

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XV — Number Three January/February 2005

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Austin Cleaves

I spent a most enjoyable evening recently in the Cacicio's living room, or should I say dining room, since I suggested we meet very conveniently at the dinner hour for this interview.

Dario Cacicio was born in this house in 1964 and attended local schools. As a young boy he could often be seen working with his Dad and older brother and sister building walls, planting trees and shrubs and even erecting a small windmill when he was hardly big enough to be of much help.

In 1985 Dario met Darcy Blow of Montpelier, and they were married a year later. They made their first home in Williamstown after a brief stint renting in East Montpelier. Soon after Dario's dad passed away, they bought the home place

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OUR FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR DR. GREG McDONALD

Irene Stotts

Greg met me at his home on a Monday afternoon. As I arrived he was getting out of his car for the interview. He had just come from a meeting at Central Vermont Hospital (CVH) and would soon return there for his afternoon appointments.

Greg grew up in East Providence, Rhode Island. His father was a doctor, and Greg always knew that he would follow in his father's footsteps. He came to be a Vermonter because he attended medical school at the University of Vermont. His internship was at the Rhode Island Hospital, but he then returned to Vermont and worked as a general practitioner for two years in Island Pond, employed by the United States Public Health Service. The next step was a two-year residency at Dartmouth in internal medicine. Upon finishing that he worked as an emergency room doctor. He was given a two-year fellowship at Dartmouth where he was trained in cardiology. He was thirty-four when he started his medical practice in central Vermont.



McDonald family photo

Greg met and married Wendy Soliday while in college. They have three children. Their son Addie and daughter Brooke were born while they were in Island Pond. Their youngest son, Luke, was born in Norwich. They moved to East Montpelier in 1984.

Project Pacer International, a Boston based organization, is a favorite mission for Greg. It's an organization that gives pacemakers and performs angioplasties and catheterizations for people in need in India, Bolivia, Argentina, China, Paraguay, and other countries. To qualify for treatment, patients must have no insurance and have no money to pay. The patients pay no hospital fees; no physician fees or nursing care charges. The doctors must pay their own travel expenses to the site, but housing, either in homes or local hotels, is provided by the community they visit. Pacemaker companies donate the equipment as do several hospitals in Vermont and elsewhere. Pacemakers cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 apiece. The FDA prohibits the companies from donating pacers that are beyond the expiration date printed on their package. This is frustrating for doctors as the pacemakers still have about a ten-year life and have to be discarded.

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

The holiday season — "peace on earth, good will toward men" — phrases that go together. We know that peace on earth is a dearly longed for but seemingly distant hope. But how about good will toward all people? That too, seems to be a quality less in evidence these days, but at least it's in our individual power to do something about it.

We've just concluded an election season distinguished by much talk about God's will and moral values while at the same time characterized by unusual polarization, virulent accusations, and uncompromising hard lines.

One distinguishing feature of this year's campaign seemed to point out not just differences of opinion about foreign and domestic policies among constituencies, but different views of the nature of this country. In many respects it flows from views on the separation or linkages between "church" and "state." Is this a country guided by a supreme being? Some say yes, some say no. Certainly God was mentioned by the founders, and we see the reference every day on our coinage. Yet no one will disagree that freedom of religion and belief was a primary tenet of those founders. So how do we continue to reconcile these two ideas as we have for over two centuries?

A look at how these tensions play out in our public schools is interesting. Until a few decades ago, children in most classrooms said the Lord's Prayer every day. As our population started to become more diverse and our appreciation of differences increased, we realized that the requirement to recite of a prayer that was foreign to their family rituals made many children uncomfortable and feel singled out. That greater sensitivity led, eventually, to the abandonment of mandatory prayer in public schools. Many schools today still provide a moment of silence, and all will allow students opportunities to pray privately.

School celebration of holidays — religious holidays — is another case in point. Not too long ago, most schools had "Christmas Concerts" which in more recent times are termed "Holiday Concerts" and include Hanukkah, Kwaansa and other celebrations as well. Each year, it seems, we read about disagreements in some communities about the appropriateness of various public holiday celebrations — whether they are inclusive, exclusive or permit disallowed intermingling of church and state.

One Vermont school district last year decided to get out of the holiday celebration business at school completely. Afterwards, community members discovered that everyone felt deprived — that ignoring the various seasonal rituals important to many people is not a solution. They learned from first hand experience that educating the children about different religions and rituals is, in fact, worth the trouble, and that using common sense to assure that the educational purpose is predominant in school activities is important to us all.

The lesson learned by that community is very important. We may be different from our neighbors in religion, in political viewpoint, in ethnic and racial background, but we certainly share common goals for good educations and healthy lives for our families, for a society in which all of us can express ourselves, grow and prosper, and for peace on earth, good will to all. We all lose unless we take the trouble to learn more about situations and backgrounds different from our own and to celebrate those differences together. We can make it happen.

Eddie Miller

"Thank you" to these loyal supporters.

Lois McKnight Freda Battles
Doris Washburn Jim Hanna
Bill Kaplan & Cathy Buni

Contributions are always welcome. They can be mailed to the address at the left.

PARISH HOUSE CAFE

All are welcome to come to lunch every Wednesday at noon at the Old Meeting House. Lunch is free, but donations are appreciated and are passed along to the local food shelves. Homemade soup, salad, and desserts are served along with fresh bread from Manghi's Bakery. Jessie Taylor of East Montpelier and Vicky King of Montpelier are the organizers and founders of the cafe.

There are always more patients needing the surgery when supplies run out. In the third world countries where Greg goes, pacemakers are sometimes recycled from dead people. There have been fights in the line of people waiting for the pacemakers. When the supplies run out, patients have no other options for what usually is a life-threatening problem.

Greg has been participating in Project Pacer for about nine years. For the last four or five years he has gone to Paraguay in the fall. This year he will go in April to El Salvador. He has also been to China with Project Pacer International. He tells the story of a trip to Bolivia where a woman desperately needed a pacemaker and had been waiting four weeks. Her heart function was being totally supported by a temporary catheter threaded into her heart from her arm. Usually these are used for a few days only, as they become infected. This one was draining copious amounts of pus from her arm at the insertion site. One of the first-time doctors with Project Pacer wanted to give her a week of antibiotics before surgery, but that was impossible. The surgery was successfully performed and the disposable pacemaker was removed. The doctor cut the tip of the pacer wire to send it to the lab to identify the bacteria, as is customary in the United States. However, as he cut it, the local nurses became agitated. To his dismay, through an interpreter, he discovered the hospital had been using that same disposable, temporary pacing catheter for two years and had no others to replace it.

When Greg travels on his medical trips he is most impressed by the poverty and lack of equipment he encounters. In China he was amazed to see that everything that we think of as disposable was reused again and again. Even the bloody gauze pads from surgery were washed, dried on a line, sterilized again, refolded, and used until they were too shredded to hold together. The rubber gloves were washed by hand after surgery and reused.

Equipment malfunctions are common due to lack of expertise and funding. Greg once did a week of surgery using a Tensor lamp taped to an IV pole when there were no bulbs for the operating room lights. That wasn't really a problem for him, but he did admit to being nervous when more vital equipment like EKG

monitoring broke during a case where minute to minute watching of an unreliable heart beat is crucial.

Greg states that he is very happy living in Vermont and that "Central Vermont Hospital is a wonderful hospital." CVH and many other small hospitals are part of the Dartmouth Alliance. This affiliation allows CVH to have access to capital markets and a health care planning perspective that benefits our community. Greg has worked at Dartmouth once every two weeks performing specialized cardiac procedures since he moved to our area; he also goes to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, the St. Johnsbury hospital, regularly.



Greg's passion for the Boston Red Sox is well known to most from the "GO SOX" design his wife mowed into their back field, which showed up on the front page of the "Times Argus" in early October. There's also a Red Sox banner over his garage. When he finds time to relax he enjoys playing tennis in the winter and golf in the summer. He has run several marathons. You can say he has a passion for keeping physically fit, but judging from his enthusiasm and deep interest in his work with Project Pacer, one might conclude that this is his greatest passion. Yes, he does think about retirement. He plans to stay in Vermont, but will enjoy traveling. One way he can do this is to take a *locum tenens* (be a temporary substitute for a doctor). This will allow him to immerse himself into a local culture, learning more than would be possible as a tourist.

Irene Stotts retired in 1992 from a teaching career in Connecticut. She then moved to East Montpelier and now lives near her daughter, Rebecca Reed.

CHURCH BELLS



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



Old Meeting House
Rev. David W. Connor
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge
 Co-Pastors
 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

LIFE

by Evan, Grade 5

A mysterious spirit in us all	When we do,
That counsels us	Probably never.
In Life's great hall.	Life itself has a valuable bill
Some of us, like the bee	When we charge it in money,
Hardly live even yearly.	Virtually nil.
Some of us live a hundred	Death itself is what we
years	despise
And pass away with songs	With it there's no compromise.
and tears.	Life sweeps us with
It taunts us with its mysteries	Its unrelenting tide,
Every one of us,	To the beach of death
Even trees.	Where we will all reside.
None of us live forever	



Cacicio's Heating, Inc.

Continued from Page 1

from his mother and went to work building a 'granny flat' for her to live in on the ground floor. Renovations to the rest of the house to accommodate their growing family were soon started. A son Cody was born in 1990 followed by son Cole in 1994.

Dario worked for several of the area propane businesses for twelve years doing service work that he learned from studying, taking courses and putting his inquisitive mind to work. During his high school years, he worked for me on the farm, which made him realize real fast that he didn't want to pursue farming for a career! This experience of working for others coupled with Darcy's urging (he says nagging) ultimately led him to



strike out on his own and begin Cacicio's Heating. This was a big step going from a regular job with benefits to the uncertainties of going into business on his own. Starting with a \$500 van and a few tools, he has been busy ever since. Darcy contributes to the business by doing the books, payroll, banking, etc., and David Safford, whom Dario trained, completes the crew. The business includes service, installation in both new and existing homes, as well as light commercial gas and oil.

In spite of the many demands of the business, Dario and Darcy make time for family activities. The boys are active in sports that keep Mom and Dad hopping. A special vacation occurs over the Fourth of July in their camper, usually to Lake George with other local families.

Darcy's week is filled by her outside job as a dental hygienist two days a week at Dr. Herbert's office in Montpelier.

Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention the awesome display of Christmas lights on their property at the head of Center Road. It is certainly one of the most extensive displays anywhere in the area. Dario indicated he has put out over 8000 lights. Darcy decorates the inside of the house with over 1200 lights on the Christmas tree alone. Be sure to drive by this holiday season.

I think you would have to agree the Cacicio's are a good example of a young couple determined to make a life here in central Vermont, never having considered moving away. We are sure glad they didn't.

Austin C. Cleaves is a partner in Fairmont Farms and lives on Lyle Young Road.

U-32 SENIORS' ADVENTURES ABROAD

by Aliza LaPaglia

Dan Cueto, a senior at U-32, recently returned from an exciting year abroad, all the way down in Argentina! He spent a year in a program run by A.F.S. and was surprised how naturally his Spanish skills improved after being immersed in the culture. He also says the people he encountered were generous and had open energy. He is confident he has done his best to bring the experience back with him to share with his school and community.

Another senior at U-32, Flint Wiswall, also went on an adventure, only in a whole different hemisphere. Flint spent a month backpacking through the tallest of mountains in Nepal. He has distinct memories of the breathtaking landscapes that he truly treasures. The food was a surprising change that reflected, among other things in their culture, the much stronger bond they share with the earth. Flint noticed the Nepalese were very respectful and accepting of all forms of life, which was reflected in their kind treatment of each other, as well as of tourists. Flint feels lucky to have had the opportunity to experience the possibility of approaching life from a whole new perspective.

U-32: LOCAL SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT

How lucky we are to have our high school so close to all of us! The winter sports schedule is under way and runs through the end of February. There's boys and girls ice hockey and basketball as well as alpine and nordic skiing and gymnastics. Most of these are spectator sports and you're invited to follow any or all of the teams.

You can go to www.u32.org for more information about team schedules or you can call the school if you don't have on-line services.

Do you have a son, daughter, father, mother, sister, brother in the military? We would like to send them a copy of the Signpost if you will give us their address.

Due to alleged security restrictions, the addresses can not be obtained from the military. Call or email any one of the Signpost staff (list on page 2) or send the address to Signpost, PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651. We will see that their name is added to our address list.

Thank you.

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TOWN OFFICES

Jessie Taylor



EAST MONTPELIER PLANNING & ZONING

This article, the fifth in a series on our Town Offices, encompasses the planning and zoning aspects of East

Montpelier. The three entities that address this are the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Zoning Administrator. In short, the Planning Commission is responsible for creating and updating the Town Plan, Zoning Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations. The Board of Adjustment conducts hearings for variances to regulations and "conditional uses" of property, considering how development is impacting its surrounds - property boundaries, set backs, neighboring parcels and so on. The Zoning Administrator is a sort of go-between, bridging the two. Of course, there is infinitely more to it than that!

There are several ways that towns organize their planning/zoning. Currently, East Montpelier has the above mentioned, with the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment each having its specific roles. The Planning Commission oversees the whole Town Plan and regulations; the Board of Adjustment mostly rules on exceptions to the regulations. For instance, I myself applied for a building permit to put up a garage/shed. The Zoning Administrator denied the permit because it did not conform to the setback requirement in the Zoning Regulations. Therefore, I had to appear before the Board of Adjustment to explain my situation. It was a perfect example of the role each board plays and the Zoning Administrator was instrumental in linking the two. It was a screening of sorts, to make sure that my construction wasn't going to disrupt the neighborhood. The Board allowed that my situation was OK and hence the building permit was issued. Although I was disappointed at the delay, I was understanding of the process (especially as this article was a work in progress!). It was a system working as it should.

This brings up the question of property rights. There is always a delicate balance between property rights and the layout of a town. Last year, the Planning Commission spent many hours updating the Town Plan, which the Selectboard then adopted. They are currently working on rewriting the zoning regulations as well, primarily to eliminate outdated regulations and inconsistencies. It was emphasized that, by rewriting the regulations, it doesn't mean adding restrictions. The primary pur-

pose is to keep the zoning consistent with the Town Plan — a clarification of sorts that will aim to keep the same level of regulations as well as maintain the integrity of the town. The Town of East Montpelier is fortunate to have a dedicated group of people filling the positions on these two boards. All the members are volunteers. Each term is three years, with a rotating schedule of elections for Planning Commission. Rob Chickering currently chairs the Planning Commission, and Rich Curtis the Board of Adjustment. The list of Town Officials lays out the other members of the boards. Please take a moment to see who they are and acknowledge their efforts.

The Zoning Administrator, on the other hand, is an appointed, part time, paid position in East Montpelier. Deb Fillion has been Interim Administrator for several months. Some of her responsibilities include attending the board meetings, taking minutes, site visits and placing warnings in the paper. The Administrator is also the one who issues the building permits and enforces the zoning bylaws. Deb is at the Town Offices two afternoons a week to help townspeople understand zoning requirements and procedures. Feel free to contact her if you have any questions or concerns. Please note that the position of Zoning Administrator is open and anyone interested should contact Deb.

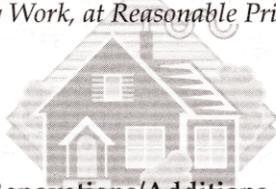
At the risk of sounding repetitive, may I say that I was once again duly impressed with the complexity of detail involved with the planning and zoning of our town. Previous articles on the Town Offices have hopefully begun to give us all an idea of how much time and effort goes into keeping East Montpelier running smoothly. The Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment and Zoning Administrator are no exception. Thank you all.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR JOB VACANCY

East Montpelier seeks candidates for the part time job of town Zoning Administrator. Help townspeople understand zoning requirements and procedures. Approve routine applications. Meet with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment, about four meetings each month. About 15 hours per week. Inquire with Deborah Fillion, Interim Zoning Administrator, 223-3313.

Send a letter of interest to the to her by January 15, 2005. Town Office, PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651

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TOWN OFFICE

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email: eastmonttc@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Terri Conti

email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk - Maryanne Cerasoli

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit

email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

(Mon.-Tue. 9:00-5:00, Wed. 9:00-12:00)

Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto

(Mon.-Fri. 9:00-11:30)

Acting Zoning Administrator

Deborah Fillion

(Mon. & Thur. 2:00 pm-5:00 pm)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair,
Martha Holden, Edie Miller

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Deborah Fillion	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Tracy Phillips
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Pat Biggam	Sandy Conti
Jeff Cueto	Steve Kappel
Cliff King	Gray Ricker
Fred Strong	

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Ginny Burley, Chair
Sue Chickering

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Matthew Curtis 223-7403

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Julia Haynes 223-1651

pjhaynes@madriver.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Milestones

Births

- ♦ Jesse Jameson Cooper-Dubois, born October 15, 2004, son of Amy Lorraine Cooper and Dana Scott Dubois.
- ♦ Joshua Ty Rolland, born October 22, 2004, son to Nancy Lynn & Ty Christopher Rolland.
- ♦ Caroline Jeanine Flynn, born November 5, 2004, daughter to Kristi Anne & Christopher John Flynn

Marriages

- ♦ Randall Allen Ploof to Margaret Evelyn Stewart, October 11, 2004.
- ♦ Stanley Lee Christiansen to Marion T. Guazzoni, October 9, 2004.
- ♦ Richard Mark Czaplinski to Kincaid Perot Connell, October 16, 2004.

Deaths

- ♦ Gerald A. Ibey, September 26, 2004, spouse of Elsie Ibey,
- ♦ Terry J. Trono, September 29, 2004, spouse of Linda Trono.
- ♦ Elaine M. Wagner, September 30, 2004, spouse of Robert Wagner.
- ♦ Genevieve Chapell, October 15, 2004, mother of Bruce Chapell & Brenda Furber, spouse of deceased Roger Chapell.
- ♦ Judith Jones, November 20, 2004 (Vehicle collision on US 2, E. Montpelier)
- ♦ Ruth Ann Burbach, November 22, 2004, daughter of Lisa and John Burbach.

Property Transfers

- ♦ Coleman B. & Jody M. Parker to Robert Banfield, 0.82 acres & dwelling, Maplewood Rd.
- ♦ Douglas J. Hill to Robert H. & Rhoda B. Chickering, 10.3 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- ♦ Trishia Mary & Colm Thompson to K. Putnam & Susan B. Clayton, Trustees, 7.6 acres & dwelling, Wallbridge Rd.
- ♦ Harold W. Hurlburt to Chad William & Sean Ray Hurlburt, 1.2 acres & mobile-home, US 2.
- ♦ Bruce W. & Claudia F. Fitch to Priscilla B. White, 10.01 acres, Doner Rd.

- ♦ Gerald C. Jourdan Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Keith & Marybeth Cochran, 5.52 acres, VT14S.
- ♦ Geraldine LeFevre to Paul H. LeFevre II and Scott W. LeFevre, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- ♦ Stanley & Christopher Nutter to Robert K. & Beth Ann S. Porter, 4.9 acres & mobile home, Haggett Rd.
- ♦ Priscilla B. White to Trevor R. Lewis, 15.08 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- ♦ Daniel & Flor Diaz Smith to Joan B. O'Neal, 7.0 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- ♦ Dexter R. & Susan L. Merritt to Philip & Rachel Richards, 3.51 acres, Coburn Rd.
- ♦ Michael Heffernan to Pamela Heffernan, 7.0 acres & dwelling, Johnson Rd.
- ♦ Nakima Draper Ollin & Benjamin G. Draper to William Brooks Morrison & Jayne Marie Ollin, 4.6 acres & dwelling, 1/4 interest, Templeton Rd.
- ♦ Glen A. Ehret and Kristie L. Ferguson to Kristie L. Ferguson, 10.1 acres & dwelling, VT 14N.
- ♦ Jo-Anne F. Henry to Margaret Loftus, 3.0 acres & dwelling, VT214.
- ♦ Dawn C. Anderson to Dawn C. Anderson & Marguerite R. Desch, 3.0 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- ♦ Don H. & Jane A. Lester to William Bissell and Katherine Clark, 3.47 acres, North St.
- ♦ William N. & Mary Jane Porter to Coleman B. & Jody M. Parker, 3.06 acres, Cherry Tree Hill.
- ♦ Erica Zimmerman & Kevin McCollister to Paul Parsons & Betsy Unger, 7.07 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- ♦ Charles A. & Claudia H. Bristow to William Busch Jordan & Sarah Helen Labun, 10.6 acres, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- ♦ Anthony M. & Shelly L. Benedict to Harold A. & Amber L. Megrath, 2.67 acres & dwelling, County Rd.

Land records are public information. Further details on any of these property transfers may be obtained at the Town Office.

LISTERS VISITATIONS

The Listers have started inspecting all properties that have been issued building permits. If there is no one home, the listers will leave a note that they have inspected whatever has been done on the outside. If there is need for a visit to the inside, a call will be made and an appointment made.

Rosendo Cueto, Earl Montague & Ross Hazel, Listers.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Selectboard

September 20, 2004

- ♦ Approved a motion to adopt as a permanent regulation the interim Telecommunications Facilities Bylaw.
- ♦ Revisited the objective of the Zoning Regulations revision.
- ♦ Approved the Memorandum of Understanding and Assignment of Income for the Fairmont Farms Grant program income.
- ♦ Approved up to \$2500 for fog lines on County Road and approved the purchase of guardrails and anchors for the Coburn/Cate Farm Road project.
- ♦ Approved the name Boulder Ridge for the Douglas Hill development off Towne Hill Rd.
- ♦ As part of the roundabout study, the board requested Bruce Nyquist of VTrans to compare a number of parameters of the signalization option vs. the roundabout option.

October 4, 2004

- ♦ Voted to approve recommendations of Tax Collector Norma Raymond regarding delinquent taxes.
- ♦ Approved a motion to make a formal complaint to the Department of Environmental Conservation enforcement Division concerning the Grant and Hedges properties on Fair Road.
- ♦ Approved the final draft of the Mallory Brook Conservation Public Use Management Plan.

Board of Adjustment

August 23, 2004

- ♦ Voted the five general standards of Conditional Use are not adversely affected by the proposed application of Daniel & Diane Tofani for a house and garage on Coburn Road.
- ♦ Voted to recess the hearing to September 13th for the variance request which was tied to the flood plain plan information due from the DEC.
- ♦ Variance application for Robert Duncan was withdrawn by the applicant.

- ♦ Issued the permit approved by the Zoning Authority to Richard Smith & Jennifer Myka since it was voted on before they withdrew their application.
- ♦ Clarified that front setbacks apply to both roads on a corner lot. Front setback also applies to a private right-of-way.

September 13, 2004

- ♦ Voted to grant a variance to Donald Tofani to build a house and garage at his Coburn Road property.
- ♦ Voted to grant Donald Tofani a permit subject to conditions of the Conditional Use permit.

September 27, 2004

- ♦ Voted to grant a Conditional Use permit to Ronald and Claudette Marinelli to convert a one-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling on Bliss Road with the condition that the Zoning Authority be provided with certification which approves the adequacy of the sewage system.
- ♦ Voted, with five conditions, to increase the operation of Casella Waste Management from a daily maximum of 250 to 300 tons and to increase the annual maximum from 40,000 to 65,000 tons, and to change the opening time from 7:30 to 7:00 a.m.

October 11, 2004

- ♦ Voted, with three conditions, to grant a permit to Marc Fontaine to convert a sawmill from personal use to commercial use on VT14 N.

October 25, 2004

- ♦ Voted, with no conditions, to grant Rubin Bennett a variance to build a garage adjacent to his residence on Carleton Blvd.

Planning Commission

September 2, 2004

- ♦ Voted to determine the driving force in the zoning revisions is "quality, fairness, and acceptance of the finished product by the town's citizens."

September 16, 2004

- ♦ Passed a motion to approve providing after-school art lessons as a separate home activity as part of the home occupation permit for Janice Walrafen and Ellen Leonard.

- ♦ Passed a motion to schedule a site visit to Northstar Fireworks located at 2165 VT14S in order to consider a permit request to move Northstar's fireworks storage containers from Stony Corners Rd to their office building site.

September 23, 2004

- ♦ Voted to approve the application to move the fireworks storage containers to 2165 VT14S with the condition that the Planning Commission receive a letter from Northstar reporting the storage capacity is approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

October 7, 2004

- ♦ Passed a motion to approve the boundary adjustment requested by Mark Lane to adjust his boundary with neighbor Andrew Shapiro on Perkins Rd. and Gould Hill Rd.

October 21, 2004

- ♦ Voted to approve the application of Marc Fontaine for a sign for his sawmill business on VT 14N.

Elementary School

September 14, 2004

- ♦ Reported on goals for Washington Central Supervisory Union, East Montpelier Elementary School, and the school board. A full list of goals can be obtained from the school. Several grant applications have been written to sustain the Community Connections program.
- ♦ At a well attended Parent/Teacher Neighbor Organization meeting, interest and support were expressed for wellness initiatives.
- ♦ In response to a new law on bullying, the school counselor will work with students in grades 4, 5, 6 on this topic.
- ♦ Certified staff will review the Blue Ribbon process for supervision and evaluation.
- ♦ Approved a FY06 budget timeline with a tentative date for the Town Forum.
- ♦ Approved a stipend for Steve Towne for coordinating the soccer and basketball after-school programs.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

U-32 Jr. & Sr. High School

September 1, 2004

- ♦ Voted to accept a \$10,000. grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to be used in the science department for the Vermont Teacher of the Year, Randy Brown,.
- ♦ Approved the following hires:
Individual Assistants: Gaia Fried, Walter Opuszynski, Nicole Pierce;
Driver: W. Dean Fisher; Maintenance & Mechanic: Roy F. Cahill.
- ♦ Created an additional 1.0 FTE Maintenance & Mechanic position.
- ♦ Voted to make cheerleading a varsity activity.
- ♦ Due to increased enrollment, voted to add an additional 0.2 English teacher, to add a 0.4 math teacher, to reassign one special education paraeducator to assist in two sections of science, to

adjust social studies classes to better balance sections and to add 0.1 physical education teacher.

- ♦ Approved the 2004-05 Student/Parent Handbook.
- ♦ Appointed Amy Papineau - varsity cheerleading coach, Arthur Parry - maintenance and mechanic, Chantal Boulanger - custodian.

October 6, 2004

- ♦ Approved Sharon Newcomb to the position of 0.1 FTE physical education teacher.

October 20, 2004

- ♦ Judy Klima and Cathy Christie were honored at the Outstanding Teacher of the Year ceremony.
- ♦ Revised cash handling procedures and key policies as a result of an increased number of thefts.
- ♦ Future U-32 and Montpelier homecoming activities will be held separately due to an incident at the homecoming football game between the

two schools.

- ♦ FY 2006 budget plans include the intent to keep per pupil spending levels even with inflation. Selectboard members will be invited to a budget meeting and asked to facilitate public input in the early stages of the budget approval process.

November 3, 2004

- ♦ Voted to allow an on-campus fundraiser for a French trip under reasonable conditions set by the administration.
- ♦ Guidance review process report should be available to the board by the beginning of January.
- ♦ Voted to approve the 2005-06 Montpelier & U-32 Public School Choice Collaborative Agreement.
- ♦ Voted to ask if the union representing the Educational Support Staff will agree to allow the board to explore offering an early retirement program to an employee.

TOWN AND SCHOOL MEETING INFORMATION

Nominating petitions for elected positions must be received at the Town Clerk's Office by **5 p.m. on January 24, 2005**. To run for any of the following offices, a candidate must be on the Voter Checklist and secure signatures of a least 1% of the registered voters on a petition for the particular position. Petition forms are available at the Town Municipal Office

Petitions for Warning articles must be received at Town Clerk's Office by **5 p.m. on January 20, 2005**. There are two ways for an article to appear on the Warning.

1. Get the Selectboard to add it, or
2. Submit a petition signed by at least 5% of the registered voters on the town checklist.

For information on Town Meeting issues or to find the number of registered voters on the checklist, call the Town Clerk's Office - 802-223-3313.

Number of openings for 2005 are shown in parentheses, ().

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



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HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

The Four Corner Schoolhouse Association is hosting a variety of events for East Montpelier residents. All events are at 7 p.m. at the schoolhouse. Call Barbara Dall for details 229-4870.

First Friday Events

- ◆ Feb. 4-Knitting and Needlework. Gather to share time and conversation while working on a handcraft.
- ◆ March 4-Game Night. Bring your favorite game.
- ◆ April 1-April Fool's Eve. Comedy and karaoke.

On Friday, Nov. 5, The Four Corner Schoolhouse Association hosted a presentation on snow machine safety and the use and history of the trails to a group of cross country skiers, hikers, and snowmobilers. Trail maps were displayed and trail etiquette was discussed. Cider and donuts were provided. A few things to remember as we head out this winter: Skiers are much more visible if you wear colors other than white, green and black for jackets and hats. Everyone should stay to the right at all times, especially on the corners. Please, when parking along the roads, leave one to two car lengths either side of the trail for snowmobilers' visibility in crossing those roads. There will be another such gathering for anyone in the area on Friday, Jan. 14, 2005, at 7 p.m. at The Four Corner Schoolhouse.

On November 7, a pie and discussion event was held as a memorial for Jean Cate.

Board Meeting

The members of the Four Corners Schoolhouse Board met at the schoolhouse on October 26, 2004 at 7 p.m. The vice president, Hobie Guion, conducted the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Paulie Coburn, Barb Dall, Diana Fielder, Elaine Manghi, Beth Parker and Rose Riley.

Minutes of the last meeting conducted on August 31, 2004 were reviewed and accepted. The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Maintenance: Mouse droppings are being found and squirrels are being heard in the roof. Various options were discussed for dealing with them. Bathroom floors need sealing. Extra cleaning needs to be done over vacation. Lights still need to be changed. Hobie reported that the storm windows are down, the shades have been fixed and all of the windows have counter weights.

Budget: To help with determining the projected budget, the creation of a schedule to plan for custodial service was discussed. Due to the increased heating costs, the rental rates will

be set at \$30 per day for non-residents and \$20 per day for residents for the months of November through May. The fee from June to October is \$20 per day for non-resident and \$15 per day for resident. Preschool charge will be \$3,500 starting in January.

A Projected budget was presented and discussed.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The licensing agency inspected the Four Corners Schoolhouse and had no concerns about the interior. The team found the swing set in bad shape and no cushioning under the climbing areas. A fence is required. Parents came in to help correct the problems and are being very supportive. Black Rock Coal donated gravel and a cedar swing set was purchased second hand for \$75 to replace the old set. The snow fence is being used for compliance purposes. Various sources are being explored for funding.

INFANT PLAYGROUP

East Montpelier moms Julia Haynes and Michelle McFadden will start a playgroup for babies born between the summer of 2003 and September 1, 2004 and who will start kindergarten in the fall of 2009. The first playgroup will be held at Julia's house on Wednesday, January 12 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., and the second one will be at Michelle's house January 19 at the same time. Please call Julia at 223-1651 or Michelle at 476-7682 if you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome, including older siblings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Robin Copping

The East Montpelier Fire Department has responded to 260 calls to date this year. Department representatives went to both East Montpelier and Calais Elementary Schools to speak about fire prevention. Every family should have a plan in place in case of fire, including escape routes and an outside meeting place. Smoke inhalation is the top killer in a fire. Keep stove pipes and chimneys clean. Place combustible material away from a woodstove. Put old ashes in a metal container outside, not in a paper bag or plastic bucket since they can ignite.

The Christmas season is here, and lights and trees can become very dry and hot. Keep water in the tree stand, and don't leave lights unattended.

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The Trails Group has completed three projects this fall:

1. We closed on the Pratt property conservation easement. If you missed our article in the last *Signpost*, this was a large effort, and we will be building scenic new trails in the Mallory Brook area as part of the agreement.
2. We fixed up some wet spots and rough areas on the upper part of the Sparrow Farm trail, making it a lot easier to get through to Sparrow Farm Road and keep your feet dry.
3. We cleared and marked the Esther Salmi Trail, which links the County Road with the Town Forest segment of the trail.

The "we" doing the work in #2 and #3 was primarily the Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA), in work parties organized by our Board member Rick Hopkins. We also appreciate the help of Patrick McCoy who brush hogged the trail at a very reasonable rate.

EMTI is entering an active phase of new trail planning and construction. This winter we are planning next year's work on the East Montpelier section of the Cross-Vermont Trail, as well as planning for trails on the newly-conserved Pratt property. For these and other trail opportunities, we will be writing grant applications, obtaining trail easements and organizing work parties. If you are interested in participating, look for our work party notices, or consider joining our Board.

Another way you could contribute is by becoming a trail steward. EMTI relies on a stewardship network for routine upkeep of the trails. We have stewards for each of our four main trail segments, and we will need more stewards for new segments in the works. The stewards should be frequent users of the trails who can periodically remove debris from the trail, maintain the trail boxes and notify the Board of any major maintenance problems or landowner concerns.

If you have interest in joining our Board, being a trail steward, or help in a work party, contact Jamie Shanley at 223-4856.

There are so many places to ski or snowshoe in our town. Starting small, there's the loop in your own backyard. Then the loop throughout your neighborhood—out the backdoor you go. Just be sure to get permissions and thank your neighbors, or better yet, invite them to a ski-in brunch. For roughing it on varied un-groomed trails, the East Montpelier Town trails are perfect. Get your map at the town clerk's office. For unlimited miles of snowmobile trails, some picture perfect, some quite challenging, try the Gully Jumper trails. Be sure to come to the Snowmobile/Skier safety and information meeting on Jan. 14, '05, at the Four Corners School. For information call Elaine Manghi at 229-5811

If you become a snowmobile trail user and want to support the effort, join the Gully Jumpers, the local arm of VAST. If you have never gotten your ski legs, you might want to try one of the shorter, wider, waxless, full metal-edge skis. They really make it stable and easy for you. Whatever you do, don't let that beautiful winter suntan evade you this year. See you out there.

Don't be fooled by those first snowfalls. Unless you're on a groomed trail, which is always packed, wait for a good base. That's when the rocks and spikes are not just out of sight, but buried under a hard carpet of snow-pack or ice, with lots of soft fluffy stuff on top.

Following Jean Cate's death in June, nearly a hundred friends and relatives contributed to a fund in her name to be used to help strengthen community life in East Montpelier. As the founder of Rally Day and the publisher of the THE SIGN-POST for nearly fifteen years, Jean worked hard to help make our town a place we could enjoy and of which we could be proud. Jean's vision was to bring people in town together to get to know each other better.

Wes and Paul Cate have asked several people to help find activities that will further the cause for which Jean worked so hard. Members of the group are Deborah Fillion, Elaine Manghi, Norma Raymond, and Dave Coburn. We have met several times and have considered various ways to reach this goal. Wes suggested that our mission statement should be: "To encourage neighborhoods to organize in a disorganized way."

The group is exploring ways to strengthen the neighborhood communities, not necessarily by supporting existing efforts but in new and different ways. The first task was to locate individuals in town who could help define the natural neighborhoods and tell us what activities were already being carried on in town. To this end, we met at the Four Corners School House with 16 townspeople so we could share the results of our efforts so far, enjoy some delicious pie, and see what they might have for ideas on what should be done and how it might come about.

It was decided that one direction to take would be to get together small groups of neighbors in the various parts of the town. These gatherings could result in folks meeting on occasion to eat, walk, play games, quilt, cook, read and discuss books, or to visit and catch up on neighborhood news. They might work as a team on Green Up Day or on some aspect of Rally Day.

This is still very much a work-in-progress and your thoughts, ideas, comments, etc. would be most welcome. Contact any of the members of the small working group and let them know what you think.

East Montpelier Community Potluck at EMES
 Sunday, February 13th, 2005, 4:00 - 6:30 pm
 Bring your neighbors! Share food, entertainment and ideas for neighborhood activities
 Sponsored by the Jean Cate Community Fund and EMES Parent/Teacher/Neighbor Organization (PTNO)
 Watch for flyers with more information or call Amy Torchia 229-4952 or Bill Merrylees 223-4951.

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POPCORN BALLS

For two dozen pop corn balls you need two quarts of popped corn, one cup sugar, 1/3 cup water, 2 tablespoons light corn syrup, one tablespoon butter and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Place the sugar, syrup, salt and water in a pan and stir until dissolved. Cook without stirring to 242 degrees Fahrenheit or the firm, soft ball stage. Add the butter and pour the syrup over the popped corn. Mix well, form into balls about two inches in diameter and let stand until firm.

RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

“Taste-Tested” with hints and up-date as needed
by *Paulie Coburn*

Paulie’s Comments

Pop corn balls are quick and easy to make. It helps to butter your hands well while forming the balls. Or, you can just pour the syrup over the pop corn and not make it into balls. Be careful, the mixture is really hot.

Helpful Hints

Cold water, or soap with cold water will remove meat juice stains.

Painting the top and bottom basement steps white is a good idea that may save many a fall.

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

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anne Ormsbee, V.P./Treasurer

In October, Maurice Cerutti presented a program about Calais/North Montpelier resident Walter Coates, store-owner, poet and publisher of *Driftwind*, a literary magazine. Walter came to Vermont as a student pastor and was ordained as a Universalist minister in 1904. After his first wife died, he married Nettie Gove and became a joint owner of the East Calais General Store with his father-in-law Austin Gove. In 1922, he purchased George Pray's store in North Montpelier, where he combined store-keeping with publication of his and other Vermont poets' work, printed on wallpaper pages on an antique foot-powered Golding press.

In 1929, he helped found the League of Vermont Writers, and, in 1938, received an honorary degree from UVM. Some of East Montpelier's town reports were published by the Driftwind Press, and Walter's big old safe is now located at the Country Bookshop in Plainfield.

The Calais and East Montpelier Historical Societies met in November, with a great potluck supper with chocolate goodies for dessert and a program on “Writing a Town History.” Lyn Blackwell and Weston Cate, Jr. related how they got started on such their projects, the long hours it took, the oddities and surprises they encountered and the techniques and resources used in writing *Across The Onion* and *Forever Calais*.

Remarkable people!

The Historical Society has a slate of interesting presentations planned for this winter. Each meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Four Corners Schoolhouse and all are welcome.

- * February 21 - Dave Coburn, a slide show and talk on the Coburn Bridge
- * March 21 - Chris Stone, a talk on the geological history of East Montpelier
- * April 18 - Cate Farm tour



KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

Hilari Farrington

On Monday, January 10 at 7 p.m., join us for a discussion of the book *Stone Crop*, lead by the author and KHL board member, Jody Gladding. Copies of the book are available at the front desk at the library. On Monday, February 7, also at 7 p.m., Archer Mayor will lead a discussion of his book, *Open Season*, also available at the front desk. *Open Season* will be the last book in this series. This program is supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 7 p.m. Harry Bliss will show slides of his New Yorker cartoons, covers, and children's book illustrations. This will be followed by a question and answer period.

On Saturday, January 22, 2005 at 10 a.m. Ron Krupp will be presenting a workshop at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library called “Seed Starting for Less.” Most of the material will come from his book, *The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening*. This is a Vermont organic gardening book filled with stories of northern gardeners along with photographs and sketches. The book includes “Foraging for Wild Plants in Spring,” “Planting by the Stars,” and “Putting Food By in the Fall.”

Ron Krupp has been a Vermont Public Radio gardening commentator for seven years. His book received The Christian Science Monitor Garden Book of the Year Award for New England. The book is in its fourth printing along with some revisions. Larry Brown & Son of Barre did the printing.

The *Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening* travels down the garden path from germinating seeds in spring to saving seeds in fall. The stories in the book lend spirit and substance to gardening in New England. They reconnect us to the four gardening cycles of the year through anecdotes and history, poetry and wit, politics, and the stories of children in the garden patch.

On Saturday, January 22, 2005 at 3 p.m. join us for a special two hour childbirth program at the library. Panelists will talk about various resources in the Central Vermont area and will include Katherine Bramhall of Gentle Landing Doula Service, Kathryn Saunders, a midwife at CVMC, Linda and/or Michelle of Mama Says, Margaret O'Toole, a childbirth and lactation educator, and possibly others.

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment (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 Schoolhouse Assoc.	Last Tuesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

NOTICES

January 20 - Last day to submit petition signed by 5% of registered voters for Warning Articles.
January 24 - Last day to submit a petition signed by 1% of registered voters for nomination for a Town/School Office to be filled by Australian Ballot.
January 30 - Last day to post Warning and notice of Town/School meeting with most recent checklist.
February 9 - First day a voter can request Australian Ballots for voting Absentee/Early voting.
February 19 - Sample ballot posted with warning and checklist
February 21 - Last chance to register to vote before Town/School Meeting -Town Clerk's Office open for Voter Registration till 12 noon.
February 26 - Town Forum for discussion of Town and School Warned articles to be held at Elementary School Gym at 9 a.m. Australian Ballot Articles will be discussed at the Forum but cannot be discussed on the floor at Town Meeting.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec. 31- Jan 3	New Year's Recess Town Office will be closed		
January 11	School budget development — community forum	6:30 - 7: 30 p.m.	Elementary School
January 13	Candidates' Forum town & school		Elementary School
January 14	Snowmobile/ski safety program	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School House
January 18	Harry Bliss - slides of New Yorker cartoons, and children's book illustrations	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
January 22	Ron Krupp - "Seed Starting for Less" workshop	10:00 a.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
February 7	Archer Mayor will discuss his latest book, <i>Open Season</i>	7:00 p.m.	Kellogg-Hubbard Library
February 13	Historical Society meeting - "Coburn Covered Bridge"	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School House
March 1	TOWN MEETING DAY (Australian Ballot - Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)	9:30 a.m. on...	Elementary School

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

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