

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVI □ Number Five

May/June 2006

WHAT'S FOR DINNER? ASK BETH ANN PORTER

One of six sisters, brought up by her grandparents and her single mother, and blessed with a high charge of energy, Beth Ann Porter learned early in life that there was an important connection between food and hard work. While her mother spent most of her time working outside her home (How do you clothe six girls?), Beth Ann spent a lot of her time with her grandmother who knew exciting recipes from the old country. Their home was in one of the brick row houses built originally by the Moravian community in Pennsylvania. "Up and down the row of houses, filled with first and second generation German immigrants, someone was always cooking. The food smells were wonderful!"

When Beth Ann was 12 years old, her mother and new stepfather purchased a small restaurant in the

Continued on Page 3

THE SINCLAIRS

It's about time that the *Signpost* got around to doing a piece on Steve and Sue Sinclair! They have been around town for quite a while, and both of them have had an impact on the town, past, current, and indeed future. You just may not see or know it. I go way back with both Steve and Sue—long before they settled here—for we all were at UVM together in the mid to late 1970s. Soon after graduating, they made a bee line to the Montpelier area while I took a decade or so sampling some major cities, before coming back here in 1987.

Steve graduated from UVM in 1975 and Sue in 1979, Steve with a Forestry degree and Sue in Resource Economics. Steve was tethered to his profession early on because his dad, Bob Sinclair, was a well-known professor at UVM in the Agriculture College who was eventually named Dean. After graduating, Steve's first job was as a forestry technician in Springfield. Not thrilled with the weekend doings in Springfield, Steve often came back up to Burlington for the weekends. I remember how proud he was of his red micro/mini Honda, and he boasted of its almost 40mpg. I drove a truck, which I thought would have been standard gear for a Vermont Forester—not Steve.

One weekend, Steve was up and seemed unusually fidgety. It turns out he was going to have dinner at his folks house. Steve's dad had set up dinner with one of his students-female. Steve was willing and aware of the setup, but Sue was blindsided. We still chuckle about it.

Steve and Sue married in 1980. (Steve's dad has good instincts.) Sue landed at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), and Steve transferred to the Barre office of Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (FPR). Fast forward to the present and Sue is now the Executive Director the CVRPC, and Steve is the Director the FPR—for all of Vermont.

They first lived in Calais, then Middlesex. In 1981 they built a newfangled, eco-friendly, passive-solar house on Quaker Road. It was not a classic farmhouse. Steve laughs at how quickly it was labeled by old-timers as looking like a Chicken Coop or a Cash Register. The first local he met was Austin Cleaves. Steve needed his septic site harrowed, but Austin was busy, so he referred him to John Hall. They are two great guys to start your town friendships with. Steve soon became involved in town affairs. He became a Lister in 1984, a job he kept for



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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

THOUGHTS ON MOVING ON

As we approach the end of the school year and look forward to graduations and commencements at elementary, high school, and college levels, we each share many common thoughts and memories - because all of us have been there. It's a time of great anticipation which includes excitement, nervousness, and even fear. It's a time of beginnings and endings which usually finds us pleased to be moving on but also a little uncertain as to what's next. Sixth graders eagerly anticipate graduating as the "seniors" at EMES and—with some anxiety—joining the big kids at U-32. In the meantime, the U-32 seniors hope for good weather for an outdoor graduation ceremony while pondering the various paths that they will take after that liberating rite. College seniors have even more serious choices and opportunities.

We, as a community, are so proud of our young people. We wish them success in their future endeavors, we offer support and help as needed, and we encourage them to make good choices that will serve them well on their road to becoming productive and contributing adults.

Edie Miller

The Sinclairs, continued from Page 1

twelve years. He recalls that being a Lister was a fabulous way to get to know the whole town, old- and new-timers. He was proud to say that in all those years, he met very few unreasonable residents. Steve went on to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee and still serves on the Town Forest Committee.

Sue has had a more behind-the-scenes impact on the town because professional conflicts of interest prevent her from taking a more active role on town committees. But, as Executive Director of the CVRPC, Sue and her staff of eight have a big influence on East Montpelier. Apart from what we would think of as the usual planning and development activities, she also is heavily involved in traffic analysis, emergency management, brown fields and septic issues, roads, Act 250, zoning, planning, population, environment and even GIS mapping. Every one of these areas is, and will continue to be, important issues for East Montpelier and every Vermont town. It would take a whole issue of the *Signpost* to just scratch the surface of these issues and how they will affect the town, and our quality of life.

Steve recalls that when he started, he was in the woods. Now he says he is managing people (and money), not trees. However, he is comforted that the projects he oversees affect the whole state and have long-lasting effects. He has also been spending a lot of time in Washington DC, working with other State Forestry heads and the U.S. Forest Service. He says that in DC and around the country, Vermont has a great reputation for what we have done—past, present, and future—all with a comparatively small Vermont budget.

It's great how Steve and Sue really blend—professionally and personally; what a nice pairing of Social and Natural Resources planning. They both say that it is a real challenge to balance ongoing development with maintaining our natural landscape. They have seen a lot of change here in 25 years, some good, some so-so, but overall they think East Montpelier has done a better job than most. They cite our land conservation efforts, and town forests and trails. While we have lost dairy farms, the ones left have their land protected forever.

Steve and Sue also have two great children. Sean is in 6th grade and Elizabeth is a sophomore at U-32. Oh, and they left the cash register house for a larger family space. Now they have a more traditional colonial on top of a knoll across from Daggett Road on Rt. 14.

East Montpelier, as well as the whole state, benefit from Steve and Sue in both big and little ways. Between them they have over fifty years of experience. However, I don't see early retirement in the cards, so the town may have to wait a few more years to get Sue on a town committee. Steve already has 30 years with the State, so he could retire anytime, but he likes his job and the challenges ahead. Guess we'll just have to be patient and wait them out.

Jeff Green lives on Old Trail Road with his wife Charlie, and his children Reese and B.K. He has been a securities trader for many years and works from his home.

southern Poconos of Pennsylvania. She and her three sisters pulled their weight by helping their parents run the restaurant, and in the process, learned every aspect of the trade. By the time Beth Ann graduated from high school, she was ready to shuck off the grind of endless labor in the small-town family restaurant and see a bit of the rest of the world. She was confident that by using her skills as a cook, waitress, bar manager, or catering assistant she could make a living. And that's exactly what she did as she traveled the next few years on an extended culinary journey



to Boston, Pittsburgh, down the Atlantic coast to Florida, and back to Burlington, where she had numerous career adventures, including working on a four-year biology program at UVM, window dressing at Magram's Department store on Church Street, and developing a reputation as a fabric artist.

In 1996, Beth Ann met Robby Porter and moved to East Montpelier, where they are raising two children: Ceres who is eight and Ford who is six. Robby has developed a

line of artisanal furniture, Beth Ann manufactures a line of women's accessories that she sells to clothing stores and occasionally caters as well.

Beth Ann's appreciation of the importance of food choices closely parallels the general public's growing awareness of the need to eat wisely. This is especially true for children. Beth Ann believes that when a public institution serves meals, it has a moral obligation to provide only healthy food.

When it became apparent that cooking and serving both breakfast and lunch-on top of doing all the other things required in the EMES kitchen-was more than a single person could handle, the call went out for volunteer help. Time passed and there was no response, so Beth Ann stepped in to volunteer for three hours a day for three months. Her help allowed the kitchen to serve some home-cooked food rather than packaged products provided by the federal government or purchased from a wholesaler. Through her donation of time, linens, and serving bowls and platters, Beth Ann's distinctive legacy remains a strong influ-

ence in the EMES kitchen. In turn, other concerned parents have formed the "Food Service Committee," which has made several suggestions for improving the school eating program and will continue oversight.

It was during Beth Ann's service to the EMES kitchen that she realized it made sense to extend her offerings of healthy, home-cooked food to busy EMES parents as well as the greater East Montpelier community. Beth Ann now rents the EMES kitchen during the late afternoon hours and prepares homemade meals for pick-up between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays at the school. Through Beth Ann's operation, *What's for Dinner?*, people who are out of time or out of energy can still provide wholesome, home-cooked meals prepared from local, fresh ingredients (when possible) for their families. It's never too late to develop good eating habits, and children who eat well at home are more likely to eat well when they're away from home.

Beth Ann has conjured a business opportunity that's good for the community, the school, and if things continue to go well, for the Porters too. Beth Ann gives back to the school not only by paying a facility rental fee, but also by contributing a percentage of her *What's for Dinner?* revenue. A growing number of East Montpelier folks are already enjoying this service and some are wondering when such a service will become available for elders and shut-ins. Ongoing discussions with the Jean Cate Fund Committee are looking at possible strategies to make this happen.

Good nutrition and plenty of exercise go hand in hand, so Beth Ann is looking to get healthy snacks (vegetarian spring rolls, popcorn, grilled cheese sandwiches) out on the playing field at East Montpelier Rec. Field events; she just needs volunteers to serve food and take money in exchange for a serving of *What's for Dinner?*.

Beth Ann Porter's commitment to healthy food choices for children, plus her amazing energy, are bound to encourage the rest of us to realize that schooling is a whole lot more than reading, writing, and arithmetic, and that eating well is good for children, families, and the community.

If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions for *What's for Dinner?*, or if you are interested in dish washing, food prep, or serving in exchange for dinner, call Beth Ann at 223-1610.

□ Thank you □ to these Signpost Supporters
Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to
PO Box 184 East Montpelier, VT 05651.

Elizabeth Atkins
Roger and Colleen Brooker
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Susan and Steve Sinclair

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 at 9:30 am
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593



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

TOWN/SCHOOL MEETING RESULTS 2006

Total votes cast in Australian ballot voting: 674
 Total voter ballots handed out for School/Town Meeting: 249
 Total Registered Voters: 2060

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT RESULTS:

Elected Officials
 Town Moderator: Michael Dworkin
 School Moderator: Michael Dworkin
 Selectboard Member: Stephen Jerome
 Town Clerk: Terri Conti
 Town Treasurer: Terri Conti
 Trustee of Public Funds: Terri Conti
 Lister: Ross Hazel
 Auditor: Don Welch
 Town Law Agent: Dennis Carver
 Town Grand Juror: Burr Morse
 First Constable: Tim Meehan
 Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Norma Raymond (write-in)
 Cemetery Commissioner: Maurice Cerutti
 Planning Commissioners: Mark Lane, Jack Pauly, Tracy Phillips
 School Director (3 yrs): Julie Rochat
 School Director (2 yrs): Marlene Betit

Australian Ballot Articles
 All of the Town's Australian Ballot articles were passed.

- Article 3:** Town Budget: yes-554 no-106
Article 4: Town Budget Jan 07 to July 1 07: yes-548 no-103
Article 5: Capital Reserve: yes-480 no-153
Article 6: Grader Section 1: yes-510 no-134
 Grader Section 2: yes-480 no-146
Article 10: Due date of March 15, 2007, for 6 month budget to transition to the new fiscal year. Passed by voice vote.
Article 11: Tax due dates of Sept 15 and March 15 changed to Nov. 15, 2007 and May 15, 2008 to begin with fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Amended article passed as changed by voice vote.
Article 12: One percent interest to be added on overdue taxes not paid after first installment due. Passed by voice vote.
 All other articles were approved as written.
 All of the School District's Articles were approved as warned

SENIOR HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS

In March, the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative committee distributed a survey in the *Signpost* and at Town Meeting. More than 175 people of all ages shared their opinions and suggestions about housing options for senior citizens in our town. Ideas ranged from creating senior apartments to developing intergenerational co-housing to providing services that would help seniors stay in their own homes.

Home maintenance, transportation needs, and cost were high on the list of concerns for most people. More than half said they would prefer help to stay in their own homes as they age. 83% said "Yes" there is a need for senior housing in East Montpelier. And the largest response (84%) was "Yes" to the question "Do you think there is a need for assistance for seniors in East Montpelier?" Of the 26% who said "No" or were uncertain about whether they would spend the rest of their lives in East Montpelier, almost half (41%) said that they would stay in town if suitable housing were developed.

Encouraged by all your comments, our committee continues to explore what to do next. We are inviting guest speakers from various regional organizations to our meetings in order to learn more about services and programs that are available to help us now and with future planning. We also plan to meet with other town committees and to make more field trips to nearby towns with success stories of their own.

We welcome anyone who is interested in seeing the detailed results of the survey or in attending a meeting or a field trip. The Senior Living committee meets at the Town Office on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Austin Cleaves at 229-5223, Paul Cate at 223-6466, or Deborah Fillion at 229-1320.

Deborah Fillion

A Big Thank You to all who gave in any way to make my retirement party such a wonderful day on March 3rd. Also many thanks for the Resolution that was read at the State Legislature on March 3rd as well as on Town Meeting Day. It has always been a pleasure to be the Town Clerk and Treasurer of the town of East Montpelier. Many thanks to each and every one of you for all of your support over the past 23 years. Words cannot translate all that I have felt over these last few weeks. Thanks again. *Sylvia M. Tosi*

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THANK YOU MARTHA

At Town Meeting Day 2006, the Selectboard was guilty of a serious omission which we want to correct. Due to the excitement of the day, we simply neglected to publicly acknowledge, thank, and recognize Martha Holden, the 2005 chair of the Selectboard who chose not to run for another term.

Martha joined the Board three years ago, bringing to us a set of skills, experiences, and knowledge that made her a most valued member of our small team. Martha's background includes experiences as an attorney, a farmer, and an East Montpelier Zoning Administrator to name just a few. Her more current work with her church allowed her to share with us a secular spirituality - a sense of what is right - that enhanced our decision making in very pragmatic ways. As Chair last year, Martha had many occasions to put into writing ideas, comments, and thoughts to state agencies, to other local government officers, and to the people of East Montpelier. In every instance her sense of humor, her original outlook on life in general, and her excellent, if quirky, writing style enriched our communications.

I know Martha will forgive our serious oversight. Still, Tom Brazier and I want everyone to know how much we have valued and will miss Martha's participation on the East Montpelier Selectboard.

Eddie Miller



U-32 PROJECT GRADUATION

Each year at our Town Meeting, we appropriate a small contribution for Project Graduation. PG is coming up soon, so here is a description of how our money is spent.

Project Graduation 2006 is a group of parents (and we would love anyone to join us!) planning an alcohol-and-substance-free celebration for the Class of 2006, following the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 16. This year the chaperoned, all-night party will be held at the Racquet's Edge in Williston where students will have use of the swimming pool and tennis/basketball courts. *Super Sounds Entertainment* will provide a DJ for dancing, a hypnotist, games, and lots more. The committee is also planning other fun activities (and surprises). In addition to the presence of parent and U-32 faculty chaperones, the Racquet's Edge staff will provide supervision for the use of the swimming pool and other areas of the facility. Students are required to ride the bus provided by Project Graduation both ways: leaving U-32 on Friday night (around 11 p.m.) and arriving back sometime early (around 7 a.m.) on Saturday morning. In past years at U-32, most members of the senior class have attended Project Graduation and report having a blast! That is our goal this year, as well as providing a safe place for our kids to celebrate.

Jane Tolassi, U-32 Teacher

UNDERAGE DRINKING: NOT A *MINOR* PROBLEM

April was Alcohol Awareness Month and here in Vermont and across the nation, communities came together to address the issue of underage drinking. "Town Hall Meetings" were held by Central Vermont New Directions in Montpelier and the New Directions for Barre Coalition in Barre. The national theme for these meetings was "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking."

As prom and graduation time draws near, it is important for everyone to be aware of the problems of underage drinking here in our community and to act together to avoid tragedies. Some facts:

- In Vermont, underage drinking is the #1 youth drug problem
- New scientific research indicates that alcohol interferes with brain development which continues into the early 20's
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 20,000 lives have been saved by the uniform 21 drinking age law
- Adult attitudes and behaviors affect underage drinking
- Youth who start drinking before they are 15 are 4 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21
- Alcohol-related crashes are among the leading cause of teenage death

But the problem is not just drinking and driving. Underage drinking can be a factor in alcohol poisoning, burns, homicide, sexual assault, assault, suicide, drowning, falls, hypothermia, property damage, unsafe sex, academic failure, and future addiction. Well-intentioned adults who host underage drinking parties and take the keys need to be aware of the many other risks as well as the legal liability involved. There are actions we can take that don't enable underage drinking and put our teens at risk.

At the state and national level we can:

- Advocate for the increase of alcohol prices through taxes, particularly on beer.
- Limit alcohol advertising and promotional activities that target young people.
- Adopt laws that will prevent alcohol-related deaths and injuries among young people.

As a community we can also:

- Establish safe party networks with other community parents to assure that no alcohol will be available.
- Talk with your children and teens about alcohol and the problems associated with underage use.
- Advocate for the inclusion of youth in alcohol free events.
- Provide young people with meaningful opportunities for community involvement.
- Set a good example

More information for parents and teens can be found at www.stopalcoholabuse.gov.

As individual members of our community we must all do our part to keep our young people safe and healthy. Vermont has a special law enforcement response to underage drinking that is designed to prevent it before it starts and to safely and effectively intervene when it is occurring. If you are aware of a teen drinking party planned or in progress, please call the anonymous, toll free number to activate this START (Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team) response. 1-866-TEEN-USE (1-866-833-6873). For more information go to: www.vermontstart.org.

Carol Rose and Jim Bellino

TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
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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

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

Tom Brazier, Edie Miller
Stephen Jerome

Planning Commission

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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
Gray Ricker	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair
Sue Chickering

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TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

Kearsten Baylee Pecor, born January 28, 2006, daughter to Amber Marie Goden & Branden Donald Pecor.

Madison Sylvia Dulac, born March 14, 2006, daughter to Marcia Tosi & Zachery Dulac of Arundel, ME. Grandparents, Donald & Sylvia Tosi of East Montpelier and Gregory & Olive Dulac of New Portland, ME.

Selah Joy Northrup, born March 9, 2006, daughter to Amanda Grace & Casey John Northrup.

Madyson Jill Scribner, born March 14, 2006, daughter to Tracy Alyn Cano-Scribner & Joshua Richard Scribner.

Marriages

Jeffrey Lee Santor to Sarah Blanche Spidle, February 23, 2006.

Property transfers

Sharon M. Bogouzewski and Ronald T. Morris to Irwin & Justine Franco, 14.3 acres & dwelling, Jacobs Rd.

Laurie Hulsman and Christine M. Jacobs to Robert Whittaker and Kristine A. Pozatek, 12.5 acres & dwelling, VT14N.

Martha J. Holden to VT Land Trust Inc., 19.9 acres, easement/amendment to grant, Templeton Rd.

Howard E. Stone, Jr. and Phyllis L. Stone to Steven & Corinne Hayes Colangeli, 11.9 acres & dwelling, Gidney Rd.

Edward J. & Chad E. Scribner to Cory & Kathryn F. Richardson, 4.6 acres, Bragg Hill Rd.

Everett L. Jones & Jacqueline V. Jones to Terry J. Allen, 13.9 acres & dwelling, Guyette Rd.

William E. Fish to Jeremy A. & Angel M. Lewis, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.

Helen B. Witham to Carroll E. Witham, Jr. and Joan N. Witham, 1 acre, Center Rd.

Adele M. O'Connor a/k/a Adele M. Grimard to Christopher S. Grimard, 36.8 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.

Brian Kimball to Emma L. Cutler, 2.8 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.

Rhonda A. Zeno f/k/a Rhonda Kimball to Brian Kimball, easement, Haggett Rd.

Lawrence S. & Priscilla LaPerle to Barre Rifle and Pistol Club, easement, 0.25 acres, Clark Rd.

Ronald Lee Koss & Carley H. Claghorn to Gerald W. & Patricia A. Balkcom, 28 acres & dwelling, Taylor Rd.

Philip James LaPerle to Philip James & Kelsey L. LaPerle, 3 acres & dwelling, Clark Rd.

Harry E. Winchester to Dianne E. Menard, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.

Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson to Cookson Family Trust, 4.21 acres & dwelling, Cookson Drive.

Trishia Mary & Colm Thompson to K. Putnam & Susan Beck Clayton, Trustees of the Clayton Living Trust, 7.6 acres & dwelling, Walbridge Rd.

Laura Williams to Laura Williams, Trustee of Laura Williams Family Trust, 0.91 acres and dwelling, Maplewood Rd.

SELECTBOARD

January 16, 2006

Approved and signed a permit for an electric distribution line on Haggett Road.

Voted to pay NEMRC \$800 to come on site and program the existing tax payment system to handle the two payment system.

Denied a request from Allison Hall to warn an article to reverse Article 15 from the 2005 Town Meeting.

January 23, 2006

Approved with conditions Curb Cut Application for Tilden Kaufman.

March 6, 2006

Voted to appoint Ginny Callan as the CVSWMD representative and Richard Hall as alternate.

Based on recommendations of Town Foreman Mike Garand, approved right of way to Ken Bailey for subdivision.

Voted the salaries of the equivalent of an hourly rate of \$15.50 for Town Clerk/ Treasurer and \$17.50 for Sylvia Tosi as a part time consultant to the new Town Clerk/Treasurer.

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 2, 2006

Permits Issued: AOT - Coburn Rd. - wetland site; Daniel Perry - 1677 County Rd. - new home; Sari Wolf - 945 Lyle Young Rd. - rebuild burned home; Roy Bair - 4264 Center Rd. - Shed; Terry Allen - 280 Guyette Rd. - addition

February 16, 2006

At a hearing to review the proposal submitted by Brian Phillips to build a liquid petroleum transfer station, motions were made and carried to recess until after a site visit was conducted and to have the applicant provide the Labor and Industry standards for this type of project.

March 2, 2006

After a discussion of the different interpretations of the meaning of "bulk storage" a motion was passed to grant a permit to Brian Phillips to

TOWN WEATHERVANE

build a liquid petroleum transfer station, by a vote of 5 to 2.

A Public Hearing is being scheduled on a project which requires a Change of Use Permit for Robert and Kim Watson for a coffee shop/bakery at 2817 RT2 in the village.

The Planning Commission thanked Deborah Fillion "...for her stupendous efforts and service on the Planning Commission."

EAST MONTPELIER ELEM. SCHOOL

January 10, 2006

Discussed the idea of having a rotation and term limits for the Board Chair position as recommended by the Vermont School Board Association.

Made suggestions for dealing with outstanding food service bills.

Voted to approve the FY 07 School Budget which reflects an 8% increase overall and a 0.04% increase for the educational portion, books, supplies, etc.

Voted to adopt the Grade Advancement Policy. The policy discourages advance placement or retention.

The board heard committee reports.

February 14, 2006

The board discussed pupil privacy rights, board position term limits, planning for Town Meeting, and bus transportation.

Voted to approve the tuition rate of \$8,911 for fiscal year 06-07.

The board heard committee reports.

Brian Bishop and Joe Buley were thanked for their service to the EMES board.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

February 1, 2006

Voted to accept the tuition rate for FY 06-07 at \$10,190.

With a 4-3 vote, passed a motion to accept both leave of absence requests for the 06-07 school year.

Approved policies for fundraising and sales to students on school property and grade advancement.

February 15, 2006

Voted to use the fund balance to purchase two servers for Technology Services.

Passed a motion to approve an employee request which is outside the contractual right

for employees to use donated sick days for serious family illness.

March 8, 2006

Elected Ginny Burley as Board Chair, Rob LaClair as Vice Chair, Allen Gilbert as Board Clerk.

Voted to hold Board Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Voted the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus be the newspaper for official postings.

Voted to appoint Tom McKone and Mark Mooney Assistant Principals for 06-07.

Committee Members as follows:

Executive: Rob LaClair, alternate: Tom Williams

Policy: Mark Berry, alternate: Tom Williams

Negotiations Committee: Mark Berry, alternate: Rob LaClair

Transportation: Rob LaClair

Truant Officer: Dan Violette

Finance: Rob LaClair, Ginny Burley & Stuart Savage

Policy: Mark Berry, Tom Williams & Allen Gilbert

Curriculum: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley & Sue Chickering

Personnel: Mark Berry, Rob LaClair & Stuart Savage

Co-Curricular: Susan Chickering, Tom Williams & Rob LaClair.

EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The EMFD is off to another busy year for 2006. Several members attended a 16 hr National Incident Management Systems course held at U-32 High School. This mandatory course for all fire departments was developed in response to the events of 9/11.

In early April, several members attended the annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) conference at the Sheraton in Burlington. This is a very informative and fun conference. Imagine 500 emergency workers all in the same room!!

Three members recently passed the EMT basic course, bringing our EMS members to 14. We look forward to having them aboard our EMS team.

It's "spring ahead" with clocks, a good time to test and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Robin J. Copping Chaplain, EMT, EMFD

WHO TO CALL WHEN ☐

We are approaching grass fire season. Please remember that burn permits are required prior to any outdoor burning. To obtain a permit, call Chris Reed, Fire Warden at 223-7707. If you can't reach Chris, call one of the Assistant Fire Wardens Jon Boucher at 223-7902 or Bill George at 223-7741.

If you have an animal problem, please call First Constable Tim Meehan at 229-4478, Assistant Animal Control Officer Elliott Morse at 223-6279 or 2nd Constable Paul Haynes at 223-1651.

DISPLAY ADDRESS NUMBERS

Your assigned street address prominently displayed as described below allows ambulance, fire and other service providers to find your home or business easily in case of emergency. Be safe, display!

- Put a number on the front of the structure.
- Mark mailboxes with the address number if the box is in front of and on the same side of the street as the structure.
- If the structure is not visible from the road and no mailbox is beside the driveway leading to the structure, erect a sign or number post to display the number either vertically, from the top down, or horizontally.
- Place the number high enough that it will not be obscured by snow during an average winter.

--Adapted from the E911 State Board Manual



SEEKING FEEDBACK: A SIGNPOST WEBSITE

For some time now we have considered setting up a website as a supplement to the printed issue of the Signpost. It would provide a place to maintain an up-to-date events calendar; the long lead-time and limited space makes the printed Signpost of limited use for many local activities. A website could also serve as a repository for the archives of past issues of the Signpost, and even as the website for the Historical Society.

Events like Rally Day always generate lots of great pictures but only a few can be used in the printed issue and then only in black and white. With a website, a whole gallery could be posted for viewing perhaps with links to a site where copies could be purchased. The wonderful children's dinosaur drawings of two issues ago could have been posted on the website in full living color for those who could not go to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to see them.

East Montpelier is a busy place with formal and informal groups doing lots of things all the time. Reports of many of these groups - the Fire Department, Historical Society, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee, to name a few - make it into the Signpost on a fairly regular basis but there are lots of others. The Jean Cate Community Fund, East Montpelier Senior Housing Initiative Inc., The Gully Jumpers, to name but a few. The printed Signpost can carry reports on their activities on a limited basis whereas space on a website is nearly unlimited. Finally, the inventory of burials in the town cemeteries could be stored on the website.

Such an endeavor is not without some effort or cost so we would like to know what our readers think. Would a website be a useful companion to the Signpost? Do you think your group or organization would use this website as a place to post its schedule of events and/or a report on its activities? Do you see this as a way to build on the sense of community that was the impetus for the Signpost?

The Signpost currently limits the "calling card" advertisements to businesses that are located in East Montpelier primarily because of the limited space in the printed newsletter. However, a website would not have this limitation which opens up the possibility of similar ads no matter where the business is located. If you run a business anywhere in the Central Vermont area would you be interested in placing a small block ad on a Signpost webpage—with a link to your website, if you have one—to help support the website?

Please, give us your thoughts. Email to Dave Coburn at dave.coburn@adelphia.net or Rob Chickering at rchic@sover.net

Dave Coburn

EAST MONTPELIER WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Last fall the Town obtained planning funds from the Department of Environmental Conservation to hire a consultant to help determine possible solutions for wastewater treatment in the villages of North and East Montpelier. A Request for Proposals was advertised and six proposals were received. After review and discussion, the Committee has chosen a consulting firm to conduct the feasibility study of our village areas and to help us arrive at acceptable solutions. Our major goals are; to agree on least-cost, workable replacement systems for those that have failed or are about to fail, and to locate reserve land for future wastewater treatment needs, thereby protecting our wells and surface water resources. The timeline for the study will be through the summer, and there will be at least two public informational meetings. The first one will be in May or early June to introduce the project approach and the consultant to residents, and a second one will present the findings and conclusions. The Committee will get the meeting dates publicized. Please keep watch for notices as public participation is highly encouraged.

Bob Morey, Chair; Jeff Biron, Laura Brown, Tim Carver, Richard Czaplinski, Erik Esselstyn, Carl Etnier, Rick Hopkins, Stephen Miracle, Cherie Staples

WINDOW IN THE LOBBY AT THE TOWN OFFICE

Conrad and Anne Ormsbee of the East Montpelier Historical Society have recently changed the window in the lobby at the Town Clerk's Office to exhibit pictures, brochures, flyers and poster signs advertising happenings in the Old Village Hall back in the early 1900's. This building was on Route 2 - across from the post office area and down a few hundred feet, adjacent to the Village Cemetery. It was torn down in 1966.



There was another hall at which different functions were also held. It was first known as Huntington's Tavern and later known as M. Hammett's Hall; it burned in 1849. Other flyers show other events happening at the Village School, which is the present Town Clerk's Office, as well as at the Old Meeting House in the Center. An old violin and bow, and an old card game of Authors are also on display.

Come in and see what everyone used to do a hundred years ago.

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SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

CONCERT OF MEXICAN MUSIC WITH RUTH EINSTEIN, APRIL 29, 7:30 PM

Ruth Einstein with Musica de Tierra Caliente will perform at the Old Meeting House on Saturday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. For the past few years, this Worcester violinist has been spending time in the Hot Lands (Tierra Caliente) of Mexico learning a local style of music, a melange of many old and disparate styles. While uniquely Mexican in nature, the style is clearly influenced by the music of Spain, Cuba, and South America. Ruth will be accompanied by guitarist Jairo Sequeira. Tickets prior to the day of the concert will be sold at Bear Pond Book Store in Montpelier for \$12. On the day of the show tickets will be \$15. Proceeds will go to the Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic. For information, call 229-9593.

CAPITAL CITY CONCERT BY THE BORROMEO STRING QUARTET, MAY 6, 8 PM

Capital City Concerts will present the Borromeo String Quartet at the Old Meeting House on Saturday, May 6, at 8 p.m. The nationally acclaimed quartet will be performing with Montpelier's Grammy-nominated flutist Karen Kevra. They will play Dvorak String Quartet in A-Flat, Major Bartok String Quartet No. 5, and Mozart D Major Flute Quartet. "Simply the best there is" (The Boston Globe) Audiences around the world respond with exhilaration to what the critics call the "razor sharp intensity" and "heart stopping" performances of the award-winning Borromeo String Quartet. It is one of the most important string quartets performing today. Advance tickets will be \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors, \$9 for students and reduced income through Barre Opera House Box Office, 476-8188. Tickets will also be sold at Bear Pond Books, cash or check only, and at the door prior to the concert. For more information go to www.borromeoquartet.org.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE MAY 21, TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECONSTITUTING OF THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

The Old Meeting House reaches a special anniversary in May 2006. To thank those members who joined the church and gave it new energy forty years ago, the Old Meeting House will be honoring them on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. with a special service followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

On May 22, 1966 forty-three people joined the Old Meeting House in its reconstituted form. This hard working group in East Montpelier Center returned the historic church (built in 1823) to a full-time church with Rev. Reginald Illingworth serving as its pastor. (Rev. Illingworth served the Old Brick Church at the same time, and that church paid two-thirds of his salary in order to support the Center church.) It had been 80 years since the Old Meeting House had had a regular pastor and official members. During those years, interested community residents kept up the essential repairs on the buildings and arranged for itinerant or guest ministers to lead occasional services. The American Union Sunday School, a mission organization, established and supported a Sunday School program led first by Ruth Paine and later by Ethel Barnes from 1915 to 1966 when the reconstituted church officially took it over.

ARI'S ADVENTURE

Ari Erlbaum has lived in East Montpelier all his life. He is in 9th grade at U-32 and enjoys reading, playing games, and doing other things on the computer. But most of all he likes travelling. And travelling is just what Ari has been lucky enough to have been doing for the last six weeks.

Ari and his father Paul have been in Argentina. They first flew into Santiago, Chile. From there they flew over the Andes Mountains into Barilocho, Argentina which is a rural town where they went to a language school. Next they were on to El Bolson which is a little town Ari described as like Montpelier. They planned to be working there on little sustainable farms for 3 to 4 weeks. They planned to spend time in five different places while on their adventure.



They came across this opportunity because of Ari's dad, Paul's, "obsession" with places at the opposite latitude and longitude of Montpelier. Ari likes traveling because he can "get to see different cultures and see different things." He went to Italy when he was in fifth grade and went to Ecuador through a camp. His expectations and hopes for this trip were "to gain more adventures. It sounds really awesome!" Ari thinks that we need more adventures when we're young and so we shouldn't go to school until we're about 40. Well, that probably won't happen anytime soon, but speaking of school, Ari's father once tried to make a sustainable farm at U-32 but it never worked out. It will be fun for them to get to work on a farm during their trip.

By the time this article is published Ari and Paul will be back from their trip to Argentina. You can learn more about their adventure at their blog at www.travelblogs.org name El Bolson, Ari & Paul. We wish them happy trails.

Hannah Wirth (a 7th grade student at U-32)

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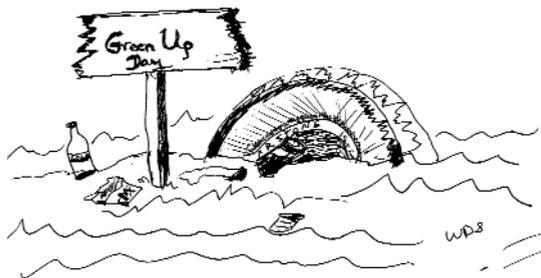
GREEN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

You are invited to join your East Montpelier neighbors on Green Up Day, May 6th, when we'll spruce up our roadsides and public lands throughout town.

East Montpelier Elementary School will be the Green Up headquarters again this year. Green Up disposal bags will be available at the school or the Town Clerk's Office during the week prior to the event. Bags will also be available at the drop-off site at school beginning at 9:00 on the 6th, although any garbage bag can be used.

Green Up Day will happen rain or shine. As you're Greening Up, try to separate out recyclable containers if possible, and empty any liquids out of them. If you find dumped items too big for you to transport, drag them (if possible) to a visible place on the roadside for later pickup. Bring your collected trash to the Elementary School between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Town trucks will be there during those times only for drop-off. Depositing trash in the school parking lot at other times is considered dumping. For further Green Up information, contact the Town Clerk's Office or coordinator Bill Merrylees at 223-4951; e-mail bmerry@together.net.

Our town set a record for participation last year, perhaps because of the free lunch for all volunteers put on by the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee. They will be offering lunch again this



year, so come share satisfying work, good food and social time with your neighbors on Green Up Day!

LUNCH ON GREEN UP DAY

There's a treat waiting for you if you arrive at the Elementary School between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with the trash you've collected from the roadsides in East Montpelier. Lunch will be served in the school cafeteria and you'll have a chance to sit and chat with neighbors and meet some new friends too! Beverages and a choice of sandwiches, cookies, and fruit will be awaiting you. You deserve a little reward for helping to spruce up East Montpelier! The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee is organizing this opportunity to add to our town's great sense of community.

IT'S TIME TO PLAN THOSE NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS!

Karen Omasta and I often talked about a neighborhood pot-luck on our regular walks. It seemed like talking about it was as far as we would go. As time went, by we had more and more new neighbors around us, but we mostly knew only their names. For example we knew that Martha Israel had bought the Ryan house next door and was in the process of remodeling it. She had ties in the neighborhood because she boarded her horse at Laurie Justis'. I was anxious to meet her. One day on our walk she was outside working on her house and we introduced ourselves to her and her twelve year old son, Amos.

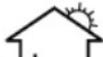
We decided that day to work on a neighborhood gathering. As usual, it was just talk. But towards the end of the summer it was getting late for an outside party so we decided to do it. We made invitations and put them at the doors of every house nearby on Bliss, Barnes, Center, Brazier, and Dodge Roads. The difficult part was deciding where to draw the neighborhood line without offending anyone - although all were invited. We asked people to bring a dish to share, a beverage and a chair. The invitations said RSVP, but only a few people did. In the end it was nice to have lots of surprise guests.

Amos Page designed a big beautiful WELCOME sign with balloons that we put on my lawn. The party started at 4 p.m. and ended at about 7 p.m. Some of the guests arrived late, but some never arrived, because right before the party Laurie Justis and some friends were riding their horses in the woods out back and Hannah Edwards (Holly's daughter) fell and broke her arm. We invited the Rescue Squad folks to our dinner, but they declined.

We had wonderful fall weather and all the neighbors mingled. The new met the old, and old friends got to reconnect. The guests ranged in age from Finnegan O'Donnell, one month old, to the neighborhood's senior members - Bud Hulbert, the Ormsbees, Mabel Wright, and the Jeromes. In all we had about sixty neighbors and an abundance of delicious appetizers, salads and casseroles. We had an amazing number of fantastic desserts!

Everyone had a wonderful time at our first annual East Montpelier Center pot-luck. Karen, Martha, and I don't have to dream about our neighborhood dinner anymore - it has already become a favorite fall event in the neighborhood

Jan Crossan lives on the corner of Center and Bliss Roads and runs Jan's Beauty Boutique in Montpelier. She wrote this article with the wonderful help and support of her new neighbor, Martha Israel.


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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	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30 Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm	2nd Thursday	7:30 Town Office
U-32 Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:00 U-32 High School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	2nd Tuesday	6:30 Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	6:30 Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00 Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00 Four Corners Schoolhouse
Wastewater Advisory Committee	1st & 3rd Thursday	6:30 Town Office

NOTICES

Green Up Day: May 6 Drop-off trash from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EMES 6th grade graduation: June 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Last day of school: June 16

U-32 Class of 2006 Graduation: June 16, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

EVENTS CALENDAR

East Montpelier Elementary School

Drama performance: Wonderland, Fri May 5 and Sat May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Community Connection Potluck Picnic June 9 at 5:30 p.m.

U-32

WCSU Technology Fair May 17th at 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Spring Arts Performances, High School: Wed May 24, 6:30–9:45 p.m. Middle School: Thurs May 25, 6–9:45 p.m.

The Old Meeting House

Concert of Mexican music with Ruth Einstein Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Capital City Concerts presents the Borromeo String Quartet Saturday, May 6 at 8 p.m.

The Orchard Valley School

Mayfest, Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Help Lady Spring send King Winter north and let the warm weather rule! A day of puppet shows, face painting, tee-shirt dyeing, food booths, performances by grade school children, dancing and singing around the Maypole. All are welcome. Call 456-7400 for more information.

moving light Children's Community Dance

Spring Performance, Sat May 13 at 7 p.m. and Sun May 14 at 2 p.m. at the Goddard College Haybarn Theatre (box office 1 hr before the show)

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

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May/June 2006

Inside: Town/School Meeting
Results, What's for Dinner?,
The Sinclairs

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