

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XIV, No. 3

January/February 2004

MICHAEL DWORKIN

Richard Brock

Everyone who uses electricity from the grid, or telephones, or high-speed internet might want to know about Michael Dworkin. He is the Chair of Vermont's Public Service Board, which is Vermont's "court" for hearing disputes about those services. For that matter, anyone who uses natural gas or cable-TV might want to know about his work, too.

Michael started his time in North Country with summers on Squam Lake in New Hampshire, then came to Vermont to go to Middlebury College during the 70s. Part-way through college, he took some time off, working for a year as a Mental Retardation aide at the Brandon Training School. The Training School, in those days, was an institution for hundreds of Vermonters who lived there for decades — or life times. It was an institution. At the bottom of the staff scale, Michael spent huge blocks of time with the people who lived there, and he saw their medical records. He realized that many of the residents were there because of problems that could have — and should have — been prevented. These were things like lead-paint exposure and birth-conditions that could have been easily treated, if detected. Those human pains and major social costs could

have—and should have — been prevented by wide early screening. Michael became convinced that public help was needed, both to prevent the shattering of individual lives, and to save the public money spent on institutionalization.

So, with a stop to finish up at Middlebury, Michael headed off to Harvard Law School and public interest work. He started on the legal staff of the US Environmental Protection Agency, working to keep toxic metals out of our water and our air. He translated the technical work of EPA's scientists into rules that could be adopted by the Agency, understood by judges, justified to stakeholders, and enforced.

Meanwhile, in Washington he ran into a woman whom he thought he knew. The "Don't I know you from somewhere?" question led to the realization that they did. She was Loring Starr, and they had been Middlebury students at the same time. Loring, (who came from Rose Valley, Pennsylvania) was then working in Washington DC for CARE. They lived together in Washington and married, but both felt a pull back north. Then, chance reinforced that pull.

In 1984, Louise McCarren was the Chair of the Public Service Board. She needed someone who could help bring a blend of science, law and economics to utility regulation. Through a connection, she called Michael and asked if he would like a job. Michael and Loring jumped at the opportunity. That brought them to East Montpelier, and to a home that they love on Powderhorn Glen Road.

They bought that house in 1984. Michael said that it is hard to predict how lucky you will be in your neighbors and townfolk. There, he said, he and Loring "drew an ace." He told us how important he felt East Montpelier Elementary School is, both for teaching and for bringing people together, about how Rally Days and the *Signpost* give people a chance to share, and about things like the satisfaction of working on the Conservation Advisory



Continued on Page 3

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

What is the most important season in the life of our town? Most people think that Town Meeting is the red letter day, when in fact the two months before it may indeed be just as critical. Why so? For us average voters, THE DAY itself is when we exercise our citizen responsibility, but for those representatives whom we elect to operate our town and schools - the Selectboard and School Boards - some really key work has long been underway. They have already put in many hours building the budgets and starting to detail the issues which will confront us on March 2nd. I never cease to be impressed that serious-minded citizens in our town give so much time and thought to making it all work.

So what is our responsibility as ordinary citizens? Attending and voting at Town Meeting of course. Beforehand, understanding and perhaps challenging the budgets that are

printed in the Town Report. And there is one thing more. The School Boards and the Selectboard have tried to make us a part of the process by inviting us to their deliberations. We should take advantage of this. Our Selectboard meets every first and third Monday at 7 o'clock in the Town Office. The U-32 School Board meets each first and third Wednesday at 6:30 at the school. And the Elementary School Board meets the first Tuesday at 6:30 at EMES. In addition, a Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Dec. 29 and an extra EMES budget meeting takes place on Dec. 16. Then on January 6, citizens are especially invited to attend and have a last peek at the EMES budget (and share refreshments).

How lucky we are to live where we can have such a direct voice in the way our local government works. Let's make the most of it.

Jean Cate

"Thank you" to these loyal supporters.

Augustine and Alberta Pacini	Robert and Nancy Morse
Lois McKnight	Dorothy Mix
David Wiggins	Elizabeth and Albert Jerome
Maurice and Barbara Brown	Alban and Margaret Richey
Bradford and Ruth Lane	Michelle McFadden
Robert and Carolyn Brown	Frieda Battles
Loring Starr and Michael Dworkin	Doris Washburn

Contributions pay about 30% of the \$5,000 it costs to print and mail the *Signpost* each year. The auction at Rally Day brings in about half and the advertising and subscribers make up the rest. Contributions help make possible the free delivery to every home in East Montpelier.

Any amount — \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 — is most welcome. Contributions can be mailed to PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

The staff of the *Signpost*, and your neighbors, thank you!

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TOWN OFFICE

Jessie Taylor

I'm sure that all of us have stopped in at the Town Clerk's office over the past year for one reason or another. Perhaps it was November 14th to drop off an almost late tax bill, or was it last spring to apply for a building permit? Maybe it was to get a marriage license, a town plan, to search old land records, to register to vote or just to say hello to Sylvia and the others. Whatever the reason, it is comforting to know that there is a staff there to accommodate whatever the need which brought us to the Town Office.

With our next issue, the *Signpost* is initiating a series on the happenings at the Town Office. These articles will outline a "normal" day for the office, explain the roles of various committees and responsibilities of the town - our schools, roads, town planning, budgets, fire/ambulance services, cemeteries etc. The number of articles is yet to be determined - as many as it takes! We aim not only to be informative but to acknowledge and thank these folks who make our town work. Please look for the first article in the March/April issue of the *Signpost*.

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do you have a son or daughter going to college, a mom or dad who are now living in Florida? Would they like to stay in touch with what's happening in Town? Send the *Signpost*! Or maybe it's you who are headed elsewhere. Subscribe for yourself. New and renewal subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. Send payment with recipient's name and address to: PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Contributions should go to the same address. And we thank you!

Committee. We particularly enjoyed his stories about the Powderhorn Glen neighborhood as a place to raise children, to entrust them to Donna Leno's day care, and to walk with them to and from the County Road school bus. And, of course, Michael and Loring did have children. Sam is now in his first year at Clark University and Alice is a junior at U-32. And, their parents gathered round. Michael's father moved here when he retired, and Loring's parents came soon after.

As the family grew and gathered, Michael spent five years helping run an engineering firm that put high speed telecom into skyscrapers all over the US and Canada. But, in 1999, Governor Dean asked Michael to be Chair of the Public Service Board. Now, he and his two fellow Board members judge disputes about the costs and services of the utilities that provide electric and telephone services and about the franchise for cable TV services for all Vermonters, including us in East Montpelier.

So, now that we know a little about our neighbor, what can he tell us about Vermont's utilities? What is in store for us? Michael outlined his priorities, and what he sees as the future, as follows.

For one thing, Michael wants all Vermonters to have better telecom and Internet service. All Vermonters — both in towns

and in the hills — should have broadband access, for example. This might mean that we all pay to extend those lines more widely. But, in the long run, Vermonters will not pay a telecommunications penalty for living in a rural place. Similarly, he would like to see wider cell phone coverage.

He also wants to improve our electric system. Vermont's electric rates are relatively high now. On the other hand, our bills are about average for most Americans. This is because we Vermonters are pretty efficient in our use of electricity. The Public Service Board has worked to strengthen that pattern. Finally, Michael emphasizes that environmental costs and impacts must be considered in providing utility services. Those costs are real, whether or not they show up in a monthly utility bill.

A mission statement, based on Vermont law, is on Michael's office wall. It says that the Board's prime goal is to help Vermont's citizens find the best long-term balance of value and cost (including unpriced environmental costs) in their utility services. It's a tall order.

Richard Brock is one of East Montpelier's newest residents. He and his wife Sarah live in the Cutler Heights home of his late parents James and Gladys Brock. They have grown children.

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church
Angelo Tillas, Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 am
Prayer Meeting Saturday at 10:00 am
Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor
Rev. David W. Connor, Pastor
Worship - 9:30 am
Child care is available
Phone: 229-9593



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

WINTER NEWS FROM THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

"LUNCH IN THE CENTER"

The Parish House Cafe at the Old Meeting House continues on Wednesdays at noon. There will be a little holiday break and then they will begin again to serve homemade soups, bread, and desserts on January 6 at noon. Everyone is invited.

The meal is free. Anyone who comes may make a donation which goes to the Onion River Food Shelf. The hostesses for the lunches, and founders of the Parish House Cafe, are Jessie Taylor of East Montpelier and Vicky King of Montpelier.



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A "VERBAL COLLAGE" FROM U-32

EAST MONTPELIER TEENAGERS

What follows is a completely unscientific sampling of some of the experiences and feelings of East Montpelier teenagers. The writers span the grades from 7 to 12 at U-32, and as you will see, each speaks in his or her unique voice about what life is like for an East Montpelier teen right now. Nancy Disenhaus

Classes that excite us

"The new classes are AWESOME! My favorite class is theatre arts."

"U. S. History is probably my favorite because of the way it makes you think."

"I love the art classes at U-32. They're a nice relief from the normal stresses of school."

"My favorite class at U-32 would have to be Living Arts."

"Good classes, GYM, and art, lots of fun."

"Fine Arts and Band it's hard to choose between them."

"The sports program is really cool. I like to do cross country running in the fall, basketball in winter (tryouts are harsh) and track in the spring, which is the best. You can do discus, high jump, sprint, hurdles, shotput and long jump. AWESOME!"

"I love sports. Basketball, field hockey, and track are the sports I play, and the coaches and other teams are nice, and you get lots of friends from other schools."

Activities that keep us going

"A high point this year was switching from JV soccer to cross-country running. There is too much benching that goes on in soccer."

"Snowboarding is one of the things that keeps me sane in the winter."

"Running and Nordic skiing. Friends."

"My favorite activities are hanging with my friends or being home with my little brothers."

"I love the release you get from endurance sports. And a huge part of the fun of running and skiing is the team aspect."

"Sports are a lot of fun and a lot more competitive."

A day in the life...

"Go to classes, lunch is all you do and T.A."

"Days are a relaxed type of hectic stressful!"

"So far my schedule hasn't been too stressful. I only need ½ an

English credit to graduate, but I wanted to do cheerleading so I need to be a full-time student. Trimester 2, I have 3 art classes and one math elective. I like it that way. Keeps me busy without stressing me out."

What's tough about being a teenager here and now

"It's hard to keep morale up during the 'in between seasons' like mud season and the days after fall but before we have snow on the ground. My bike's put away and my mom hates to keep driving me over the 'God forsaken back roads'."

"Being yourself."

"The tough thing about being a teenager? Well, there are two things: A) the homework work load and B) the pressure to do ALL OF IT! It's not so bad in the beginning but as you get older, I think the teachers try to sneak more in. Curse them! I'm just kidding."

"A day at U-32 goes by quickly. When you walk in immediately there are exquisite pieces of art all over a beautiful atrium. U-32 is kept clean and neat. The school has many resources, and very nice equipment. The school is also filled with teachers who know what they're doing, and enjoy doing it. Kids that go to U-32 are very lucky; it's a beautiful school, with a good environment. Adults make an effort to reach out toward the kids. Every taxpayer should be proud to know that they have helped to make such a wonderful school. It is worth the tax money to be educated. Kids not only learn and are smart but also come out being wise about the world."

"Having a T.A. is a big advantage. Combining the five schools is an advantage to meet new people; most of my friends are from other schools."


"Being a teenager today is very tough. There's not a lot in our community to keep us busy. We have the Capitol Theater but that's about it. Also, peer pressure gets harder to cope with, especially with drugs and alcohol, but that stuff's wrong, it's stupid, and I hope more teenagers in East Montpelier realize that."

"Peer pressure is hard but you get through. Older people, students and faculty, help out."

"There isn't so much tough stuff here. It's very fun!"

And our closing words, from a forward-looking senior

"One of these days I'll be on the podium graduating."



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HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

About Your Library

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library was built in 1894 through a bequest from the Kellogg and Hubbard families. The library's legal service area is East Montpelier, Montpelier, Middlesex, Calais, Worcester and Berlin. All residents of these supporting towns are entitled to free library cards. The library offers about 65,000 volumes, about 200 magazine and newspaper subscriptions, thousands of audio books and videos, 4 free meeting rooms for community groups, free Internet access, educational programs and children's activities.

Van-Go Bookmobile — Fall/Winter Schedule

East Montpelier stops take place on Fridays at Four Corners School and Dudley's Store, but you are welcome to use any other stop if it is more convenient to where you live. We also stop at home daycares in town. The bookmobile has been trying to fit in the many requests we've received. Occasionally weather or mechanical problems might keep us off the road. Please call Bookmobile Director Mary Jane Manahan at 223-4665 to confirm the schedule or to get information about scheduled stops in other towns. Here are the routes on Friday:

- * 9:30-10:00 East Montpelier Four Corners Schoolhouse
- * 10:30-11:30 East Calais Post Office
- * 12:00-12:30 East Montpelier, Dudley's Store

General Information

Phones: Main Desk 223-3338 Childrens Room 223-4665

Website: www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us. The website has information on events in the library, policies, childrens activities and new materials. You can also view the library's catalog from the website.

- * Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 am - 8 pm (Childrens library closes daily at 5:30 except Thursday)
- * Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5:30 pm.

For Your Children

Many people value the Kellogg-Hubbard as a stimulating place for their children to go after school. Be sure to pick up a calendar of events, either at the library or by going to the Kellogg-Hubbard website to see about special events for children. Pre-schoolers and their parents are welcome to attend Story Time every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 am. Stories, songs and activities all form part of the fun. Older and younger siblings are welcome too! For more information call 223-4665.

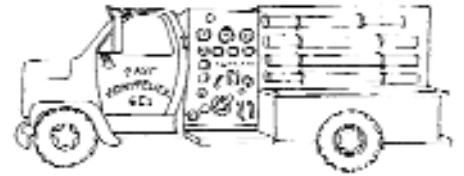
Hilari Farrington

East Montpelier Representative to Library Board

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library Board is looking for a new representative from East Montpelier to replace Petie Ferris who is retiring from the Board. Petie will continue her wonderful volunteer work for the Library, both in fundraising and in coordinating book deliveries to the homebound. The Board already has several great applicants for this post and will be making a decision in the new year.

EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The EMFD has had a busy fall. We have surpassed the 240 mark for calls responded to in 2003 thus far. We have also received a new set of the "jaws of life" and held a two day training session on November 14 & 15 in the use of these new jaws as well as the use of airbags. The training consisted of both classroom and actual use of the jaws. Members of the Woodbury Fire Department also attended this training.



Our new fire truck should be arriving very soon. In May of 2004, the East Montpelier Fire Department will be celebrating its 40th anniversary, and we hope to host an open house for this milestone which will give the public a chance to tour the new truck. More on this in upcoming issues of the *Signpost*.

The department mourns the passing of Estella Dodge, wife of Ernest and mother to Jeremy and Lucretia Dodge. Mrs. Dodge was a longtime member of the EMFD Auxillary, and both her husband and son are members of the fire department.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of Corey Plante who was killed in a tragic automobile accident November 22, 2003. We also continue to pray for Sean Truman, a passenger who was critically injured in the same accident.

Lastly, we hope everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season. With winter now upon our heels, please drive carefully and allow plenty of time to get to your destination.

Robin J. Copping, Chaplain EMT-D

EAST MONTPELIER GULLY JUMPERS

That time of the year is fast approaching when people leave their nice warm homes to enjoy the cold weather and breathe all that chilly frosty air.

Club preparations have been underway now for a couple of months to ensure the trails are ready for mother nature's fury.

If you have a question or would like information about what is happening in the world of snowmobiling, plan on attending a future club meeting. Monthly meetings are held at the Four Corner Schoolhouse, 7:30 pm, on Tuesday following the second Sunday. Plan on joining us next month.

Sandy Woodbeck, President 229-0734





MILESTONES

BIRTHS

- > Cadence Lorraine Burgess, August 24, daughter of Christie Lynn Clark Burgess and Edward James Burgess.
> Connor James Pratt, October 19, son to Vicki Gail Culver and Danny James Pratt.

MARRIAGES

- > Michael S. Kulaga to Sarah E. Bothfeld, September 27.
> Raymond George LeBlanc to Beth Christine Gudehus, October 4.

DEATHS

- > Georges R. Desboeufs, October 2.
> Georgiana C. Parker, October 3, widow of David Parker.
> Emma Elizabeth Lamell, October 23.
> Joseph Michael Rob, October 28, spouse of Mary Ann Rob.
> Eileen L. Peck, November 21, mother of Sharon Chambers.
> Genevieve Czaplinski, 92 yrs old, October 31, mother of Richard Czaplinski.

LAND TRANSFERS

- > Phyllis O. Duso, James C. Dudley & Charlene S. McIntyre to Phyllis O. Duso, 7 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
> Phyllis O. Duso to James C. Dudley & Charlene S. McIntyre, 7 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
> Benedict Koehler & Hilari L. Farrington to Benedict Koehler & Hilari L. Farrington, 21.04 acres & dwelling, Markham Rd.
> Frederick J. Feddersen, Trustee of the Frederick J. Feddersen Trust to Douglas J. Hill, 43 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
> Isabelle F. Plummer to Douglas A. & Michele A. Reed, 1.25 acres & mobile home, Fair Rd.
> Clement L. & Cecelia M. Duquette to Roger G. Mack & Linda M. Isham, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
> Albert S. & Linda S. Phillips to Todd Field, 3.1 acres, Phillips Rd.
> Donald G. & Barbara G. Cote to Donald S. & Rosemarie A. Runnalls, 36 acres, US2.
> Joanne Hill Bair, Successor Trustee of Ellen Hill Trust to Joanne Hill Bair, Trustee of the Ellen Hill Trust, 78.2 acres & dwelling, Templeton Rd.

- > Real Ouimet & Willie Sayers Jr. to Nathan Mark & Joann Stephanie Phillips, easement, Gray Rd.
> Jean Clark to Thomas & Shirley Westenberger, 2.5 acres & mobile home, VT14N.
> Real Ouimet & Willie Sayers Jr. to Tamsen M. Benjamin, 7.03 acres, Gray Rd.
> Eric P. & Kami J. Moshinskie to Eric P. & Kami J. Moshinskie, 0.28 acres & dwelling, VT14N.
> Eula P. Brown, Robert H. Brown & Maurice F. Brown to Timothy K. & Sherri-Gina Hudson, 0.49 acres & dwelling, US2 East Village.
> Garey G. & Ann B. Kreis to Garey G. Kreis, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd.
> Lisa Rice to Michael A. & Dona M. Matheson, 0.63 acres & dwelling, VT14S.
> Stephen P. Jerome to Stephen P. Jerome & Lois A. Jerome-Polento, 5.5 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
> William C. Shouldice III & Carole B. Shouldice to Carole B. Shouldice, 50.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
> Lawrence E. Babic & Patricia Joslyn to Sharon McKinney, 15 acres & dwelling, Vincent Flats Rd.
> Janet H. Peduzzi to Janet H. Peduzzi & Mari P. Joy, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.
> Kevin Rand to Betty Fortin & Kevin Rand, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.

Selectboard

Edie Miller, Chair,
Martha Holden, Tom Brazier

October 6, 2003

- > Approved a 60' wide right-of-way for access to property off VT14 to be purchased by Doug Allen.
> Approved limited funds for road center-line marking for Quaker Hill Road and slow speed signage at EMES.
> Approved offering new health benefit options to town employees.
> Approved a paramedic pilot ambulance service contract with Barre Town.
> Discussed status of needed improvements to VT14 bridge in East Village. A new design for a replacement bridge is under consideration. Board members expressed

concern about vehicle accidents near this bridge.

November 3, 2003

- > Heard report from Solid Waste Management District representative Steve Jerome.
> Discussed whether improper refuse dumping should be a municipal or zoning ordinance issue and how to enforce.
> Considered the need for improved drainage around the Municipal Building.

November 17, 2003

- > Frank Pratt reported that the US2 and VT14 signalization project is progressing slowly.
> Pratt also reported on a new design for the replacement of the VT14 bridge on the west side of East Village. The new design aligns the replacement bridge similarly to the existing bridge.
> Heard request from Hilari Farrington for funds for the Kellogg Hubbard Library.
> Clarified situations that require road access permits from the Board.
> Accepted recommendations by the Revolving Loan Fund regarding allocation of funds that will be a discussion article at Town Meeting.

Planning Commission

Carol Welch, Chair

Change of meeting Dates

In January, 2004, The Planning Commission will meet on the 8th and 22nd then revert to the usual 1st and 3rd Thursdays in February.

October 2, 2003

- > Approved subdivision permit for Anthony and Jean Cassani for a seven-lot subdivision on US2 in East Village with conditions.
> Approved subdivision permit for Douglas Hill for a six-lot subdivision on Towne Hill Road.
> Heard from Sewage Officer Richard Czaplinski about the new state approved septic system designs. The town may adopt these standards. Allowing these performance-based systems would allow for increased development of land in town.



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



October 16, 2003

- > Approved subdivision permit for John Sanfacon for a two-lot subdivision on Wheeler Road.
- > Approved subdivision permit for Bill Martin and Doug Allen for a three-lot subdivision on VT14.

November 6, 2003

- > Approved a sign permit for a new sign at the corner of Fassett Road and VT14 to replace two existing signs.
- > Approved Sibley three-lot subdivision on Sodom Pond Road.
- > Discussed requirements for approval of a land transfer on Markham Road from Manghis to their neighbors. Postponed the completion of the hearing until the next meeting.

Board of Adjustment

Jeff Cueto, Chair

October 13, 2003

- > Postponed election of officers.
- > In connection with the Sanfacon property on Wheeler Road, established that Wheeler Road is the boundary between Zone C to the south and Zone D to the north.
- > Approved a conditional use permit for the Montpelier River Gardens Initiative to use the property it purchased on VT14 as a school with the condition that it maintain adequate parking space.
- > Recessed Fletcher hearing until Nov. 10.

November 10, 2003

- > Granted a dimensional variance to Paul and Elaine Manghi of 185 Markham Road to enlarge two existing porches.
- > Recessed Andrews dimensional variance hearing until December 8 meeting.
- > Accepted withdrawal of Fletcher conditional use application.
- > Determined request amounts for 2004 budget line items.
- > Postponed election of officers.

Elementary School

*Jan Aldrich, Chair
Joe Buley, Lucy Ferrada,
Julia Haynes, Robert Riggen*

September 9, 2003

- > Several parents of kindergarten students presented suggestions for enhancing

classroom space and offered their carpentry efforts and a carpet and pad.

- > Jamie O'Hare and Michael Berry thanked the Board for its support of full-day kindergarten for this year's 27 students.
- > Michelle McFadden's report on new traffic plan included that visitors need to use the upper parking lot.
- > Representative Tony Klein suggested that the new education law may encourage some changes in budgeting and stabilize taxes.
- > Approved appointment of Shane Clifford as a paraeducator.
- > Approved an activity schedule for development of 2004-2005 budget.

October 7, 2003

- > Guy Viens of Community Connections Council reported on the status of the program, which seeks to enrich learning opportunities for all ages by expanding the school's role in the community.
- > Discussed the role of a finance committee in connection with long range planning.
- > Carol Randall reported that a new evening custodian will be hired.
- > A group of kindergarten parents will be working on classroom enhancements during teacher convention days.
- > Discussed with Tony Klein the roles and responsibilities of school board members and got suggestions on effective board process.
- > Approved the Independent Educational Evaluation Policy.
- > Accepted the resignation of evening custodian, Gary Gilman.
- > Discussed the school schedule and charged the Principal to review uninterrupted academic time and options for music program participation at other times.

October 21, 2003

- > EMES Learning Specialist Joy Wilcox addressed the Board concerning the increasing level of special education needs of students.
- > Bob Riggen suggested a need for professional development for paraeducators.
- > Carol Randall presented a first draft budget summary for 2004-05.



U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

*Ginny Burley, Chair
Richard Curtis
East Montpelier Members*

September 17, 2003

- > Student Representative Dylan Cate presented a petition to return TA time to the beginning of the day.
- > Preliminary standardized test scores for U-32 show slow but steady improvement.
- > Established format for department curriculum reports to be presented once per month over the next two years.

October 1, 2003

- > Dot Blake reported the beginning of the school-wide reading and study of *Witness*.
- > U-32 has 859 resident students this year.
- > Jon Winston reported on status of building project remaining issues.
- > Worked on Board goals and Board subcommittee goals.

October 15, 2003

- > Approved an Early Retirement Option for Educational Support Personnel.
- > Accepted with regret the resignations of Amy Herrick and David Fletcher.
- > Recessed for a full WCSU District Boards Meeting

November 5, 2003

- > Dot Blake reported that the accreditation process with NEASC is underway and going well.
- > Heard a presentation by Jean Olsen on meeting the needs of gifted children.
- > Discussed and approved a Spanish field trip to Peru.
- > Approved Graduation Participation Policy.
- > Accepted the resignation of Paraeducator Tommi Hester and approved appointments of Charles Berns, Driver for the Special Education Program, and Ehrin Miller-Nogueira, Spanish teacher.

EMES Board Members

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Robert Riggen 223-4262
{rriggen@adelphia.net}

Preparing for Town Meeting

ELECTED POSITIONS

Nominating Petitions must be received at the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on January 26, 2004.

To run for any of the following offices, a candidate must be on the Voter Checklist and secure signatures of at least 1% of the registered voters on a petition for the particular position. Nominating Petition forms are available at the Town Office.

Number of openings for this year are shown in ()

- Moderator (1)
- Selectboard (1) - 3 years
- Auditor (1) - 3 years
- Lister (1) - 3 years
- Lister (1) - 2 years
- Town Law Agent (1)
- Town Grand Juror (1)
- Planning Commissioners (3) - 3 years
- First Constable (1)
- Second Constable (1)
- Trustee of Public Funds (1) - 3 years
- Cemetery Commissioner (1) - 5 years
- EMES School Director (1) - 3 years
- EMES School Director (1) - 2 years
- U-32 School Director (1) - 3 years

For more information with regard to any Town Meeting issue or to check on the number of registered voters on the checklist, call the Town Clerk's Office - 223-3313.

Articles for the Warnings

Article Petitions must be received at the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on January 22, 2004.

To submit an article to appear on the Town/School Warning, a voter can request the Selectboard/Schoolboard to include the Article on the Town/School Warning or submit a petition signed by at least 5% of the registered voters.

CALENDAR

January 22 — Last day to submit petition for Article to be included in Warning, signed by 5% of registered voters.

January 26 — Last day to submit a petition for Nomination for a Town Office to be filled by Australian Ballot signed by 1% of registered voters.

February 1 — Last day to post Warning and notice of Town Meeting and notice of Presidential Primary with most recent voter checklist.

February 11 — Presidential Primary sample ballots posted.

February 11 — First day Australian Ballots available for voting Absentee/Early Voting.

February 21 — Town Officials/Warned Articles sample ballot posted.

February 23 — Town Clerk's Office open from 10:00 am until noon for purpose of receiving applications for addition to the voter checklist.

Date to be set: Town Forum/Australian Ballot information meeting at EMES at 9:30 am for both town and school.

March 2 — Town Meeting Day and Presidential Primary, EMES 9:30 am. Australian Ballot - Polls open 7 am to 7 pm.

WANTED: ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Responsible for administration and enforcement of the zoning bylaws of East Montpelier. Twelve to 15 hours per week, includes office hours, site visits and attendance at evening meetings of the zoning boards.

Please send a letter of interest and qualifications by January 15 to Planning Commission, c/o Town Clerk's Office, Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651.



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A LOOK BACKWARDS



RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK "Taste-Tested" with hints and up-date as needed by *Paulie Coburn*

Orange Sponge Cake

Mrs. Carroll L. (Edith) Coburn

2 eggs and 1 egg yolk	1 tablespoon grated rind
1 cup sugar	1/4 cup water
1/4 teaspoon salt	1 1/4 cups sifted flour
1/4 cup orange juice	1 teaspoon baking powder

Beat egg, sugar and salt together thoroughly. Add orange juice, grated rind and water. Add flour and baking powder and beat thoroughly. If desired add 1/2 cup water and omit orange juice and rind and flavor with either lemon or vanilla.

Paulie's Comments

Before you add the flour and baking powder, mix the ingredients on high speed in the electric mixer to give it more bulk. Bake for 40 minutes in an ungreased angel food pan. It could profit from a glaze of some kind, such as can be made by adding a bit of orange juice to confectionary sugar.

Dave's Comments

This is my mother's recipe and it makes a very nice cake. When mother made something new that was particularly tasty, the hired man often commented, "This is pretty good. We will probably never see this again." Sometimes he was right but I remember her making this cake.

The *Community Cook Book* was "sponsored" in the early 1940s by The Friendly Circle.

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anne Ormsbee, V.P./Treasurer

Two fine programs on local history were enjoyed this Fall, one on Dudley's Store and the other the story of The Cross Baking Company.

In 1888, John Willard bought the site of a burnt out store in the village and built a store which he ran along with a post office during the 1890's. Frank Carr took it over after 1899, and about 1905 Fred Townsend bought it.

Clarence Dudley, who worked for Townsend, became its manager and bought the store in 1920. In 1971, it was sold to Ernest Biron, whose family operates the store today.

The Cross Baking Company was founded in 1828 in Montpelier by baker Timothy Cross. His brother Charles joined him, and it was he who originated Cross crackers, mixing & cutting the dough by hand, baking the crackers in a small brick oven and peddling them door to door in the growing village.

Cross Baking Company remained a firm fixture on Main Street, where the City Center is now located. It employed many local folks as bakers, delivery and sales staff. Cross Crackers are

available in local stores today (in a smaller version) as Vermont Crackers.

Forthcoming programs are:

- > January 12 - Roger Bailey will speak on copper mining in Vermont.
- > February 9 - (tentative) Bradford Lane and Dwight Clark will talk about growing up in East Montpelier.

For information on future Society meetings, contact Elaine Manghi, Paulie Coburn or Elliott Morse, program committee.

New Display at the Town Office

Conrad and Ann Ormsbee set up a display for the Historical Society in the lobby titled "Old Time Toys." Many toys from years and years ago — beautiful old doll, big excavator at least 50 years old; many old children's books, wooden blocks, metal fire ladder truck drawn by horses, old wooden doll house, old wooden barn with animals, pull toy mouse, little wooden wagon, mini pewter dish set, old toy irons like our grandmas used to use for ironing, a Teddy bear and another old doll.

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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



ADOPT-A-ROAD

In the last issue of the *Signpost*, I suggested residents volunteer to adopt a town road or portion thereof. The idea was to help keep the sides of the roads clear of trash throughout the year rather than waiting until the Spring cleanup. The other part of the idea was to give our road foreman a call if there was a maintenance issue on the road that needed addressing. Three people called me (476-4300) and offered to adopt a road — a less than overwhelming response. I was hoping that more of our citizens would want to take pride in our town's roads and help keep them clean and good looking.

Last month, during one of those heavy rains, a section of the road I have adopted washed out. I gave Mike Garand a call, and his crew was out and had it back in shape that day. In addition to looking better, the road was less dangerous to people driving on it. And so I'm putting out the call again. I am confident there are more residents of our town who enjoy driving on the roads near their homes and seeing them free of bottles and cans as well as paper wrappers. It takes only a small amount of time and effort, and the results are well worth it. *Dave Grundy*

TUFTS STRONG LIVING PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN EAST MONTPELIER AREA

Have you heard of the Strong Living Program? Well, if you are over 50 and concerned with maintaining your strength and independence...you should have!

The Strong Living Program is for individuals age 50+ who are interested in boosting their energy levels, preserving healthy bones, feeling better, and even enhancing balance control. It has been proven that weight training can increase bone mass in individuals at any age.

This is a free program that meets twice a week for 12 weeks. During that time, individuals work with trained leaders who guide them through stretches, balance exercises, and weight training. All of these exercises are done with the use of a chair — many are done while sitting, while others require the chair for support. Dumbbells and ankle weights are provided. All fitness levels are welcome, though participants must get medical clearance from their primary care physician for participation in the exercise program.

Lee Awbrey, a Neighbor to Neighbor, AmeriCorps member serving out of the Central Vermont Council on Aging, will hold an informational meeting at the Four Corners Schoolhouse on January 6 at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about the program, come then or contact Lee at 802-476-2668.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

Rachel Senechal

Events

On October 18 Nona Estrin and Charles Johnson led a hike to the Chickering Bog. Participants met at the schoolhouse at 1:00 and carpoled to the trailhead. Hikers were treated to a wealth of information about the flora and fauna of this unusual natural area.

The Men's group will continue to meet at the school and plans are to use it for the Strong Living Program (see below).

Facilities and Space

The new access ramp is now in place.

There is a need to change the location of the pre-school play area because of insurance considerations. Hobie Guion will be checking into the possibilities.

Future maintenance activities:

Need to paint the building as it is peeling.

Support is needed under the gutters for the winter.

Administrative Issues

The Board of Directors made some bylaw changes and re-defined some of the offices. Arrangements were confirmed for snow removal for the coming winter.

Annual Meeting - January 14, 2004, at 7:00 pm.

Community members are invited to the annual meeting. Entertainment will be provided by the Ditzie Chicks.



Nature hike to Chickering Bog

l-r Cathy Buni and daughter, Rob Chickering, Nona Estrin, Charles Johnson. Photo by Rachel Senechal.

DAMIAN RENZELLO - INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

Dave Coburn



Damian with demo. model. (dac photo)

One should always listen to his mother... Damian's website (www.portarinxandbambini.com) opens with an explanation of how he got into the ice rink business; *My name is Damian; I am the owner and inventor of the Porta-Rinx line. Eight years ago my mother said to me, "Damian, what do you think about a portable kit for an ice skating rink? You know, something that you can setup and take down at the end of each season." I thought that it was a great idea, so I designed and invented Porta-Rinx, a portable kit for an ice skating rink. After eight years of product research and development, we now offer the best portable kit for an ice skating rink, on the market, guaranteed!*

As a tinkerer of sorts myself, I found the hour I spent in Damian's shop fascinating. He positively radiates enthusiasm for his products, his ideas, and the life he has made for himself.

Born in Melrose, Mass., he found his way to Vermont partly because his mother was born in Barre. They now share a home next to that of his sister's family on Route 14 south of East Village. The workshop is next to the house and is full of tools, gizmos, and the products he has invented.

The *PortaRinx* is a very simple but ingenious device. The frame is standard 4-inch drainage pipe. One pipe forms the rail while a second, with a section cut lengthwise from the side, forms a springy cap that holds the liner in place. Standard connectors make up the corners and hitch the whole thing together. Fastened end-to-end, the ten-foot sections can make as big a layout as one would wish. Lay out the liner, slip the frame together, level, fill with water and wait for a freeze... instant skating rink.

Damian will make you a *PortaRinx* in almost any size you want. His standard sizes run from 10x20 to 90x200 feet.

Smooth ice is more fun than bumpy ice. Damian solved that problem with two devices. The first, called the *Bambini*, consists of a water tank on wheels with a perforated pipe at the back. Filled with hot water and towed over the ice, the hot water melts the surface and a plastic sheet acts as a screed to create a

glass-smooth surface. (It can be used as a lawn fertilizer/watering system in the summer).

The second smoothing device is a converted rotary lawn mower. By using a modified blade, this machine will whack off the humps and bumps. (Put the lawn blade back on and it will cut the grass you fertilized with the *Bambini*.)

A paint job led Damian to develop another product.

Needing something to hold paint and brush, he cut the front out of a plastic detergent bottle and fastened a small clip to the side. The brush tucked into the neck and the clip attached it to his belt during the climb up the ladder. It seemed like such a good idea he bought a plastic molding machine which he uses to make what he calls *My Work Buddy*. He also makes storage shelving and a six-pack carrier for it, as well as point-of-purchase store displays.



Website photo

When Damian was working on a variation of the *Bambini*, he acquired some industrial non-skid plates that are used on trucks, loading docks and the like. These led to the invention of the *Polarshark*. This consists of two of these plates bolted back-to-back to make a 12x18 inch or so "extractor" that can be put under your tires to get out of a slippery situation. A short cable and clip fastens it to the vehicle so it will not go into orbit or be left behind. It comes in a nice, heavy-duty carrying pouch.

Who knew we had such an enterprising and inventive person living among us. Check out Damian's websites; the one shown at the top and www.myworkbuddy.com. And, stop by his shop on the Barre Road and see a *PortaRinx* in action. Then, have him show you the frame he developed to cut the side out of the drainage pipe. It consists of two power-hand saws fastened to an upright that do the cutting and a powered "bicycle" chain that pulls the pipe through the saw. Clever! Now he is working on a use for the surplus piece.

Then you too can come away saying; "Now, why didn't I think of that."

Dave and Paulie Coburn have retired to Daggett Road. He does the layout and other odd jobs for the Signpost.



A finished *PortaRinx* - ready to use (Website photo)



The *Bambini* (Website photo)



The Ice Mower (Website photo)

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	Jan. - 8th & 22nd Feb. - 1st & 3rd Thurs.	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
U-32 Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	1st Tuesday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	6:30	Town Office
Revolving Loan Committee	At call of the chair	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners School House Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, Vt 05651
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00-5:00 F 9:00-Noon
Phone: 802-223-3313

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

email: eastmont1@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit

email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

(M-Tu 9:00-5:00, W 9:00-12:00)

Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto

(M-F 9:00-11:30)

Zoning Administrator - Diana Chace

(Tu & Th 3:00-5:00)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 6	Strong Living Program - informational meeting	2:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
January 12	Historical Society - Roger Bailey will talk on copper mining in Vermont	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
January 13	Gully Jumpers monthly meeting	7:30 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
January 22	Last date to file article petitions for Warning articles with the Town Clerk	by 5:00 pm	Town Office
January 26	Last date to file nominating petitions for town offices with the Town Clerk	by 5:00 pm	Town Office
February 11	First day absentee ballots will be available for early voting	after 9:00 am	Town Office
February 14	Historical Society - (tentative program) Bradford Lane & Dwight Clark	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
February 15	Gully Junpers monthly meeting	7:30 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
February 23	Town Office open to receive applications for additions to the checklist	10:00 am - noon	Town Office
February TBA	Town Forum/Australian Ballot information meeting	9:30 am	EMES
March 2	Town Meeting Day - Polls open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm	9:30 am	EMES

Deadline for next issue: February 1, 2004, to Dave & Darlene Grundy, 476-4300 {ddgrundy@aol.com}

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Inside: A man of fairness
and a man of inventive-
ness

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