

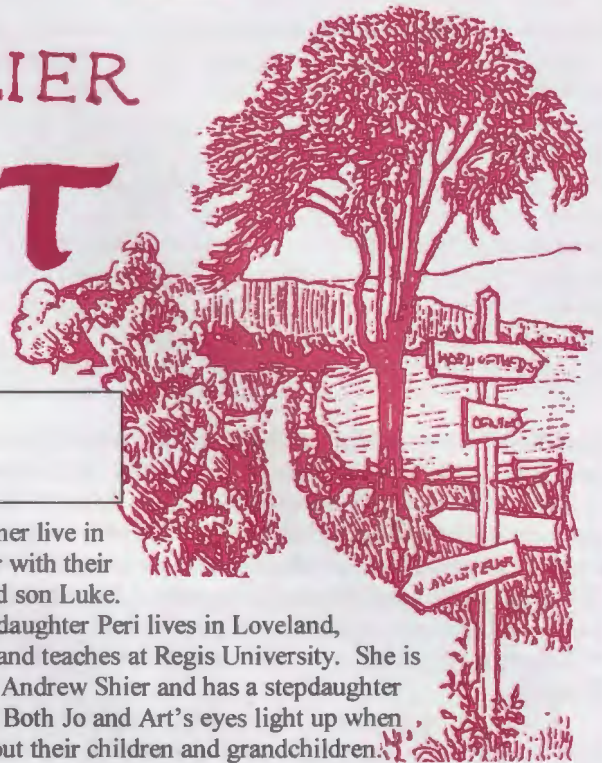
EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XII, No. 3

January/February 2002

JO AND ART CHICKERING

by Jane Bartrum



Jo and Art Chickering welcomed me to their wonderful, timberframe home on a blustery October morning just six weeks shy of their 50th wedding anniversary. Their new home is on land that is part of the farm where they lived in the sixties and seventies. They moved back here to East Montpelier in 1996 after spending almost twenty years traveling the globe, working and living in other parts of this country. They have always considered the farm their real home, and we spoke about what East Montpelier and Vermont have meant and continue to mean to them. They love the environment here both physically and culturally, and they share in the diverse perspectives and hope for a better world that they find in Vermont. They find a real acceptance of different people and points of view here, and they appreciate living in a state that is small enough so they can feel that their contributions make a difference.

Their four children and their families will be joining them for their anniversary celebration. Alan, the oldest, lives in Olympia, Washington. He is an oral historian and also works for the State of Washington. Sue and her family live in the farmhouse the Chickering's first came to in 1964. She is a guidance counselor at Spaulding High School, and she and her husband John Ayers have three children: Lars 14, Gabriel 12 and Silas 9. Their youngest daughter Nancy is an emergency room physician at Central Vermont Hospital. She and her husband

Kris Hammer live in Montpelier with their six year old son Luke.

Their daughter Peri lives in Loveland, Colorado, and teaches at Regis University. She is married to Andrew Shier and has a stepdaughter Courtney. Both Jo and Art's eyes light up when talking about their children and grandchildren. Because of Art's job in the sixties, they were able to spend many weeks traveling the country with their children and have also had them with them on some of their international trips. They also have continued a tradition of travel with their grandchildren that was begun by Art's mother who, at age 95, will also be joining them for their anniversary celebration.

They had loved spending time hiking and camping in Vermont before Art came to teach psychology at Goddard in 1959. They spoke about the pleasures of their early years here. Their children went to Sunday School and also raised heifers in 4-H. Jo and Art were part of an interdenominational local bible study group. Jo found beautiful pitcher plants and wild orchids in the bog on their property and studied botany at Goddard. They eventually donated the bog and surrounding land to the Nature Conservancy. It is accessed off Lightning Ridge Road in Calais.

During those early years, they settled into a pattern which they have continued through their years together. They share the same values, but the ways that they have chosen to carry these out in their everyday life have been different. Art in his teaching, writing and administration has been involved in more abstract ways of making changes in and through education. Jo has chosen a life of direct involvement. For example, when she was busy with four young children, she was often active helping people in the community. She also managed in the sixties and seventies to find time to work with women through the Vermont Commission on the Status of Women and at Goddard.

In 1969, Art's book *Education and Identity* was awarded the National Book Award for

(Continued on page 2)



Top of the Signpost

By the time you read this, the year 2001 will be about over. With the passing of this holiday season, we will know whether Americans have taken to heart a new awareness of what is lasting and important in our lives, or whether we've quickly fallen back into our frenzy of acquiring what we don't need, of filling our lives with more stuff. Knowing that we in the United States possess more than 59% of the world's wealth, though we represent only 6% of the earth's population, should make us think. Why then should we crave newer cars, faster electronics, more stylish clothes, more luxurious vacations? We are blessed with greater wealth, more education, better health and far greater

freedoms than most of the rest of the world's people. If we then fail to appreciate our wonderful fortune and instead shop for more, more, more, then we have indeed missed the message of the September 11 tragedy.

New Year's resolutions are not my usual habit, but this new year 2002 I want to wake up every day giving thanks for the richness of my life, for being free to think and act as I believe, and for having enough more than I need to share with those who truly need it.

A thoughtful New Year to you all!

Jean Cate

Education. This gave him the chance to affect national and international education policies. He set up the Empire State College at the State University of New York for adult learners and went on to continue writing and to have prominent positions in education and administration at Memphis State University and George Mason University. After they both moved to Tennessee, Jo worked as a counselor for 15 years with women at the Center for Student Development in Memphis.

Jo and Art returned in 1996 to East Montpelier and to the new home built for them by two sons-in-law. Art came back to a professorship at Vermont College and now has an office at the new Union Institute/Vermont College. He is just finishing a Kellogg Foundation supported project to help ten colleges around the country support student learning and social responsibility. Next he hopes to find funding for a project looking at issues of spirituality and meaning in higher education. He is also actively involved in Educo, a Colorado based organization, which has schools around the world dedicated to promoting multicultural learning and respect for the environment. Jo is actively involved as a board member for a Washington County Restorative Justice Panel in Barre which helps first time offenders of nonviolent crimes make restitution and reorganize their lives. She also is an active member of the Plainfield Friends Meeting, sits regularly with a Buddhist Meditation group and is in a Jung study group. She had a serious stroke three years ago and exercises daily in the hope of eventually being able to walk in the woods again and to return to doing her own personal art work.

As Art and Jo graciously described their 50 years together to me, they both seemed at ease with themselves, the commitments they have made and the lessons that they have learned and been able to share with others. East Montpelier is fortunate to have had and continue to have their involvement in our community.

Jane Bartrum is a clinical social worker. She lives on Hammett Hill Road with her husband Royal and their younger son Nathaniel (NJ).



THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, *The Signpost*, 315 Putnam Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651-4119.

Frieda Battles
Marion Codling
Lois McKnight
Margaret & Alban Richey

Genevieve Chapell
Bradford & Ruth Lane
The Nist Family
Doris Washburn

East Montpelier Recreation Committee



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

There is no regular minister now. For information on times and events, call Marion Codling, 223-2058

OLD MEETING HOUSE

Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Co-Pastors

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care 9:30 a.m.

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton

Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Those of our readers who have enjoyed Janet MacLeod's whimsical drawings since our very beginning will be concerned to learn that she has been quite ill since just before Thanksgiving. She is now gaining and, as this is written, is soon to leave the Boston hospital for either Burlington or home. For a more current report, contact the Adamant Coop (223-5760).



TOWN MEETING DEADLINES

- Jan. 24, 2002: Last day to submit petitions signed by at least 5% of registered voters for articles to be included in Town Warning.
- Jan. 28 - 5 pm: Deadline for filing nomination petitions for town offices to be filled by Australian Ballot.
- Feb. 3: Last day to post Town Warning with checklist and notice of Town Meeting.
- Feb. 13: Absentee ballots available for absentee voting.
- Feb. 23: Last day to file applications for adding names to the Checklist. Town Clerk's Office open 10 am to 12 noon.
- Feb. 23: Sample Ballots posted.
- March 2: Town Forum and Australian Ballot information meeting at EMES at 9:30 am.
- March 5: Town Meeting, EMES, 9:30 am. Polls open 7 am to 7 pm.

HOW TO TAKE PART IN TOWN MEETING EVENTS

To run for office candidates must be on the Voter Checklist and secure signatures on a petition for office of at least 1% of the legally qualified voters. Petition forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

To submit an article for the Warning you can either request the Selectboard or School Board to include the Article or have a petition signed by at least 5% of the legally qualified voters.

All signed petitions are due at the Town Office on the dates shown at the left.

Elected Positions

Number of openings for this year are shown in ()

- Moderator (1)
- Town Clerk
- Town Treasurer
- Selectboard [3 positions] (1)
- Listers [3 positions] (1)
- Auditors [3 positions] (1)
- Justices of the Peace [7 positions]
- Planning Commission [9 positions] (3)
- First Constable (1)
- Second Constable (1)
- Trustees of Public Funds [3 positions] (1)
- Cemetery Commissioners [5 positions] (1)
- Town Law Agent Town (1)
- Grand Juror (1)
- School Directors:
- Elementary School [5 positions] (2)

BURNING KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Central Vt. Solid Waste Management District

Habit, convenience, the price of garbage disposal - all reasons thousands of Vermont households illegally burn millions of pounds of trash. But the costs outweigh any savings. The toxins released from burning trash can irritate the respiratory system, cause bronchitis and nausea and contribute to cancer in a healthy adult. Children, elders and those with heart and lung disease are at higher risk.

The problem: burn-barrels, piles and wood stoves just don't burn hot or efficiently enough to destroy the toxic substances in our trash. In addition, the chemicals and particulates are released at ground level — into the air we breathe. The emissions also settle into streams and ponds and onto forests and fields. Food for wildlife and humans may be polluted, and drinking water may be, too.

It is illegal to burn trash in Vermont, including household and business refuse and treated wood from construction projects. Burning brush, leaves and untreated wood may be allowed, but a permit from the local fire warden is required. All burning releases some toxins. Compost, reuse, recycle or properly dispose of waste instead.

LISTERS NOTICE

As the Listers are going out visiting properties for the new 2002 Grand List checking for additions etc, removal of decks, sheds, porches, pools and such are noted. If property owners make any removal such as the above, they should notify the Listers at the Town Office immediately. The listers try to catch these changes as each property is visited annually, but, if it's unobservable from the front of property, it may not be removed from the listing card. The Listers feel that the property owner should not be paying on something that no longer exists.

A Lister is usually in the Town Office every day from 9 am to 11:30 am Please call at 223-3313.

Open Everyday 8:30am to 6:00pm

We ship Anywhere

"A Quality Family Farm Shop"

802-223-5757



Vermont Handicrafts

Gifts

Vermont Cheese

Mail Order

Maple Products

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

The Riverbend Country Store

A Convenience Store & Gift Shop

Grocery - Videos - Gifts - Crafts

Maurice and Sue Cerutti - Owners

(802) 454-7101

2040 VT Route 214 - N. Montpelier, VT 05666



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



MILESTONES

Births

- >Jacob Francis Ehret and Joshua Douglas Ehret, born September 25, 2001, twin sons to Roger & Rose Ehret.
- >Brodie Cole Frazier, born September 28, 2001, son to Diane & Timothy Frazier.
- >Jenna Lynn Mekkelsen, born November 7, 2001, daughter to Bruce & Laurie Tosi Mekkelsen. Grandparents, John & Grace Mekkelsen and Donald & Sylvia Tosi.
- >Olivia McKenna Thiemann, born November 15, 2001, daughter to Carol Ann McKenna & Michael John Thiemann.

Marriages

- >Raymond Jay Edgley to Anne Alden Loucks, October 7, 2001.
- >Stephen Paul Jerome to Lois Ann Polento, October 20, 2001.

Deaths

- >Ida K. Bradshaw, died October 5, 2001, mother of Barbara (Slayton) Green.
- >Henry Alfred Brazier, died October 22, 2001, spouse of Lena Brazier, father of Thomas Brazier & Nancy Brazier Hoar.
- >Ronaldo Joseph "Sonny" Provost, died October 24, 2001, spouse of Mary Jane Provost.

Land Transfers

- >Tammy Trahan to Clifford W. Bowman, 8.5 acres, Wheeler Rd.
- >Cleo B. Wolf to Sari K. Wolf, corrective deed, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- >James E. Francke to Cynthia T. McLean, 1.0 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- >Max & Audrey Fair to Barbara Stalling & Paul Libercent, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
 Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon
 Phone: 223-3313
 Email: eastmont@adelphia.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
 Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn
 Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins
 Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit
 (W & Th 9-5, Tu 1-5)
 Lister—Rosie Cueto
 (M-F 9-11:30)
 Zoning Administrator—Gene Troia
 Tu & Th 3:30-5

>Lisa J. Rice to Michael & Amanda Mislak, 10.11 acres, Country Club Estates off Clark Rd.

- >Real Ouimet to Frederick & Gretchen Satink, 12.6 acres, Quaker Rd.
- >Dawn Houle to Robert F. & Rebekah J. Brown, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Quaker Rd.
- >James G. Grundy & Sharon Gouveia to James G. Grundy, 17.4 acres & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- >State of Vermont, Governor Howard Dean to Old Meeting House of East Montpelier Center, 1 acre, release of interest by state.

- >Clifford W. Bowman to Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray, 5.4 acres, Wheeler Rd.
- >Clifford W. Bowman to Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray, 3.1 acres, Wheeler Rd.
- >Renfield & Martha S. Belanger to Brian & Linda R. Fitzpatrick, 0.97 acre & dwelling, Barnes Rd.

>Estate of Raymond Tellier, to Mary Lovely, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobil Home Park.

- >Florence M. Howard to Jayne A. Parker, 4.7 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- >Willis F. Backus to Only Choice Health Corp., 0.62 acre & building, US2 East Village.

- >Roger P. & Anne D. Houle to Barry L. and Marilyn M. Wallace, 1.06 acres & dwelling, US2 west.
- >Jeffrey S. & Betty A. Richardson and Caroline M. LaCourse to Malone Properties, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.

- >Charlotte Mitchell to Faye Taylor, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
- >Clifford W. Bowman to Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray, corrective deed, 5.4 acres, Wheeler Rd.

>Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray to Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray, 8.5 acres, Wheeler Rd. (combining acreage for zoning purposes.)

>Patricia Bessette, Janet M. Dion, Robert Murphy & Michele Murphy to Philip James LaPerle, 3 acres & mobile home, Clark Rd.

SELECTBOARD

*Tom Brazier, Chair,
 Tim Meehan, Edie Miller*

September 10, 2001

- >Appointed Deborah Fillion as Town Auditor to replace Jim Hanna who resigned earlier this year.

>Adopted Town Road and Bridge Standards using VLTC model as minimum standards until more detailed road specifications can be reviewed.

- >Paul Cate gave information regarding Forest Committee's offer of \$20,000 timber sales to EMES toward a larger woodchip storage facility. There will be two articles about this on the Town Meeting Warning.
- >Discussed Class Four roads. There are about four miles of such roads.
- >Discussed setting speed limit on Fair Road at 35 mph.

September 17, 2001

- >Discussed Rally Day and options for insurance coverage.

October 1, 2001

- >Voted to sponsor Rally Day. This makes possible insurance coverage for volunteers under Town's insurance policy.

October 15, 2001

- >Voted to establish speed limit of 35 mph on Fair Road.
- >Reiterated understanding of Vtrans project at VT 2 and 14 intersection to include no benches, good lighting and no park and ride at this location. Selectboard has requested a park and ride located on the outskirts of the village area.
- >Sylvia Tosi requested a water cooler for the Town Office because cannot use tap water for drinking. She will investigate possibilities.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

September 20, 2001

- >Zoning Administrator Gene Troia distributed updated list of permit fees adopted by Selectboard, effective Oct. 1. Troia will meet with Selectboard to get clarification on some items.

October 4, 2001

- >Approved subdivision plat review for Steve and Karin Omasta on Center Road. Elaine Ryan will transfer 0.63 acres to the Omastas, thereby decreasing her lot to 8.87 acres & increasing the Omasta lot to 2.01 acres.
- >ZA Troia met with Selectboard to discuss questions and comments of PC and Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding new fee schedule. Selectboard requested PC to revise schedule to resolve any problems.

October 18, 2001

- >Approved application of Central Vermont Solid Waste District to post an "Adopt-a-



Site" sign at a trailhead on VT14 owned by East Montpelier Trails Association.
 >Reviewed Act 250 application and site map recently filed retroactively for the Merritt subdivision, approved by the PC March 1992.
 >Reviewed amended permit fee schedule.

November 1, 2001

>Reviewed final draft of permit fees schedule including sewage fees.
 >Will warn public hearing for December 6 on proposed setbacks regulations.
 >Invited to attend special Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on November 5 to discuss wireless communications interim bylaw with Jon Groveman, Director of Municipal Law Center, Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

September 10, 2001

>Denied application of Renfield and Martha Belanger for utility shed on Barnes Road. It does not meet all five criteria.

September 24, 2001

>Edward H. Johnson hearing postponed.
 >Discussed possibility of educational session to discuss future requests to build telecommunications facilities.

October 8, 2001

>Discussed Mr. Johnson's request to enclose the porch on his house. Approved with condition that all mechanical and electrical equipment be installed above the base flood elevation.

October 22, 2001

>Granted conditional use permit to Thad Benoit to operate a sporting goods store and a snowmobile parts and repair service in the space formerly occupied by Rus Sign Shop on VT14.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jan Aldrich, Chair, Lucy Ferrada, Bob Rikken, Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas

September 5, 2001

>Approved Jeanie Driver as evening and summer custodian.
 >Charged the Capital Improvement Committee to study prioritized list of health and safety improvements and research costs for budget development, and later to work on long term plan.
 >Approved charging a sub-committee to research cost and design for expanded woodchip storage.
 >Approved hiring Christine Royer as new

food service agent.
 >Approved hiring Elizabeth Wirth for a half-time paraeducator.
 >Released Monika Reis from her contract as guidance counselor. She has accepted a full time position in another school.
 >Carol Randall informed the Board of federal funds available to schools where enrollment exceeds 18 students in a classroom. EMES qualifies for \$20,000 because of enrollment in third grade. Board approved creating a half time position for one year to be paid for by classroom reduction funds.

October 4, 2001

>Heard discussion from parents and paraprofessionals regarding the imposed contract. Board will further investigate.
 >Lucy Ferrada reported on Capital Improvement Committee's research on costs of building improvements for health and safety. Some building improvements can be done by custodial staff and some under the New England Air Company contract.
 >Woodchip Storage committee is looking into funding sources through grants.
 >Community Connections Council recommends Guy Viens for site coordinator. This is a full-year position working 20 hours a week.
 >Approved hiring Guy Viens for one year half-time teacher to work in the third grade classrooms, funded by federal class size reduction funds.
 >Awarded snowplowing bid to Sandy LaPerle.

October 17, 2001

>Anna Saxman and Carol Randall met with Guy Viens, site coordinator for EMES. There will be a foreign language class after school and dance class starting in November. Also interest in keyboarding. Over 50 students have signed up for drama to start in January. Also discussed need for good communication with after school sports coaches.
 >EMES has received positive feedback for work with children with special needs.
 >Approved hiring Susan DeForge as full time paraeducator for kindergarten and a first and second grade classroom.
 >Approved hiring Judith Lindner for 0.6 FTE school nurse position pending Laurie Reilly's acceptance into peer review and a waiver from the State

Education Department to become the guidance counselor.
 >Accepted auditor's report for year ending June 30, 2001.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley, East Montpelier members

September 19, 2001

>Of 120 graduates in the class of 2001, 70% have gone on to further their education.
 >Approved funding of \$10,000 for the Student Assistance Counselor position. Grant money has also been received.

October 3, 2001

>Jon Winston reported that the interior connector to the cafeteria should be finished soon. Four high school classrooms are expected to be ready for trimester two.
 >Approved taking \$1,000 from fund balance to pay the insurance deductible for replacement of stolen cameras.
 >Adopted Drug and Alcohol Policy.
 >Approved student-initiated proposal to create two non-voting student board memberships, to be filled by student election.

October 17, 2001

>Peg Wilmott was honored at UVM as teacher of the year for U-32.
 >Dot Blake reported on meeting held to begin discussion relative to a school exchange/choice program with Montpelier.
 >Approved the 2000-2001 audit draft.
 >Approved taking monies from the fund balance for publication of the *U-32 Chronicle*, upgrade of software for Scheduling Module software and purchase of Middle School English books.
 >Approved renewal of contract with Pitney Bowes for postage meter and equipment.



ALL ABOUT TOWN

EAST MONTPELIER CEMETERY COMMISSION

Elliott Morse

The commission is caretaker of the four major cemeteries in town — Doty, East Montpelier Village, Cate and Cutler — as well as seven primitive cemeteries. Maintaining them is an on-going battle with the elements. The memorials must be watched for damage and cleaned periodically, and the machinery must be kept up.

The commission's next restoration project will be the Willard Cutler Cemetery, located near the intersection of Cummings and County Roads. This area was used before the current Cutler Cemetery and has long been forgotten and neglected. Elliott Morse realized that the former Cummings homestead had new owners who might not be aware of the old cemetery. He talked with owner Bill Kaplan who did indeed know about it. There was one large stone left. Elliott showed him another stone over which tree roots had grown. The standing stone read Amos and Jemima Cutler. He was found to be a soldier of both the Revolutionary and French and Indian Wars. The two men went to work to clear away some of the trees, and, a few days later, Bill arrived home from a trip to Boston, bearing some antique and ornate wrought iron fencing to surround the area. The commission plans to complete the restoration by returning several stones which had been removed years ago.

TOWN PLAN UPDATE

The East Montpelier Town Plan is a detailed mission statement and five-year community program. It chronicles a bit of our history, describes our present resources, envisions our future and describes the steps necessary to reach our goals. The Plan provides guidelines for our officials as they administer town business, apply zoning regulations and create capital and operating budgets. It plays an essential role in Act 250 hearings, representing our local interests.

Last spring, the Planning Commission created a subcommittee to work with townspeople on an update of our Plan. Many of our neighbors have pitched in, drafting pages on subjects they know and care about. We hope to have a survey available before Town Meeting Day to solicit citizen preferences on issues and goals.

We want to know what you're thinking, and we could always use more help with the project! Please take the time to share your vision for our town through this survey or by contacting one of the committee members: Rob Chickering 229-5005; Deborah Fillion 229-1320; Jack Pauly 223-7539; Tracy Phillips 223-0126.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rachel Senechal, President

Another whist party was held on October 21st at 2 pm. This activity has been put "on the shelf" for the winter months.

The November meeting included plans for snow plowing/shoveling and budget for operating expenses for 2002.

To schedule use of the schoolhouse, please call Elaine Manghi between 6 and 8 pm at 229-5811.

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

Hilari Farrington

Petie Ferris of East Montpelier has been elected as Vice-President of the Board of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Congratulations, Petie!

The Library is looking for ways to improve its offerings to residents of the towns it serves. If there are ways in which you believe that the library can serve you better, get in touch with Hilari Farrington, Library Director at 223-3338 or Petie Ferris.

Keep in mind that bookmobile service will be coming in 2002, since Kellogg-Hubbard was one of five libraries in Vermont to be awarded a Mobile Literacy Grant through the federal government. We'd like to hear your ideas on where it should be stopping in East Montpelier.

Anyone in Washington County can get a library card by showing proof of residence.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm

Friday and Saturday: 10 am - 5:30 pm

Children's library closes at 5:30 except on Thursdays.

For more information call 223-3338.

WANTED: MEN TO SHOVEL SNOW

A few of us remember that January and February, 1934 was a wintry time and the 1934 town report confirms it. A total of 136 men were paid to shovel snow out of town roads!

The need for snow shovelers continued through the 1930's until the town purchased steel snow plows.

(East Montpelier Historical Society November meeting.)

TWIN VALLEY SENIORS PROJECT

The Twin Valley Seniors are teaching children in the area elementary schools to knit hats which they will send to the children of Afghanistan. They are also sewing fleece mittens. They need help! If you sew or knit, if you could donate funds or yarn or loan needles, please call Marcy Morse of Twin Valley Senior Center at Goddard 454-8311 ext. 352.

SHOP 'TILL YOU POP

Support your school while you shop online! There is a new fundraising effort at the elementary school that you can participate in whether or not you have children in the school. It's called Schoolpop! For every online purchase at participating companies, a part of your purchase will be donated to the school.

It's easy — log onto <http://www.schoolpop.com>, register under East Montpelier Elementary school, choose your company from a list of over 300 and shop! Products are purchased and shipped directly from the company, and a percentage of your total purchase is credited to our account.

Companies include JCPenney, eBay, LLBean, Gap, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Coldwater Creek, Disney Store and hundreds more! Check out Schoolpop! and raise money for our children while you shop!

SNIP ONE, CURL TWO

SHEAR ELEGANCE

by Lisa Pratt

I met with Ellen Demers at her hair styling salon, Shear Elegance, in a corner of Laquerre's Marine Shop on Route 14 on a snowy day late in November. The smell of perm and hair coloring solutions met my nose at the door. Ellen had just finished with a client, one of approximately 400, and was giving last minute instructions to the woman on how to style her new look. She encouraged the woman to call if she had any problems, bid her farewell, grabbed a water bottle and curled up in a chair across from me in her bright, cheerfully decorated waiting area.

Ellen, the youngest of five children, grew up on a farm in East Hardwick and went to Hazen Union School. After graduating, she attended Vermont College of Cosmetology's nine month program. Upon completion, she worked at a salon in Hardwick for nine months, and then became Co-owner of Garfield's Hair Salon in Waterbury, where she stayed for seven years building a great clientele. She filled in at her partner's other shop in Stowe on occasion and never felt at home there.

Since Ellen still lives in the Hardwick area with her husband Phil and her 14 year old stepdaughter, she wanted to work closer to home. Joe Laquerre did the renovations in an old office and Phil and Ellen installed the second hand equipment, put the finishing touches on and then waited for the phone to ring.

It didn't ring as much as Ellen would have liked, and she really questioned her move. Her father-in-law paid Ellen her first dollar, which she hangs with pride in her shop. He encouraged her to "relax, don't worry, you'll do fine." It wasn't easy. In the weeks that followed, her shop was broken into and her father-in-law died. She was quite discouraged. Then the phone began to ring and hasn't stopped since.

Ellen's hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 until 8 or 9 pm most nights, but she tries to finish by 4 pm on Saturdays. She accepts walk-ins, but evenings are by appointment only, and they are already filled until early January. She considers her business

family oriented. She estimates that half of her customers are men, and she enjoys putting young children at ease. The waiting area is well equipped with toys and books. She even offers the child's first professional cut free of charge.

Another cut that she provides free is to those who are willing to donate their hair to "Locks of Love", a program that she feels passionately about. This Florida based company takes the hair, at least ten inches in length, and turns it into wigs, mainly for young cancer patients.

Ellen clearly loves her job, but doesn't view it as a job. She says she has a wonderful customer base and feels like a lot of them are an extension of her family. She has been through births of children, marriages, divorces, illnesses and deaths right along with her customers. She especially enjoys the teenagers, who frequently desire change and force her to stay on top of new styles and new products. She tries to attend at least one major cosmetology show per year and just returned from one in Boston. The product representatives whose products she sells also help to keep her up to date and informed.

Ellen herself isn't afraid of change and is constantly changing her own color and style. She feels this helps her customers and gives them courage and ideas. She really tries to understand what is going on in her customers' lives and tries to discourage change during stressful times.

While we were wrapping up the interview, Ellen's sister Rita came in and took the chair. I asked her what she could offer about her sister and her business. She said she enjoys the relaxed atmosphere, the practical advice and Ellen's ability to deal with emergencies. I questioned her on the latter, and she said Ellen has fixed many a youth's experimental hair cuts and managed to salvage the family's photo session more than once!

Ellen was very warm, outgoing and pleasant to talk with. If anyone is feeling about ready for a change in hair style or hair stylist, I recommend giving Ellen a try. But remember Ellen's own words, "I am a beautician, not a magician."

Lisa and Steve Pratt own S & L Auto Supply on the Barre-Montpelier Road. They live on US 2 in East Montpelier with their three children Tyler, Morgan and Raquel.

Shear Elegance
by Ellen



COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Office Hours	Mon-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 24	Last day to file petitions for warning articles	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Town Clerk's Office
January 28	Last day to file petitions for office	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Town Clerk's Office
February 13	Absentee ballots available for voting	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Town Clerk's Office
February 23	Last day to register to vote for Town Meeting	10 am to 12 noon	Town Clerk's Office
March 2	Town/School Forum	9:30 am	Elementary School
March 5	Town/School Meeting Day	9:30 am Voting 7 am to 7 pm	Elementary School

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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