

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



## Top of the *Signpost*

Here we are, completing our first decade. We thought you might like a peek at how the *Signpost* happens, so we're celebrating this anniversary issue with some history, some photos and a look at the people who make it happen. We thank Edie Miller for preparing the story, Anne Sherman for digging up the numbers and Janet MacLeod for putting our *Signpost* team into "comic relief". The *Signpost* has felt privileged to share ten years in the life of East Montpelier.

Jean Cate

## ALL ABOUT THE SIGNPOST By Edie Miller

In the fall of 1990 a new publication - the East Montpelier *Signpost* - arrived in each of our mailboxes. Under the front page headline - "Newspaper Debuts" - we learned that eight of our neighbors had been working for months on an idea to help keep us in touch with one another and with what's going on in town and, most importantly, to foster "community-ism" in East Montpelier. Today, ten years later, you are reading the 60th issue of the *Signpost*.

Sharing the front page of that long-ago first issue was a description of East Montpelier's second annual Rally Day celebration - a time when "each of our citizens can pause to appreciate the values of small town living, touch again the lives of our neighbors, and glory in our town's natural surroundings."

These two front page items - Rally Day and the *Signpost* - along with a number of other current East Montpelier institutions such as the East Montpelier Conservation Fund and the East Montpelier trails system share a common genesis that dates to February 4, 1988. On that winter evening, the East Montpelier Planning Commission gathered a group of citizens to imagine together the future of our town. Ten years later we find most of the same people plus many more still involved with making East Montpelier a great place to live.

Now back to the *Signpost* - how did it start and why? All those who came to brainstorm East Montpelier's future in February, 1988, were seeking ways to make our community more vital. As Town Clerk and Treasurer, Sylvia Tosi was used to receiving daily calls from townspeople seeking information about happenings in town. It was easy for her - and others - to understand that one way to foster a sense of community is to create more communication among townspeople. And so planning for a community newspaper began.

I sat in Margaret Richey's dining room one recent evening with most of the current *Signpost* staff, talking about how the *Signpost* began and how it's evolved, noting changes over the course of the last ten years.

Surprisingly, there is more that remains the same than has changed. The purpose has been constant: let people know what's going on in town, help people get to know each other. Today's staff affirms the wisdom of their predecessors in determining the content of the newspaper. You won't find controversy and politics in the *Signpost*. It's all about neighbors. The focus is on introducing us to each other and keeping us in touch with important life events such as marriages, births, deaths, new business ventures, and land transfers. In addition, the *Signpost* is the chronicler of the Town's official business - summarizing minutes of all our official boards and keeping track of meeting times, dates, and places. Read the *Signpost* if you want to know about those important everyday events that affect us all.

What's changed the most is the use of technology. From the original "cut and paste" with scissors and tape to electronic rearrangement and movement of data, the *Signpost* reflects the age of automation. In fact, many of the original staff members were recruited because they were early computer users. Likewise, many of the newer volunteers attribute their work on the *Signpost* to helping them to become more sophisticated users of automation.

In the last issue, 86 people were listed as contributing writers. In a look backwards, the publisher also noted that over the last 10 years, 99 individuals, groups or businesses have been introduced to the community. Some were well-known and needed little introduction, others have been new to town. But all are our neighbors, and we have a better sense of who they



Clockwise from left foreground: Jean Cate, Dave Coburn,, Darlene and Dave Grundy, Margaret Richey, Janet MacLeod, Sylvia Tosi. Missing from the planning group is Anne Sherman

are after reading the *Signpost*. The only people we have specifically not read about in the *Signpost* are those whose names appear on the masthead - those loyal stalwarts who work year round to assure that the newspaper will be delivered to our doorsteps six times a year. Today, we give center stage to those who ordinarily labor backstage. In this, the tenth anniversary issue, I am pleased to introduce you formally to the creative, energetic and dedicated staff of the *Signpost*.

Jean Cate is acknowledged by everyone who has ever worked with her as being an initiator, the motivator and the hub of all activity. When asked why they continue their work on the *Signpost* so enthusiastically for so long, most say that Jean is the key reason and, in fact, she recruited most *Signposters*. She was a key force behind the creation of our newspaper, and, as publisher, she maintains that role today. For her part, Jean will tell you that all the newspaper workers have been so enthusiastic that it takes little effort to keep the efforts going strong. It's clear, however, that Jean provides the constancy and the stability behind this and many other town initiatives.

And who is this model senior citizen, this fount of energy and ideas who has so enriched and invigorated our community?

Born in Shizuoka, Japan, to missionary parents, Jean lived in Maine and New York before settling in Vermont in 1944. She moved to East Montpelier with her husband Wes and sons Paul, David and Weston III 23 years ago. When asked how they happened to move to East Montpelier, Jean notes husband Wes's long time family ties to central Vermont (have you read his recent book on the history of Calais?) and says she thinks country living, and more specifically, country

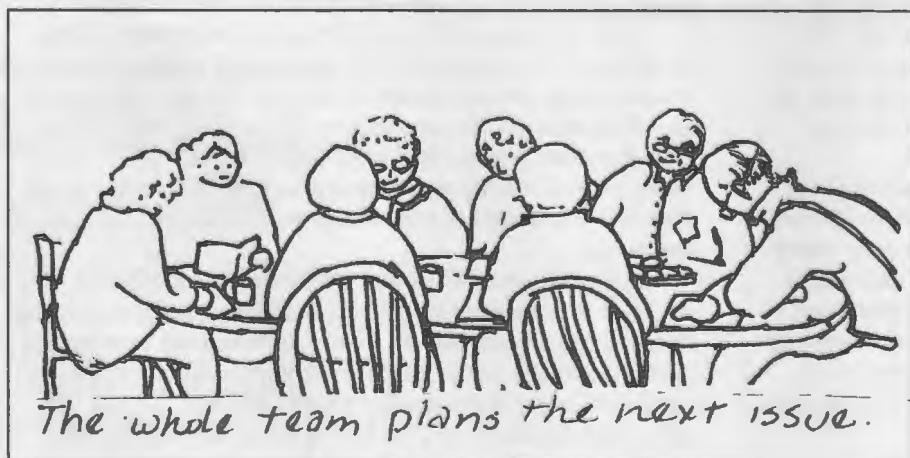
living in East Montpelier, is in her blood. She and Wes maintain large vegetable and flower gardens at their Fox Run Farm, making syrup with their children and grandchildren, canning delicacies that originate in their gardens and selling their products at Montpelier's weekly Farmers Market in late summer and fall.

Jean likes nothing better than immersing herself in her gardens, saving her love of reading for days when the weather is less favorable. A long time history buff, Jean has spent many years researching the histories of her own family and Wes's, both of which share the thread of missionary service in Japan. The fact that the Cates are "packrats" and have letters from the 1890s written by Wes's grandfather when he was in the Far East has provided rich fodder for Jean's genealogical explorations. Their families' paths, it turns out, crossed many times long before she and Wes met and married after a short whirlwind courtship. Jean and Wes's fathers were college classmates, and, though Jean and Wes knew each other from a great distance, their re-connection and marriage as young adults took both families by surprise.

Jean told me that moving here was one of the best things she and her family have ever done. She just loves East Montpelier. I think I can speak for the many, many East Montpelierites who feel the same way about her.

## BUILDING A SIGNPOST

by Janet MacLeod



**Janet MacLeod's** artwork is known by all who read the *Signpost* and who have other connections to East Montpelier. Her sketches and drawings have graced the printed material that has accompanied most town initiatives in recent years. One of her recent community contributions was her work for East Montpelier's sesquicentennial celebration which included a postmark design and other artwork that accompanied other celebratory events. Note her wonderfully creative cartoons drawn for this sixtieth issue.

Janet is one of the four original and continuing members of the *Signpost* staff. Her abiding loyalty and devotion to East Montpelier was amply demonstrated when she continued her work on the newspaper during a seven year period of residency out of state. Janet was drawn to her long-standing involvement in the *Signpost* by the enthusiasm that was generated by the original group gathered by the Planning Commission. She has been active also in Rally Day and town forest activities. That Janet is someone who can always be counted on to play whatever role is needed comes from her belief that "community activity is the best combination of work and social life."

Janet is a builder and painter, as handy with a tool box as an easel, and finds time also for gardening, tennis, canoeing and hiking. Born in Alabama but raised here in East Montpelier, Janet lives in her fourth East Montpelier house. Her current home is on land given to Janet and her husband Spike Holden by Holden's parents John and Polly.

**Anne Sherman** is another member of that dedicated group that started the *Signpost*. She has served as business manager and treasurer since the very beginning. Born and raised in Williamstown, Vermont, Anne is a forty-year resident of East Montpelier but notes that the rural atmosphere that drew her here in 1960 is slowly disappearing. Married for 43 years, Anne and Roger have three children and four grandchildren of whom they're most proud.

Anne has served the community ceaselessly as town auditor for 24 years, on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and on other town and school committees too numerous to name. She notes that she's been called "East Montpelier's conscience" and admits that the title probably fits. She cares deeply about our town and about all of us who live here. Anne received well deserved recognition recently from the Vermont Secretary of State

for more than twenty years of community service.

Other interests center around the Ladies Auxiliaries of the V.F.W. and the Elks Club in which she has held local, state, and national offices over the years. She recently retired as voice soloist for the Vermont and National V.F.W. Somehow, Anne also finds time to indulge her lifetime passion in crafts and playing bingo when she and Roger are not either at their camp in West Newbury or traveling around the country.



It appears Williamstown's losses have definitely been East Montpelier's gains. Another native of that town to our south, Town Clerk and Treasurer **Sylvia Tosi** was one of the first to understand the value of a regular communication instrument in town and is the fourth member whose name has remained on the masthead for ten years. As the recipient of many calls for information at Town Hall, she knows what folks want to know and what they talk about. Her position also gives her access to the town's vital records, election news, and property transfers all of which information she supplies to the *Signpost*.

Since 1963, Sylvia and husband Donald have lived in East Montpelier where they raised their five children. Youngest daughter, **Marcia**, just graduated from Lyndon State College (the fourth Tosi to make that mark), and the older children have presented Sylvia and Don with seven grandchildren between the ages of one and five. Much of the Tosis' free time is spent traveling to visit with their expanding family.

Sylvia, like her other *Signpost* colleagues, does more than her share of community work. She has been a chief organizer of Rally Day for the last 11 years, chaired the East Montpelier Sesquicentennial Celebration and plays an active role in church activities at the local and state levels. In fact, Sylvia's name is on almost any list of folks starting any new activity in Town.





When **Janice Waterman** joined the original *Signpost* group, she was at home with a young family and she, her husband and two young daughters had been living in East Montpelier Center for several years. Thoroughly enjoying being part of the close and cordial neighborhood in the Center, Janice thought working on the newspaper would be a great way to meet more people, learn a lot and become involved

with the larger community. Originally the news editor, doing a little bit of everything for the *Signpost* for over five years, Janice then had to turn her attention to other things for several years. Just recently, she answered Jean's call for help once again and took on the restructured job of features editor.

After spending her early years in Massachusetts (south of Boston) and meeting and marrying her husband there, Janice and Charlie moved to Vermont 17 years ago - a homecoming of sorts for Charlie whose family has lived in Johnson for generations. The girls now completing 5th and 11th grades keep everyone hopping as the whole family participates in their musical and athletic interests.

Like her fellow *Signpost* compatriots, Janice is a person who proves the point that some of the busiest people always seem to be able to do one more thing. In addition to family responsibilities, Janice is in private practice as a registered dietician and diabetes educator and still finds time to garden and cross country ski.

**Darlene and Dave Grundy**, at Jean Cate's gentle urging, signed on as copy editors for the *Signpost* three years ago. They came to East Montpelier 29 years ago when Dave had the opportunity to participate on the original team of educators and community members that organized the then new U-32 High School. He taught at U-32 for many years serving as chair of the Science Department for ten of those years. Dave retired in

1997 after teaching science and math at Vermont Technical College and Community College of Vermont. He is now an active volunteer, serving on nine boards, as a Justice of the Peace and a driver for CVTA-Wheels. The Grundys are active in politics, as well, with Dave serving as Chair of the East Montpelier Democratic Committee and Darlene as Secretary.

Dave and Darlene feel fortunate to have their twin granddaughters and two sons living nearby. Businessmen both, Matt owns Builders Specialties (cabinets for kitchen and bath) in Montpelier; Jim runs his own solar energy company, Elemental Energy, and lives next door to Darlene and Dave with his wife Sharon Gouveia. Family activities are a large portion of the Grundys' lives.

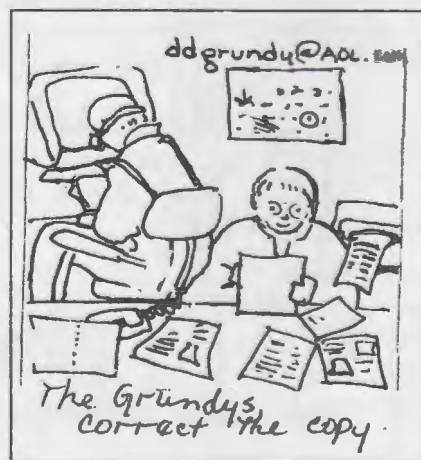
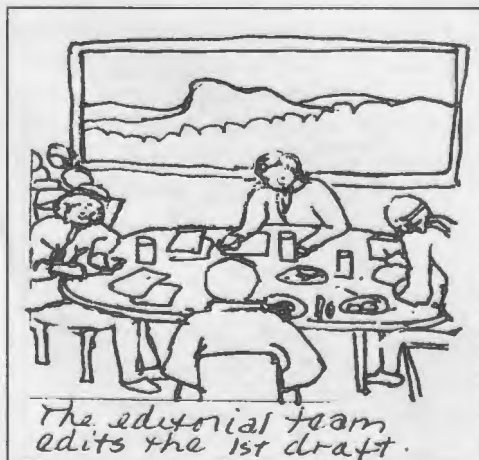
Dave describes himself as a "flatlander who has adopted Vermont as my home. I take great pride in doing what I can to keep make it a place I can be proud of."

Darlene is known to most families who have had children in the elementary school within the last two decades. She retired in 1996 after having taught kindergarten and grades two and three since 1974. Just think how many of our children she helped raise!

A native Kansan, Darlene appears to be reveling in her retirement, serving as an officer for the Unitarian church and the Washington County Retired Teachers among other things. Music is a particular interest; Darlene plays piano and sings in the church choir.

If I asked you who in this group of 11 community-minded citizens is the born and bred East Montpelierite, would you know that it's **Dave Coburn**? Dave is a sixth generation Vermonter and represents the fifth generation of his family to live in East Montpelier. After Dave Grundy told me that he is related to Dave Coburn on his maternal side, it occurred to me that with his family's longevity in town, Dave Coburn is probably related to mostly everyone who's been here for any length of time.

Dave is so connected to East Montpelier that he's lived all but 13 years of his life in town, and for that hiatus he lived only a few miles away in Berlin. Married to Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer, Pauline Coburn, Dave and Paulie have raised six children and take great pride in them as well as their six grandchildren and in the fact that they live in the house purchased by his great grandparents in 1870.



Dave spends most of his days managing grants for the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs. In addition to his layout work on the *Signpost* (guess who recruited him - originally to manage the mailing list?), Dave enjoys reading, gardening, and perhaps best of all, spending time with his grandchildren.

Another native Vermonter with deep roots in East Montpelier, **Margaret Richey** was born and raised in Barre and lives with husband Alban in the farmhouse built by her Hollister great grandparents around 1850 in North Montpelier. The Richeys have two sons and two granddaughters with whom they enjoy time spent at their camp at Joe's Pond. No doubt they will be celebrating together this summer as Margaret and Alban commemorate their 50th anniversary on August 24th.

Retired since 1989 after double careers in teaching and banking, Margaret is so involved with community service that she probably can't remember how she found time to go to work every day. Music and board work characterize many of her volunteer activities as she sings in her church choir (retired this spring as choir director), serves as treasurer of the church and recently completed a term as chair of the Central Vermont Home Health Board. She was a member of the East Montpelier Planning Commission for a few years as well as a number of other groups. For the *Signpost*, Margaret is the contact person and summarizer of all the activities from the town's many boards and committees. In her "leisure" time, Margaret swims, reads and always finds time for concerts and theater performances.



Two new members round out those who bring the *Signpost* to us. **Brett Coburn**, fortunately for us, believes in the "all in the family" brand of involvement. Pressed into service - but voluntarily - by his father Dave, Brett today serves as the official *Signpost* photographer.

Referring back to his Dad's roots in Vermont, we see that Brett (born Thomas Brett Coburn) is a seventh

generation Vermonter and a sixth generation East Montpelier resident. He labors by day in the Waterbury Women's Facility as a State Corrections Officer and has a variety of avocational interest in addition to photography. He's a skillful small arms target shooter and has recently become an amateur agriculturist - experimenting with raising turkeys and chickens as well as fruit trees.

Brett served the U.S. Coast Guard for five years. He may be the only - or certainly one of the few - East Montpelier residents who can lay claim to having spent one Christmas on the South Pole ice cap. By comparison, Vermont's winters must be a breeze for this hardy soul.

**Dawn Anderson** came to Vermont via Millville, Massachusetts, where she was born and Sheridan, Wyoming, where she went to school, and has been a resident of East Montpelier for the last twenty years. Dawn describes her feelings for Vermont as "love at first sight" after a camping trip brought her to Groton when she was ten years old. Dawn

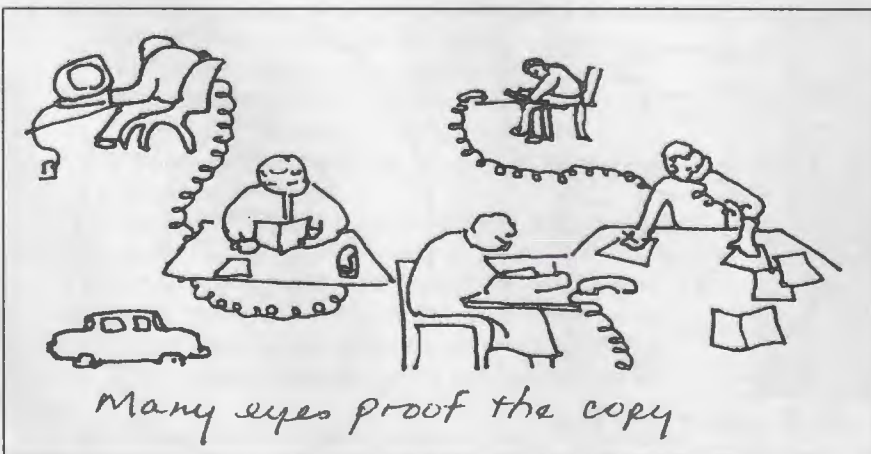


*Dawn with Jean Cate*

pledged to herself then that she would move here when she grew up - and here she is - a resident of Horn of the Moon Road since 1980.

Working with both the Vermont Department of Health and the Housing and Conservation Board, Dawn heads up the Lead Hazard Awareness Campaign. She's an information resource and support person to towns and families who need education or help dealing with the presence of lead-based paint in buildings.

Dawn looks at each new activity as an opportunity to meet neighbors and establish connections in central Vermont. She's active in the Barre Universalist Church where her husband Rich Forcier is pastor. When her children were at East Montpelier



Elementary School, Dawn could be found in the classroom as often as time would allow. These days she's spending some of her free time in artistic pursuits such as learning Scottish Country Dancing and taking a role in last year's sesquicentennial performance of Early East Montpelier. When she heard there was an opening on the *Signpost* staff, she eagerly volunteered, happy to be part of a group she had admired for years and looking forward to meeting more neighbors through her work. If you have a change of address, Dawn Anderson is the person to notify.

That's today's cast of characters. Jean and company make very clear that they welcome all who are interested in contributing ideas and skills of any sort to this community endeavor. This is community effort in the finest sense of the word. There are a couple of key principles that the founders articulated and which remain core values to this day.

- Independence: the *Signpost* receives no town funds. The approximately \$650 per issue cost is supported entirely by those who value it. (One enthusiastic supporter has made 23 generous financial contributions over the years.)
- Free access for all: the *Signpost* is sent free of charge to all East Montpelier residents. Though no one knows how many folks read the newspaper, in ten years no one has requested removal of their name from the mailing list. And we do know that people eagerly anticipate its arrival every other month (people ask all the time when the next issue's coming out) and ask to submit news for the next issue.

Many former residents have their subscriptions continued (\$10 per year) and take great pleasure recognizing people, places and happenings.

For my part, I was honored to be asked to help shine the spotlight on these neighbors who play such a big role in making East Montpelier a true community and a wonderful place to live.

*Edie Miller is Chair of the East Montpelier Selectboard and is also the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association. She lives on Murray Road with her husband Martin, who is our Town Moderator.*

#### A NEW FACE

We thank Susan Larkin for her service in handling the mailing list, while we welcome Dawn Anderson as the new list keeper. Dawn can receive your address changes either by e-mail (MUHMZA@cs.com) or by phone (229-0606).

#### A SIGNPOST MATH LESSON

Every two months for ten years, the *Signpost* has been mailed to between 900 and 1000 mailboxes in town and to a few out-of-town subscribers. The early issues cost us roughly \$275 to print and \$135 to mail. (L Brown & Sons, our printer and an East Montpelier family, donated the cost of the first issue.) Just compare: today those costs have risen to \$400 for printing and \$200 for postage.

Who has paid these bills? You have. In ten years well over \$16,000 has been contributed by townspeople in individual gifts. These represent from 39 to over 100 donations each year. In addition, the Rally Day Signpost Auction, which was initiated in 1991, has raised each September from \$1000 to a spectacular high of \$2500 in 1998, or about half of our annual budget.

What happened to subscriptions and advertising? We do both, though neither raises much money. We do it because we think it serves the community.

A last tip of the hat to these special people who have contributed so many times that their names must already be familiar to you: Fairmont Farms, Barbara/Sam Starr, Marion Codling, Alban/Margaret Richey, Doris Washburn, Roger Sherman, Dwight/Irene Clark, Esther/Richard Hill, Judith/Dr. Robert Nist, Alberta/Augustine Pacini, Donna/Philip Leno, Bernard/Marcia Guilmette, Geneva/Ronald Woodward, Eula Brown, Florence Young.

So what is the message? It is that WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. Your support not only pays the bills. It tells us that you like and depend on the Signpost

*Jean Cate*



Credit for the photos of the staff goes to George Milne of Barre. Various participants supplied the photos of Green Up Day and Rally Day.

The *Signpost's* ongoing thanks go to Larry Brown and his staff at L. Brown and Sons Printing Co. For ten years they have consistently served us cheerfully and well.





### GREEN UP DAY

The power of individuals coming together with a shared goal was demonstrated on Green Up Day 2000. East Montpelier residents, businesses and organizations put their heads, hearts and muscles to the task of cleaning a one mile stretch of the Cross Vermont Trail. Years of illegal dumping had despoiled the natural beauty of the trail. Over 50 volunteers removed every bit of garbage to be found: 475 tires, two tons of metal, over a ton of other trash, and one 50-gallon drum of dirty engine oil. The Green Up site has been formally "adopted" by East Montpelier Trails, Inc. which will monitor for future illegal dumping.

The end result of the clean-up was, of course, gratifying. But the most exhilarating aspect of the project was our community's response. One of the food organizers, Elaine Manghi, articulated the wonderful collaborative spirit:

"Yes!" So many volunteers. So many "yeses." Lots of donations of baked goods. "I can't be there, but I'd like to donate some cash for supplies." "I've got fresh eggs to hard boil." "I've got small children, but I'd love to make sandwiches at home." Yes! From stores offering cold bottled water, ice, cider, donuts, cheese, cookies and more. Phone call organizers. Willing neighbors. Great food and great fun for a huge team effort of hard workers.

To all the many individuals, businesses and organizations who participated selflessly in this collective effort: Now that all the debris has been carted away, please visit the trail and give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. To everyone: The trail crosses Route 14 about nine-tenths of a mile south of Route 2. Please take a stroll on this wide well-graded trail and enjoy.

*Paul Erlbaum, East Montpelier Green Up Day Coordinator*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR RALLY DAY Sept. 9, 2000

Bring your family and meet your friends at the 12th Annual Rally Day on Saturday, September 9, 2000. Rally Day is a time to celebrate living in East Montpelier! Activities will include a parade, photo contest, hoop shoot, craft show/farmer's market, Memory Hour, music, soccer and other surprises.

Rally Day is also a great time to support our unique East Montpelier newspaper by contributing an item or service to the *Signpost* Auction. The money raised by this auction provides half the budget for one year to publish the *Signpost*. Your generosity is appreciated.

Last year's celebration was fantastic! Don't miss out on the fun. Join your community on Sept. 9 for Rally Day! For more information, call Terry Conti at 479-3169 or Rachel Senechal at 223-0539.





MILESTONES

Births

- >Scott Robert Gallison, born February 24, 2000, son of Janelle Ann & David Roger Gallison Jr.
- >Macenzie Ashton Brown, born March 7, 2000, daughter of Kimberly Sarah & Michael Anthony Brown.
- >Kaitlin Renee Raspe, born March 27, 2000, daughter of Tina Louise Jewett & Christopher Patrick Raspe.
- >Justin Pease Bennett, born April 14, 2000, son of Liane Marie & Rubin Balch Bennett.
- >Emilee Anne Duplin, born April 29, 2000, daughter of Jessica Michelle Duplin.
- >Anneliese Renee Tucci, born May 3, 2000, daughter of Michael & Heidi (Sherman) Tucci, grandparents, Roger & Anne Sherman.

Marriages

- >Charles Russell Crowther to Debra Anne Randall, married March 18, 2000.
- >Franklin C. Jillson to Evangeline G. Bolio, married April 7, 2000.

Deaths

- >James S. Brock, died April 19, 2000, spouse of Gladys Brock.

Land Transfers

- >Leonard U. & Priscilla S. Wilson to Leonard U. & Priscilla S. Wilson, as trustees of the Leonard U. Wilson Revocable Trust, 3 acres & dwelling, Murray Rd.
- >Richard L. & Robin B. Blanchard to William C. Shouldice III and Carole B. Shouldice, 41.1 acres, County Rd.
- >Philip L. Sparrow & Roger B. Leland, Trustees of Dorothy Sparrow Living Trust to William Scott Heigis and Tricia Anne Dwyer, 10.12 acres, Sparrow Farm Rd.

- >Jerome L. Rappaport to Dale D. LaPerle, 0.89 acres, VT 14S.
- >Dale D. LaPerle to Ramon L. & Marion J. Spooner, 0.89 acres & mobile home, VT 14S.
- >June A. Morse & Sybil I. Miller to John & Lisa Burbach, 43 acres, Chickering Rd.
- >Paul L. & Millicent M. Seguin to Paula Perry, 1 acre & mobile home, County Rd.
- >Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to JoAnn Stephanie & Nathan Mark Phillips, 7.05 acres, Factory St.
- >Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to Real Ouimet and Willie Sayers Jr., 8.12 acres, Factory St.
- >Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to Real Ouimet and Willie Sayers Jr., 7.03 acres, Factory St.
- >Hugh M., Susan W. & Dennis R. Hawkins to Kenneth J. Hertz and Catherine A. Rader, 10.1 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- >Richard H. Wiswall III to Richard H. Wiswall III and Sally M. Coleman, 175 acres & dwelling, Cate Farm Rd.
- >Cheryl Potter to John P. & Patricia A. Connor, 10.7 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- >Lassie Culling Adams to Reuben Culling Adams, 9.6 acres & dwelling, 6% interest, Brazier Rd.
- >Dorothy J. Sparrow, Philip L. Sparrow & Roger B. Leland, Trustees, to VT Land Trust, VT Housing & Conservation Bd., Town of East Montpelier & United States Dept. of Agriculture, corrective deed, Gould Hill Rd.
- >Stratevest Group, Trustee of the Frank A. Cate Trust, to Nancy L. Audette, 4.1 acres, East Montpelier Village.
- >Mensija Miljkovic to Miriam Antonovich, Trustee, 1.75 acres & dwelling, Upper North St.



- >Randall W. Blake to Linda D. Blake, .30 acres and dwelling, Carleton Blvd.
- >Yvonne West Perry to Mark T. Perry, 1.2 acres & apt. bldg., VT 14N.
- >A. E. Hertzler & Doris June Knox to Jessica M. Kobb, 6.28 acres, North St.
- >Richard L. & Robin B. Blanchard to Erick R. & Prudence J. Grinde, 25 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- >John R. Baird to Janis Mattson & Douglas Aja, 14.1 acres, North St.
- >Larry Jacobs to Teddi Lemieux, mobile home, VT 14S (moved out of town.)
- >Michael Osborne to Brenda & George Phillips IV, 11.9 acres and dwelling, VT 214, North Montpelier.
- >Warren A. & Mary C. Noyes to Warren A. & Mary C. Noyes and Steven W. & Janet P. Noyes, 1 acre, US 2, East Montpelier Village.
- >Richard L. Longhi and Sally S. Longhi to Paula S. Perry, 2.1 acres and dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- >Harold A. Hayden Sr. to Harold A. Hayden Jr. and Amy Jakes Hayden, 10 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- >Frank & Patricia R. Carriveau to Michael A. Carriveau, Frank B. Carriveau and Frank M. Carriveau, 1.78 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- >Bank of New Hampshire to Sally S. Longhi, 1.37 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.

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Gifts

Vermont Cheese

Mail Order

Maple Products

Riverbend Country Store

Pizza - Subs - Videos - Gifts - Crafts

Corner of Routes 14 and 214

North Montpelier, VT

(802) 454-7101

New Owners—Maurice & Sue Cerutti





# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## SELECTBOARD

*Edie Miller, Chair,*

*Tim Meehan, Tom Brazier*

**April 5, 2000**

>Approved purchase of Ford one ton truck from Hardwick Motors and plow equipment from Howard Fairfield.

>Appointed Wes Cate as chairperson of Australian Ballot - Town/School Committee. Will develop specific charge for committee.

**April 19, 2000**

>Lt. O'Leary from Middlesex State Trooper Barracks discussed different enforcement options available.

**May 1, 2000**

>Signed Sheriff Department's Law Enforcement contract for 2000 - 2001.

>Responded to various questions regarding septic systems presented by Richard Czaplinski in March.

>Appointed following for Town Offices: Sylvia Tosi, Collector of Lease Land Rent; Dennis Carver, Pound Keeper; Norma Raymond, Delinquent Tax Collector; Marcia Pauly and Sherwood Morse, Fence Viewers; Paul Cate, Town Tree Warden; Austin Cleaves, Inspector of Coal, Wood, Shingles; Ed Blackwell, Regional Planning, Tracy Phillips, Alternate; Frank Pratt, TAC Representative; Conrad Ormsbee, Solid Waste District Rep.; Richard Czaplinski, Sewage Officer; Bill George, Emergency Mgt. Coord.; Tim Meehan, Four Corners Schoolhouse Rep.; Claudia Bristow, Ginger Hopkins, Sue Mahoney Board of Adjustment for 3 years; Jona Bond, Dave Burley, Ginger Hopkins, Recreation Board; Roger Chapell, Conservation Fund Advisory (term begins 7/1/00); Frederick Strong, Anne Sherman, Lyn Blackwell, Tracy Phillips, Funding Request Committee.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Carol Welch, Chair*

**April 6, 2000**

>Reviewed and approved preliminary plat review for Patricia and Stephen Ribolini. Waived final review.

>Discussed Zoning setback.

**April 20, 2000**

>Accepted Sketch Plan of 2-lot subdivision off Brazier Road.

>Discussed possible changes in setback regulations to allow Board of Adjustment more flexibility.

>Re-elected Carol Welch as Chair.

**May 4, 2000**

>Tracy Phillips and Deborah Fillion to attend workshop June 1 sponsored by Vermont League of Cities and Towns on Municipal Planning & Zoning.

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

*Claudia Bristow, Chair*

**April 10, 2000**

>Re-appointed Claudia Bristow as Chair and Patrick McCoy as Vice-Chair.

>Accepted Ginger Hopkins' resignation as secretary. Approved Deborah Fillion as secretary.

>Granted dimensional variance to Stephen and Louise Rauh for garage and mud room on Murray Road.

**May 22, 2000**

>Welcomed Ginger Hopkins as new member.

>Expressed appreciation to Florence Morse for her years of service.

>Granted dimensional variance to Teresa Doyle and Chris Reed to build an addition on VT 214.

## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Rus, Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas*

**April 17, 2000**

>Discussed plans for a parent workshop hosted by Freddie Jones on May 16.

>Stanford 9 tests have replaced the Metropolitan Achievement test this year for third, fifth and sixth grades in the district. The fourth grade students have New Standards Reference Exams in math and English/language arts. Second grade students are given the developmental reading and new math assessments.

>Anna Saxman will be replacing Lisa Rice on the Recreation Committee.

**May 4, 2000**

>Kathy Christy and Ellen Knoedler made a presentation on enrichment during the school day.

>Approved expenditures for grounds improvements to sports field in conjunction with the Recreation Board, vision and hearing testing equipment, risers and computers for the additional 5/6 classroom.

**May 15, 2000**

>Pam Dunkling discussed the music program including a plan for a coordinated

music curriculum throughout the supervisory union.

>Approved signing contract for three year lease for a new John Deere lawn tractor.

>Approved hiring Kathleen Mason as Speech/Language pathologist.

## U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

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

**March 15, 2000**

>Lucinda Humphrey plans to take 15 Spanish II students to Spain next Nov.

>Candidates for the principal's position have been interviewed.

**April 5, 2000**

>Jon Winston reported on status of building project. E.F. Wall apparent low bidder.

>Approved contract extension for Andy Shapiro as Environmental Consultant to the building project, and renewed Jon Winston's contract as project manager.

**April 19, 2000**

>Lee Sease reported regarding services provided to the school district by Washington County Mental Health.

>The student production of *A Chorus Line* was very well received.

**May 3, 2000**

>Dot Blake reported that U-32 students won 11 of 24 awards presented in the Johnson State College essay contest.

>Jon Winston gave an overview of the permit process status.

>Approved contract with E. F. Wall pending receipt of Act 250 permit.

>Approved adoption of five-year teachers contract.

## EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit

(W & Th 9-5)

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651

(Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

*by Bill George*

On May 2, the East Montpelier Fire Department held its annual meeting and election of officers. Tom Brazier was elected Chief of the Department; John Audy President; Greg Pelchuck and Joe Ciccarelli to two year terms on the Board of Directors; and Robin Copping as Chaplain.

Immediately after the election, Chief Brazier appointed the following department officers: Mike Garand, Deputy Chief; Elliott Morse and Jon Winston to Assistant Chief positions; Bill George and Earl Smith as Captains; Mike Bliss, John Audy and Todd Parker Lieutenants. Appointed to the position of Senior Firefighter/Officers in Training were John Knudsen, Karl Huoppi, and Ty Rolland.

During the previous two months, the East Montpelier Fire Department finalized specifications for a new rescue vehicle and asked vendors to submit prices. The contract was awarded to Vermont Fire Technologies (V-TEC) of Williamstown, VT. The new rescue truck will feature a poly body mounted on a Ford chassis. Delivery is expected in the early fall.



## RECREATION BOARD

*Terri Codling Conti and Ginger Hopkins, Co-Chairs*

**May 15, 2000**

- >Voted Terri Conti and Ginger Hopkins Co-Chairs, Terri as Treasurer and Ginger as Secretary.
- >Expressed appreciation for the many years Rachel Senechal served as Chair.
- >Approved payment for a new backstop on hard ball field at Recreation Field to begin when school is out.
- >There are still slots available for summer swim program. Call school for registration form.
- >Regular meetings are held the third Monday of each month at the Town Office at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information call Terri Conti at 479-3169 or Ginger Hopkins at 229-4375.



## VOTER PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

*Weston Cate, Chair*

As the result of the discussion regarding the use of the Australian ballot at the pre-Town Meeting and Town Meeting itself, the Selectboard invited those interested in studying ways to increase public participation in Town Meeting to express their interest by signing up. Seventeen persons responded. Accordingly, in May the Selectboard invited those folks to join a committee, the Town/School Voter Participation Committee, and asked Weston Cate to serve as Chairman.. Other citizens of East Montpelier are invited to participate and will be welcomed at all meetings.

Several sub-committees have been established covering community participation and neighborhood organization, educational attention to citizenship, the possibility of a town charter, and surveying employer policies regarding Town Meeting attendance.

The next meeting of the committee will be July 12 at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. You are invited to attend.

## FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

*Rachel Senechal, President*

The Annual Meeting of the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association was held on April 12th. It included a meeting with the Washington County Supervisory Union personnel and Elementary School personnel for a discussion of their use of the schoolhouse four mornings a week for a two year period for the Pre-School Program. Over twenty people attended.

Marion Codling was re-elected to the Board and Becky Crandell was elected as a new member, each for a term of three years. Anna Malloy completed her term as a Board Member and was thanked for her several years of service to FCSA. Officers elected for a one-year period were Rachel Senechal, President; Hobie Guion, Vice-President; Marion Codling, Clerk/Treasurer.

At the May 10th meeting plans were initiated for FCSA, for Rally Day and further plans were made for the Pre-School Program.

## 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. All new contributors will be recognized in the next issue.

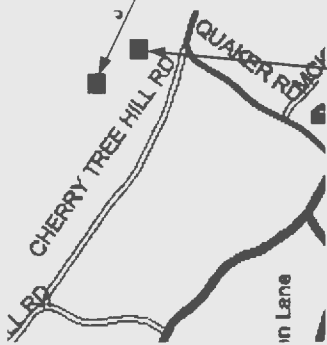
We list no contributors this time, but we thank all those who have helped us keep this effort alive. We appreciate your continued support throughout the years. It is an indication to us that the *Signpost* is something that fills a need in the community.



**A BIT OF HELP IS NEEDED**

Most East Montpelier people know the location of the Doty, Cutler, and East Montpelier Village Cemeteries. But how many know where Clark, Wheeler, Tinkham, and Quaker Cemeteries are located? The latter four are much older and probably haven't seen a burial in more than a century. A large percentage of the stones are slate. Unlike granite and marble, these stones cannot be readily cleaned. Pressure washing can destroy them.

The Cemetery Commission is presently planning to clean up and fence the **Tinkham Cemetery**. This cemetery can be reached by turning into Cherry Tree Hill Road from Quaker Hill Road. Go about 500 feet and park your car. Proceed west another 600 feet and you will be at Tinkham cemetery. The travel is all up hill.



My reason for this article is to ask what we should do with the **Quaker Cemetery**? This is also located on the west side of Cherry Tree Hill Road near the intersection with Quaker Hill Road. This cemetery is over-run with grass and weeds. Most of the grave stones are lying flat on the ground and many are broken. Several years ago we asked the Quakers if we could

make their cemetery look better. We were told, in effect, to "leave it alone."

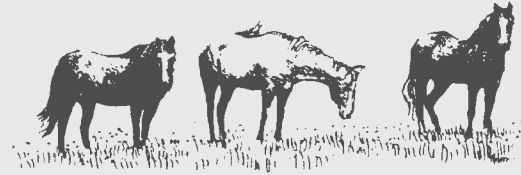
The Cemetery Commission now finds that, according to State law, unkempt, abandoned, cemeteries shall be maintained by the town. We would like some input from towns people about what to do here. Information about the Quakers Society would be appreciated. Also names. We can use volunteer help.

Future articles will give you more detailed history about the cemeteries in East Montpelier; public and private.

*Elliott Morse*

**WASHINGTON COUNTY FIELD DAYS**

The dates for the Washington County Field Days, the local fair which is held at Parker Field on US 2, will be July 7, 8, 9, 2000. Anne Ormsbee is looking for quilters who would like to exhibit their work. Call 223- 5372 if you are interested.



**TRAILS COMMITTEE**

*Jamie Shanley, President*

We are grateful to the people of East Montpelier for helping clean up our trails on Green Up Day. Our special project was the old railroad bed section of trail off Rt. 14 above East Village, where an amazing assortment of trash was collected. Now that section of trail is not only open and passable - it is truly beautiful. We will monitor the area to assure that it never again becomes a dumping ground.

This summer the Trails Group will have the help of some kids from the Youth Service Bureau, working on the approaches to the new bridge built last year on the Chapell Trail which runs between Dodge and Center Roads. The Trails Group will also be working with Stone Environmental to map the entire trails system, made up of five sections. New maps will then be available, but in the meantime, you can pick up the current map in the Town Office.



Georgiana O. Miranda Bjornlund will be participating in the July 2000 "Symposium on Public Education Law" at St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford, England. The Symposium is limited to forty educators and lawyers from the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa. Participants will study aspects of law as it relates to public education.



**CHURCH BELLS**



**OLD BRICK CHURCH**

*Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor*  
Worship, Sunday School and Child Care  
10:00 a.m.

**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.

## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wednesday	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 Clerk's 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	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

**Meeting times are subject to change.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

July 7, 8, 9	Washington County Field Days	All day	Parker Field
July 12	Voter Participation Committee	7:00 p.m.	Town Office
August 29	School starts		EMES
August 31	School starts		U-32
September 9	Rally Day	All day	All over town

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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**East Montpelier, Vermont 05651**

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