

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost



Volume XVI — Number Six

July/August 2006

## INTERSECTING LIVES: SPIKE AND JANET'S UNUSUAL PATHS

As I walk into the Holden/MacLeod household, Janet and Spike are in the kitchen preparing the noon meal. Spike is in an apron brandishing a knife, looking like a well-heeled hamburger flipper rather than the gourmet chef he really is. Janet hands me a book she recommends. Spike's sister is visiting and awaits the carpenter, who then walks in and immediately adds amusing tales and banter to the interview. The cat strolls in, the phone rings. I catch glimpses of their lives through this lively setting.

Janet and Spike both have a long history in East Montpelier and their lives intersected a number of times while they were growing up. Janet's mom was born and raised at Cold Pocket Farm (then called Sunny Cottage Farm) on County Road. She met Janet's father in Boston where she was a dress designer. They bought the Georgian-style house in the Center when Janet was a year old.

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## A FRESH BREATH OF SPRING IN EAST MONTPELIER

It is wonderful and refreshing to observe not only the fall foliage, but also the beautiful spring foliage in Vermont. Kelly and Tracy Phillips and families are doing their very best to bring out the vibrant colors and fragrant smells for all Vermonters to enjoy. Have you noticed the two very attractive greenhouses located just off Route 14 in East Montpelier? Sitting in scenic areas with breathtaking views, both greenhouses are now in their third year of operation. Myriad flower gardens in our fair community have been enhanced through the efforts of both families and their expertise and knowledge of gardening.



### KELLY'S GREENHOUSE

Kelly grew up on Trow Hill in Barre with her parents, two brothers, and one sister. After graduating from Spaulding High School, she attended Vermont School of Cosmetology and became a hairdresser. In addition to her greenhouse business, she also runs a salon in her home and welcomes many local residents for their monthly haircuts. Kelly started out working for the Hulbert family at Smallwood Nursery in South Barre. Her husband, Scott, also helped out whenever he had free time. Primary duties included planting and maintaining the annuals in two large greenhouses. The Hulberts sold Smallwood in 2002, and the Phillips family decided to make a go of it on their own. After all, was there anyone more qualified? Kelly's Greenhouse was first opened for business in the spring of 2004.

Kelly's husband, Scott, has been a resident of East Montpelier all his life, having grown up just down the road on Route 14. Grandparents Bob and Rachel Phillips, who lived just below Kelly and Scott, were fabulous gardeners in their own right. Their large and very productive vegetable garden was admired by all. In fact, Bob and Rachel even opened a roadside vegetable stand to share the fruits of their endeavors. Scott's dad and grandmother still play a significant role in the greenhouse and gardening business.

Scott and Kelly have two children, Brock, 19, and Alicia, 17, who graduated from U-32 this June. Both are instrumental in the highly successful operation of the family business. Currently, the main focus of Kelly's Greenhouse is annuals and vegetables. Their season begins in early March, and they close up shop in late June, leaving the rest of the summer for relaxation, enjoyment, and family time. How exciting and what a wonderful contribu-

*Continued on Page 3*

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EAST MONTPELIER  
**Signpost**

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charge to all residents of  
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PO Box 184  
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## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

In 1806, Benjamin and Susanna Ellis left Richmond, New Hampshire, with their infant son Ira and came to settle in the part of the new town of Montpelier that was later to become East Montpelier. They now sleep their eternal sleep in the Cutler Cemetery, having left behind a line of descendents that included a great, great granddaughter, Edith, who was my mother.

Edith Coburn loved flowers, and over the years she made numerous plantings of daffodils around our family home. So when the Jean Cate Community Fund group came up with the idea of planting daffodils to mark the signposts around town, I could think of nothing that would please her more than to donate a good pailful of her bulbs.

To these were added an equally large pailful from the gardens of, relatively speaking, "newcomer" Alison Underhill. These she had brought from her family home in Connecticut. Together there were enough to make up some 30 packages of a dozen bulbs each to hand out on Rally Day 2005 for people to plant at the base of the signposts around town. This spring's blooms showed the results of their efforts.

So, as you drive through the town each spring and see the yellow daffodils nodding at the base of our signposts, think of them not only as pretty flowers but also as representatives of the contributions of the many generations of settlers that have made East Montpelier the strong, vibrant community it is today.

—Dave Coburn

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT RALLY DAY

A small, dedicated group of your neighbors has met and begun the planning to carry on the tradition of Rally Day. This little committee knows it will take a lot more hands to put together our annual community celebration. We need as many people as possible to contribute about an hour of their time. Here are a few of the many ways you can help on September 9th:



- Paint faces or string beads
- Pitch a tent or help with clean-up
- Host coffee or tea at the Cozy Corner
- Entertain us in the Variety Show
- Blow bubbles with preschoolers
- Referee a three-legged race
- Bake cookies or brownies
- Help organize the Signpost Auction
- Strut your stuff in our Parade
- Offer suggestions for new activities

Please call us soon with your ideas and sign-up

to be a helper: Matt Curtis 223-7403; Colin McCaffrey 454-1007; Sally Longhi 223-5859; Hobie Guion 223-1808; Bill Merrylees 223-4951; Erica Zimmerman 223-6930; Bill Jordan 223-3793; Deborah Fillion 229-1320.

## SAD NEWS ABOUT RALLY DAY

Last year, the student vegetable garden was trashed, auction sheets were tampered with, and cars in the parking lot were vandalized. Rally Day is a town event, organized by volunteers, to celebrate community. We ask parents to talk to their kids about appropriate behavior. We also ask all adults to kindly but firmly speak to anyone who appears to be misbehaving. Maybe steer them to an activity they'd be interested in. Or send them to the information table and we'll find something helpful for them to do. After all, community deserves cultivation as well as celebration.



Spike was born here shortly after his parents, John and Polly, bought their house on Tempelton Road in 1933. John taught at the Maple Corner School and at the Morse School on County Road (where, coincidentally, Janet's uncles were students) in the 30s. Spike attended four schools in 10 years while John was (1) the Superintendent of the Danville School; (2) professor at Middlebury College; (3) education researcher in Geneseo, New York; and (4) Vermont Commissioner of Education. Spike spent seventh and eighth grade at the Morse School, and he was in the last graduating class from Montpelier High School in 1955, when it was still located at the Main Street School site.

Janet who was a few years younger, attended the Center School until she was uprooted from her East Montpelier foundation at the age of 12. Her father's new job in New Hampshire forced her, "kicking and screaming," to be dragged with her family to this new location. She stayed there, reluctantly, through high school. After graduation she immediately left New Hampshire and attended Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where she ended up majoring in painting (thank goodness for us). During one of Janet's summers between RISD semesters, she rented an apartment in the house in which she grew up. When she turned 21, her mom and dad gave Janet some of the land they owned in the Center, behind the old schoolhouse. A few years later she built a small house up on the hill—it is still there but can't be seen from the road.

Meanwhile, Spike majored in English literature at Harvard and sought his Master's in Anthropology at Indiana University. While there he realized he had to give up his passion for competitive skiing (he had taken a year off from Harvard to try out for the 1960 Winter Olympics) for the "skiing was lousy" (nonexistent) in that part of the country. He saw a sign advertising the college's flying club and "on a lark" signed up. His competence as a pilot was obvious and he quickly became a flying instructor. He continued to give flying instruction after graduating from Indiana and returning to Harvard to work on his PhD in Biological Anthropology. Suffering from "academia burn-out," he became a pilot for American Airlines within four years of his first flight; he continued flying for them for 32 years...so much for anthropology.

Spike married and had two children, Loring and Jessica, while located in the Massachusetts towns of Newton and Harvard. Shortly after Loring was born, Spike began taking tennis lessons. Once again, he took to the enterprise and soon became a tennis instructor. He also started competing on a local level and then

became a "modest" competitor in the seniors NE/USTA competitions. He laid out his first tennis court by hauling out saplings from his woods and enclosing the area with a chicken wire fence, which was professionally upgraded a number of years later. (He now has a professional tennis court at his Templeton Road home that many beg to use.)

Spike's curiosity and adventurous spirit continued, and he became intrigued with hot-air ballooning. For his 40th birthday, he gave himself a hot-air balloon and set up his successful "Mood Elevator" business. For the next 20 years he gave rides to enthusiastic patrons wanting to view our world from above, at least a small part of it. I remember once working in my garden and hearing a loud "puff-puff," looked up and saw a magical balloon gliding slowly and high over me. It was thrilling. Realizing that this area of New England would not support such a business, Spike sold "Mood Elevator" when he moved to Vermont.

Meanwhile, Janet was back in Vermont, living in Franklin, where she was teaching art. When her parents died in 1979/80, she moved to Massachusetts for a year but realized quickly that her heart was really in Vermont, especially East Montpelier. She returned to work for the Vermont Extension Service as Energy Auditor and lived in an apartment in the Center house where she had grown up. At the same time, she began building her little house in Adamant. When it was complete enough, she moved in and has been a major part of the Adamant community since.

Janet and Spike re-met at John and Polly's 50th wedding anniversary in 1983. Spike began coming back to visit his parents more often and ran into Janet on occasion. He began to "court" her, although she didn't realize it for quite some time. She finally gave in to his wooing and they were married in 1992. Knowing that Olivia Gay from Maple Corner was a justice of the peace and was working at the time at the Adamant Coop, they went to the Coop and asked her to marry them. Olivia asked a customer to watch the store for her, and she went out and married them in Adamant Park under the apple trees. (This is a small community!)

They moved to Spike's house in Harvard, Massachusetts, for about six years. Janet made a good try of it, immersing herself in painting, volunteering on the conservation trails and at the recycling center, but she was lonely and missed East Montpelier very much. Finally, they sold the house in Harvard and moved up to her little house in Adamant in 1997, while breaking ground for their house off Templeton Road. Spike continued to work for American

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Airlines until his retirement in 1998, commuting by air to his departure cities. Janet acted as general contractor for the house, and the two of them worked on the details of the building and landscaping. Improvements are ongoing, as any homeowner knows.

Today, Janet is very much involved in the Adamant Coop, the Annual Adamant Blackfly Festival, and the Vermont Open Studio Weekend. She has two ongoing art projects: the Adamant Project, painting the people of Adamant; and the Vermont Country Stores Project. Her work was exhibited in the Governor's Office last fall. Spike continues to maintain his enviable tennis court, competes when he is able, and plays bass jazz with local musicians and trombone in the Waterbury and Montpelier town bands. Janet has also been active in these organizations playing clarinet. This active and lively couple certainly add to the spirit of East Montpelier.

*Alison Underhill, former executive director of the People's Health & Wellness Clinic, lives in "downtown" Adamant—the East Montpelier side—and maintains extensive perennial gardens. Her grown son, Porter, lives in Los Angeles.*

## NEIGHBORWORKS® FUNDS HOME UPGRADES

The NeighborWorks® Homeownership Center at Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT) is pleased to announce a \$375,000 grant from the Vermont Community Development Program, obtained through a partnership with the towns of Northfield, Bradford, and Morristown. These funds will be used to create the Green Mountain Loan Fund, which will allow low- and moderate-income homeowners throughout Washington, Lamoille, and Orange counties to perform critical health and safety upgrades, such as weatherization, lead abatement, and access modification. CVCLT staff will work closely with interested parties to determine eligibility and with borrowers to determine the scope of work, obtain bids, and monitor rehabilitation-related construction. CVCLT also provides affordable loan capital to pay for the work.

CVCLT formed in 1987 and is an affordable-housing organization. Their mission is to create and preserve safe, decent, and affordable housing and build strong and diverse communities. Programs include housing development—building new units and rehabilitating existing units; property management; and programs that include homebuyer education, down-payment and closing-cost assistance, and affordable rehabilitation loans.

For information about this program, please contact Garrath Gorton at 476-4493, ext. 215.

### THE DAFFODIL PROJECT

We intend to continue the daffodil project at Rally Day. If you would like to make a donation of bulbs from your garden, from the garden center, or wherever, we would be happy to receive them. They will need to be ready for pick-up by Labor Day weekend. Call Wes Cate at 223-2951.

## REFLECTIONS OF A GREEN UP DAY VOLUNTEER

I participated in Green Up Day for the first time this year for a citizenship project in eighth-grade Social Studies at U-32. I'd always felt like I should do this, but hadn't been able to get it together and find out when it was, and then get my parents to give me a ride somewhere to pick up trash. (Actually, I think underneath this was the reason that—although I care about our environment and believe we need to keep it clean—I am lazy.) And besides, pick up trash?! OMG! What a waste of a Saturday! These thoughts were probably going through my sometimes unbearably teenage head. In any case, I decided that I'd clean up trash, interview some people at the local lunch, and then write an article and get it published to spread the word. Simple—it will get me a good grade, help the environment, and get more

people to help the environment.

I started out on this project kind of bleakly: I shall get it done,



try to be cheery about it, and try to really feel like I'm helping the environment. To my surprise, however, I found that the actual project was really fun! I picked up trash for an hour and twenty minutes or so, and I loved it. There was the excitement of finding pieces of trash, the surprise at some of the crazy stuff I found, and the pride at myself for finding a whole huge garbage bag's worth of trash.

Interviewing was the best part. I got to talk to several different people; they all had something unique and interesting to say about Green Up Day. Some said they participated in Green Up Day because it was community building and they got to see all their neighbors. Others said it was because their family participated, so they kind of had to, or because they thought it was fun, or because they felt they really needed to help the environment. One woman said it was because she felt it was important to get her children involved while they were young to make sure that they understood the importance of greening up.

I got something very valuable out of this project and out of Green Up Day. I found a fairly simple (though not necessarily easy) way to help my environment and my community. And believe me when I say that I am definitely getting off my lazy teenage behind to green up again next year.

*By Nikita Buley*

**Note from Green Up Coordinator Bill Merrylees:** *Green Up Day was a huge success! Together we collected 1 ton of trash, a truck-load of recyclable metal and beverage containers, and a whopping 292 tires from the roadsides of our town. Many thanks to the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee, the Scouts, Mike Garand (road commissioner), David Fletcher (EMES custodian), and the 115 volunteers who helped out!*

## TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651  
Phone: 802-223-3313  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:00,  
Fri 9:00-Noon

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email: eastmontc@adelphia.net

**Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Sylvia Tosi**  
email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

**Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Jane Grinde**

**Town Administrator: Lisa Rice**  
Mon-Thurs 9:00-1:30, Fri 9:00-noon  
email: eastmontpe@adelphia.net

**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

Edie Miller, Chair  
Tom Brazier, Stephen Jerome

### Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair  
Lyn Blackwell      Tim Carver  
Mark Lane          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

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gburley@u32.org  
Sue Chickering 229-6232  
cyclox@earthlink.net

### Elementary School

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Julie Roachat 223-1423  
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Matthew Curtis 223-7403  
curtis-mj@msn.com  
Jan Aldrich 229-0406  
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## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- Wyatt Marc Sancibrian, born March 26, 2006, son to Nicole Sue & Marc William Sancibrian
- Lily vonTrapp Catlin, born April 13, 2006, granddaughter to Mark and Charlie Catlin

#### Marriages

- James G. Grundy to Nancy Jean Bruce, April 13, 2006

#### Deaths

- Eva D. Ordway, April 5, 2006, mother of David LaFlower
- Marlene Sue Willard, April 14, 2006, mother of Nicholas J. Venner
- Royal Jay Bartrum Jr., April 28, 2006, spouse of Jane Bartrum

#### Property transfers

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

- Rebecca L. Palmer & Bobbie Lee Palmer to Christine & Jonathan Palmer, 29 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- Eileen Morrison to Stuart & Ellen David Friedman, Andrew M. & Carolyn D. Shapiro, & Ellen Seeger, 41.1 acres, Dillon Rd.
- Garry & Sharon Patterson to Nena M. Renfrew, 1.34 acres & mobile home, Fair Rd.
- Allen & Debora Freund to Peter Wells, 43.1 acres, VT14N
- Washington Electric Co-op Inc. to William & Ruth Porter, right-of-way easement, Haggett Rd.
- Washington Electric Co-op Inc. to Seth Sherman, right-of-way easement, Haggett Rd.
- Lawrence S. & Priscilla LaPerle to Marilyn S. Wingersky & Charlotte E. Staples, 2.3 acres & mobile home, Clark Rd.
- Dawn M. Chase to Lawrence & Priscilla LaPerle, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Fecteau Homes to Emma Grant, mobile home, Fair Rd.
- Edward J. & Chad E. Scribner to Christine A. Wood, 4.08 acres, VT14N
- Daniel P. Perry to Daniel P. Perry & Brittany Thresher, 1 acre & mobile home, County Rd.
- Nancy L. Badger to Robert Brown, 2.4 acres & dwelling, VT14N
- Willis Backus to Robert R. & Kim B. Watson, 1 acre & dwelling, US2
- Elliot A. Morse to Elliot A. & Florence Morse, 0.9 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Stanley P. Christiansen to Ramona Christiansen, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Hammett Hill Rd.

- Stanley L. Christiansen to Stanley P. & Ramona Christiansen, well right easement, Hammett Hill Rd.
- Delphia Richardson to Walter A. Plant, 9.1 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.
- Wendy W. (Perry) Gould to Scott & Wendy W. Gould, 0.43 acres & dwelling, US2
- Brian G. & Tracy M. Phillips to Wheeler Development LLC, 15 acres & dwelling, VT14S
- Richard Ward Hill, estate of, to Theodore S. Allen & Stephanie A. Krauss, 4 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Edna Tofani, Donald Tofani Sr. & Dianne L. Tofani to Edna Tofani, Donald Tofani Sr. & Dianne L. Tofani, 5.92 acres & dwelling, Coburn Rd.
- Edna Tofani, Donald Tofani Sr. & Dianne L. Tofani to Edna Tofani, Donald Tofani Sr. & Dianne L. Tofani, 37.4 acres & dwelling, Coburn Rd.
- Kenneth M. & Nancy Willey to Kenneth W. & Wendy L. Bailey, easement, US2
- Kenneth W. & Wendy L. Bailey to Kenneth M. & Nancy Willey, easement, US2
- Ella M. Emerson, Estate of, to Robert W. McDonald, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.

### NEW TOWN STAFF

Town Clerk & Treasurer, Terri Conti recently appointed two assistants:

- Sherry Culver lives in North Montpelier. She has a daughter, Desiray, who attends U-32 High School. Sherry will be working every day during the regular office hours.
- Denise Brown will assist in office work or when a person is on vacation in the Town Clerk's Office. Denise lives on Drake Road. Gordon Blow, was hired to work in the Road Dept. He presently resides in Websterville.

### SELECTBOARD

#### March 20, 2006

- Elected Edie Miller as Chair of the Selectboard.
- Approved a motion to use \$10,000 from the East Montpelier Conservation Fund to preserve a piece of land owned by Fairmont Farms consisting of 162 acres in East Montpelier and 19 acres in Plainfield. This will bring the East Montpelier fund down to \$35,000. An application to The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board will ask for the remaining \$290,660 to cover the anticipated cost of the easement.

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

- Approved a motion to purchase a new John Deere grader .
- Approved the \$10 application fee for Excess Weight Permits.

### April 3, 2006

- Concerns from the Zoning Administrator include sewage permits not being addressed in a timely manner, the lack of completion dates on building permits, and 25–30 locations that have incorrect or are without 911 numbers. The 911 issue was deemed critical and the concerns will be addressed by maintaining a current list of 911 listings and making new road signs in the Sandy Pines Development.
- The Town Clerk reported less than half of the dogs in town have been licensed.

### April 17, 2006

- Voted to approve and adopt the updated Rapid Response Plan.
- Responded to the Act 250 questionnaire submitted by Brian and Tracy Phillips for the Liquid Propane Transfer Station proposed project.
- The East Montpelier Wastewater Advisory Committee recommended the Forcier and Aldrich engineering firm to study wastewater needs for East Montpelier. The Selectboard approved the recommendation and the plan to survey the community and to have hearings and ongoing communication with the public. The Selectboard will be informed of the process.
- Approved liquor licenses for Dudley's Store and the Riverbend Store.

### May 1, 2006

- Bruce Nyquist is the manager for the US2 & VT14 Intersection Project, which is currently in the right-of-way process.
- 20 consecutive years of full-time employment will be used as a guideline for offering access to the town's health insurance for retirees.

### Town appointments were made and approved:

- Collector of Lease Land Rent (1 yr): Terri Conti
- Town Service Officer (1 yr): Susan Kittredge
- Fence Viewers (1 yr): Marcia Pauly, Mark Lane
- Town Tree Warden (1 yr): Paul Cate
- Inspector of Coal, Wood, Shingles (1 yr): Austin Cleaves
- Central Vermont Regional Planning Comm. Rep. (1 yr): Tim Carver; Alternate (1 yr): Martha Holden Rep. Transportation Advisory Comm. Rep. (1 yr): Frank Pratt
- Emergency Coordinator (1 yr): Bill George
- Four Corners Assoc. Rep. (1 yr): Steve Jerome
- Green Up Coordinator (1 yr): Bill Merrylees
- State Police Advisory Comm. (1 yr): Don & Carol Welch, Steven and Ann Karlene Kroll
- Board of Adjustment (3 yr): Rich Curtis, Pat Biggam
- Conservation Fund Advisory (3 yr): Arlene Goodrich, Charles Johnson
- Recreation Board (3 yr): Terri Conti, Pat McCoy, Ed Deegan
- Forest Committee (3 yr): Burr Morse
- Town Fire Warden (5 yr): Chris Reed
- Assistant Fire Warden (5 yr): Bill George
- Assistant Fire Warden (5 yr): John Boucher
- East Montpelier Fire Department Facilities Committee Member: Don Welch

- The following officers were elected: Rob Chickering, chair; Rick Hopkins, vice chair; Carol Welch, corresponding secretary.

### May 4, 2006

- Approved two permits for signs located at 4223 VT14, on property owned by K&A Leasing and is leased to LA Wheels Direct and KC's Performance Auto Care.

## U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

### March 22, 2006

- Passed a motion to allow Mark Mooney and Amy Molina to each carry three unused vacation days from the 04–05 school year beyond 10/15/06.
- Passed a motion to adopt Student Record Policy F5.
- Approved the appointment of Keith Gerritt as U-32's new principal, effective 7/1/06 for a two year contract.
- Accepted the resignation of Janet Ross Snyder, effective 6/30/06.

### April 5, 2006

- Received a petition for voters to reconsider the vote on Article 10.
- The co-curricular committee looked into concerns regarding radio advertising for the baseball team.
- Approved the purchase of a new driver education vehicle for \$10,347 from the fund balance.
- Voted to adopt the Policies and Procedure Policy.
- Awarded the roofing project note to TD Banknorth at a guaranteed interest rate of 3.75% through 7/1/07.
- Authorized Mark Berry to sign the negotiated agreement for WCSU professional staff.

### April 26, 2006

- Due to the large number of staff to be evaluated, the administrative team is looking

## PLANNING COMMISSION

### April 6, 2006

- Approved a request submitted by Richard and Gaye Christiansen for a variance to construct an addition on a building, formally known as Legare's Farm Market. The addition will be used for the relocation of Plainfield Hardware.
- Approved without conditions an application from Bob and Kim Watson requesting a Change of Use for a property located at 2817 US2. The proposed use is for a coffee-roasting site and other commercial uses.

### Kevin E. Hudson

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Pager: 826-5313

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## TOWN WEATHERVANE

into the feasibility of the current evaluation model.

- Concern expressed about the NECAP test results, especially the discrepancy of results based on gender and socioeconomic status. The Action Planning Council is discussing these issues.
- Approved a leave of absence request for Paula Emery.
- Voted to accept, with regret, Chris Ditmeyer's "partial retirement."
- Approved Joanne Greenberg's reduction in FTE.
- Voted to change the name of the *Alternative Plan to Obtain a Diploma to Alternative Diploma Program*.

### May 3, 2006

- Voted to approve transportation services bid from First Student Inc. until 6/30/09.
- Approved the issuing of contracts for the 06–07 school year for current ASP staff.

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## EAST MONTPELIER ELEM. SCHOOL

### March 15, 2006

- The board members filled the following board positions: Bill Kaplan, chair; Matt Curtis, vice chair; Marlene Betit, clerk.
- School notices will be sent to the *Times Argus* Community Calendar, *The World* calendar, *Signpost*, *Bus Stop*, *Community Connections*. They will be posted at Dudley's, Morse's, the Town Office, and the school. Notices will also be added to town mailings and the school website.
- The following positions were filled: Bill Kaplan will be the representative to the WCSU Executive Committee, Julie Rochat to the WCSU Policy Committee, Matt Curtis to the WCSU Transportation Committee, and Jan Aldrich to the Negotiations Committee. Mitch Golub, Truant Officer; Matt Curtis, Technology Committee; Marlene Betit, Community Connections Site Council; Jan Aldrich, Recreation Department; Julie Rochat and Jan Aldrich, WCSU Students Who Exceed the Standards Committee.
- There will be cameras on the school buses and the Policy Committee wants to know how each of the elementary boards feel about it.
- Mitch noted with regret that chef Nicole Codling is leaving.

## TOWN PROPERTY VALUES SOAR

Town Listers (Rosendo Cueto, Ross Hazel, and Earl Montague) have completed their assessment of all new properties, additions, etc., for the 2006 grand list. The grand list has been lodged with the Town Clerk.

April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006, was a very busy time. Eleven new homes were built or started, 99 additions, such as decks, garages, and sheds were inspected and recorded. The increase to the grand list totaled \$3,984,936, which certainly helped keep the tax burden down. To go back five years and get a perspective of what has happened since 2001:

1. The grand list has increased \$15,097,571 from 2001 to 2006 .
2. Sixty-nine new homes have been built. Already for fiscal 06–07 permits have been issued for eight new dwellings.
3. During this period, there have been 96 transfers of land parcels, many of which have new homes on them already.

Also, because of the real estate values and the common level of appraisal, 68.91%, the State has mandated a re-appraisal, as they have for 139 other towns and cities. Ours will be done by the Vermont Appraisal Co. in 2008 for the 2009 grand list. The same firm did the reappraisal in 1985 and helped in 1995.

We look forward to another busy year ahead. The zoning administrator has already approved 25 new permits. We urge anyone who has replaced, torn down, or changed square footage to contact the Listers.

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## ELLEN HILL: CITIZEN AND HISTORIAN

The worn dust jacket on our copy of *Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont, 1781–1981* has long-since been retired from protecting its contents. But it still contains brief biographical sketches of the authors of the book—Ellen C. Hill and Marilyn S. Blackwell. At the February meeting of the East Montpelier Historical Society, Joanne H. Bair, daughter of Mrs. Hill, spoke about her mother and her role as co-author of *Across the Onion*.

Ellen, a descendant of Nathaniel Peck, one of the town's early settlers, maintained a firm link with East Montpelier during summertime family stays on the homestead. A child of a family that valued education, she graduated from Middlebury College, becoming a year-round resident of Vermont in 1946. She married James Hill, and together they farmed the Peck farm for a number of years and raised five children. Ellen was active in the PTA and the Adamant church and its women's group, in addition to tending her growing family, the family garden, and keeping up her interest in photography.

About the mid-1950s, Ellen began collecting materials about her family genealogy, as well as that of other families, and information on town history. With Bob and Lois Webster, she inventoried the town cemeteries and published two editions of *Cemeteries of East Montpelier, Vermont 1794–1971 and 1794–1973*. Ellen's genealogy on early settlers, *Revolutionary War Soldiers of East Montpelier* was published by the town Bicentennial Committee in 1975, and she co-authored *Early East Montpelier* the historical pageant presented in 1976 and again in 1999 to celebrate the town's sesquicentennial.

All the while, Ellen was determined to publish a town history. She recruited Lyn Blackwell, also a Center Road resident, who had (and still has) a keen interest in history. They "plugged away" without much help until their labor of love was published in 1981.

Joanne characterized her mother as one who would try anything: haying, running farm equipment and snow machines, bowling, gardening, traveling, and taking amazing camping trips. Ellen's tenacity and persistence produced a history that reflected her love of the rural countryside and the people who inhabit it. Is it any wonder that our book and its dust jacket are so well used. These publications are still available for purchase at the town office.

—Anne Ormsbee, VP/Treasurer Historical Society

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## PEAK OIL—THE LATEST BUZZ WORD

Peak Oil! It's the latest buzz word. There has been an explosion of books, media articles, and presentations about the subject. So, what's it all about?

The term comes from a graph originally drawn in 1956 by petroleum engineer M. King Hubbert that showed the production of petroleum in the U.S. increasing until 1966 to 1972 and then dropping off. The shape of the curve on the graph looks like the standard "bell shaped curve." Although fellow petroleum engineers and geologists scoffed, sure enough, in 1970 American petroleum production peaked and has been decreasing ever since. Now geologists using Hubbert's methods are predicting that the world oil production peak is imminent. Perhaps it occurred in 2005 or will occur sometime before 2010. Some think the recent surge in the prices of gasoline and heating oil indicates we have reached the peak. (The peak can only be seen in hindsight.)

Economist Robert Hirsch, in a widely cited 2005 report to the U.S. Department of Energy, studied how much preparation is necessary to avoid severe economic consequences and suffering from declining world oil production. He found that more than 10 years of massive investment in a transition is necessary. Hirsch wrote "Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary. Previous energy transitions (wood to coal and coal to oil) were gradual and evolutionary. Oil peaking will be abrupt and revolutionary."

A group of folks in town has formed to study the ramifications of gasoline and heating oil shortages on residents of East Montpelier and central Vermont. The group's emphasis is on re-localization, that is, learning how to use local resources (including efficiency) for food production, transportation, and heating. The core group includes Carl Etnier, Andy Shapiro, Doug Kievet-Kylar, Elliot Berg, Nancy Bruce, and Jim and Dave Grundy. The group has already sponsored a discussion with members of critical state organizations and political figures and has met with Ginny Lyons, chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, and with Chuck Ross, Vermont Program Director in Senator Leahy's office. After a meeting in May, the group is expanding and planning more activities. Plans for the future include public showings of educational videos, helping to sponsor a major conference in 2007 with other groups around the state, and sharing ideas on how we in central Vermont can cope with the likelihood of reduced supplies of gasoline and heating oil.

The East Montpelier group meets every first Tuesday and is a member of a coalition of similar efforts throughout the state. A website, [www.vtpeakoil.net](http://www.vtpeakoil.net) (Vermont Peak Oil Network), has been established and contains numerous links to informational pieces, including the well-received Hirsch Report, "The Inevitable Peaking of World Oil Production." This report is a good primer for those wanting to learn more.

## WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee chose Forcier Aldrich and Associates, a consulting firm in Essex Junction, to conduct a feasibility study of the villages' wastewater systems. Surveys were sent to about 180 landowners in East Village and North Montpelier; as of May 31, 37 responses had been received.

An open meeting attended by about 20 residents was held at the Elementary School on May 31 at which Bruce Douglas, the project's engineer, described the major tasks to be accomplished: (1) define the study area; (2) have the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission do a build-out analysis based on the Town Plan of possible future growth in the village areas; (3) locate potentially usable areas and capacity for wastewater treatment and define potential problem areas using Geographic Information System (GIS) data, local and state permit data, and field work; (4) analyze alternative solutions for wastewater dispersal; and (5) provide the town with technically feasible solutions with recommendations.

The data collection and field work will take place during June and July with a report on the assessment of needs and findings to be presented in August, alternative solutions in September, with December the goal for the final report, and another informational meeting in November. The ultimate purpose of this work is to enable the Town to be proactive in protecting our groundwater and surface-water resources while helping residents address wastewater dispersal problems associated with small lots and inadequate soils.

The effectiveness of the final report depends on the quality and the quantity of the data compiled, and the Committee hopes that many of the villages' residents will feel comfortable sharing information that they have accumulated about their properties' wastewater dispersal capacities.

The Committee welcomes and encourages landowners in the villages and other townspeople to call members with questions about this process and to express concerns. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays at the Town Office at 6:30.

*Committee members: Bob Morey, chair; Jeff Biron, Laura Brown, Tim Carver, Richard Czaplinski, Erik Esselstyn, Carl Etnier, Rick HopKins, Stephen Miracle, and Cherie Staples*

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## THE YEAR ENDS AT EMES

*Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them.*  
—Lady Bird Johnson

The school year has ended. The children, with smiles on their faces and a wealth of new knowledge in their beings, headed out the doors and began a well-earned summer vacation. Shortly afterward, the teachers left through those same doors wearing those same smiles and embarked on an equally well-deserved summer vacation. Trust me when I tell you that your teachers work very hard.

I am left reflecting on what has been an incredibly busy, productive, and rewarding school year. It is not until you get to the end that you can truly appreciate all that has preceded that end. It is truly amazing to think about how much learning and growth have taken place this year. This is such an energetic place where many wonderful things happen. We, the entire community, have so much to be proud of.

I congratulate our students and our staff on a very productive and successful year. I will look forward to the teachers' return in mid-August. Teaching is an incredibly challenging and rewarding vocation. We have some of the best right here at EMES, and I love working with them. At the end of August, the students will return, and their laughter and smiles will be welcome; the building seems quite empty without them. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer and I thank everyone for making my first year at EMES so wonderful and rewarding.

—Mitch Golub, proud principal of EMES

Would you like to travel to the Emerald Isle in June of 2007? Would you like to visit Ireland's capital, Dublin, travel to Kildare, Cork, and visit Blarney Castle? EF is an educational travel tour program designed for students and families. This tour is open to students in grades 5,6,7, and 8 and to parents and community members. If you have an interest and would like to learn the details, please call or email me. Participants are enrolling at this time.

Pam Dunkling (EMES Teacher)

• 802-479-7962 • pdunkling@u32.org •

  
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## THE ARTS AT EMES

POEMS BY SOPHIA (GRADE 4, MRS. GANNON'S CLASS)

### Flowers (Haiku)

Flowers are blooming,  
colors are everywhere,  
with these small beauties.

### Swans

**S**wans  
wim  
silently  
kimming

PHOTOS FROM SPRING FINE ARTS NIGHT AT EMES



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## EAST MONTPELIER SENIOR LIVING INITIATIVE

## KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY UPDATE

Our committee has hosted some interesting guest speakers at our meetings. Recently, we invited Beth Stern, the new executive director of the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA), to talk to us about services for seniors in East Montpelier.

We learned that CVCOA helps elders 60 years of age and older to remain independent as long as possible in their own homes and communities. The Council coordinates an impressive number of programs for seniors, family members, and caregivers, including case management, senior meals and nutrition services, transportation, health insurance counseling, legal services, and more. They involve a number of community volunteers by hosting programs such as Neighbor to Neighbor AmeriCorps, Senior Companion, Home Share, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

The case managers for East Montpelier are Suzan Condon (476-1693) and Chris Shaw (476-2661). They are trained to work with elders in their own homes to assess needs, develop individualized care plans, and connect people with the programs and resources they can use. Suzan and Chris welcome calls and requests for information and/or assistance. You can also call the toll-free Senior Help Line at 1-800-642-5119.

If you'd like to attend an East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative meeting, you'll find us at Four Corners Schoolhouse from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

—Deborah Fillion, EMSLI secretary

### READY FOR A CHANGE?

#### FULL-TIME & PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Neighbor to Neighbor, a program serving senior citizens and adults with disabilities, is recruiting now for an 11-month term that begins in early October. Full-time members receive an \$11,500 living allowance, a \$4,725 education award, health insurance, mileage reimbursement, and monthly training. Assist elders directly, recruit community volunteers, and organize initiatives to help elders age successfully and live independently. The Neighbor to Neighbor Program, Vermont's AmeriCorps (domestic Peace Corps) program, is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 108! Call Nancy Schulz, CVCOA, at 476-0151.

#### WANTED: CARING MEN & WOMEN OVER 60

The Vermont Senior Companion Program is seeking individuals over 60 for paid positions that involve providing companionship to frail or homebound elders. Senior Companions receive an hourly, nontaxable stipend, mileage reimbursement, monthly trainings and lunches, supplemental liability insurance, and paid holiday, sick, and vacation time. In return, Companions serve an average of 20 hours per week. They typically visit five or more clients once a week and may provide transportation for them to doctors and grocery stores. There is an income ceiling that Companions must not exceed in order to draw the hourly stipend. To learn more about this opportunity, call Nancy Schulz, CVCOA, at 476-0151.

### KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AND TEENS READING THIS SUMMER!

Summer is the time when children and teens can rediscover the joy of reading for fun. The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is offering a host of programs to encourage your family to explore both popular new books and great classics. The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program is "Realms of Reading"—featuring knights, castles, and costumes. School-aged children can register for the Summer Reading Program, pledging to read a certain number of books over the summer. Those who reach their goal will be eligible for prizes. Pick up a calendar of events in the children's room or check the library's website for current information.

Young adults from 12–18 are invited to join "Library Quest". Read books, use the Internet for "Questing" searches, help out in the community, and you have a chance to win an iPod or a week-long workshop at the Center for Cartoon Studies. For information, call 223-4665.

### BOOKMOBILE NEWS

If you don't want to go all the way to Montpelier for your summer reading, don't forget that the Van Go Bookmobile stops at Dudley's Store every Friday from 12 noon to 12:30. The Van Go also makes stops at a number of East Montpelier home daycares. If you would like the bookmobile to stop at another East Montpelier location in the future, call 223-4665 and ask for Mary Jane Manahan or Bettie Kaseguma.

### HOME DELIVERY

If you or someone you know has difficulty coming to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, call the library at 223-3338 and ask about the home-delivery service. Library volunteers are happy to drop off library materials at home or at a convenient location.

### RIDE YOUR BIKE AND SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Here's an opportunity to have a great day on the road, and provide significant support to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library! Onion River Sports is once again hosting the increasingly popular "Century Ride," a July 29 cycling event of either 100+ miles or 100 kilometers. The tour is relatively flat through beautiful countryside on very quiet roads, and proceeds go to support the library. Riders can seek pledges, and Paul Costello, the chair of the library board, will be one of the cyclists pushing the pedals for the library. For more information on this event, call Onion River Sports at 229-9409, or check their website at [www.onionriver.com](http://www.onionriver.com).

Pledges for Paul's ride can be made at the library.

Summer Hours: Mon–Thur, 10–8; Fri, 10–5:30; Saturday, 10–1

Phone: 223-3338; email: [info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us](mailto:info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us)

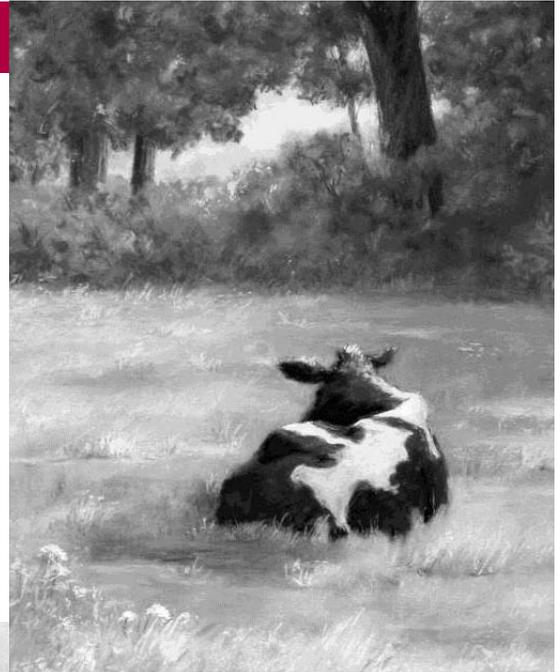
Website and library catalog: [www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us](http://www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us)

East Montpelier Library Board member: Charlie Catlin

—Hilary Farrington, Head Librarian

## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Mon	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	2nd Tues	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station Templeton Rd
Four Corners Schoohouse Assoc.	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thurs	6:30	Town Office



## NOTICES & EVENTS

July 4: Independence Day, Town Office closed.  
 Sept. 4: Labor Day, Town Office closed.

**Rally Day!** Mark September 9 on your calendar for East Montpelier's annual community celebration. The festivities start in the morning and go all day long—details in the next issue. Volunteers needed, see page 2, and help out.

**Neighborhood Watch organizational meeting:** Sept. 7, 6 p.m. at the elementary school. Join us in setting up a neighborhood watch program for East Montpelier. All residents are encouraged to attend. Your participation will help make East Montpelier a safer place to live.



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: August 1, 2006, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934 theploofs@hotmail.com**

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