

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVI — Number One

September/October 2005

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL HOUSE EAST MONTPELIER, DISTRICT #5

Anne Ormsbee and Lyn Blackwell

17TH ANNUAL RALLY DAY: SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

Deborah Fillion

March 27, 1866.

- + Met at 7 p.m. and elected a moderator, clerk, collector, prudential committee, and treasurer.
- + Voted whether to sustain a school here, whether or not to build a new schoolhouse, whether to buy more land.
- + School to be held 3 months in the winter, 3 months in the summer.
- + Three cords of good maple or birch needed; awarded to the lowest bidder - \$6 a cord.
- + To build a school in summer of 1866.
- + Boarding of teacher to the lowest bidder, at \$2.75 a week.
- + Voted to dispose of the old schoolhouse as they saw fit.

Continued on Page 4

Join your neighbors for a fun day of food and activities for all ages at the East Montpelier Elementary School and elsewhere around town. Don't miss Rally Day 2005 on Saturday, September 10th.

Begin your day with a hearty **Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** in the school cafeteria, starting at 8:00. Then join in the fun of family relays and foot races. There will be plenty of your favorite activities: **Vegetable Decorating**, bubbles and play for young children, the **Big Parade**, food, a **Nature Walk**, live music, **Family Soccer**, kid's Jumping Gym, the **Signpost Auction**, and more food! Plus we've added some exciting new activities this year. Look for a **detailed schedule with your property tax bill** mailed in August. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Here are some of the highlights.

Sustainable Forestry: What is it all about and why is it important? Join us for a morning trip to the wood lot with Cameron Cope and Paul Cate who will demonstrate techniques and equipment used in low-impact forestry. (Directions to the site will be available on Rally Day.)

Sports Equipment Swap & Sale: Here's your chance to empty out your closets of all the outgrown and unused sports paraphernalia gathering dust there. Bring it to the Recreation Board's swap and sale. A portion of your earnings will be used for the Rec Board's maintenance of the town's sports facilities - you can spend the rest on your neighbor's outgrown cleats, ski boots, surplus lacrosse sticks and golf clubs.

Extrication Demonstration: That's what they call it when members of the East Montpelier Fire Department show how they use the jaws of life to free an accident victim who is trapped in a car wreck. It's a life-saving operation.

Bike Safety & Repair: After lunch, there will be special events for anyone with a bicycle. Practice the rules of safe riding, join in the bike clinic and learn to do a safety check and make minor repairs. Then head out on one of the group rides along the backroads. Helmets are required; bring gloves, glasses, and a water bottle if you have them.

Historic Bus Tour: Did you know our town used to have an airport and a racetrack? Have you visited our covered bridge? We're bringing back the guided bus tour of local historic sites. Reserve your seats to explore the original one-room school houses in town



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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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East Montpelier

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

For almost six decades of my conscious memory, this time of year, the time of going back to school, has carried an anticipation of a process of adventure, change, growth, and exploration - in which my attitude, curiosity and willingness to participate determine my level of joy. For almost two decades this time of year, the season of the Rally Day celebration of our life as a community, has carried a memory of the winter evening townspeople gathered in the elementary school gym and became a seed bed for community improvement. Out of that meeting came Rally Day, the Signpost, the Land Conservation Fund, the Recreation Committee, provided impetus for the Trails Committee, and the Four Corners Schoolhouse acquisition. That evening witnessed to how the life of the community is enriched by individuals pursuing their joy.

This year I find myself pondering the juxtaposition between Going Back to School and participation in the life of the community of East Montpelier. This may be an unfortunate analogy for those who hated school, but consider the difference: in community participation we determine the curriculum and the hours. Here there are no grades other than those given by our own conscience. Now we are mature enough not to be bullied, we have the prerogative to leave the classroom, and there is no failure. There is only learning and gain.

So what do you learn, what might you gain in the school of community engagement? First, we can receive a creative satisfaction from making ourselves available to the mysterious process of working with our neighbors toward a mutual goal. Letting ourselves become a witting and willing part of the organism of our mutual life feeds the self and the soul. Second, we can gain self-revelation for we do not truly get to know ourselves, these creatures we were created to become, unless we take risks and venture into realms previously not experienced. Involvement in the community gives us a low-risk, high-return opportunity to get a clearer idea of the sort of person we really are. Our fundamental sense-of-self becomes more real. And third, there is always the chance that something concrete will be "accomplished," such as:

We might get fireworks back for Rally Day 2006,

We might have an attractive assisted living facility right here in town,

We might have lower school taxes,

We might have a winter carnival,

We might.....

See what could bring you joy and try it out. You never know what might happen.

Martha Holden

THANK YOU — THANK YOU — THANK YOU

If you compare the sidebar on the left with the one in the last issue, you will note new names have been added and some of the older ones are missing. Janice Waterman has done yeowoman service for many years to find authors for the many articles that have been featured in the *Signpost*. This is a difficult task that she has performed with great skill and persistence. Rhoda Chickering will now take on this important function.

That we live in a very mobile society is illustrated by the real challenge of maintaining the mailing list. Dawn Anderson has been trying to keep track of everyone in town for several years now. Since there are can be twenty or so changes every issue, this is not easy. She is stepping aside, and Katy Blow will take the task of trying to be sure the *Signpost* is delivered to every home in town.

Jessie Taylor, who has been writing about the goings and comings at the Town Office, will take over from Rhoda organizations and services reports.

That so many are willing to give their time and talents is the reason the *Signpost* is beginning its sixteenth year of publication.

“Thank you” to these loyal supporters.

Lois McKnight
Al and Betty Jerome
Frances Donaghy

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



RALLY DAY

and lots of other points of interest along the way. Tickets are \$3 to pay for the bus and driver.

Daffodils Project: Wouldn't it be nice to see roadside flowers at our street corners next spring? Come to the Jean Cate Community Fund table and adopt a corner. We'll give you a bag of daffodil bulbs to plant at your favorite intersection, plus complete instructions, some potting soil and fertilizer.

Evening Variety Show: We're going to miss the fireworks this year, but the evening will be topped off with an equally lavish spectacle: a Variety Show full of local talent. Discover what comic, melodic, and wonderful (or strange) things your fellow townspeople can perform!

Memory Hour: Did you know that the Four Corners Schoolhouse has burned twice? What better place to gather and tell stories about this year's topic: "Fire and Lightning in East Montpelier." Bring your tales, funny or serious, to share with others.

Creative Projects: Morning and afternoon activities will be organized by Community Connections, All Together Now, and the Orchard Valley School. This year's Art Project is mask making. You can even make a mini-mask to decorate your giant zucchini for the Veggie Decorating Contest! Remember to bring your garden surplus.

Silent Auction: This is the annual fundraiser for the "Signpost" so bid frequently throughout the day! Last call will be just before the Variety Show. Pick up and pay for your winning items during intermission or after the show. Please call Sally Longhi (223-5859) to donate goods and services, then come to Rally Day with your checkbook and let the bidding begin.

Cozy Corner Cafe: Relax, drink tea, and share some quiet activities with neighbors at the cafe in the gym, featuring live music by Hilari Farrington, Benedict Koehler, Susan McKenney, and friends. Coffee drinkers will find Bob Watson's best Capitol Grounds brew at the Information Table.

Food: Lunch will feature fresh local food and NECI expertise to benefit the Elementary School's food service program. The nutrition/food committee is helping our new school chef to bring more local and homemade food and more community members into the lunchroom. Later, back by popular demand, the Old Meeting House will host a chili dinner (meat or vegetarian), along with cornbread, pies, and ice cream.

For more information or to offer your help, please contact members of the Rally Day Planning Committee:

Variety Show: Colin McCaffrey 454-1007

Kids Activities: Erica Zimmerman 223-6930

Family Sports: Bill Merrylees 223-4951

Bike Clinic & Ride: Carl Etnier 223-2564

Food: Cliff & Shirley King 223-2079

Parade: Hobie Guion 223-1808

Signpost Auction: Sally Longhi 223-5859 or
Julia Haynes 223-1651

Set Up & Clean Up: Matthew Curtis 223-7403

Bus Tour Tickets: Deborah Fillion 229-1320

If you can blow bubbles, pitch a tent, or brew tea, please volunteer for an hour on Rally Day.



Sustainable Forestry Demonstration



Extrication Demonstration



All Rally Day photos by Rick Mastelli

DATES TO REMEMBER AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

September 10, the Old Meeting House will be serving a chili supper and pie a la mode at the EMES as part of Rally Day.

October 1, at the Old Meeting House there will be an event, yet in the creative stage, involving "wearable art, costumes show and sale." The Wiz costumes were the inspiration for this event and will be sold that day. Need a Halloween outfit?

October 8, the annual chicken pie dinner will be held, with three seatings, 12:00 noon, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Old Meeting House would like to remind everyone that its Parish House rooms are available to rent for meetings, social events, and classes. Please call 229-9593 for more information.



CHURCH BELLS

Old Brick Church

Angelo Tillas, Pastor

Sunday Services at 10:00 am

Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House

Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge

Pastor

Rev. David W. Connor

Associate Pastor

Worship & Sunday School- 9:30 am

Nursery 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

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL HOUSE EAST MONTPELIER, DISTRICT #5

From the records she compiled, Marion Codling, former clerk of the Four Corners School House Association, notes that this was the essence of district school meetings until 1893, when the school district system was abolished, and the town took over administration and funding of its neighborhood schools. School districts were established in 1794, three years after the town of Montpelier was organized.

During the early years, when Montpelier included what is now East Montpelier, there were sixteen districts. After the towns separated in 1848, there were eleven town districts plus several partial districts shared with neighboring towns. From the beginning, District #5 was one of the largest. It served families along roads that are now known as Vincent Flats, Putnam Road, Foster Road and Trail Road and parts of Dodge Road, Lyle Young Road, Snow Hill Road, and Kelton Road.



Photo of the building that burned in 1939.

The first school building was constructed sometime before 1801. Marion notes that in 1802 there were 60 pupils, the largest number in town; in 1846, there were 24 students; in 1851, 35 students. By 1866, the District #5 schoolhouse, also known as the Templeton School, was badly in need of repair. Thus in 1866, with the Civil War over, the old Templeton School was replaced with a new building.

Members of the district prudential committee decided how long to operate the school; they determined the school calendar based upon the need for youngsters to help at home with farm and other labor.

Funds for district schools were derived partly from the division of public funds raised in town (and later the state) for school support in proportion to student population. It was the responsibility of the district prudential committee to raise the remainder of the funds needed. Half could be raised by a tax on the grand list, and the rest by subscription in proportion to the number of students in the school. By 1839, however, all districts raised their money by a tax on the grand list. In 1893, the town school district assumed control of school affairs but continued to operate many of the district schoolhouses.

At Four Corners, the prudential committee hired both male and female teachers. Men were normally hired for the winter months and women for summer, when the older, and often

rowdy, boys were not as likely to attend. In 1849, the district paid male teachers \$48 for holding school for twelve weeks and female teachers \$12 for twelve weeks. Lucinda Templeton taught at the school in 1846. With no uniform textbooks, she instructed four of her students in *Mitchell Geography*, two in *Peter Parley Geography*, and four from *The First Book of History*, while others worked on arithmetic and grammar. Alpha B. Clark used six copies of *Child's Health Primer*, six of *Hygiene for Young People* and two, *Lessons on The Human Body*, textbooks the district purchased in 1887.

Kate Foster (Young) taught in the early 1900s. The schoolhouse was improved in 1931 when it was connected to a new spring. The next year it earned a Superior School rating, a step above the Standard School designation awarded by the State in 1921.

Four Corners School was closed in 1934 due to low enrollment, and students were assigned to neighboring districts. It reopened in 1937 with Hazel Vincent as teacher. The school burned on February 2, 1939. But that did not stop teacher Mary Pearl, who conducted classes at the home of George and Marion Barclay (across from the present elementary school). In fall 1940 the town built a new school for \$3,000, and 13 students had new desks and chairs, blackboards, and electric lights.

When the town began to centralize the schools, they concentrated grades at different school houses. In 1959 grades five to eight were sent to the Four Corners School. In 1964, however, Phyllis Dudley Duso taught 24 students in grades three and four. The schoolhouse closed February 1, 1966 when the East Montpelier Elementary School opened with 229 pupils. Yet in 1967, with the new school already crowded, the Four Corners was reopened with Mabel Kelley teaching grade five. In 1972, a private kindergarten opened at the Four Corners. It later became public and moved to the Morse School when the elementary school needed the room at Four Corners for the sixth grade. From approximately 1974 to 1984, the school was used for either grade five or six. After that it remained empty, its water supply deemed unsafe.

In 1989, voters at town meeting approved the formation of a non-profit corporation to retain and operate the building as a community center. Currently the Washington Supervisory Union uses the building for pre-school and play group programs. Community groups use it for meetings and parties.

Thanks to Marion Codling, the Four Corners School House Association has a carefully kept record of the building, its use, maintenance, and improvements (including a well) that have been accomplished by donations, grants, and especially the work of the townspeople. Information for this article was gleaned from these tidy and remarkable records and *Across The Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont, 1781-1981*.

Anne Ormsbee lives on Center Road with her husband, Conrad. She is the vice president and treasurer of the East Montpelier Historical Society.

Lyn Blackwell lives on Center Road with her husband, Ed. She is the co-author, with Ellen C. Hill, of "Across the Onion."

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE TOWN OFFICES

Jessie Taylor



The series of articles on the Town Offices continues. I was intending for this to be the last. However, there are so many of the seemingly 'smaller' offices that it will take at least one more issue to acknowledge all the people and committees involved in making East Montpelier click. This particular article is about the town cemetery commission and the animal control officers.

Please watch for the conclusion of this series in the next *Signpost*. I'd like to encourage everyone to take time to notice and acknowledge all the people involved in running our town and give them our thanks.

THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

Five people make up the current cemetery commission - Paulie Coburn—chair, Fred Strong—secretary, Mo Cerutti, Gary Hudson and Elliot Morse. They oversee the upkeep of the town cemeteries. The town has four main cemeteries and seven primitive cemeteries (the distinction being that the primitives were formerly family cemeteries). I think we all subconsciously notice the graveyards in town as we pass: the neatly clipped grass, new fence or perhaps a new gravestone. Yet, I bet that most of us don't really take time to consider the amount of work that is involved in maintaining these areas.

The two employees, Elliot Morse and Allen Ploof, maintain the cemeteries. I caught up with Elliot one afternoon at his home on County Road, and this is how he described the work:

It takes about 20 hours to mow all the cemeteries. Elliot rides the Toro Mower, and Allen follows with the string trimmer. The town budget for cemeteries doesn't allow for mowing every week, so the primary sites are mowed and trimmed roughly every other week; the others are done less often. The \$8,000 budget covers mowing and upkeep, and purchase and maintenance of the equipment. The town owns a riding Toro Mower with a trailer and several string trimmers.

Elliot also oversees the sale of cemetery plots. When a family or individual is interested in purchasing a plot, Elliot shows them the available sites and marks the plot with four corner pins after the plot is chosen and purchased. Paulie makes out the deed and then it goes to the Town Office.

We extend our thanks to the Commission and employees for the excellent care of our cemeteries.

THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

Tim Meehan is the Animal Control Officer and Elliot Morse is the Assistant. They are the ones who receive calls on a wide variety of animal related matters: barking dogs, troublesome skunks, and animals hit in the road and so on. A critical issue, which has been occurring recently, is that of rabid animals. There have been four or five cases of rabid animals just this year. One of these was a raccoon on the premises of the Elementary School. Elliot responded and destroyed the animal, which did indeed prove to be rabid.

This might be a good opportunity to issue a firm reminder to people to make sure that all animals and pets are properly vaccinated. If anyone does see an animal behaving strangely, please report it immediately.



East Village Cemetery

D.A. Coburn Photo

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY ROSIE

Rosie Cueto will mark his 85th birthday on September 5. This is a good time to make note of this occasion and of the many years of service he has given to the Town of East Montpelier. For the past 20, of these years he has put in long hours overseeing the duties of the town listers and keeping meticulous and beautifully organized records of the values of the many parcels of land in town. Before that, he was Selectman and on the first U-32 schoolboard.

So, **send him a card** to help him celebrate this event. His address is 705 Murray Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651. Or stop by the Town Office mornings between 9:00 and 11:30, thank him in person and wish him many, many more birthdays.

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- ✓ **Rototilling Gardens &** for Removal of Topsoil
- ✓ **Bush Hogging**
- ✓ **Light Excavating**
- ✓ **Bucket Loader Work**

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: 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)

Zoning Administrator

Ross Haverstick

(Tue-Thur. 2:00-5:00)

email: eastmont3@adelphia.net

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectboard

Martha Holden, Chair,
Tom Brazier, 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	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair
Sue Chickering

Elementary School

Bill Kaplan, Chair 239-1851
cbuni@yahoo.com

Brian Bishop 223-5332
bbdbishop@adelphia.net

Joe Buley 233-7970
jbuleyjr@adelphia.net

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

Jan Aldrich 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

Milestones

Births

- + MacKenzie Rose Chamberlin, born May 4, 2005, daughter to Andrea Kelley and Steve Chamberlin; granddaughter to James & Sally Kelley.
- + Wyatt Andrew Brown, born June 10, 2005, son to Rebekah Janine & Robert Francis Brown.
- + Ethan Mathias Audy, born June 30, 2005, son of Kathleen Celia & John J. Audy.
- + Aidan Earl Lowery, born July 14, 2005, son of Crystal Lynn & Keith L. Lowery.
- + Ryan Scott Cochran, born July 14, 2005, son of Tracey M. Habel.

Deaths

- + Dwight A. Clark, July 7, 2005, father of Sylvia Garletts and Thelma Gillis, grandfather of Irene Cook Vilbrin.
- + Joanne F. Thomas, died June 28, 2005, wife of Ricky Thomas.
- + Richard Ward Hill, died July 2, 2005, husband of the late Esther Frances Hill.

Marriages

- + Daniel Wilmot Hughes to Sara Rose O'Hare, married July 10, 2005.

Property Transfers

- + Edward J. & Chad E. Scribner to Christine A. Wood, 4.08 acres, VT14N
- + Leonard A. & Elsie J. Giroux to Jason D. Giroux, 1 acre & mobile home, Fair Rd.
- + Douglas J. Hill to Shane M. & Martha T. Oakes, 3.7 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd.
- + Douglas J. Hill to John K. & Sharon C. Astle, 3.4 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd.
- + Robert Lee Wright to Wendy Metheny, Sandra Wright & Karen Wright, Robert Lee Wright, Life Estate, VT14N.
- + Elizabeth Pulsifer to Matthew J. & Julie A. Curtis, 0.75 acre & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- + John & Robin Mascitti to Norman & Carla Messier, mobile home, US2E
- + David Heller to David A. Heller Revocable Trust, 31.7 acres, VT14N.
- + Lena P., Thomas H. & Ann M. Brazier to Charles E. Haynes, 3.03 acres, Brazier Rd.
- + Norma H. Raymond to J. Stuart & Robyn L. D. Hall, easement, Towne Hill Rd.
- + Armand J. Laquerre Jr. to Jamie J. Laquerre, 3.1 acres and dwelling, VT14S.
- + Sterry Leno II & Michelle Leno to

Sterry Leno II & Michelle Leno, 1.33 acres & dwelling, Sanders Circle.

- + John W. Anderson to Steven Noyes, 3.8 acres, VT14S.
- + Kathleen A. Thomas to Alison Kendall Underhill, 0.40 acre, Adamant Rd.
- + Alison Kendall Underhill to Clifton A. & Susan A. Matthews, 1.24 acres, Adamant Rd.
- + Kathleen A. Thomas to Clifton A. & Susan A. Matthews, 3.96 acres, Adamant Rd.
- + Barbara S. Green to Patrick & Cristin O'Donnell, 0.9 acre & dwelling, Center Rd.
- + Joseph E. & Ceylan V. Cross to Linda A. Norton & Dennis M. Trapp, 1 acre & dwelling, North St.
- + David B. & Ann L. Wiggins to Jeffrey L. & Lisa M. Stoudt, 2 acres & dwelling, Putnam Rd.

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

Selectboard

May 4, 2005

- + Made the following appointments: *Town Service Officer*, Susan Kittredge; *Fence Viewers*, Marcia Pauly and Mark Lane; *Solid Waste District representative*, Steve Jerome, alternate, Ginny Callan; *Conservation Fund Advisory Committee*, Susan Chickering; *Funding Request Study Committee*, Rhoda Chickering and Frank Pratt; *Forest Committee*, Chris Grimand, Rick Barstow, and Mark Lane; *East Montpelier Facilities Steering Committee*, Rick Hopkins.
- + Approved the McCullough Crushing bid for winter sand at \$6.94 per ton delivered and \$5.00 per ton picked up by Town at pit.
- + Approved Doug Grout's roadside mowing fee of \$3,300, with separate price for boom mower at \$58.00 per hour.
- + Signed the 2005 Transportation Plan.
- + Signed the Termination of the Closeout Agreement between the State of Vermont and the Town for the Fairmont Farm grant.
- + Excess Weight Permits approved for Kelley-View Farm, Duane Wells Construction, Black Rock Coal, John H. Gross Trucking & Excavating.

May 16, 2005

- + Discussed conceptual plans for bridge

TOWN WEATHERVANE

#68 on VT14S which should be designed within a couple of months.

- + Appointed Deborah Fillion as *Acting Zoning Administrator* and Elliot Morse as *Assistant Animal Control Officer*.
- + Tabled a motion to separate the East Montpelier Fire Department budget from the Selectboard budget due to the large dollar amount of the EMFD budget.
- + Excess Weight Permits approved for John A. Picard, Gene Armstrong Excavating.

June 6, 2005

- + Four properties with large cleanup needs will receive site visits from the Selectboard and Solid Waste District representatives, the Town Health Officer, the Zoning Administrator, and the Department of Environmental Conservation Enforcement Officer.
- + Discussed the job description for the Zoning Administrator and planned to advertise the position in Times Argus & The World.
- + Appointed Brian Lusignan to the *Conservation Fund*.
- + After reviewing proposals for the town garage renovation, voted to accept Sterry Leno's proposal of \$99,000.00, including alternatives.
- + Voted to support the Vermont Coalition of Municipalities' *Municipal Resolution Needed to Prevent Illegal Use of the Education Fund*.
- + Voted to create a non-conforming lot for public purpose on County Rd. for trail-head parking.
- + Voted that Road Foreman Garand will paint a crosswalk and provide appropriate signage as well as flashing signals if needed at the Town Hill/Brazier Rd. intersection.
- + Voted to name the new development road off US2 Cookson Drive.
- + Voted a 3% pay increase for Terri Conti for 2005.

- + Voted Excess Weight Permits for Robert E. Vize, Albert St. Cyr, Gregory Bartlett, Masterson Excavation.

June 20, 2005

- + The following appointments were made: *Funding Request Committee*, Allen Ploof; *Facilities Steering Committee*, Frank Pratt.
- + As required by state statute, warrants to kill unlicensed dogs were signed by the Selectboard for 1st Constable Meehan and 2nd Constable Haynes.
- + Voted to approve the Access Permit for David Sparrow on Dillon Rd.
- + Approved 2004 retirement reimbursement for Town Administrator, Marlene Betit.

Planning Commission

June 2, 2005

- + Approved the application submitted by John Hull to build a garage at 3030 US2.
- + Approved the application submitted by Steve Noyes to construct a commercial building on property owned by John Anderson on VT14S in Industrial Zone B.

Elementary School

May 10, 2005

- + Erica Zimmerman reported that a 12-member East Montpelier Nutrition Committee was created last fall. Bob Lunde has prepared a set of recommendations for enhancing the school food program. The committee recommended the Food Service Program be increased to 1.8 FTE. Further study of the situation will be done before a decision is made.
- + First grade teacher, Sara Pomerantz, has accepted a teaching position in Fayston, and a committee was set up to consider

and make a recommendation on the first grade position.

- + The board is in favor of giving outdated computers to school families. The newsletter will carry this information.
- + The Washington Central Supervisory Union Policy Committee is working on a procedure for dealing with bullying and a comprehensive discipline plan for the school handbooks.

May 24, 2005

- + The board voted to hire a first grade teacher for one year.
- + Voted Bill Kaplan to serve on the East Montpelier Community Connections Local Council Committee, and Jan Aldrich to serve as the board representative on the WCSU Students Who Exceed the Standards Committee with Julie Roachat as alternate.
- + Voted to hire Patti Taffel to fill the 0.9 one-year position of Speech/Language Pathologist.
- + Voted to hire David Hoppe to fill the 0.8 School Counselor position.

U-32 Jr. & Sr. High School

June 1, 2005

- + Janey Malloy reported on the New Teacher/Mentor/Intern Program.
- + The Board completed a Vermont School Boards Association School Board Self Assessment Survey. Findings of the survey to be reported at the next meeting.
- + Voted to approve the 2005-06 Action Plan.
- + Approved a spring athletics coach as presented.
- + Approved the following appointments: *Industrial Technology Teacher*, Michael Horowitz; *Special Education Teacher*, Daniel Lyons; *Speech/Language Pathologist*, Sue Anne Mayette.

DAFFODIL PROJECT

The daffodil planting project being promoted by the Jean Cate Community Fund will have bulbs to distribute at Rally Day. It is envisioned that these will be planted at the road intersections around town.

In addition to a dozen bulbs, each person will receive a bag of planting medium fortified with bulb fertilizer and full instructions for planting. Come to the table on Rally Day and pick up a bag or two. You will be asked where you intend to plant them so the location can be plotted on a map.

This year daffodils, next year lupine?



MITCH GOLUB, NEW PRINCIPAL AT EMES

By Sue Clayton

Is enthusiasm infectious? If so, East Montpelier Elementary School can expect it to spread from its new principal, Mitch Golub. A native of Long Island, Golub was principal at Sebago Elementary School in Sebago, Maine, for six years, and most recently has been principal at the Hanover Street Elementary School in Lebanon, New Hampshire, for two years.

"I really wasn't looking to leave that job," Golub explains. "A friend pointed out the East Montpelier ad to me, and suggested that it was a good fit for me. As I looked into it, I saw East Montpelier as a place with a great sense of community and the school with an emphasis on character and caring. I felt compelled to apply. It was the only application I sent out since I was content in Lebanon, but I wanted to return to a place like Sebago where the school is the center of the community. At every step in the process, I felt this was a perfect match."

Golub and his wife, Kathleen, and their children Joshua, 19, and Caitlin, 14, live in Thetford, but plan to move soon to Corinth - a compromise site which allows him a shorter commute, yet allows Caitlin to remain a student at Thetford Academy.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the community here, the children, parents, and teachers," he says. "My desire is to learn the culture and find ways in which I can enhance it. I'm a tremendous believer in team play - we all have to communicate and cooperate to make us better than the sum of our parts."

"I feel I bring a sense of enthusiasm and humor," he adds. "School should be a place where children are challenged, where their unique gifts are brought out. I encourage teachers to be creative and support them in their desire to do their best. I want this school environment for both children and adults to be positive, supportive, and uplifting. Of course, sometimes that is easier said than done, but it is a goal for everybody."

Golub appreciates the warm greetings he has so far received from the community and staff, and is looking forward to working with the other administrators in the Washington Central Supervisory Union.

"I'm excited. I'm looking forward to being part of something wonderful. My door is open, and I hope people will come in and say 'Hi!'"

Other Staff Members

In addition to a new principal, EMES will have three other new staff members this fall. Alexis Stewart was hired for the first grade position from a field of 99 applicants. She had been teaching first grade in Maryland. Principal Golub says, "Alexis

comes highly recommended and brings to our school a real sense of enthusiasm, energy, a love of children and the outstanding ability to teach."

The school also will have a new cook, Nicole Codling, who lives in East Montpelier. She and her husband, Aaron, traveled a lot before their daughter Hali was born, and they paid their way by working in food service. She took courses in the culinary arts at the Community College in Sante Fe, and pursued her interest in nutrition on her own. "The school was looking for someone who was up for the challenge of making more home made food," she states. "Instead of frozen bagels, I'll have home made muffins and biscuits. I'm going to bring in as much local fresh produce as I can."

Beth Ann Porter will continue helping in the kitchen, Codling says, and she has a lot of experience as well.

Interviews for a para-educator position took place the second week of August and a candidate had not been selected at the time the *Signpost* went to press.

Sue Clayton lives on Horn of the Moon Road with her husband, Putnam. She is a board member of Washington Central Friends of Education, and enjoys making pottery, gardening, reading, and playing with her grandchildren.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rose Riley

The Four Corners Schoolhouse has a fresh look with a new coat of paint. A new white picket fence is being placed around the play area this summer. Things should be looking good by Rally Day. Stop by and admire!

We are hosting Memory hour on Rally day. This year's topic will be Fire and Lightning. We hope that people who remember some of the town's fires will come to share their stories. There will also be short presentations to honor past board members and their efforts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Robin Copping

Our call volume continues to be high. Both our fire and EMS groups are training Tuesday evenings. The department participated in Dabble Days at U-32, and provided coverage for all three days for the Washington County Field Days, and of course you can expect to see us at Rally Day.

August 6th marked the one-year anniversary of the tragic passing of Assistant Chief Michael Bliss. We continue to miss his fine spirit and dedication to our volunteer fire department.



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HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

\$150,000+ AVAILABLE FOR LOANS TO TOWN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Money is available for loans to town residents and businesses. These funds result from the repayment of the loan to Fairmont Farms from a Vermont Community Development Program grant:

☐ A small business loan program for East Montpelier residents and new or existing businesses located in East Montpelier. It is administered by Community Capital of Central Vermont. Contact Chris Rottler, Loan Officer at 479-1053 ext 254 or crottler@cvcac.org for information or to apply for a loan.

☐ An owner-occupied housing rehabilitation loan fund for East Montpelier property owners. It is administered by the Central Vermont Community Land Trust. Contact Toby Wells, Loan Specialist at 476-4493 ext 215 or twells@cvclt.org for information or to make application.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

WHAT'S THE SITUATION AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

By Richard Czaplinski and Carl Etmier

New homes keep appearing in town, often where we didn't expect them, giving the town a different look. And many existing home septic systems are being replaced as they fail after years of use. Often these replacement systems are mounds where extra sand is brought in because high water tables, poor soil, and limited land area don't allow for the simpler bed or trench leachfield.

Now, a new generation of septic systems, called "performance-based" systems, has been approved for general use by the state and East Montpelier. These new systems hold the promise of giving adequate treatment of wastewater to replace failing systems in the tight, limiting conditions of many lots. These systems also open up much more land in the town for development. The down side of these systems is that they are much more complicated (some are like a little city sewage treatment plant), more expensive, and need yearly inspection and maintenance to ensure that they perform properly.

The Selectboard has recognized that the town needs to take a close look the ramifications of these current and future issues. After a public meeting over a year ago to begin discussions on how to take care of our sewage now and in the future, the Selectboard appointed a Wastewater Advisory Committee to look into the issues, specifically in the more built up areas of town, East Village and North Montpelier.

The Committee has been meeting regularly since this spring. A survey has been drafted to send out to residents in the village areas to help determine the state of existing wastewater systems and to get landowners' ideas about the issues. The Committee is also exploring securing state funding to carry out a needs assessment and feasibility study to determine future options for the village areas.

The Wastewater Advisory Committee needs your help. How can we protect our river and streams, our drinking water supplies and wells, and our investments in property? How can we make sure that wastewater treatment capacity is adequate for any desired Town growth in the future? Please consider helping the committee members either by joining the committee or by carefully filling out the survey form when it comes in the mail. The committee plans to have a table at Rally Day where you can talk to committee members and learn more. It also meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Town Office, at 6:30 pm. For more information, contact committee chair Richard Czaplinski 229-4534 or czaplinski@madriver.com.

ELDERLY HOUSING

Austin Cleaves has taken the initiative to begin discussions to assess the need for housing in East Montpelier so our older citizens would not have to decide between living alone in the family home or moving to a supported living facility somewhere else. To that end, he has arranged for a meeting on September 13 at 7:00 p. m. in the Town Office. Persons interested in this timely topic are encouraged to attend and participate in the deliberations.

STRONG LIVING PROGRAM

The East Montpelier program of mild exercise for persons 40 and older will be starting a new 12-week round of classes in early October. There will be an informational meeting Thursday, September 22 at 1:30 p.m. at the Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Anyone wanting to join the exercise group may attend this meeting or call Pauline Coburn (223-6886) or Diana Fielder (223-6548) for more information.



Strong Living class - spring 2005

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REMINISCENCES OF NORTH MONTPELIER

Written in 1911 by Aunt Ruth Butterfield as told to her by her mother

A bit of explanation...

This article was written by Ruth R. Hollister Butterfield and gives a view of North Montpelier in 1836. Her mother was Elizabeth Knapp and her father was Andrew Jackson Hollister. Ruth's brother, Orlando Knapp Hollister, was the grandfather of Margaret Richie, one of the original editors of this *Signpost*. Martin Van Buren Hollister was my great grandfather.

The story is a bit difficult to follow since many of the buildings referred to are no longer in existence. One identifiable building is the Rich's Tavern, which is the home now owned by Celina Moore. The tour seems to have started on the Plainfield road near the River Bend Store and proceeded up the hill naming the houses on the right (east) side. It then turned at the top of the hill and named the buildings on the west side of the road.

The Sibley house is the one now owned by Jaclyn Harman. The schoolhouse referred to as "being at the foot of the hill where Colonel Davis lived" stood at the bottom of Hammett Hill Road across from the Orchard Valley School.

David Coburn

We will now take a walk through the village, and show you how it looked 75 years ago. Starting from where Austin Cate now lives, as that was one of the oldest houses where lived Mr. Allen, L. D. Coburn's grandfather. The next house on this road was what we called the old Dudley house, on the right side. Here many cinnamon roses grew. The road turned here, and went past the old school house where the children now have their playground. The school house was moved or built across the road in 1853. There were about eighty children at the old school. The road went where the stone steps are now at the Henry Cate place, which was the home of Byron Goodwin, then east of the old mill to the present road in front of the Carnes place.

The Goodwin house was built about 1843, was first occupied by Israel Goodwin. The old saw mill which stood in the hollow below the road was called the Nat Davis Mill. Here the wood work and the immense water wheel for the factory was made. This was drawn down whole to the village, and set in place, then the factory was built around it. There was quite a large pond across the road from the old mill, which was there many years after the old mill had fallen. This pond in winter was a great playground for the 50 or more scholars. The cyclone of 1897 carried away the pond and road. Since then only the brook which we now see remains.

The Carnes place was one of the first houses occupied by Dr. King, grandfather of W. G. Nye. Many eccentric stories are told of him. Just this one, I will relate. One day his wife wished to go to Montpelier, and invited a friend to accompany her, much against the Doctors wishes, so he hitched up the team, got astride the horse, drove up to the door, and told them to get in, and off they started, the only way he would go with them.

The next house was built by Samuel Edwards in 1855. This was not called one of the old houses, but the next old house was

situated in what is now George Kelton's door yard. Here my grandfather, Paul Knapp, lived for a few years. He came with his family from Moretown when my mother was baby of 6 months old in the year 1832. He built the George Nye house, the frame being taken from an old house called the McKnight house up in Allie Gate's pasture. Many of you have recalled the old cellar hole, and wondered how anyone could have live there shut in by surrounding hills.

The next house was the Riches Tavern built in 1805, here George Kelton, who married Ada Rich, now lives. This was a hotel for years, and was one of the places where the "through stage" put up. In the yard were held annually the June trainings. Potash was made where Mrs. Snow's house stands.

The next house was where W. G. Nye lives. This was an old house, torn down. A brick house was built by Benjamin Southwick, grandfather of Charles Southwick. This house burned when occupied by W. S. Little, after this the present house was built.

The Alden Hathaway house where Ed Hamblet lives, and the Charles Sibley house, where Ed. Hillis lives were built in 1843. Where the factory stands was a small building containing carding machinery. This was near the dam, they carded wool rools for the people who spun it and made their own clothes. They took it back to the mill where it was made into full cloth for the men, a lighter weight cloth for the women's dresses. Jessie Bassett and his wife - called by everyone Aunt Ruth, ran the business. They were Caira Bassett's father and mother.

Colonel and Major Davis, who lived up the hill past the school house in the Davis house, got possession of this property February 22, 1829, and thought to build a factory for making full cloth. The Bassetts would meet their customers in the wide old door with smiling faces and bare outstretched arms to take the

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CUPCAKES FOR SUNDAY

Melt two large chocolate covered peppermint patties in a double boiler, add 1 cup milk, mix thoroughly and set aside to cool.

Cream 1/3 cup shortening with 3/4 cup sugar, add the yolks of 3 eggs and 1 teaspoon cocoa and beat until light.

Sift together 1 3/4 cups cake flour and 2 teaspoons of baking powder and 1 teaspoon salt.

Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture alternately with the milk mixture.

Flavor with 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Then fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites and bake in cupcake pans.

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

Paulie's Comments

Bake the cupcakes in a 350° oven for about 15 to 18 minutes. If you like you can sprinkle the cupcakes with confectioners sugar or use your favorite frosting.

Note: This is one of a number of recipes in the cook book that are not identified with any particular contributor.

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

bundles of wool pinned up in old blankets or pieces of cloth with thorns from the thorn-apple trees.

On this side of the road, there was but one house just below the Nye house. On the corner by the bridge stood the old store. Willard Dudley and family occupied the dwelling.

On the opposite corner stood the blacksmiths house, close by ran a little brook. On Sunday the old tithing man came along. He was chosen by the people to see that the Sabbath was properly observed.

Another house where the Sibley house is now, was a long low wood colored house. On the opposite side, another such house occupied by Johnathan Edwards, and below this a saw mill. Much of the surrounding land was owned by Jacob Riche's father, below the Tavern was a distillery. The little, village was called Riches Hollow for many years.

The store was run by Charles Sibley, but during the great freshet of '86, this was washed away. The men worked very hard at this time to save all the property they could, thinking the saw and grist mill would go. I remember this incident being told. The men had ropes around timbers trying to get them out of the way when the rope broke letting the men into the water. Uncle Mart [Martin Van Buren Hollister] was drawn under a sill. The other men came to his assistance, and held him up until others could get him out. Amongst those men were my father [Andrew Jackson Hollister] and Uncle Orlando [Knapp Hollister]. They were near the bridge when Clarke Gray, Dr. Gray's father came along and grabbed Uncle Mart by his hair, and pulled him out.

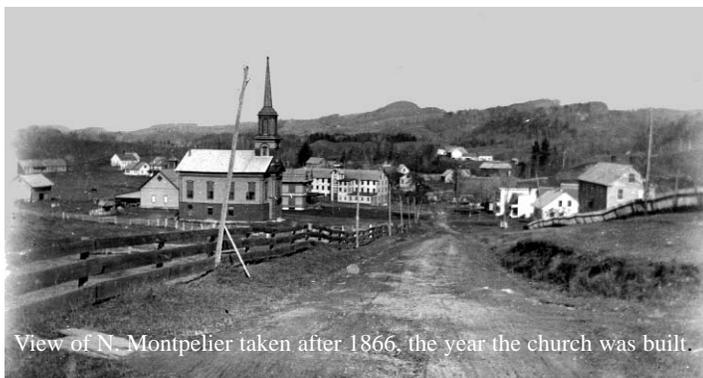
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anne Ormsbee

One of the major functions of the East Montpelier Historical Society is "to discover and collect any materials which may help establish or illustrate the history of the town" and "provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as is feasible." To those ends, some Society members have been learning how to inventory and catalogue the interesting material that has accumulated at the town office, as well as items recently donated to the Society. The group has immersed itself in old records, newspaper clippings, photo albums, sheet music, broadsides, pictures, notes, and notions about East Montpelier, its residents and events over the years. Eventually, these items and the stories they present will be made available for study.

The Society is now able and willing to accept paper-type memorabilia such as documents and pictures. Furniture, tools, antique machinery, kitchen gadgets and the like will have to wait, since there is no good place to store or display them. Maybe someday...

Celina Moore and Erik Esselstyn invited the members of the Historical Society to help celebrate the 200th birthday of their home, the former Rich's Tavern. We made homemade ice cream and provided a "what's it" table full of old tools and household items for people to guess at. Many thanks to Bob and Nancy Bisson and Diana Fielder's granddaughters for their help at the table and cranking and cranking the ice cream freezer. It came out rather well, if I do say so!



View of N. Montpelier taken after 1866, the year the church was built.

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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)	2nd Tuesday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30	Town Office

NOTICES

Need Information for Rally Day?:

Variety Show: Colin McCaffrey 454-1007

Kids Activities: Erica Zimmerman 223-6930

Family Sports: Bill Merrylees 223-4951

Bike Clinic & Ride: Carl Etnier 223-2564

Food: Cliff & Shirley King 223-2079

Parade: Hobie Guion 223-1808

Signpost Auction: Sally Longhi 223-5859 or

Julia Haynes 223-1651

Set Up & Clean Up: Matthew Curtis 223-7403

Bus Tour Tickets: Deborah Fillion 229-1320

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 5	Labor Day - Town Office Closed		
September 10	Rally Day	All day	All over town
September 13	Elderly housing initiative informational meeting	7:30 pm	Town Office
September 19	Historical Society meeting	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
September 22	Strong Living Program informational meeting	1:30 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
October 17	Historical Society annual meeting - election of officers	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
November 11	Veterans' Day - Town Office closed		
November 15	Property taxes are due - must be received in the Town Office by this date	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Town Office

Deadline for next issue: October 1, 2004 — to Barbara Ploof — 223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

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Inside: Rally Day
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