

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVI — Number Three

January/February 2006

## THE FRESH AIR MAN

by Carl Etnier

Fresh air is David Hansen's business- and he works indoors. David sells and installs heat recovery ventilation units, which bring a continuous supply of fresh air into the home without losing a lot of heat to the cold outside. "If you build a home right-tight and well insulated-you're going to have indoor air quality problems unless you have some sort of ventilation system," he says.

David's company, Memphremagog Heat Exchangers (MHE), sells ventilation systems that not only bring fresh air into the home, but also recover the heat from the outgoing air. (See page 4 for details on how they work.) Andy Shapiro, a neighbor of David's and an environmental design consultant for buildings, underscores the importance of heat recovery

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## SYLVIA TOSI TO RETIRE IN 2006

by Edie Miller

When Sylvia and Don Tosi moved to East Montpelier in 1962 it was for very practical reasons: they wanted to move to the "country," and East Montpelier was a good location between their work in Montpelier and their church in Barre. Who would have suspected that, over forty years later, we would be thanking Sylvia Tosi for her enormous contributions that have changed the how business is done in the Town of East Montpelier

Rosie Cueto, who has worked with Sylvia Tosi since the beginning, takes credit for advising her to accept the position as Assistant Clerk/Treasurer in 1982. But there's no question that her interest in town government began many years earlier as she observed and worked with her father who was a long-time selectman in Williamstown when Sylvia was growing up.

When Sylvia was elected Town Clerk/Treasurer in 1983, she had great hopes for her new job, but also fears about whether she could do as good a job as her predecessor Minnie Lane. She could never have predicted the enormous changes that she would be responsible for introducing. And, according to all who have worked with her over the years, there couldn't have been anyone better able to weather these challenges more calmly and professionally than Sylvia Tosi.

Many East Montpelier residents cannot remember nor even imagine a time when each tax bill, each dog license and each property deed (just for starters) was created by hand. Sylvia purchased the Town's first copier in 1983 and what a difference that made! But that was only the beginning.

By far the biggest change in the office that Sylvia guided (with the help of many others) starting in 1985-86, was the computerization of most of the office functions. Paulie Coburn wonders now why she didn't make her first year as Assistant Clerk/Treasurer in 1984 her last — after her harrowing first experience with getting out the tax bills. This work, which is now completely computerized, involved figuring out individual tax bills with a calculator, typing up each bill manually (with duplicate copies), adding everything up, reconciling to the Grand List and much more. What is now accomplished in hours took weeks of painstaking labor prior to 1986.

Tales of aching fingers from writing out dog licenses for over 500 East Montpelier pets are now replaced by pride that records can now be accessed in many ways that make them more useful to everyone. Talking about dog licenses brought up a funny



da coburn photo

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## STAFF

**Katherine Blow, Mailing**

476-6021 {bluequartz@aol.com}

**Charlie Catlin, Records Editor**

229-4273 {shcharlie@hotmail.com}

**Rhoda Chickering, Feature Editor**

229-5005 {rhcic@sover.net}

**Rob Chickering, Business Manager**

229-5005 {rhcic@sover.net}

**David Coburn, Layout/Design**

223-6886 {dave.coburn@adelphia.net}

**Dave & Darlene Grundy, Copy Editors**

476-4300 {ddgrundy@aol.com}

**Ellen Knoedler, EMES Reporter**

223-6931 {eknoedler@u32.org}

**Janet MacLeod, Artist**

223-2296 {janetmac@sover.net}

**Elaine Manghi, Photographer**

229-5811 {maplenutbread@hotmail.com}

**Lori Martin, Layout**

223-7970 {jbuley@adelphia.net}

**Eddie Miller, Organizations Editor**

229-0677 {eamillervt@adelphia.net}

**Barbara Ploof, Copy Editor**

223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

**Cherie Staples, Copy Editor**

229-2541 {skyearth1@aol.com}

**Sylvia Tosi, Town Records**

223-3313 {eastmonttc@adelphia.net}

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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charge to all residents of  
East Montpelier

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

This season of special holidays is a lot about giving to other people. We know that it is an important season for retailers who count on holiday sales for a significant part of their annual revenue. We all want to contribute to making our friends and family happy and satisfied, especially at this time of year. For more than a few households in town this desire to please results in significant stretching of the family budget, especially at a time of high fuel and health care costs. Recognizing the stress that often comes with the season, I hope that this issue of the Signpost finds all of you joyful and excited about 2006 ahead.

While tangible holiday gifts are appreciated, I believe that what most of us really value is time spent with other people. Today I met a central Vermont newcomer who recently moved here from New York State. A brief chat with her, my wife, and my niece resulted in a plan to go for a walk in the woods sometime soon with our dogs. It was such an easy thing to make this connection with her and she was so appreciative!

The New Year is also a time for resolutions. I invite you to resolve to reach out and connect with others—those old friends that you may not have spoken to in a while and those new folks you happen to meet. Give the gift of your time and company in 2006.

*Rob Chickering*

## 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



### “Thank you” to these loyal supporters.

Bradford and Ruth Lane      James Hanna      Jerome and Katherine Vaughn  
Mable Wright      Ken Hertz and Katherine Rader      Raylene Blanc  
Robert and Carolyn Brown      Doris Washburn      Harold and Carolyn Pastore  
Sarah Pinarði      Raymond and Jody Brown

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

### Orchard Valley School Seeks Handwork Assistant Volunteer

Orchard Valley School serves children in preschool through grade six in East Montpelier, Vermont. Handwork is taught twice weekly to all children beginning in the first grade. The handwork curriculum begins with knitting in grade one, furthering this skill in grade two, crocheting in grade three, needlepoint in grade four, knitting socks and other four needle projects in grade five and hand sewing a doll in sixth grade.

We seek a volunteer who can make a commitment to assist with two to three 45 minute classes in grades one through three one day per week or stay with one class joining them two days each week for their 45 minute class. For information please call OVS at 456-7400.

story about two East Montpelier pet lovers — who shall remain nameless — who, for years, vied to be issued license #1.

Tax time is a difficult time for us all — we citizens as payers and the Town Treasurer and her staff who have to receive and account for this major source of municipal and school revenue. Sylvia calls the computerized tax administration program “irreplaceable,” allowing huge sums of money to be processed quickly and accurately and deposited the same day. We taxpayers put aside money and pay our taxes in different ways. One citizen used the fruits of the family vegetable garden to pay taxes and brought in the requisite payment — all in coins.

Sylvia also introduced automatic ballot counting machines. What used to take up to 50 people many hours to do in a general election is now done very quickly by a few who have to count only the write-in ballots. Having participated many times in marathon counting sessions, I can well appreciate not only the time saved in counting, but also the many hours that Sylvia previously spent on the phone lining up all those volunteers.

But, as the old saying goes, while some things change, other things — important things — remain constant. Daughter Marcia and son Greg remember how, as children, they used to visit the office with their mom and what a “kid-friendly” place it was. They played with the chalk board, they got help researching school papers, and always, there was lots of affection. Today, it's a second generation of Tosi children — Olivia, Ashley, Jenna and John Mekkelson, the children of Sylvia's daughter Laurie — who regularly stop by the office to see Grandma. Says three-year old Jenna, “I like to give her a hug.” With the box of toys in the front hall and smiles on everyone's faces, East Montpelier Town Office is still that very child-friendly place reflecting the devoted mom and grandma who runs it.

In addition to its official business, the office also functions a little like a local chamber of commerce. People come in for many reasons seeking and sharing all kinds of information. Sylvia remembers former students who attended school in the building (in its earlier life) telling stories of rolling marbles down the slanted floor in the current meeting room — before their teacher confiscated the offending marbles. Others who come in to do a genealogy search often wind up sharing their life histories with Sylvia and company.

Sylvia's family tells of how much she loves this job, but that she has always tried very hard not to bring the job home. This was sometimes made impossible by the fact that people tend to call the Town Clerk for absolutely everything; missing dogs, animals in their homes and yards, excuses for late taxes, water running down the drive — and some of those calls come at home.

Just as people come to Sylvia seeking all kinds of information, those who work with her claim that she can actually find the answer to mostly any query. Not only is her memory terrific, but she is calm and thoughtful in the face of any difficult situation. Former Town Administrator Bill Bryant recalled a situation in 1993 when Sylvia and the Town Auditors could not balance the books at the end of the year. As the deadline for printing the Town Report approached, others talked about having to explain a \$6,000 discrepancy. But Sylvia did not panic and continued to look and probe her memory. One night she was awakened from

sleep and remembered three items — that totaled \$6,000. East Montpelier's numbers were reconciled once again — as always.

Sylvia is also known for her sense of humor and the ability to keep a secret. Rosie Cueto is still marveling about how he was REALLY surprised twice in recent years — by the presentation of a service plaque at Town Meeting and with a birthday party this spring.

There are also tales of a risqué *Chip 'n Dale* calendar that would find its way into various people's files and appear out of the blue — not always at opportune times. And no one who was there has forgotten Ann Sherman's reaction when Sylvia arranged to have the top copy in a box of annual reports printed in a color that Ann had decreed unacceptable. What a “gotcha!”

When asked to describe Sylvia Tosi and the environment of the office she has run these last 23 years, co-workers use almost the very same words. Calm, competent, confident, easy and pleasant to work with, never intimidated, uncomplaining, loves people, really listens to everyone who comes through the door. All agree that Sylvia's office is a place where everyone is treated fairly and with respect and where the most sensitive information to which she is privy remains absolutely confidential. Coworkers note also that they and Sylvia feel that what has made their jobs so enjoyable is the cooperative spirit and good will of the citizens of East Montpelier whom they have been pleased to serve.

According to husband Don, (to whom Assistant Town Clerk Terri Conti notes many thanks are due for years of great help and support) Sylvia found the decision to retire a difficult one to make, but he has encouraged her to allow herself the luxury of time to follow her interest in crafts, gardening and travel. After March there will more time to visit their five children and ten grandchildren — with another on the way. Don and Sylvia have talked about going out west to see the Rockies and about spending some winter months in warmer climes. One trip that's definitely on the books is Italy in June.

“Thanks” seems an inadequate word for expressing a Town's gratitude to Sylvia Tosi who has served East Montpelier so long and well, but we mean it in the deepest sense. She assures us, however, that she will still be around (occasionally) and will welcome calls. We all wish you many happy and productive years of retirement, Sylvia. You've earned it.

#### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Sylvia has received and accepted many honors and awards in her position as Town Clerk/Treasurer.

**1990:** accepted the Take Pride in America Award on behalf of Planning Commission from TV star Linda Evans in Washington, DC

**1997:** completed requirements to be named a Certified Vermont Clerk and Certified Vermont Treasurer

**2001-** present: active board and committee member of the VT Municipal Town Clerk and Treasurer's Association

**2003:** instrumental in starting the Washington County Clerk's and Treasurer's Association

**2005:** named East Montpelier Citizen of the Year

*Edie Miller and her husband Martin live on Murray Road.*





ventilation for buildings. “I tell my clients that ventilation is the price of living indoors. We close ourselves up in boxes.

Ventilation systems put fresh air into each room where the humans are—and while you're at it, you may as well recover the energy. It kinda makes sense.”

The company is based in David's home office on Sparrow Farm Road with a warehouse on the Barre-Montpelier Road. From there, his white panel truck with MHE emblazoned on the side, travels to whatever house is getting its breathing system installed. David, working with an assistant or two, installs over a hundred systems each year, he estimates. “There are probably



photos by Carl Etmier

fifteen within a five mile radius of my house here, and probably every reader of the Signpost could ask around and find a friend or neighbor who has one.”

David has been in the heat recovery ventilation business since it started in the early 1980s, and he built his own equipment for a while. He lived in Newport at the time, and the demand for residential ventilation systems had started from across the border in Canada. The energy crises of the 1970s prompted the Canadian government to specify that houses be built tighter. Unfortunately, they used urea formaldehyde insulation which gives off toxic formaldehyde through a process called offgassing. This was such a problem that by the early 1980s, any house that met the Canadian R2000 program—which basically meant any house that was insulated and affordable to live in—was required to have a ventilation system.

As a carpenter, David was called upon to build a testing lab for the Memphremagog group which was developing heat recovery ventilation (HRV) systems. When he was finished building the lab, they asked him to stay on and help design the systems. They started out in agricultural applications, testing to see whether heat recovery could reduce heating bills in pig barns and chicken houses while improving the air quality. Working under financing from the US Dept. of Energy and the US Dept. of Agriculture, they found that HRV worked on both counts.

The move to residential units came when a Montpelier architect, John Rayhil, approached them to do ventilation for low-income apartment buildings designed to be energy efficient. The most promising of the agricultural designs was reduced down to residential size and installed in St. Johnsbury around 1982.

They built and installed around 500 of their own units, each handmade in Vermont. “They were probably the most energy efficient HRV units ever built, but they were a little noisy and somewhat large.” So they went into partnership with a now-defunct Ontario company and started importing their units.

Around 1990, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation did some market research and specified a different brand on a project David worked on for the Abenaki Self-Help Group. The company had units which were better engineered, more sophisticated, quieter, with better filtration and better controls. David was soon sold on them. “And after fifteen years of selling their units, I find they continue to be at forefront of innovation.”

David and his family lived on Templeton Road in East Montpelier for a year in 1989, but then moved back to Newport. MHE's installation business kept pulling him further afield, all over Vermont, to New York, Cape Cod, and coastal Maine. In order to live more centrally to their service area, the Hansen family relocated to East Montpelier, buying one of the lots subdivided from the old Sparrow Farm. David designed and built their house—with HRV, naturally.

Asked about who his competition around here is, David said, “Any plumber can buy HRV units. But there's not much competition, because they don't have experience installing ductwork. There's an art form to designing a duct system.”

David's wife, Miriam, works at the Adamant Co-op, which David wants everyone to know has “excellent deals and a great atmosphere!” Their son Joshua graduated from U-32 in 2003, and their daughter Maia attended U-32 for two years before returning to North Country Union in Newport, where she is avidly involved in their dance program. David has an older son and daughter, Toby and Brita, living in New York City.

*Carl Etmier is an engineer who appreciates the HRV system that David Hansen installed in his renovated farmhouse on Sparrow Farm Road.*

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#### HOW DOES HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION WORK?

An HRV system removes stale air from the home and replaces it with fresh, filtered air, while recovering up to 95% of the heating energy.

The heart of the system is the heat exchanger core which connects to two sets of ducts. One set of ducts collects stale, moist air from the kitchen, laundry room, and bathrooms. The stale air passes through the HRV core and is exhausted to the outside. The second ducting system draws in fresh air from outside through the HRV core.

The two airstreams pass each other in the heat exchanger core which is composed of stacked air channels separated by thin plates of plastic or aluminum. As they do so, the heat is transferred from the outgoing air to the incoming air, with no mixing of the airstreams.

HRV can improve air quality in many ways: reducing moisture levels that can cause condensation and freezing on windows or mold growth; exhausting radon gas and carbon monoxide plus gasses given off from carpets, furniture, and building materials; and removing odors from cooking, smoking and pets.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The East Montpelier Fire Department and the towns of East Montpelier and Calais have been exploring the possibility of building a new fire station.

The East Montpelier Fire Department currently operates out of two stations, one on Templeton Road and a smaller, more rudimentary station on Route 14 in East Montpelier village. In the years since these stations were built, the standards for firefighters' health and safety, set by the State of Vermont and the firefighters themselves, have been raised. At the same time, the fire department has been asked to respond to more and more calls every year and now has more personnel. The changing nature of firefighting requires new types of facilities, ranging from showers for removing hazardous materials, to more office space to handle increased paperwork requirements. All of these issues lead to the question of whether the fire department needs a new station to replace the village station.

Though the East Montpelier Fire Department covers the towns of East Montpelier and Calais, including more than 70

square miles, the calls are concentrated around East Montpelier village, especially on Route 2 and Route 14.

In 2004, at the request of the fire department, the Selectboards of East Montpelier and Calais appointed a committee to look into the need for a new station. This committee reported back to the Selectboards in September of 2005 that the current facilities "do not meet the present and future needs of the towns," and that a new station needs to be built to replace the village station.

The fire department and the committee appointed by the Selectboards will continue to look into a location for a new station, funding possibilities, station design, and other issues. An ideal site would be at least two acres of developable land on a major road in East Montpelier Village. Anyone who's interested in helping to make a new fire station a reality is encouraged to contact the East Montpelier Selectboard about serving on the committee.

*Diana Chace, President*

## THE KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

It's more than just a library—providing books, tapes, CDs, videos, DVDs, meeting space, educational programs, information services and internet access to people of all ages in the U-32 towns and Montpelier.

Interested in furthering your education even if you're not in school? The helpful library staff will be glad to assist you in finding information on any subject. And if you would like to learn more about computers and the Internet, just call the library to arrange an appointment with a volunteer computer tutor. For courses being taught in the community, the library has a continuing education bulletin board in the Frances Holmes Room that provides information on area classes, tutoring, volunteer opportunities, local college courses, and more. Finally, check the library's website or pick up a newsletter for information on library events during the winter months. You can sign up for the e-newsletter by contacting [khnewsletter@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us](mailto:khnewsletter@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us).

Here is just a small sample of upcoming events at the Kellogg-Hubbard:

**First Wednesdays:** On the first Wednesday of every month, the Kellogg-Hubbard presents a "First Wednesday" lecture in

conjunction with the Vermont Humanities Council. Forthcoming lectures will be at 7 p.m. and include talks by New York Times journalist, Christopher Wren, on journalistic ethics (Jan. 4th), Dr. Allen Koop of Dartmouth on a prisoner of war camp in a New England village (Feb. 1st), and filmmaker Bess O'Brien on the "Voices Project" for Vermont teenagers (March 1st).

**Meditation series:** Beginning on Wednesday, January 11th at 7 p.m., there will be a 5-week series on Shambhala Buddhist meditation. The program is free and everyone is welcome.

**Van Go Bookmobile:** The bookmobile stops at Dudley's Store every Friday from 12-12:30, and at four daycare providers in East Montpelier. If you'd like more information on schedules and bookmobile services, contact Mary Jane Manahan or Bettie Kaseguma at 223-4660.

The Library wants to thank Paul Shper and Grace Gilbert of Global Gifts on Route 2 in East Montpelier for their donation of a beautiful oriental rug to the Kellogg-Hubbard's November fundraising raffle!

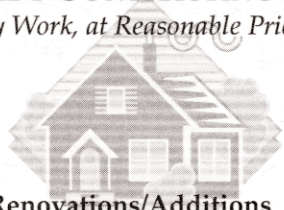
*Hilari L. Farrington, Librarian*

Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Website: [kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us](http://kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us) (Library catalog is on-line)  
E-mail: [info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us](mailto:info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us) Phone: 223-3338

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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-Treasurer - Jane Grinde

### Town Administrator - Vacant

(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

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

## 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	Mark Lane
Gary Ricker	

### 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

> Simon James Brooker, born September 11, 2005, son to Colleen Rose & Roger Simon Brooker.

> Cordell Steven Akers, born October 11, 2005, son to April Lynn Akers.

> Paige Oakes, born November 19, 2005, daughter to Martha Elizabeth Trombley Oakes and Shane Michael Oakes.

#### CIVIL UNION

> Abigail Lowe to Gwendolyn Louise Raynor, August 30, 2005.

#### LAND TRANSFERS

> Don M. & Bonnie E. Orr to Robert W. & Darlene S. Rice, 5.4 acres & dwelling, Wheeler Rd.

> Herbert D. & Denise C. Paul to Everett L. Jones, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.

> Alice L. Fish to William E. Fish, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.

> Michael A. & Kristen L. Lynch to Ryan W. Case, 3.21 acres, Sugarhouse Rd.

> Midfirst Bank to Amy Beth & John G. Lessard, 0.76 acres & dwelling, VT14S.

> Derik J. & Karen S. Liimatainen to Annette Martin, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.

> Michael J. Donnini & Pamela S. Kessinger to Jean Lacroix & Meghan Pew, 10.7 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.

> Paul O. Gruhler to Paul H. & Jane L. Knight, 0.2 acres, North St.

> Paul O. Gruhler to Marc W. Young & Michelle P. Robinson, 3 acres, North St.

> Norma McLeod to Kathleen W. Duff, mobile home, Sandy Pines MHP.

### Selectboard

#### September 12, 2005

> Approved, with conditions, the use of a right-of-way for Peter Duhamel.

> Approved an access permit for Franne Nelson with conditions as stipulated on the permit.

> Approved an access permit for Reuben Adams with conditions.

> Approved an access permit with conditions for Steve Lowther.

> Approved with conditions an access permit for Norman Rice.

> Voted to purchase an \$1800 storage container for the town garage for storage of items including oil and gasoline.

> Authorized Road Foreman Garand to purchase crushed stone for \$6.00 per yard from the City of Montpelier rather than purchasing stone from Bickford Gravel for \$10.25 per yard.

> Voted to appoint Carl Etnier as Septic Officer for six months.

#### September 26, 2005

Joint Meeting with the Calais Selectboard.

> Andy Shapiro summarized the report that the EMFD Facilities Steering Committee had previously presented to both Selectboards. Edie Miller will send a draft of new charge to both boards for comments.

### Planning Commission

#### September 15, 2005

> Approved Koss/Claghorn subdivision.

> The Public Hearing for the Agency of Transportation wetland project was rescheduled for Oct. 3, 2005 because both the Zoning Board of Authority and the Planning Commission need to be involved.

> The proposed Town Plan for Marshfield will be in the Zoning Administrator's office for anyone wishing to review it.

> Permits were issued to Judy Marking: shed, Ralf and Renee Schaarschmidt: home, Franne Nelson: access, Ray and Jody Brown: shed.

#### October 6, 2005

> Approved a 3'x 5' sign for the Melting Pot restaurant.

> Approved the application submitted by Thomas Ford for a 2'x 3' sign.

> Permits issued: Mark Moore: porch. John and Sandra Flannery: deck, Robert Phillips: enclosed deck.

> Zoning re-write: amendments to language: non-frontage lots.

### U-32 Jr. & Sr. High School

#### September 21, 2005

> Tabled motion regarding the approval of a security camera upgrade as costs and usage policy need to be determined.

> Voted to keep substitute teacher pay at the 04-05 rate for the 05-06 school year.

> Voted to authorize the principal to enter into a contract with Xerox not to exceed \$36,000.

> Approved the co-curricular advisor contract.

> Approved the fall coaches.



## TOWN WEATHERVANE

> Approved the department head contracts and the appointment of David Nicholson, Student Assistance Counselor.

### October 5, 2005

- > Using grant money to analyze governing structure, there will be an investigation of the possibility of sharing space in Montpelier at 58 Barre Street for administrative offices.
- > The Policy committee is working on a fundraising policy and a grade level advancement policy.
- > Completed five out of thirteen recommendations from the NEASC Two-Year Report. Remaining recommendations regarding academic and social expectations for student learning will be completed over the next 2.5 years.
- > Approved a tuition waiver for a foreign exchange student.
- > Tabled a motion to approve security camera upgrade. Concerns included cost, network security, who has access to the tapes, public perception, and intended use of the

- footage. Information will be obtained from schools who use similar technology.
- > Accepted the resignation of Michael Lugo, PT Custodian.
- > Approved a 4% increase in the principal's salary and a \$5,000 bonus for many years of dedicated service to U-32.

### October 19, 2005

- > To save money on transportation, accurate figures on who rides the bus will be compiled.
- > Voted to ask the supervisory union for a fiscal planning audit as the first step in the strategic planning process.
- > Approved the concept of a graduation plan through which students can complete requirements in an alternative way.
- > Approved Jessica Kobb as Academic Coordinator - Blue Table

### November 2, 2005

- > The WCSU board is looking for a district-wide policy for the use of security cameras on the buses. The next policy to work on is the Pupil Privacy Rights.

- > There is a website that will host photos of U-32 events: [www.u32phanfare.com](http://www.u32phanfare.com).
- > The Executive Committee authorized \$10,000 for architect drawings for the third floor of 58 Barre Street in Montpelier. A timeline will be developed in January with relocation possibly as early as this summer.
- > Jeff Rubin donated many hours of work on the U-32 website. Google ranked the website fourth and Yahoo ranked it first in Vermont.
- > Voted to approve the Alternative Options Proposal.
- > Voted to approve the full slate of winter coaches.
- > Accepted with regret the resignation of Omri B. Parsons III.
- > Approved the early return from this year's leave of absence by Emily Johnson in order to replace Omri Parsons and to grant Emily's one-year leave of absence for the 06-07 school year.

### EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICIALS

The series of articles on the town offices of East Montpelier is nearing completion. One of the final positions to mention is that of the Inspector of Coal, Wood and Shingles. Austin Cleaves has held that title for "oh, ten or fifteen years, I don't know!" I caught up with Austin after church to ask him a few particulars about the job. He hesitatingly said that he has never had an actual call in reference to coal, wood or shingles and, furthermore, wasn't exactly sure what a call would be in reference to!

I went to the town offices and Sylvia finally, after quite a lengthy search, found the description for the Inspector of Coal, Wood and Shingles: *At the request of any party interested, an inspector of lumber, shingles and wood shall examine and classify the quality of lumber and shingles, measure lumber, shingles and wood a give*

*certificates thereof. The weigher of coal, upon request of the seller or purchaser shall weigh all the coal sold in his town. That's it. Period.*

So, if anyone has any questions concerning these matters contact Austin!

Another obscure appointed position in town is that of Fence Viewer. Marcia Pauly is Fence Viewer for East Montpelier. Like Austin, she too couldn't remember just how long she has been doing it, "At least fifteen years and probably closer to twenty." In that time Marcia has had only two calls (that averages to one a decade!). The Fence Viewer has no legal authority, but is a mediator of sorts when a question of physical boundaries occurs. The issue could be a tree that has fallen onto a neighbor's property, upkeep of fences, or disputes of the location of old rock walls. The Fence Viewer mediates with the two parties and makes a for-

mal suggestion. The parties involved are then given a time frame with which to rectify the problem. If this does not occur, the issue is then sent to court, which is what happened with both of Marcia's cases (one to small claims, the other to Washington County court). As Marcia stated, "Remember, good fences make good neighbors."

The institutions of Inspector of Coal, Wood and Shingles and Fence Viewer were obviously of importance in the past. Today, however, they are still on the books primarily because it is a procedure to remove them. It is fun to think about the history of the town in a time when proper management of the sale of coal, or keeping one's livestock in with well-maintained rock walls would have been a real concern.

Let us be mindful of the past while living in the present.

*Jessie Taylor*

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**DINOSAURS EVERYWHERE**



By integrating the classroom dinosaur studies with the art curriculum, the 2nd/3rd grade students created these wonderful paintings by using lines, shapes, color, and making texture with scratch pens. The children created the element of art space by overlapping their favorite dinosaurs. They finished their artwork with layers of Cray-pas and painting with watercolor and silver.

The following 2nd/3rd grade students are exhibiting their dinosaurs at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library Childrens' Room in Montpelier: Mrs. Giammusso; Ian Gordon, Tillie Quattrone, Emily Packard, Christine Jeppe, Justin Vincent.

Ms. Finch; Sofia Ward, Cyrus Royce, Ethan Burroughs, Casey Flynn, and Maggie McCaffrey. Mrs. Christy; Raequel Pratt, Eliza Merrylees, Eliza Guion, and Dan Morris.

*Heidemarie Holmes-Heiss*

*Editor's note: These much reduced in size black and white renderings of the wonderfully colorful drawings do not do justice to what these young artists have created. Be sure to find time to visit the Childrens' Room at the Library and see the real thing. You simply will be amazed.*

**THANKSGIVING**

*After listening to stories about the Pilgrim's first year in Plymouth, students in Jamie O'Hare's kindergarten class were encouraged to consider all that they can be truly thankful for. Here follows their spontaneous thoughts.*

I am thankful for:

- My family and my house (Katie)
- Playing with my friends (Jeremy)
- My cats (Justin)
- My daddy being back visiting (Emily)
- My family, Steven, big Emily and my dog (Alex)
- Fall time, my family and dog Gertrude (Tien)
- My 103 cows (Stella)
- That I got my family (Caleb)

- Thanksgiving and my little sister Jenna (Blaine)
- Pumpkin pie and cake (Fiona)
- Halloween (Cole)
- Indians, my mom, dad and brother (Calvin)
- My dogs and my family (Ford)
- My two cats (Wilson)
- For bringing in the firewood (Parker)
- A wonderfully creative and energetic Kindergarten class ( Jamie O'Hare)

**FALL EVENTS AT EMES**

The fall season at EMES has been spectacular. We ended September with an awesome all-school assembly where we donated \$2,000 to the Red Cross for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This event was a real learning experience for all of us. I was so pleased, proud and impressed

with the generosity of students and the community at large. East Montpelier (as you no doubt already know) has so much to be proud of.

October and November were busy months. On October 7th we divided into groups and went hiking. We saw Vermont at her colorful best. This was a healthy endeavor and a chance to expose our students to an activity they can do throughout their lives. It was also a chance for teachers and students to see each other in a different way. The students and teachers were "mixed up," so they got to spend time with people they otherwise might not. There is a lot to learn, and not all of it takes place in the classroom or involves books.

With help from nearly 100 volunteers, Robin Biron spearheaded the *Monster Mash* halloween party to benefit the PTNO. Complete with hay rides, haunted trails, good food and many other activities, I loved the healthy environment that was created for a fun and family oriented Halloween celebration.

Led by guidance counselor David Hoppe and kindergarten teacher Jamie O'Hare, EMES is sponsoring a food drive for the Onion River Food Shelter. We are also collecting toys for those less fortunate than we. A good education includes being aware of the world in which we live. The spirit of giving and caring is alive and well at EMES.

Mr. Hoppe, our fantastic guidance counselor, and I lost a bet with the students. The students were challenged to perform over 150 random acts of kindness in a week's time. They easily topped that — soaring over the 200 mark. As a result, Mr. Hoppe and I had to dye our hair some horrific colors. Thankfully it was at Halloween, and lucky for me, I really do not have much hair. It was as much a head dye as a hair dye.

*Mitch Golub, Principal*



Casey



Eliza G.



Cyrus



Ian



Raequel



Dan



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EMES

In January, 1966, East Montpelier Elementary School opened its doors for the first time, and welcomed all the grade-school students of our Town to study together under one roof. On Wednesday, January 11, 2006, we will celebrate our school and its history with a community-school 40th Birthday party for EMES! The day's festivities will include an assembly featuring some of the school's first students and staff, a community lunch featuring favorite school foods of the 1960's, classroom visits for all community members and students to share stories and books together, and a museum of memorabilia from EMES's history and all the decades that it has spanned. We'll end the day with birthday cake to honor the one-room schoolhouses that came together to form EMES.

Share lunch, stories of school in East Montpelier, and some fun time with today's students and your friends and families and classmates from earlier years. To all former students, staff, parents, and board members of EMES: If you

would like to be part of the presentations, please call us! Pam Dunkling, Ellen Shedd, and Mitch Golub are coordinating the assembly, museum and classroom visits. Gladys Cote, Andy Christiansen and Erica Zimmerman are helping as well.

RSVP to the school office at 223-7936 (ext 0) or to jbadger@u32.org with your name and the number of people you'll be bringing, so we can be sure to make enough lunch. Lunch will be \$3.00 for community members. The snow date is Friday, January 13.

If you have questions about lunch, schedule, or your participation, please call Erica Zimmerman at 223-6930 or mczim@adelphia.net and she will assist you or refer you to someone who can.

***To everyone who has ever walked through those doors as a parent, student, staff or friend, please come join us on Wednesday, January 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..***

### LIZ STEPHEN

by Ryan Shea

Have you ever had a dream that you would be able to ski almost all year? As Vermonters, I bet many of us have. Well Liz Stephen has been able to fulfill that dream and win some medals along with it. She has skied in the summer for the past few years.

Liz Stephen grew up in East Montpelier and has one older brother, Andy, a mom, Susan and a father, Mark. During her younger years, Liz attended East Montpelier Elementary School. At EMES she became known for her speed when running. During the annual Rally Day running race, Liz would place high or even win the event.

When Liz moved on to U-32 Middle School, she did cross-country running in the fall and track in the spring. She continued to impress people with her speed. In the eighth grade, Liz decided during the winter term to attend Burke Academy where she participated in alpine skiing. Burke would turn out to be her second home.

As a freshman, Liz continued to run cross-country for U-32 and then again attended Burke for alpine skiing, but this time she stayed at Burke until the school year was over.

As a sophomore, Liz once again ran cross-country for U-32. She won the Division II State Cross-Country Championship. Also Liz placed 7th in the New England Championships in running! More and more people were beginning to recognize her tremendous speed. As she had

done as a freshman, Liz went to Burke Academy in the winter, except this time not for alpine skiing but for cross-country skiing. She decided to switch to skinny skis because alpine skiing had become boring for her.

Cross-country skiing seemed like a better fit for Liz. As a junior at Burke Academy she went to the Jr. Winter Olympics and won 2 gold medals. Later she was named to the Scandinavian Cup team which led to races in Estonia! Liz explained, "As a sophomore I had to get my feet under me, but as a junior I could focus on skiing faster instead of concentrating on skiing safe."

Liz attended Burke Academy for her entire senior year. She focused mostly on cross-country skiing and it seemed to pay off, finishing in top spots in most races. Also in the cross-country running season she was the Overall Vermont State Champion.

This year, Liz is doing a postgraduate year at Burke Academy and again competing in cross-country skiing. She hopes to make the U.S. World Junior Team and race in Slovenia. Her early preseason races in Alaska and Yellowstone have gone very well. Next year, Liz is going to attend Middlebury College.

*Ryan Shea lives in East Montpelier with a younger brother Jack, and his parents, Jim and Harriott. Ryan is currently a 7th grader at U-32.*



Emily P.



Ethan



Tillie



Christine



Maggie



Eliza M.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS AT THE HORN OF THE MOON

"In the northwest corner of East Montpelier is the little community called the Horn of the Moon. Here, closely surrounded by wooded hills, except to the west, lies a group of about a dozen small farm homesteads... At the close of almost every nice day, there are really gorgeous sunsets to be seen back of these mountains. Here it is peaceful, quiet and friendly; yet, here life's drama goes on." So wrote Jennie H. Gladding in her 1955 book entitled *Trips Down Memory Lane* about the Horn of the Moon community. That was 50 years ago and not much has changed. There are a few more houses, but the beautiful sunsets continue, and neighbors still enjoy the peace and quiet.

Over a year ago, a friend asked if we would be willing to lead a weekly walk in our Horn of the Moon neighborhood as part of a community-wide program sponsored by the Department of Health and Central Vermont Medical Center. In June 2004 we put a sign at the four corners of Jacobs Road, Sanders Circle and Horn of the Moon Road that announced the weekly Thursday evening walks. Each week the number of neighbors who joined the walk increased. Many canine friends walked with us and Carol Delaney's goat, Capri, was a regular walker. Once we had a special "guest," Karris the Jersey cow.

The walks begin at the four corners, proceed down Horn of the Moon Road, turn right on Sanders circle, and arrive back at the four corners about 45 minutes later. During the summer the walks are on a weekly basis. However, in the colder seasons we meet only once a month, for full moon walks. In November 2004 eighteen people joined us for the full moon walk. Many were guests from out of town who were "in the neighborhood" for Thanksgiving the previous day. Over the years we have enjoyed the company of guests from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Kentucky on our walks.

As a result of the walks, we find it easier to call on people when we need help. Over a year ago, Carol Delaney's dog, Gale, was missing. She was a regular on the weekly walks. It just took a couple of phone calls and neighbors came from far and wide to look for Gale. We didn't find her that evening but she was rescued later at the edge of Wrightsville Dam by canoeists. We were thankful that so many neighbors became involved with the search.

During the walks people bring up ideas for future activities. In May 2005 we held two neighborhood meetings to gather ideas for promoting a sense of community. The ideas included ways to save and share resources, promote a safe neighborhood, and have fun. We came away with an e-mail list that is helpful in apprising neighbors of suspicious activity, missing pets, and upcoming events.

Last July, with permission of landowners Bruce and Claudia Fitch, fourteen neighbors hiked to the top of Longmeadow Hill and enjoyed strawberry shortcake and gorgeous views of hills and valleys surrounding Horn of the Moon. Another favorite activity was scoping out the Hubbard Park Tower with guidance from Dave Burley.

This winter, full moon walks will be on December 15, January 14, February 13, March 14 and April 13. Everyone is welcome to join us at 6:30 p.m. for the 2-mile journey around Horn of the Moon. We meet at the four corners. Capri, the goat, would welcome one and all.

Jan Burrus

## A SWINGING GOOD TIME WAS HAD

People of all ages came to dance and socialize on Friday evening, the 18th of November, at the East Montpelier Elementary School gym. It was a simple evening consisting of Contra Dancing, socializing, and cider. A special thank you to Elaine & Paul Manghi for providing the cider!

Thirty-three adults and fifteen children attended the dance. Our own Colin McCaffrey played the fiddle, and a young musician, Jason Gregoire of Barre, played the guitar and piano. Larry Becker of Middlesex called the dances for us.

The music of Colin and Jason filled the gym with lively and lovely strains to dance by, to clap hands and tap toes to, and put a smile on dozens of faces. Larry's expert calling got young and old, experienced and first-timers into the dance. He adeptly gauged the situation and led dances that had everyone feeling competent and involved! Even the youngest of dancers were swinging through movements with smiles on their faces. Great job, Larry!

Colin and I organized the dance, and we kept it simple so that a good time could be had by the attendees and by us—and we think that in that sense, it was a real success! Not only that, but we had hoped to bring in \$150 in admission donations to cover our caller's fee, and to pay and thereby encourage Colin's musical partner. We brought in \$149.82!!!

Think about joining us for the next East Montpelier Contra Dance, probably in early to mid-spring.

Jessica Moseley, 454-1049

### EAST MONTPELIER SENIOR LIVING INITIATIVE

The group, headed by Austin Cleaves, has set as its purpose "to study and make the community aware of the various types of housing for elders and to develop and carry forward a plan for housing East Montpelier seniors." They will spend the next two months developing a survey to distribute in the March/April issue of the *Signpost* and to have available at Town Meeting. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Wednesdays at the Town Office beginning at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee is pleased to hear about the many neighborhood activities that promote a sense of community in East Montpelier. If you have stories about your neighborhood gatherings, please let Barbara Ploof know (223-6934). If you have ideas about community events you would like to see happen, please contact Wes Cate (223-2951).*

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## MALLORY BROOK TRAIL

If you've been wondering about the recently conserved 500 acre parcel on Mallory Brook, here's the latest: scores of residents have been using and enjoying a couple of miles of new trails and environs even though there are no signs yet, nor will the trails be completed, signed, or mapped until the end of next summer! Additionally, hunters were also active during the two weeks of rifle season having received permits through our Town's first public permit lottery process. Things are right on schedule for public use on this exceptional property.

**THE CONSERVATION.** The 500 acres itself, owned by Chris Pratt, starts at the end of Johnson Road, and is bordered by Cherry Tree Hill, Towne Hill, and Brazier Roads. It contains woodlands, the pristine Mallory Brook, prime agricultural lands on Cherry Tree and Towne Hill Roads, and surrounds Crystal Springs, the water supply for the village of East Montpelier. It

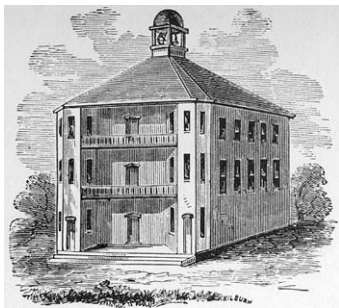
was permanently conserved for multiple uses last year through the efforts of the landowner, townspeople, and the East Montpelier Conservation Fund. The multi-year effort was organized by East Montpelier Trails Inc. (a.k.a. the Trails Committee, with Nona Estrin leading that effort) and was a project of the Trust for Public Land. Trail building was funded by a grant from Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation thanks to the grant writing skills of Town resident Kevin McCollister. The trail-building phase began this summer and is scheduled for completion next fall. This project is part of our town's eighteen-mile permanently protected town trail loop, of which approximately twelve miles are now completed or under construction!

Question or comments may be directed to Nona at 223-7745 or nona@vtlink.net

(More in future issues of the *Signpost*)  
Nona Estrin

## EAST MONTPELIER CONTRIBUTES TO FIRST STATEHOUSE

In early October, you may have noticed the Statehouse in Montpelier decked out with colorful bunting. And you may have helped celebrate Montpelier's 200th anniversary as Vermont's state capital.



After meeting in different towns over several years (including once in New Hampshire), Vermont's unicameral legislature voted in 1805 to make Montpelier the state capital; in response, the town of Montpelier promised to build a statehouse. At that time, remember, East Montpelier was not a

separate municipality, but was a part of Montpelier.

A look in the state archives shows lists of people who, solicited by various committees, helped to fulfill that promise. In 1807 one such committee, composed of T. Davis, E. Morse, Parley Davis, J.H. Bradford, and David Harrington, all newly-arrived settlers, canvassed citizens of Montpelier village and the surrounding area, also newly-arrived, seeking goods and services as well as cash for this venture. One Caleb Curtis pledged "\$15 in any kind of produce I can spare by the 5th of January, 1809, or neat stock." (Webster defines "neat" as "the common domestic bovine.")

Some of these early subscribers lived in what is now East Montpelier. Nahum Kelton had arrived in town in 1800 and in 1804 purchased land on Kelton Road, building his first house in 1809 opposite the present Kelton/Dunkling brick house. He

pledged \$10 toward the statehouse and in 1816-1818, 1820, and 1829 served as town representative in that building. He lived to see the division of the towns in 1848.

Samuel Rich came to what is now North Montpelier in 1792 and built a dam on the Kingsbury Branch, as well as a grist mill, saw mill, fulling mill & carding machine, brick yard, distillery, tannery, and blacksmith shop. His home, (now owned by Celina Moore) built in 1805, celebrated its 200th birthday in June this year. Samuel pledged \$25 to be paid in neat cattle or grain.

Thomas McCloud pledged hemlock boards. Nathaniel Ormsbee pledged \$10 in wheat. William Templeton promised \$15 in produce. David Parsons promised a sum to be paid in stock. Benjamin Phinney, who built his frame house in 1792 on Sibley Road and raised thirteen children, promised to support the statehouse project. These contributions, along with many others from Montpelier and what is now Berlin & Middlesex, funded the first statehouse which was completed in 1808.

David Schütz, current Statehouse Curator, speaking to the East Montpelier Historical Society in November about the history of Montpelier's statehouses, described the first statehouse with its front gallery/porches, topped off with a belfry. It was located where the Vermont Supreme Court building is today. It fell into disrepair over the years; this, and the fact that the legislature became bicameral in 1836 with the formation of a Senate, necessitated a new, larger statehouse in the mid 1830s. A stone structure was erected, funded yet again by Montpelier residents.

These are fascinating stories and we thank David Schütz for sharing them with us. And may I suggest a visit to Vermont's present Statehouse for a tour. It truly is a treasure.

*Ann Ormsbee, E.M. Historical Society*



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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
Wastwater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30	Town Office

## NOTICES

**Dec. 30, 05 thru Jan 2, 06-** New Years Holiday, Town Office closed.

**Jan 26, 2006,** 5 p.m. Last date to bring in petition for an Article to be put on Warning.

**Jan 30, 2006,** 5 p.m. - Nomination Petitions need to be filed.

**Feb. 25, 2006,** 9:30 a.m. - Town/School Forum  
**Feb. 27, 2006,** 12 noon- Last date to register to add name to Checklist for Town Meeting 06.

**Mar. 7, 2006,** 9:30 a.m. - Town Meeting Day-polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Australian Ballot voting.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

The **Strong Living** exercise program for seniors is scheduled to begin another program on January 7 at the Four Corners Schoolhouse. Anyone interested should contact Diana Fielder at 223-6548 or Paulie Coburn at 223-6886.

You are Invited to the 40th Birthday Party of **East Montpelier Elementary School** on Wednesday, January 11th, 2006 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 or so. Featuring: assembly, lunch, classroomvisitis and cake! See page 9 for more information.

Open House at the **Orchard Valley School**, Route 14 North. 8:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays, January 12 and February 9. Visit the classrooms of your choice, grades 1-6 and observe Main Lesson -- the heart of Waldorf education in the elementary years. Call 456-7400 to register.

Haydn's "Seasons" will be performed by the choir and friends of the **Old Meeting House**. With Marcia Bowles as director and June Morse at the piano, more than twenty voices will sing the Autumn and Winter parts of this lovely and challenging piece. The soloists include many East Montpelier residents. Sopranos: Celina Moore, Margaret McCoy, Pat Forbes, and Cherie Staples. Tenors: Dana Lawrence, Eric Oberg, and David Connor. Basses: Brian Vachon, Charlie Kittredge, and Greg Voorheis. They will perform on Saturday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for next issue: February 1, 2006 — to Barbara Ploof — 223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

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