

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVII — Number Three

January/February 2007

KEVIN HUDSON: A TRUE NEIGHBOR

The fall windstorm roared through the neighborhood, taking down tree branches and cutting power. Then an elderly maple tree lost its struggle with the wind and time, and its upper section fell across the road. Within minutes a young man appeared with his chain saw and began cutting away the limbs littering and blocking the road, working in the glow of a car's headlights. His father appeared, and then a neighbor, and together they cleared the road, not waiting for the overburdened town crew to come and do the job. Another time, another season, after a winter snowstorm, an older neighbor struggled to shovel clear the deep, heavy drifts blocking his mailbox. The young man came by with his snowplow, waved, and swept clean the roadside to make way for the rural mail delivery. It was Kevin Hudson, there again.

So, who is Kevin Hudson? He was born and brought up in East Montpelier

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CLIP CLOP, CLIP CLOP, CLIP CLOP: RIDING WITH THE RAUHS

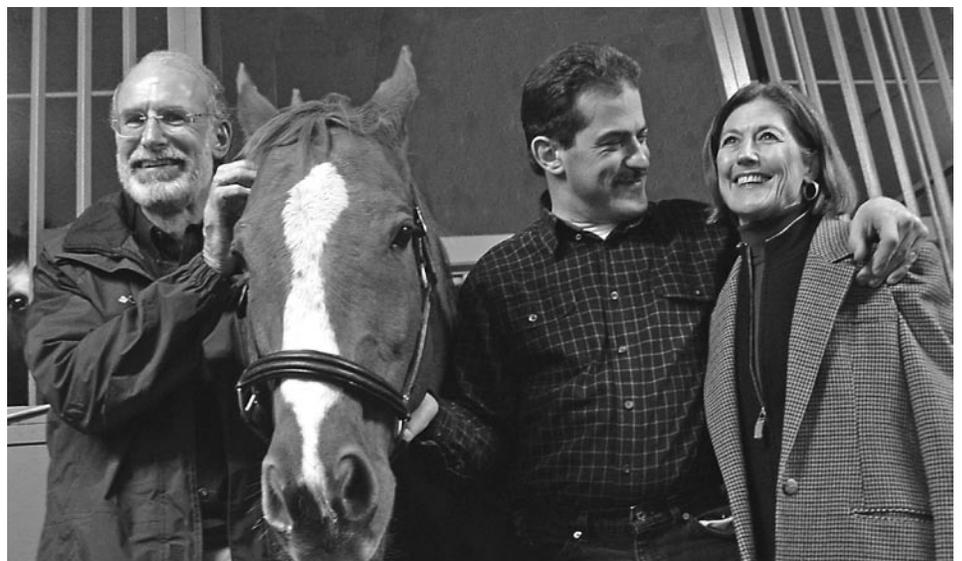
Chances are you have passed the Rauhs riding their horses on Murray Road. Steve, Louise, and Neil Rauh have called Murray Road in East Montpelier their home for the past 31 years.

Prior to moving to Vermont, the Rauhs lived in San Diego, CA, and Newport, RI, while Steve served in the Navy. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Steve attended the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, establishing roots in the Upper Valley. Their son, Neil, was born in 1972 at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital. After graduation, Steve embarked upon a career in the investment management business, and the family moved to New York City.

It didn't take long for Steve and Louise to realize that New York was a tough place to live and raise a family, and that they missed the north country. One day, perusing the Wall Street Journal, Steve's eye caught an ad for an investment analyst with National Life's investment group in Montpelier. He applied and was hired! This job provided the perfect opportunity for the Rauhs to return to an area that had the deep sense of community that harmonized with their personal values.

The Rauhs rented a house in Montpelier for a year. Then, in 1975, Steve, Louise, and Neil settled into their first home on Murray Road. The Rauhs quickly acclimated to the area. Louise fulfilled her childhood dream by purchasing her first horse, which she board-

Continued on Page 4



Steve, Neil, and Louise Rauh

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

With the beginning of the new year, many of us take time to evaluate the progress of our lives. Some will choose to make--and some may even keep--New Year's resolutions. Others may decide it's time to make major changes in their lives: a change of a career path, a better way to live lighter on the earth, or an improvement of a relationship with a friend, coworker, or family member.

Renewal times are good for us. They give us an opportunity to redirect ourselves, to get out of ruts, to decide to do things that make a difference in our own lives or the lives of others.

This is also the time of the year when those who manage town affairs begin to look ahead to Town Meeting Day. Perhaps it is fortuitous that we may be thinking about devoting some of our energies to others just as Town Meeting is approaching. One of the things we do on Town Meeting Day is elect fellow residents to positions of influence on town boards. People who serve on boards such as the Select Board, the Planning Commission, the School Board, the Zoning Board, and others have made the commitment to use their skills or to learn new ones in the service of the town and its residents.

Having served on a number of boards, commissions, and ad hoc committees, I can attest to the satisfaction that can result. It is an opportunity to get to know your fellow townspeople, to learn how the town functions, and to make a contribution for the benefit of others.

Why not give it a try? Our Town Clerk, Terri Conti, can direct you to current members on our various boards, who can inform you about what is involved in serving on each one. You'll thank yourself for getting involved.

—Dave Grundy



Center like his father, Gary, before him. Gary Hudson attended the little red schoolhouse on Center Road. Indeed, the family has long roots in East Montpelier. Kevin's grandfather grew up in Plainfield and lived in the East Montpelier Center neighborhood, and his great-grandfather lived in Plainfield.

As a teenager Kevin was intrigued with watching relatives plowing snow, and he began plowing neighboring driveways when he was just 16. Now, at 35, he has been at it ever since and has built a successful business from those beginnings. "I could never work in an office," says Kevin. "I'm an outdoor person."

Ten years ago Kevin decided to go full time into building his business. Having grown up running tractors and other equipment, he purchased a small backhoe and tractor and took on a wide variety of excavating jobs, focusing on smaller jobs that the big companies wouldn't or couldn't do. His business became a four-season operation and it expanded at first just through word-of-mouth. He had 50 regular customers for his winter snowplowing, including East Montpelier Elementary School. When there was no snow to plow and no ice-covered driveways to sand, Kevin cut and split firewood to keep the business flowing. As the summer work increased, he upgraded to a bigger tractor and an excavator and began advertising in local papers and the Signpost.

"I do any kind of dirt that needs moving," says Kevin. "There's never a lack of work now, and I have jobs already signed up for next year." The "kind of dirt that needs moving" involves landscaping and lawn repair, digging up septic systems, clearing out and installing drainage systems around houses. He repairs old driveways and creates new ones. He works from Montpelier and East Montpelier to Calais, Cabot, Marshfield, and Plainfield. Kevin has a reputation for being gentle with the landscape.

Kevin Hudson's parents, Gary and Pam, have been strong supporters in helping him get his business going. He works alone most of the time, but when he does need an extra hand, it's Gary who provides it. "That's a time I particularly enjoy," says Kevin. "We work together as a great team." During those rare times when work is slow, Kevin will take on other jobs, such as painting or installing sheetrock walls.

Where will his business go? "I'd kind of like to expand, get a bigger excavator and upgrade my equipment," he muses. "That will take a lot of thought, though. I want to find a happy medium." Expanding further would mean hiring other workers, and right now he likes to work with his dad when a helping hand is needed. It's that happy medium.



"Charlie" and Kevin Hudson

While he is finding that his business doesn't leave him a lot of extra time, Kevin refreshes himself with a variety of other outdoor interests. In summer he spends most of his free time at his parents' camp on Peacham Pond, where he waterskis, fishes for brown trout, and does a bit of boating. Like many Vermonters, he and his father are avid deer hunters. They often hunt together in an area where Gary grew up hunting, in what he remembers as having been a field but now is a pine woods. They usually get their deer each year. Kevin also does bow hunting and muzzle-loading. He says he has tried rabbit hunting, but has more trouble finding rabbits than deer. In winter, Kevin marks skimobile trails for VAST—and uses them—and enjoys getting out on his own feet snowshoeing. His black lab Charlie—"my best friend"—is always at his side.

About ten years ago Kevin became a volunteer fireman for the Marshfield Fire Department, and later joined the East Montpelier Fire Department. But he hasn't been very active for the past year. "It's pretty difficult when you are working alone at your business to be able to drop everything and take off on calls at an instant," he notes. And he finds it particularly difficult if he goes to an emergency call that turns out to be for someone he knows.

That may be, but when there is a need or an emergency in his neighborhood, whatever it may be, Kevin will usually be there to help out. He is, after all, a Vermonter.

—Edward Day, who lives on Center Road, has spent most of his career in book publishing in the United States and New Zealand. He is currently part-time Director of Development for the Governor's Institutes of Vermont. He also builds wooden boats.

ed across the road at Mary Ricker's barn. Steve started what evolved into an 11-year career with National Life, and Neil was quick to discover and relish the gems and joys of the outdoors in East Montpelier.

As the years passed, Steve realized that Louise was having too much fun riding, and in 1980 he learned to ride and simultaneously began to acquire the art and skills of playing low-goal polo. Louise caught the polo bug, and polo soon became a year-round family affair, playing both indoors and out.

The bond Steve and Louise shared playing polo strengthened when, in 1985, Steve left National Life to start Rauh, King, Kraus, Inc., an investment management firm in Montpelier. Louise joined the company as its treasurer, and they worked together for the next 11 years.

There was stability at work but a change was brewing on the home front. In 1987 the Rauhs purchased the Russell Webster residence and moved a quarter of a mile down the road. This property afforded the Rauhs the opportunity to renovate and live in a home dating back to 1812, with a barn and their horses. Most important, they would remain on Murray Road with neighbors they cherished. Neil was a teenager, and this new property enabled him to create trails for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, and to dream that one day his parents would buy him a Harley Davidson. Dreams do come true and Neil did get a Harley. Not a Harley Davidson, but a horse named Harley.

After the death of her father in 1990, Louise became a hospice volunteer with Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice and returned to school and obtained her Master's in counseling psychology from Antioch Graduate School of New England. Louise became actively employed by CVHHH and is currently a hospice and palliative care counselor specializing in caregiver support and bereavement counseling. Louise is recognized for spearheading, in collaboration with CVMC and the Council on Aging, a caregiver retreat that is held twice a year and is wildly successful.

Steve and Louise have also been involved in organizations that serve the community at large. The Rauhs are members of the Old Meeting House, where Louise has been active on a number of church committees, and is currently a member of the Executive Board. Louise has also been a long-time board member of the Vermont Ethics Network. Between 1994 and 2005, Steve was a trustee at Central Vermont Medical Center, eventually

serving a two-year term as chairman of the Board of Trustees. In earlier years, Steve had also served on the East Montpelier School Board and the Planning Commission.

Meanwhile, in 1996, Steve's business was acquired by National Life, where he started the private client group of NL Capital Management. In 2003, Steve chose early retirement to pursue his interest in health care. Between 2003 and 2004 Steve was a graduate student at the Dartmouth Medical School focusing on health care improvement. Today, Steve is an adjunct research associate at the medical school.

Neil lives in Duxbury and comes home to Murray Road on the weekends. He was one of the first employees at American Flatbread in Warren and has worked there and at Bisbee's Hardware for over 15 years. During the winter months, Neil plays ice hockey on Tuesday evenings with the Capital Hockey Club. In the summer, he is a regular at Thunder Road. Throughout the year, Neil can be found hiking the East Montpelier trails with his neighbors and their dogs or pursuing some of his favorite hobbies: hunting, pitching horseshoes, and fishing. Neil's horse, Harley, turned out to have similar characteristics to the motorcycle he yearned for as a teenager: speed, steadiness, and a smooth ride. These traits made Harley the ideal foxhunter.

After years of playing polo, today the Rauhs are converting their polo ponies into foxhunters and event horses. Steve, Louise, and Neil are members of Green Mountain Hounds, and last year Steve and Louise competed in numerous event and dressage shows throughout the state.

Next spring, when you drive down Murray Road there is a high probability you will see the Rauhs practicing their dressage moves or sailing over a cross-country fence with their neighbor Terri York at Tally-Ho Farm. Clip Clop, Clip Clop, Clip Clop

—Tina Feeney resides on Bliss Road with her husband, Joe Feeney, and their dogs and horses.

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CHURCH BELLS



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



Old Meeting House
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor
Rev. David W. Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593



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

PLANS FOR NEW FIRE STATION PROGRESS

The East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) Facilities Committee continues to work with the architectural firm Scott & Partners and the engineering firm DeWolfe Engineering on building design, budget, and site issues.

Members of the Committee and the members of the EMFD have taken two field trips to the Underhill/Jericho Fire Department. The Underhill/Jericho Fire Department provides fire services to the communities of Underhill and Jericho with the main fire station located in Underhill. Their building in Underhill was built in 1997. There are several similarities between their situation and ours that make the comparisons valuable.

A site for the new facility for EMFD has been selected on the Route 2 and 14 corridors, where most of our emergency events occur. We continue to work toward securing the site.

The residents of both East Montpelier and Calais will be receiving more specific information in December. In January and February, we plan to hold informational meetings. An article is being prepared for consideration at the March Town Meetings of the two communities.

—Don Welch, East Montpelier Representative

THE LISTERS ARE COMING, THE LISTERS ARE COMING!

The Listers are on the move, inspecting all new construction for the 2007 grand list. If inspection is for outside work, they will leave a message that they have been there. For all new homes, they will make appointments. As of December 1, 2006, there have been at least 90 building permits issued this year in East Montpelier and 16 new homes have been under construction. Thank you for your cooperation when the listers inspect your new construction.

—Listers: Rosendo Cueto, Ross Hazel, and Earl Montague

A CIVICS LESSON FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You may remember that on Election Day in November, you were admonished to “turn over the ballot and vote on the other side.” The slate of candidates “on the other side” were town residents running for the position of Justice of the Peace. And what do the justices do?

Vermont’s constitution in 1777 provided for justices who were to be county officers. Their duties were described in 1779, giving them judicial powers involving certain civil and criminal cases in which the matter at issue was 20 pounds or less or the punishment was 10 lashes or less. They could not try cases involving land titles.

The responsibility of presiding over the lowest courts in the judicial system was eliminated in 1974; other revisions have since taken place. In general terms, a Justice of the Peace has the following three duties:

1. Membership on the Board of Civil Authority. The Board’s membership also includes the Town Clerk and the Select Board members. The BCA has responsibilities in connection with elections, such as counting ballots at Town Meeting, serving as election officers, and serving on the Board for the Abatement of Taxes. Pairs of justices, one from each major political party, may still be called upon to take an absentee ballot to a voter who is physically unable to attend the polling place.
2. Administration of oaths, both written or verbal, such as the Freeman’s Oath or an oath of office.
3. Solemnization of marriage

Justices are nominated at local political caucuses in early fall and elected in November; they take office on February 1 the following year. East Montpelier’s newly elected justices are: Jan Aldrich, Rob Chickering, Sue Clayton, Ruth Farnum, Dave Grundy, Peter Hill, Sally Longhi, Florence Morse, Rebecca Reed, and Janice Waterman.

—Ann Ormsbee, East Montpelier Historical Society

4-C SCHOOLHOUSE SPRUCED UP AND READY FOR YOUR EVENT

After the East Montpelier preschool moved to the East Montpelier Elementary School, we decided that the 4-C Schoolhouse should be “freshened up.” Areas were repainted, the kitchen scrubbed and cleaned, the septic system pumped, trees trimmed, and the floors will be re-varnished soon. The new Cate bench is in place, so enjoy the view!

Four Corners Schoolhouse is a centrally located meeting space, with parking available. Rent is set at very reasonable rates. Call Elaine Manghi at 229-5811 to make reservations for your meeting or other event.

—Rose Riley, 4-C Schoolhouse Board Member

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Fri 9:00-12:00

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Sherry Culver
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer 2: Denise Brown
eastmonttct2@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Lisa Rice
Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Chief Lister: Rosie Cueto
Mon-Fri 9:00-11:30

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
Tues & Thurs 11:00-2:00
eastmontza@comcast.net

Sewage Officer: Carl Etnier
223-2564

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectboard

Eddie Miller, Chair
Tom Brazier, Stephen Jerome

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Mark Lane	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	Jane Grinde

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair 229-0826
gburley@u32.org

Sue Chickering 229-6232
dragonfly@ezcloud.net

Elementary School

Bill Kaplan, Chair 229-1851
cbuni@yahoo.com

Marlene Betit 223-6028
mabetit@aol.com

Julie Roachat 223-1423
vtseven@yahoo.com

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

Jan Aldrich 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

VITALS

Births

- Cierra Lyn Campbell, born Aug. 17, 2006, daughter of C.J. Barbie Boardman & Clint Wesley Campbell
- Daniel Patrick Yaeger, born Aug. 31, 2006, son of Cherie Anne & Joseph Michael Yaeger
- Mason Manuel Harvie, born Sept. 14, 2006, son of Sarah Brooks Harvie
- Landon Taylor Giroux, born Oct. 29, 2006, son of Rachel Lynn Metayer & Jason Donald Giroux

Marriages

- Jeffrey John Cirignano & Larae Doreen Lafoe, Oct. 28, 2006

Deaths

- N. James Clark, Sept. 16, 2006, spouse of Judith Clark
- Dean Shattuck, Oct. 5, 2006, spouse of Susan M. Shattuck
- Frieda Marie Battles, Nov. 6, 2006, mother of Jean Cassani

Land Transfers

- Arthur W. & Joanne N. Chickering, Trustees, to Susan H. Chickering, 60.8 acres & dwelling, Chickering Rd.
- Estate of Marlene Willard & Kay Roberts to William & Virginia Shannon, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Deborah Fleischman to John Pandolfo, 51 acres & dwelling, Templeton Rd.

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 19, 2006

- Granted "grandfather status" to George Estes to reconstruct his pre-existing, non-conforming three-unit building, located at 2614 US2, which was damaged by fire. Concern was raised about the septic system and its proximity to the river. Estes must seek approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and advice on how to proceed with the application.
- Erik Esselstyn presented concerns about the environment and outlined some local actions to decrease the use of and reliance on oil as our major energy source.
- Addressed a new procedure for handling the minutes of the zoning bylaw rewrite meetings.

November 2, 2006

- Kristi Flynn was introduced as the new Recording Secretary.
- Heard a presentation on the Friedman/Shapiro PRD (planned residential development) Site Plan Review for three duplex houses with common utilities off Dillon Rd. Rejected an amended motion to approve the PRD with

12-ft.-wide drive and a pullout. Voted to continue the deliberations on Nov. 9.

- After requesting her subdivision application be put on hold, the Planning Commission passed a motion to request Cathy Smilovitz to withdraw the application for a subdivision and if she does not, to ask the ZA to deny the application.

November 9, 2006

- Passed, by a majority, an amended motion to approve the Friedman/Shapiro PRD based on the Select Board's recommendation of road width of 16 ft. unless otherwise approved by the Select Board.

November 12, 2006

- Approved, with conditions, the Johnson subdivision plan located at 894 Sodom Pond Rd.
- Approved, with conditions, Ty Rolland's Change of Use/Commercial Site Plan.

SELECT BOARD

October 2, 2006

- Approved a ROW (right of way) access for Duane Wells' subdivision on Town Highways 52 & 59.
- The Holt project to replace two pieces of pipe increased to five pieces and total costs were \$6,803.99.
- Tony Williams will be leaving the road crew.
- Road Foreman, Mike Garand requested approval for a turn-around involving the property of David Lewis. Trevor Lewis will submit a letter requesting protection of his father's property from any damage that might occur before approving the turn-around request.
- A parent requested that snowplowing be done at the former A.W. Drilling property to assist an elementary school student with bus transportation needs. The EMES principal will be asked if there is any financial assistance from the school to help with the costs.
- Passed a motion to appoint Bruce Johnson as Zoning Administrator for a three-year term.
- The board accepted with regret Norma Raymond's resignation as Collector of Delinquent Taxes, effective Oct. 10, 2006.
- Kathy Karr's access permit was approved.
- Signed a contract with Scott and Partners Engineering for the EMFD.

October 16, 2006

- Robert Morey gave an update on the wastewater study, which will affect approximately 160 landowners who will need to be informed of the project.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- Select Board took under advisement a site map for a planned residential development on Dillon Rd. Road width and increased traffic questions were raised.
- Took under advisement the concerns of residents on Boulder Ridge Rd. to have the town take over their road.
- The town clerk signed the Casella contract and the Dewolfe contract in reference to the Fire Department Facility study.

November 6, 2006

- Approved the East Montpelier Winter Operations Road Plan (see page 10).
- Approved a \$0.50/hour pay increase for Gordon Blow.
- Approved a motion to put in next year's budget the amount of \$600/year for the services of Roger Hill, a local weather forecaster, to inform the road foreman of weather conditions as they pertain to road maintenance.
- Approved the application for the Ancient Roads Grant with Lisa Rice as the Grant Administrator.
- Approved the vendor quotes from CPA Bonnie Batchelder for town audit, Laquerre Electric for emergency lighting at the municipal building, Chimney Works Inc. for the municipal building, and Jay Graves for work on the ramp at the municipal building.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

September 27, 2006: Special Meeting

- Passed a motion to accept that Kathy Karr is a resident of East Montpelier.
- Passed a motion to authorize an extended suspension of a student in question for a maximum of 15 days with earlier return contingent upon receipt of necessary evaluations and a planning meeting.

October 4, 2006

- The following students were named Merit Scholars: Isabella Ballard, Jenna Cameron,

Augusta Hagen-Dillon, Daniel Levine, and Alexander Post.

- For FY07, the board's priority goals are a policy audit and review of the administrative structure.
- The district received a grant for technology-related issues. There was a discussion of the limitations of technology at U-32.

October 18, 2006

- First draft of the budget will be presented on November 15. The committee has a goal to keep per-pupil cost in proportion to the rate of inflation.
- For the first time, tax bills will be broken down by elementary and secondary education.
- On Dec. 20, Kate Wilson from Guidance will make a presentation on the Class of 2006.
- Passed a motion to approve the FY06 Draft Audit Report.

November 8, 2006

- Erin McDermott, the site coordinator for Community Connections, was introduced. Parents and students need to know what opportunities are available each day after school and what activities should be offered.
- New courses should offer rigor to the less academically skilled students based on the results from the New England Accreditations.
- There was an Open House for community members to discuss the budget development process.
- Creating a Central Office located at U-32 is still being considered.
- In order to have a budget increase of less than 4 percent, the second draft will show a 3- to 3.5-percent increase in top administrative salaries.
- Approved a Motion to accept the Federal Sub-Grant Award for FY07. These funds have been used to support the White Table and Ninth Grade Academy.
- Voted to approve the three 2007-08 new course proposals.
- Voted to approve the 2006-07 Equity Coordinators.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 12, 2006

- Discussed the results of the Washington Central External Audit that was funded by a Dept. of Education grant. Discussed how to go forward on the findings of the audit.
- The WSCU Policy Committee has helped schools create more consistent policies throughout the district. A retreat is planned to focus on policy-related issues.
- Funding allocation continues to be an issue for the PTNO. The PTNO wants to work on positive changes.

October 18, 2006

- Moved to have a review of photocopy needs and a recommendation made by John Helme. An action will be taken on the copier proposal based on approval from Director Marlene Betit, Principal Mitch Golub, and Business Administrator Lori Bibeau.
- First Reading of a Substitute Policy and Pay Recommendation in order to have a district-wide policy.
- Julie Roachat presented a draft of the Nutrition and Fitness Policy and is looking for comprehensive feedback from a wide range of community members.
- Approved the hiring of Susan Mitchell, paraeducator, as of Oct. 10, 2006.
- School audit draft was discussed. Will ask Jane Burroughs, CPA, to review the draft.
- Thanked Robin and Jeff Biron for helping secure a \$500 Exxon-Mobil grant for the playground.
- Need a second estimate for modifying doors for safe and quick emergency exit from the building.
- Positive effects of Leap Enrichment and EST Committee reported by Nancy Thomas and Principal Golub.

Kevin E. Hudson

2235 Brazier Road
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Trucking:	Slate	Gravel	Topsoil	Firewood
Excavation	Loader Work	Driveway Repair		
Ditching	Culverts	Water Lines	Septic Lines	
Septic Tank Risers	Landscaping	Rototilling		
Brush Hogging	Parking Lot Sweeping	Fences		

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GULLY JUMPERS DREAMING OF A WHITE WINTER

This is the time of year when anticipation of a great winter has us digging out our equipment for the snow season. With holiday festivities coming to a close, we look forward to hours of fun on the trails.

I like to think positive, so Mother Nature wouldn't dare have a second "brown" winter. I hope that when you read this, we can say that the Gully Jumpers started grooming the trails right after December 15, the start date if snow conditions allow. This date is set by state law and any machines on the trail prior to the start date are considered, by law enforcement, illegal trespassers and could receive a ticket.

As we look forward to a great season, don't forget to complete your paperwork. All trail users are encouraged to become members of the Gully Jumpers and support our efforts to make your winter enjoyable. Membership applications and local maps are available at www.gullyjumpers.com, or call me at 229-0734.

Remember, enjoy the trail and be considerate of other users. When safety comes first, we can all enjoy a wonderful winter season. Think Snow,
—Sandy Woodbeck, President, East Montpelier Gully Jumpers



TWIN VALLEY SENIORS EAT WELL

The Twin Valley Senior Center had a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 20, at the Schoolhouse Common. Thirty-five people came and enjoyed the turkey and all the fixings cooked by Winnie Munding and her volunteer crew. Following the meal, Susanna Blachly entertained us with a wide variety of music and instruments. Thanks, Susanna!

A special Holiday Dinner was served to another large group of Seniors (and a few non-Senior guests) on Monday, December 18, with turkey, ham, potatoes, vegetables, and salad on the menu! A sing-a-long featuring holiday and other songs followed the meal.

We continue offering an exercise program for Seniors on Mondays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon. Call Dot Knowles (454-7700) for information.

On Friday, December 15, from 1 to 2 p.m., we joined together with Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice to offer flu shots to any folks who needed them.

We will be having a special entertainment event following one meal at noon each month. We'll also start sending out a quarterly newsletter early in 2007. If you want details about our January events, or would like to be on our newsletter mailing list, call 426-3447 and leave a message (including giving us your address if you want the newsletter).

We don't publish our Mon./Wed./Fri. noon meal menu as it is subject to change, but call cook Winnie Munding (426-3254) a day or two ahead and she can tell you what we're serving!

If you need transportation to our noon meals or want to let us know about someone who needs meals-on-wheels, give us a call and leave a message.

Our Center always welcomes donations, which may be sent to: TVSC, P.O. Box 143, Marshfield, VT 05658-0143.

—David Hunter, TVSC Director

REMINDER

The second installment of Property Taxes (2007) is due on March 15, 2007. Payment must be received at the Town Office on or before 5 p.m.

Teresa E. Conti, Town Treasurer

The West Window
a novel by
John S. Hall

East Montpelier Author

available at

Bragg Farm Sugar House & Gift Shop
Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks
Area book stores
or call 223-5912

Open Everyday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

SIGNPOST WEBSITE READY FOR YOUR LOCAL ADVERTISING

Now that www.emsignpost.com has been up and running for a couple of months, it is time to bring its potential as an advertising tool to the attention to the business community. This website can become the "one place to look" for goods and services in the East Montpelier area.

GENERAL POLICIES

For now, the website will not accept political ads, classified ads, or ads for businesses located outside of East Montpelier not owned by town residents. *The Signpost staff reserves the option to reject any proposed ad as not being within the spirit of these policies.*

Business Ads: Any business located in East Montpelier and any East Montpelier business owner may advertise on the website, regardless of where the business is located.

Private Ads: Town residents with a product, service, or adventure trip of a commercial nature (but who do not normally make this available as a business) may place an ad on the web site.

FEE SCHEDULE

Business Ads

Block ads: (as in the paper issue of the Signpost) 3.5" by 2"

- On the "Local Business Supporters" page for \$50 per year.
- For up to two weeks on the Home Page for \$20.

These will be linked to a business web page if there is one.

Line ads: (similar to those in the "Yellow Pages") up to three lines on the "Local Business Supporters" page. Include the business name, description, contact information, and web page (with link if there is one) for \$25 per year.

Private Ads

Block ads:

- On the "Local Business Supporters" page for \$30 per year.
- For up to two weeks on the Home Page for \$10.

These will be linked to a web page if there is one.

Line ads: \$15 per year.

For information and forms, contact David Coburn at 223-6886 or dave.coburn@comcast.net.

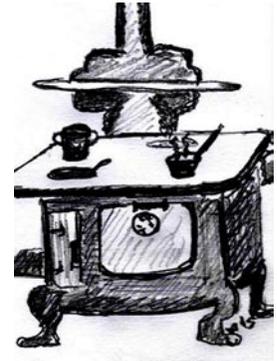
PAULIE'S RECIPE

CHOCOLATE CARAMELS – EVELYN GADAPEE

- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 squares chocolate
- Butter, size of walnut

Boil all together 25 to 30 minutes, then add 1 teaspoonful vanilla.

Beat briskly, add desired amount raisins and walnuts and pour into buttered pan to cool. Cut in squares.



From *The Community Cook Book*. Sponsored by The Friendly Circle, a North Montpelier ladies' group organized in the 1930s.

Paulie's comments

The first batch made by following the directions exactly, seemed grainy and had too strong a molasses flavor. I tried a second batch using Karo instead of molasses and used three squares of chocolate and liked the flavor much better. You can use a candy thermometer to check temperature for soft ball, or drop a small amount into a glass of cold water – it will form a soft ball.

These are fun to make and you can vary them to your liking. I added almonds to the second batch in place of the raisins and walnuts. Have fun!

—Paulie Coburn

DUPLICATE COPIES OF THE SIGNPOST

Katie Blow is hoping to correct any errors in the Signpost mailing list. If there is more than one copy of the Signpost coming to your household, or if there are any changes to be made to your name or address, please call Katie at 476-6021 or e-mail her at bluequartz@yahoo.com. Thank you.

L

Casey J. Northrup
Owner, ASE Master Certified

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Shaw-nee'
PO Box 1396
Montpelier, VT 05601
Phone: 802-229-6035
Shawneeintuitive@yahoo.com

TOWN HIGHWAY WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

Adopted by the East Montpelier Selectboard November 6, 2006.

- Plowing priorities are set to open the major traffic and bus routes first. After major routes are done, we will then plow the roads that may cause the most problems for the public (based on traffic volume, steepness, curves, etc.) and continue until all roads are open.
- The Town of East Montpelier does not have a black (bare) road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing winter weather conditions.
- The Town will enforce a No Parking rule on all roadsides and places where plow trucks or school buses turn around during all winter weather events when the plows are on the roads.
- The Town of East Montpelier has only four (4) employees to do winter maintenance on 59.82 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route, which takes about seven hours to complete. We vary from these routes only for emergency situations (e.g., fire, ambulance).
- The Town does not plow private roads or private driveways.
- The Town of East Montpelier will maintain Class 4 Roads at the discretion of the Select Board.
- We usually begin operations between 2:30 a.m. and 3 a.m. to have major highways and bus routes clear by 7 a.m.
- After 16 hours on the job, we are required to stop operations and give each road employee a minimum of six hours of rest.
- In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m.
- Salt will be applied to most paved roads with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.
- Sand will be applied to the gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as 1/2 inch, and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or Town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for replacement or repair of windshields.
- Title 19, Section 111 "Prohibits Encroachments of the Towns Right-of-Way Without Approval." Objects in the Towns Right-of-Way are placed at the owner's risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the Statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls, etc., placed in the Town's Right-of-Way.
- The Town cannot take responsibility for damage to mailboxes.
- State law prohibits plowing, blowing, or shoveling of snow across or onto a Town's or State Highway. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty, and may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles, and any undue cost to the town for removal of this snow.

EAST MONTPELIER WINS SENIOR HOUSING GRANT

The East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) committee is happy to announce that East Montpelier was awarded \$15,000 from the state Municipal and Regional Planning Fund to undertake a feasibility study for the provision of senior housing in town.

The project will include market analysis, review of alternative options to assist seniors in existing housing, assessment of ownership and management issues, facility design, site selection criteria, financing options, and citizen participation. The final report will include suggestions for the next steps EMSLI and the Town can or should take.

Anyone with an interest in the future of our community--especially if you have experience with planning, housing, financial, or legal matters—is invited to come to an EMSLI meeting. Now would be a great time to see for yourself what's happening as we move forward. We have published a Request for Proposals and will be hiring a consultant to help us. But our success will rely on input from local people.

EMSLI meets on second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Town Office.

—Deborah Fillion

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLANS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Committee met twice this fall with the engineers from consultants Forcier Aldrich & Associates and heard their presentation of the data collected during the summer and the assorted management actions to be considered. In December, the Committee reviewed the nearly complete report and finalized how the data assessment and management action plan would be presented.

On Wednesday, January 3, 2007, the "Presentation of Draft Final Report" by the engineers from Forcier Aldrich & Associates will be held at the Town Office at 6:30.

On Wednesday, February 7, an informational meeting and presentation of the final report for all the townspeople will be held at 7 p.m. at the East Montpelier Elementary School.

If you are at all interested in the wastewater issues in the two village areas of our town, please plan to attend the February meeting at the Elementary School. Also, the January meeting at the Town Office is open for anyone to attend.

—Cherie Staples

Thank you to these Signpost Supporters

Contributions are always welcome.

Please mail them to PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Cindy Tomaszewicz
Doris Washburn
Bradford/Ruth Lane

Lorraine Raymond
Alban/Margaret Richey

EMES: A BUSY PLACE

Greetings from East Montpelier Elementary School. It is with great pleasure that I wish everyone the happiest of holidays and a healthy, prosperous new year. There is nothing better than working in an elementary school to help one feel the joy of the season. Our holiday concert was fantastic; my congratulations to Ms. Dunkling, our wonderful music teacher, and to all the students who sang and played. We also collected food for those less fortunate than we, went caroling at local nursing homes, had our Gifts for Giving activities at school, and, in general, demonstrated the spirit of the season. While all the above is taking place, the staff and students continue to work hard and accomplish great things in their classrooms.

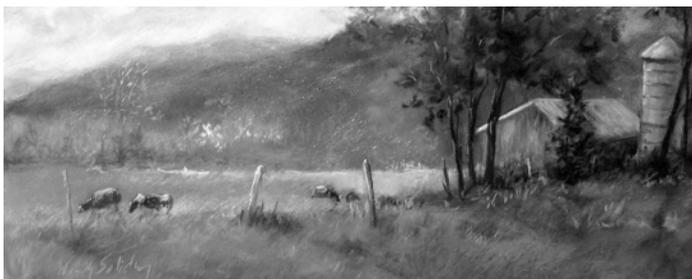
You might be surprised at what it takes to make an elementary school run. A great many things need to come together on a daily basis to ensure that every child has a meaningful educational experience every day. To that end, we have had a series of community forums. This has allowed the school to better explain what it is we do and has allowed the community to ask questions and get a more in-depth understanding of our school. We plan to continue to do this throughout the year on a variety of topics. This way we will be able to share and work together to achieve our hopes and dreams for our wonderful elementary school.

It takes many people working hard and giving a great deal of themselves to make EMES such a wonderful place. My thanks and gratitude go out to the East Montpelier learning community for all the good they continually do for our children.

A very happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

—Mitchell Golub, *The proud principal of EMES*

“Education is not a product: mark, diploma, job, money—in that order; it is a process, a never ending one.” —*Bel Kaufman*



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KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

NEW APPOINTMENT

The Library is delighted to announce the appointment of East Montpelier resident Rachael Grossman to the position of Library Outreach Coordinator. She replaces Bettie Kaseguma of Montpelier. Rachael will be coordinating library deliveries to individuals, daycare centers, recreation programs, and any other individual or group that has difficulty coming to the library itself. If you would like materials delivered to your home, or have other suggestions on how the library can come to you, please contact Rachael at 223-3338.



BOOKS IN LARGE TYPE

Books in large print format have been growing in popularity at the Kellogg-Hubbard. Notable for their clear, easy-to-read typeface, large-print books are available in variety of genres: from “cozy” mysteries and popular fiction, to biography and how-to. Our collection is on the second floor near the mystery books. If you or someone you know finds it tiring to deal with conventional-sized print, be sure to check out this collection and toss out your reading glasses! Recent arrivals in large print format include: *A Weekend to Change your Life: Find Your Authentic Self After a Lifetime of Being All Things to All People*, by Joan Anderson; *You the Smart Patient: An Insider’s Handbook for Getting the Best Treatment*, by Michael Roizen; and *Lisey’s Story*, by Stephen King.

FOR YOUNG READERS

Preschool Story Time takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m., with stories, songs and crafts. No sign-up is necessary and everyone is welcome.

School-age children are invited to make bird (and squirrel!) feeders on Saturday, January 20, at 1:30 p.m., as part of the library’s “Crafternoon” series. While you’re there, check out some of the library’s books, videos, and tapes on birds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Let the library keep you up-to-date on upcoming events. Ask to be included on our e-mail newsletter by e-mailing Rachel Senechal at khlprograms@kellogghubbard.org. We’re also glad to mail you a newsletter if you are not a computer user! Just call Hilari Farrington at 223-3338.

—Hilari Farrington, *Library Director*

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	2nd Tues	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoohouse Assoc.	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thurs	6:30	Town Office
East Mont. Senior Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office

EVENTS

Saturday Morning Garden Program:

Offered by Orchard Valley School for parents and their 2- to 4-year old children, the program provides a lively, informal introduction to Waldorf education. Held at 155 Northfield Street in Montpelier, the dates are Jan. 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3, from 9–11:30 a.m. The cost is \$75. For more information, call Orchard Valley School at 456-7400.

Jake Armerding and His Band, Saturday, January 6, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Meeting House:

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door. On sale beginning Dec. 26 at Bear Pond Books. Jake's music is equal parts New England singer-songwriter, acoustic rock, and traditional bluegrass. More information available at www.jakearmerding.com.

NOTICES

Dec. 29 - Jan. 1, 2007: Town Office closed

Jan. 25 at 5p.m.: Deadline to file petitions with Town Clerk for articles to be included in Town & School Warnings.

Jan. 29 at 5 p.m.: Deadline to file nominating petitions with Town Clerk for Town & School officers to be voted on by Australian Ballot.

Feb. 4: Warnings posted for Town & School Meetings.

Feb. 15: Early voting or absentee ballots available at Town Clerk's Office.

Feb. 24: Sample ballots posted for Town, Elementary School, and U-32.

Feb. 24: Town/School Pre-Town Meeting Forum 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 26: Last day for Voter Registration for Town & School by 12 p.m.

Mar. 6: TOWN /SCHOOL MEETING DAY. Voting on fiscal year July 1, 2007

through June 30, 2008, for both town and schools. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Australian Ballot voting.

Mar. 15, 2007 at 5 p.m.: Second installment of 2007 Property Taxes due at the Town Office.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 1, 2007, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, theploofs@hotmail.com

East Montpelier *Signpost*
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