunities and challenges of higher education and sound life choices.

There will be an Open House Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. to noon at Orchard Valley School (nursery through grade 7 for 2006–2007). Displays of grade students' work will be featured. The whole family is invited.



PAT DONOHUE AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

On Friday, March 3, at the Old Meeting House, Pat Donohue will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. (See the *Calendar of Events* for information on ticket sales.) From swing to jazz to bottleneck blues to folk, Grammy-winning acoustic guitarist Pat Donohue plays it all with a flourish of artistry and melodic inspiration. Chet Atkins called Pat one of the greatest finger pickers in the world today; Leo Kottke called his playing “haunting.”

Pat is certainly one of the most listened to finger pickers in the world. As the guitarist for the Guys All-Star Shoe Band of Minnesota Public Radio's A Prairie Home Companion, Pat gets to show off his savvy licks and distinctive original songs to millions of listeners each week. Besides his decade-long weekly radio broadcasts, Pat plays about 30 concerts a year nationwide. Visit www.patdonohue.com for more information.

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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	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
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30 Town Office

NOTICES

Last Day to Register to vote for Town/School Meetings - Monday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Town Office

Town Forum - Saturday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. to noon at EMES - Bring your Town Report

Town/School Meeting Day - Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. at EMES - School Meeting starts first, followed by the Town Meeting.

Australian Balloting - Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. at EMES.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Pat Donohue Concert: Friday March 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Old Meeting House. Admission is \$12 for tickets purchased ahead of time, and \$15 on the day of the show. Advance tickets will be available at Bear Pond Books, Main Street, Montpelier. This is a benefit concert for the Fuel Assistance Program and the Old Meeting House.

Reception to honor Sylvia Tosi on her retirement from the office of Town Clerk/Treasurer, Town Office, Friday March 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contributions to a money tree for Sylvia may be made through Terri Conti at 223-3313

Orchard Valley School: Call 456-7400 to register for these events

The Magic of Math: March 8, 7-8:30 p.m.

Windows on Waldorf: March 9, April 13, May 11, 8:25-10:15 a.m. Observe the grade 1-6 classroom of your choice, and meet with our enrollment coordinator.

Dollmaking: March 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Create a beautiful hand-sewn doll. \$25 fee includes all materials.

Dolls for Africa: March 21 & 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Join adults and older children to create simple hand-sewn dolls to send to children in Sudan.

Creative Discipline: April 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Discipline from a child development approach.

Waldorf Introduction Day: April 12, 9-10:30 a.m. An opportunity to observe in the nursery and kindergarten, meet the teachers and learn more about Waldorf education.

The Art of Storytelling: April 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Explore recent brain research that supports telling stories to children; learn how to prepare stories to share with the children in your own life.

Deadline for next issue: April 1, 2006 — to Barbara Ploof — 223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

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Inside: Town Meeting Day
Candidate Statements

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