



EAST MONTPELIER Signpost



Volume XVII — Number Six

September/October 2006

FAVORITE PLACES IN TOWN

LYN BLACKWELL

What we often call "the lane" on the Center Road between the Butler farm and Templeton Road is a special place in nearly every season. In summer the maples lining this narrow section of road with their heavy canopy of green provide a shadowy, tunnel-like view that turns yellow and bright red in fall. During a winter storm, the lane is cozy and quiet as I trip through the snow-laden branches, dipping over the center line. Of course in spring, the lane is usually a sea of mud, one of the last roads to become easily passable, but this keeps the commuters away, making it even more inviting!

CHUCK BOND

Standing around the coffee machine at Dudley's is a great place to start most mornings. Good conversation as well as great coffee!

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RALLY DAY 2006

DON'T MISS THE 18TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!

Come one, come all, to a day of fun, food, and festivities on **Saturday, September 9**, at the East Montpelier Elementary School and other special spots around town. It's our 18th annual Rally Day, a time to gather with family, friends, and townsfolk of all ages to mark the end of summer.

The Rally Day committee has cooked up a few new events while bringing back a lot of your old favorites. There will be things to see and do and eat from early morning until after the sun goes down. Look for the **Detailed Schedule** of events mailed with your property tax bill. Copies are also available at the Town Offices. Here's a rundown of the highlights.

Best start off with a hearty **Breakfast**, put on by the PTNO (that's Parents, Teachers, and Neighbors) of the Elementary School. Then compete in "A Peek at Peak Oil: Energy to Burn." This **Energy Olympics** is a fun contest to raise energy awareness. You'll need the wisdom of age and the energy of youth, so come with your team of 5 people representing 5 decades. If you don't have a full team, come 15 minutes early and we'll put you together with a team. Match wits and energy in hands-on and problem-solving events.

The **Vermont Palettes Project** will visit with a display of decorated palettes, some by local artists, and a table where you can create your own palette art. Or embellish a vegetable at the **Veggie Decorating** table. Donate your monster squashes, deformed potatoes, and woody radishes to this popular event. **Fifth/Sixth-graders and U-32 students:** There will be big, fun projects for you to work on at EMES. Roll up your sleeves, get creative, and get busy. Surprises in store!

The **Fire Department** will be there with trucks and equipment to put on a truly amazing and "uplifting" surprise demonstration. Then gather at the Four Corners Schoolhouse for the **Bike Decorating** and take your place in the **Home-Grown Parade**. Pedal, ride, or march along with your bike, antique car, skate board, tractor, or best pair of boots. To enter a vehicle or float, call Hobie Guion at 223-1808.

Time out for a **Lunch** featuring fresh, locally-grown food by the EMES Food Committee. Then reminisce at **Memory Hour** with members of the Historical Society about life in town during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Or burn off some calories in the **Family Soccer Game**.

Next, you can join the **Conservation Walk** on the newly conserved property off Codling Road, part of the town's extensive trails system. Or linger at the school to learn how



Eliza Guion on one wheel!

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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charge to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

We were talking the other day about all the different ways folks in East Montpelier regard their "special places." Some of us think of a spot that features a unique plant or an animal haunt, perhaps discovered when hiking or just roaming. A hunter might relish the memory of a first successful deer hunt along a wooded hillside. A farmer may treasure the open fields and rolling hills that have been in the family for generations. An athlete could have a special association with a soccer field or a running track at EMES or U-32. For some, that special place might even be an indoor spot: a horse stable, a basketball court, a school classroom, a church, or a warm family kitchen on a frosty winter morning.

We find and enjoy our special places in different ways, as well—on foot, on a snowmobile, on skis, on a bike, or behind the wheel of a car. How about the dramatic view of the Worcester range from upper North Street, the stately maples on Center Road above the Butler farm, the bucolic timelessness of the Sibley barn seen from Lyle Young Road, or the peaceful wetlands at Sodom Pond?

Just why these places are so special also varies with the person. Some people love them for the restorative quiet they give in such busy, hectic times; others for just the opposite, the excitement or physical challenges they offer. Still others go there to renew vital bonds with nature, or revisit something important from their growing up, or allow reflection upon experiences shared with loved ones. And many cherish them for the continuity they signify, an unbroken line from past to present.

We are truly fortunate that East Montpelier provides so many opportunities for us to find and appreciate our special places, whatever the reasons for doing so. We believe this is due partly to the generosity of landowners who allow public access to their properties for various purposes. It's also due to the deep affection residents have for their town, demonstrated in their desire to see such places continue to be there in the future.

—Charles Johnson and Rob Chickering

Rally Day, continued from Page 1

to walk on stilts and perform other essential **Circus Activities**. If you've got a bike, bring it to the **Bike Safety Clinic** and then join a **Group Ride** (don't forget your helmet and water bottle). Or take a **History Tour** of the Cutler Cemetery with Elliott Morse as your guide.

The **Daffodil Project** continues. Adopt a street corner in town and the Jean Cate Community Fund will give you a free bag of daffodil bulbs to plant this fall for blooms next spring.

Anytime you need to take a break, visit the **Cozy Corner Cafe**, a place to sit inside and enjoy tea, board games, puzzles, conversation, and live music. Or stroll through the **Signpost Silent Auction**. Bid high and bid often to support East Montpelier's free bimonthly newsletter. This fund-raiser helps to pay for printing and mailing costs. If you'd like to donate an item or service, it's not too late to call Rhoda Chickering at 229-5005.

Be back at the school gym in time for **Chili Supper**. Remember to save room for the spectacular homemade pies. Then clear away the chairs and Yee-HA! it's an **Old-Fashioned Junket** with live music for Square and Contra Dancing—Swing your partner!

Many thanks to all who make Rally Day a very special day for East Montpelier. If you have questions or you'd like to volunteer to help, please call Matt Curtis at 223-7403 or Deborah Fillion at 229-1320.

KEEPING UP WITH JONESY ... NOW ON HAMMETT HILL RD.

"Jonesy's," East Montpelier's favorite farm stand, has moved. Everett Jones is still farming his old land, but his farm stand is now on Hammett Hill Rd. between Route 14 and Guyette Rd. And it still features great veggies, self-service, and Jonesy.

GINNY CALLAN

Cort and I love to take walks all around town. We tend to start off from our house on Guyette Road, rather than get in a car, so our walks are focused in our neighborhood. We love the loop walk up Chickering Road, down Old Trail Road and back up Snow Hill or reversed. And if we are lucky, we run into a few of our great neighbors to chat with, as we have lots of dedicated walkers living nearby. Winter offers some great places to cross-country ski or snowshoe, with amazing vistas just off Snow Hill Road.

For my favorite place, I guess I would have to stay close to home and choose the Christiansen farm fields and woods behind our house which offer open meadows, beautiful mountain vistas with views of the sugar bush that the Braggs tap, and sometimes great wildlife viewing (kingfishers, bear, deer, fox, moose, coyote, wild turkeys, owls, etc.). It also offers a nice quick ski in the winter months!

WES CATE

Not surprisingly, I find our family farm, Fox Run Farm on the County Road, to be my favorite place in East Montpelier. The old house, now just two decades short of its 200th birthday, is unpretentious and comfortable. The farm still has the original well "laid-up"

by the first settlers, its own private granite quarry, and probably one of the few "two-holers" left in town. The view from the picture window shows small lawns, a big garden, fruit trees, and green fields that stretch out to the woody horizon. And always, wonderful neighbors.



Ginny Callan and Cort Richardson

SANDAL CATE

Nordic skiing or biking gets one there quickly; horseback may be more leisurely; walking is longer, but allows one the chance to admire the scene. The VAST trail crossing from County Road to Center Road near the Town Forest leads one through a wooded stretch until you reach a hidden meadow. Emerging from dark to light, from little forest undergrowth to a thick cover of grasses and flowers, this surprise opening along the trail gives one reason to pause, to enjoy the sky overhead before re-entering the woods. Look for this meadow on your next outing!

BRUCE CHAPELL

When I think of my favorite places in town, the stretch of country lane from Templeton Farm to the Butler's farm come to mind. I often feel like I am traveling through a wooded cathedral with the massive maple branches stretching over Center Road.



"The Lane" on Center Rd.

This road has a storied past and was once a major thoroughfare from Boston to Montreal carrying passengers in stage-coaches and wagons. As I walk along this road, I often think of my ancestors, five generations before me, who cleared the forests and constructed these stately stonewalls.

These majestic maples, which line the road, have seen many a season and a multitude of changes within our town. If only these trees could speak, what a tale they could tell...



Wes Cate

Continued on Page 4

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church

Angelo Tillas, Pastor

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House

Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor

Rev. David W. Connor, Assoc. Pastor

Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Nursery care is available

Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church

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Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

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CHARLIE CATLIN

It's dark, and there's a unique smell of smoke and wool and perfume and a palpable energy that fills the space. There is a powerful feeling of shared purpose and community when this group gathers together for this night to participate in this ritual. People giggle and cough and whisper and wait for the lighting of the match that will light the one candle from which all the candles will be lit. June Morse plays "Silent Night" on the piano and we all sing; we start slowly and get slower, wishing the song, the singing, the feelings will last longer if we sing the song longer. Christmas Eve at the Old Meeting House: Together. In love. With hope. Sleep in heavenly peace.



Charlie Catlin at the Old Meeting House

ROB CHICKERING

My favorite place in East Montpelier just might be Spike Holden's tennis court on Templeton Road. I've played there in all kinds of weather—baking sun, brisk winds, light drizzling rain, and driving downpour that chased me off the court. Tennis is my favorite recreational activity and has been for most of my life. I've played on lots of courts in lots of places but this one gets my vote for the best. I like the crunch under my tennis sneakers when I slide for a low ball. I even enjoy pulling the brush over the court after play to smooth the surface. During brief rests between games I take in the serenity of the Templeton Road valley and the hills beyond. For me as a tennis player, this place is about as good as it gets.

DAISY THE YELLOW LAB

I love the trails behind the cabin. I often run along the narrow paths with my friend Sable, the berry bushes pulling at our fur and the scent of wild animals everywhere. When we get to the clearing we race for the pond and spend hours swimming and chasing sticks.



Daisy the Yellow Lab

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STELLA GARDNER, AGE 6, AND EMMA CURCHIN, AGE 7

(as told to Michelle Gardner)

What is your favorite place in East Montpelier?

Stella: My favorite place is at the farm, with the chickens.

What makes it special?

Stella: Visiting Alice, our chicken.

What do you do with Alice?

Stella: Well, we pick her up and pet her and give her food.

What kind of food?

Stella: Scratch food. And black raspberries.

Tell me about the black raspberries.

Stella: We have a big patch of them and one time me and sissy picked some black raspberries and we ate them.

Where are they?

Stella: Next to the chicken pen.

Anything else you want the readers of the Signpost to know about your favorite place?

Stella: NO!!!!

Emma, what is your favorite place in East Montpelier?

Emma: Taking walks.

Where do you walk?

Emma: Behind my house.

What is special about it?

Emma: The rocks.

Tell me about the rocks.

Emma: Sometimes they're brown.

Can you climb on them?

Emma: Yes.

What else do you like about it?

Emma: The ferns.

Tell me more, describe it.

Emma: How green it is.

How green is it?

Emma: Really green.

Anything else you want the readers of the Signpost to know about your favorite place?

Emma: Um, no.



Stella and Sophia Gardner with "Alice"

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GLADYS COTE

Horn of the Moon Pond is my favorite place in East Montpelier. When our children were young, we spent many Sunday afternoons during the winter ice skating with neighbors and friends. Linda Royce and her family would join us, and after skating we would all come in for hot chocolate and cookies. During the summer we would sit by the pond and watch the beavers. Sometimes the dog would jump in the water, and the beavers would splash their tails and play with her.



Gladys Cote with her grandson Jared

HILARI FARRINGTON

My favorite place in East Montpelier is our little Markham Road. Every time I turn onto the lane, with the tree branches forming an arched canopy overhead, my heart catches. There's no more beautiful place to me than home.

JOHN S. HALL

You're all welcome, come with me.
Walk the old road to Calais.
Ancient stonewalls line the way.
Maples stand in memory of the past.
Climb to the mossy ridge. Follow the trail
the deer and turkey trod.
See the beauty below, patchwork fields
and barns—the farm.
Ernest Dodge called this place the narrows.
Remember him? I do—with a sigh.

JENNIFER LORDEN, AGE 9

My favorite place in East Montpelier is my home and neighborhood on Horn of the Moon Road. We have a new addition with an apartment and my Aunt Michele lives there with her dogs.

We take her dogs to our brook and they wade with us. There are salamanders, newts, brook trout, toads, and frogs in the

brook. We see wild animals at our house, including moose, deer, bear, turkeys, partridge, and coyotes. Our family has seven pets including our dog Katie.

We walk around our neighborhood and sometimes save amphibians like newts from being run over by cars. We visit Lorie Rice and see her sheep and two puppies, and we bring treats to the mini-horses and horse owned by Mr. Ordway and Mrs. Powers. All of our neighbors walk a lot, especially Pam Adams, and her dog Harley, Mr. Woodbeck and his dog Kerrick, and Mr. & Mrs. Burrus, who have a community walk every Thursday night.

Our neighbors Danielle and Gabrielle Chaloux sometimes take care of my sister and me. We get to play card and board games with them and go to their house and play with their cats. Our home on Horn of the Moon Road is my favorite place because of all of these things and pretty soon we'll have a barn with horses, sheep, and chickens, and I can't wait!

DANA LAWRENCE

The hill on the top of the farm
The firelight
dances and pops; your skin bristles from the heat through your
pants and pushes on your face.
Groaning tables, smiling faces move in and out of the shadows: a
timeless tribal village.
Quiet now,
Nipping noses, sandpapering faces.
Soft white pillows, covered in sparkling sheets cut by the railroad
tracks of passers by.
From sparkle, to rose, to still, chill darkness lit by a canopy of
eternal fireflies.
Green!!!:
How can we not have a thousand words for the colors of the
spring?
Spread before you, a tonic the draught of which cannot be taken
in a glance, a look, a sitting. Reward of endurance, bell of hope
and promise.
Promises kept.
Smells of drying earth of grasses standing and lying.
Riot
Full circle, riotous clownsuit as far as the eye can see.

EDIE MILLER

A favorite winter spot for me is a section of woods between my house and the old Carroll Badger (now Angney) property that makes me feel like I've entered a magic kingdom. The trail goes through both open and wooded land when suddenly one enters an area of dense fir trees. Suddenly, the air is colder; it feels and smells different and the trees take on a special sentinel-like look. I've traversed that trail many times in the last 30 years, and it always makes me feel I've entered a slightly different world.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:00,
Fri 9:00-Noon

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
email: eastmonttc@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Sherry Culver
email: eastmont2@adelphia.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Denise Brown

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

Sewage Officer: Carl Etnier
223-2564

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	Jane Grinde

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair 229-0826
gburley@u32.org
Sue Chickering 229-6232
cyclo@earthlink.net

Elementary School

Bill Kaplan, Chair 229-1851
cbuni@yahoo.com
Marlene Betit 223-6028
mabetit@aol.com
Julie Rochat 223-1423
vtseven@yahoo.com
Matthew Curtis 223-7403
curtis-mj@msn.com
Jan Aldrich 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births:

- William Alexander Ibey, born June 6, 2006, son of Heather Marie & Andrew Christopher Ibey

Marriages:

- Paul Daniel Winters and Jennifer Mary Busconi, July 7, 2006
- Giora Kahan Proskurowski and Catherine Mary Rob, July 8, 2006
- James Howard Hanna Jr. and Ella May Speer, July 22, 2006
- Daniel Paul Perry and Brittany Lynn Thresher, July 22, 2006
- Luke Hobson Catlin and Emily Sarah von Trapp, August 12, 2006

Civil Union:

- Edna Martineau and Cynthia Meigs, August 5, 2006

Deaths:

- Rodney Allen Barber, February 1, 2006, former resident on Center Rd.
- Robert T. Carver, June 7, 2006, father of Dennis & Tim Carver
- Thomas William Benton, June 27, 2006, brother of Francis R. Benton

Land Transfers

- Linda L. Royce to Linda L. Royce & Douglas A. Royce, 0.95 acres & dwelling, Quaker Hill Rd.
- Brian G. & Tracy M. Phillips to Brian G. & Tracy M. Phillips, 10.6 acres & dwelling, VT14S
- Clifford W. Bowman to Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray, 6.9 acres, Schoolhouse Rd.
- Thomas H., Ann M., & Lena P. Brazier to Robert & Linda Hall, spring rights, Brazier Rd.
- Stanley Peter Christiansen to Ramona Christiansen, well easement, Hammett Hill Rd.
- Ramona Christiansen to Richard L. Brock, Trustee, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Hammett Hill Rd.
- Abigail D. Faulkner & Hobart G. Guion Jr. to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.43 acres, for bridge project, VT14N
- Dianne L. & Donald E. Tofani Sr. and Edna Tofani to Sharon A. Peck, 26.7 acres & dwelling, US2 & Coburn Rd.
- Rickey & Deborah Gordon to Rickey Gordon, 6.8 acres, County Rd.
- Rickey & Deborah Gordon to Deborah Gordon, 7 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Kirsten & Warren J. Hamel to Ornon Jilandharn, 1.2 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- Betty L. Fortin to Valarie Roberts, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Joann Guilmette, Pamela Pollock, Timothy & Gary Hudson, to Martha J. Tucker & David John Mullett, 3.10 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.

- Merrill D. Legare to Richard & Gaye Christiansen, 3.07 acres & commercial stand, US2E
- Peter Noel Duhamel to Wesley A. & Patricia H. Merriam, easement, VT14N
- Denell LLC to Marijke Russo, 3.2 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Edna Tofani to Donald Tofani Sr. & Dianne L. Tofani, 5.92 acres & dwelling, Coburn Rd.
- Marcia L. Jaquith to Michael T. Bender, 6 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Robert H. Henning to Janet Matzelle, 0.52 acres & dwelling, North St.

SELECTBOARD

May 15, 2006

- Approved the Wastewater Agreement from Forcier, Aldrich, & Associates engineering firm and appointed Bob Morey as an authorized representative to furnish the State of Vermont with information concerning the project.
- Granted curb cuts to Douglas Hill, Jim and Joni Clemons, Robert Morse, Jean LaCroix, and Meghan Pew.
- Voted not to waive the A76 Standards for Boulder Ridge Road.
- Voted to approve the hourly wage of \$12 to the Assistant Town Clerk and the second Assistant.
- Excess Weight Permits granted to Gregory Bartlett, Gene Armstrong, Warren Hill Trucking Inc, Darryl L. Hayden, Hutch Crane and Pump Rental Corp, and Ran-mar Inc.

June 5, 2006

- Tom Brazier will be the East Montpelier Selectboard representative to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library meeting on June 22.
- The Selectboard appointed Anne Sherman, Lyn Blackwell, Rhoda Chickering, and Allen Ploof to the Funding Committee.
- The Rally Day committee is: Matthew Curtis, Deb Fillion, Janice Waterman, Barbara Brown, Darlene Grundy, Hobie Guion, Sally Longhi, Bill Merrylees, Colon McCaffrey, Bill Jordan, and Erica Zimmerman.
- Excess Weight Permits approved for Estes Trucking and Kelley View Farm Inc.
- Approved Doug Grout's mowing bid upon Mike Garand's approval.

June 26, 2006

- Approved a 2nd-class liquor license for Plainfield Hardware store.
- Approved a contract from Vermont Appraisal Co.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- Approved distribution line placement by Washington Electric, contingent on approval from Mike Garand.

July 10, 2006

- Approved curb cut for Vicky Dupont/Leonard Rivers.
- Voted to approve an excavator rental to remove fallen trees from the sides of Muddy Brook Rd. and for a vibratory roll rental to pack loose gravel along the roadsides.
- Approved the recommendation to provide guidelines for proper construction of driveways to permit applicants.
- Approved a motion to have Farm Contracts recorded along with land deeds in the future.
- Sean Fowler is the new East Montpelier area Game Warden.
- Excess weight permit approved for John and Megan Picard.

PLANNING COMMISSION

May 18, 2006

- Approved a sign permit for Barry Langer.

June 1, 2006

- Approved the draft of the Rules of Procedures and Ethics of the Planning Commission.
- Approved a sign permit for Eric and Kami Moshinskie.
- Approved a sign permit for Joe Sicely.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

May 17, 2006

- Congratulations to Katie Feldman who was recognized as a Presidential Scholar. Katie acknowledged teacher Amy Herrick as the teacher who had the biggest impact on her education.

June 7, 2006

- The Foreign Language and Math Departments presented program reviews.

- A motion to grant a leave of absence failed by a unanimous vote.
- Voted to approve the following appointments:*
Jessica Smetana – English
Ann Giroux – English
Kate McCann – Math
Emily McLean – Visual Arts
Jon Antonucci – Social Studies

June 21, 2006

- Janey Malloy reviewed the four main goals and action steps of the Action Plan 06–07. Other schools in the supervisory union are using the U-32 Action Plan model. Voted to approve the 06–07 Action Plan.
- Approved the first reading of the Graduation Policy G9a and moved it to a second reading.
- Approved the appointment of Corinne Hayes-Colangeli—Special Education.
- Voted to approve the 06–07 nonbargaining contracts as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

EAST MONPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 11, 2006

- Accepted with regret resignations from Kathleen Mason and Nicole Codling.
- Voted to increase Patti Taffel to a permanent, full-time Speech Language Pathologist.
- The Parent/Teacher/Neighbor Organization meets the first Wednesday of every month. PTNO has two members who alternate attending school board meetings.
- Washington Central Schools are trying to bring all five elementary schools together with the same nutrition and fitness policy guidelines, as well as substitute teacher pay.
- Voted to extend the nurse's position to fulltime to meet increased student medical needs.
- Voted to accept the negotiated teacher's salary proposal as presented.

COME SEE THE TOWN OFFICE WINDOW DISPLAY

The display window at the Town Clerk's Office has been changed by Conrad and Anne Ormsbee for the Historical Society. The display includes Myrtie Gove's brown wedding dress from 1896, the 1908 wedding announcement for Walter Coates and Nettie Gove, wedding presents of the era, 1891–1927, which include a condiment set, a set of fruit spoons, a chamber set, wedding gloves, a table, and other items.

Anyone may come in and view this window in the lobby during the Town Clerk's office hours (see page 6).

ARE YOU COMING TO THE INFORMATORY? THE WHAT?

Many creative and industrious committees have been at work in East Montpelier. Their project plans are blossoming, and it's time to let people know what's going on. An "Informatory" (coined by Wes Cate) will be held at the East Montpelier (EM) Elementary School Wednesday, September 27, 7 to 9 p.m. to let you know what's happening. You will have a chance to hear plans, ask questions, and discuss possibilities with groups such as the EM Senior Living Initiative, the EM Fire Department Facilities Committee, the Wastewater Advisory Committee, the Greater EM Peak Oil Group, and the Neighborhood Watch Program. After brief presentations, there will be time for questions and discussion. The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee is organizing this opportunity to become more informed about the goals these groups are striving for as they seek to fill needs in our community.

Kevin E. Hudson
2235 Brazier Road
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(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

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SHERWOOD MORSE

The panorama on North Street between Cummings and Sparrow Roads is my favorite “beauty spot” in East Montpelier. Throughout all four seasons this magnificent vista offers everything that makes our town a special place in the universe. Behind the foreground of beautiful meadows, complete with grazing cattle, the Green Mountains loom in splendor. Visit this beauty spot on a clear day and see how many distant peaks you can name. At dusk, watch Mother Nature painting in all shades of red behind the Couching Lion. Even stormy days are beautiful here. Turbulent clouds often perform acrobatics over Mt. Hunger and The Dumpling.



Sherwood Morse on North St.

BARBARA PLOOF

Sometimes a thing is beautiful partly because it is surprising or ephemeral. This is true of one lovely spot in our neighboring woods. My husband happened upon it while walking our dog one springtime. After the snow had melted but the tree branches were still gray and bare and the forest floor was dull brown with well packed leaves, he came upon a large sweet-smelling pink bush standing to one side of a spring freshet. This daphne is the only large one I have ever seen, and why it is here next to that trickling brook, I can only imagine. Daphne, I am told, are not native to North America. Each year when the time is right, we take a walk to find and enjoy that lovely scene.

ANN STANTON AND DAVE CONNOR

We could call it “God’s Little Half Mile”—the stretch between our house at 1300 Center Road and the top of Badger’s Hill with its sunset view of Camel’s Hump. We walk it regularly, listening to the joyous wood thrush and alert for wildlife. Over the last few years, we’ve seen river otters, fisher cat, weasel, porcupine, fox, deer, moose, and bear. We watched a turtle lay her eggs near the “frog pond,” which has also played host to a beaver, numerous peepers, frogs, newts and dragonflies, black ducks, mallards, kingfishers, and blue herons, as well as an occasional barred owl.

CHERIE STAPLES

It had been many years since I read Sigurd Olsen’s *Listening Point*, but that’s what this place felt like when I found it over 20 years ago. Long blocks of rock formed a parapet overlooking the fern-bottomed glen. Shaded by the light-reaching branches of maples that edged the farmer’s field, I would watch the westering sun and listen to hermit thrush song on long summer evenings. An autumn day would be full of bright bursts of color, backlit and glowing. Best, though, would be the spring days when the leaves were mouse-ear size and warblers teased with their myriad songs and constant flitting.

I’d bring a journal and write, a camera to try capturing that amber light, grateful to be the guest of the farmer, up whose hill I’d sometimes race to catch a glowing sunset. The glen was a well-kept sugar woods but now seems more a “firewood” woods. The ferns remain many in species, maidenhairs included. It lies near one of the public trails and sometimes now I leave the trail and perch on the listening point rock, hidden from the cyclists and hikers traveling along the trail, feeling slightly illegal in the now signed “No Trespassing” zone.

LORING STARR

Drive up North Street, at sunset time, and pause on upper North Street across from the Antonovich’s old farm. Face west across Diana Chace and Carl Etnier’s pastures on Sparrow Farm, and the whole Worcester Range is laid out in front of you, rising beyond the deep gulf of the North Branch of the Winooski. On a clear evening, the sun sinks down cleanly, and the sky is bright, then darkens. Quite handsome, and the hills are lovely. But if you go on a partly cloudy evening, the sunset over the hills can turn to glory. Check it out yourself.

SYLVIA TOSI

My own favorite place is our property where I observe my flowers that surround us, as well as the birds and wild animals that stop in to check us out. I’ve tried to mix the seasons in all areas of my gardens. Tulips and daffodils in the spring, wild flowers and ferns; it’s only a step away.

Late spring brings the many colored irises, the peonies, the roses, and the many birds that come back to make their new homes and raise their young. The hummingbird darts in and out of flowers and occasionally, even the pileated woodpecker is seen!

Early to mid-summer, there are many colored lilies and a variety of other brightly colored blooms, as well as my hydrangea bush with its big white balls that turn shades of cream to green to dark pink.

Winter is the season for feeding the birds. Cardinals, juncos, nuthatches, woodpeckers, blue jays, gold finches, mourning doves, various sparrows, and other finches, even turkey and deer are seen from my dining room window. The red squirrels chase each other or go after the gray squirrels we have.

Thinking of a favorite place, I could not come to any other place than my own, here at home, never realizing it was a favorite place of mine.

LYRA (AGE 10) AND CILLA (AGE 8) WANZER

Lyra and Cilla’s favorite place is East Montpelier Elementary School. Lyra says she loves to learn, likes to read anywhere, and enjoys recess. Cilla loves to read, write, learn, and do math. And she loves her teacher. Another one of Lyra’s favorite places is the stream near her house, she likes to swim in it. It Cilla likes to go to the barn to watch her horses, they are really good company.

—Collected by Edie Miller and the Signpost staff

TRAIL UPDATE: COMPLETING THE LOOP!



East Montpelier Trail Map

founded East Montpelier Trails Inc., "...dedicated to building a permanent trail network on the lands of willing landowners." Maintaining a rural presence, growing around thriving farms and woodlands, and building trails were goals that stuck.

The newly minted Trail group envisioned a loop or "necklace" of privately owned, permanently protected trails and open lands in town. No matter where in town you lived, and no matter how much we developed or grew, you would never be more than five minutes away from a town trail. Ambitious? Unrealistic? Sixteen years later, with the support and help of hundreds of townspeople, just under 14 miles of permanent trail have been completed or are near completion with only four more ahead, for a total of 18 miles of trails, designed to connect to the Montpelier Bike Path on both the east and west sides of Montpelier.

Where are we now? Busy!!! The map shows three categories of trails: (1) heavy black lines where the town trail loop has been completed; (2) dashes for proposed trails—routes unknown at the moment; and (3) dotted circles that indicate trails or easements in some stage of activity, completion, or construction. These areas include several miles near the Mallory Brook, new easements on the Clark farm (which adjoins U-32), a connector between Mallory and Clark (route unknown at present), and work on the Cross Vermont trail, which follows the old Wells River/Montpelier rail bed along Route 2 and the Winooski River valley. There will be several work days on the Mallory Brook and Cross Vermont Trail this fall. Call 223-7745 if you want to be part of these fun community efforts at any level.

—Nona Estrin, President

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EAST MONTPELIER SENIOR LIVING INITIATIVE (EMSLI)

Does your home need essential repairs? Could you use ramps, railings, or wider doorways to accommodate a wheelchair? With money originally granted by the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) and being repaid by Fairmont Farms, the Central Vermont Community Land Trust currently has about \$60,000 especially for East Montpelier home-rehabilitation projects. These include addressing health and safety concerns, correcting code violations, weatherizing, and making access modifications for the elderly or disabled.

This money (and more, supported by a \$375,000 VCDP grant from the Agency of Commerce & Community Development) is available to residents who live in single-family homes or owner-occupied properties of up to four units. Eligibility is dependent on annual income:

1-person household = up to \$36,700

2-person household = up to \$41,900

4-person household = up to \$52,400

Loans are priced according to the borrower's ability to repay; currently interest rates range from 0% to 6%. To apply or learn more, call 476-4493, ext. 215.

EMSLI meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Four Corners Schoolhouse. All are welcome.

EMES SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The EMES board is looking for community members interested in participating on the newly created school facilities committee. The goal of the committee will be to continue to develop and maintain a long-range plan for capital improvement expenditures. This is very important because our school building is in need of some major repairs in the near future that will require knowledgeable minds with a wide range of building and planning expertise. If interested, or for more information, please contact Matt Curtis at 223-7403 or curtis_mj@msn.com.

Get involved and see how you can make a difference!

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EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMFD BUSINESS

The following positions were elected/appointed at the EMFD annual meeting in May: John Audy, re-elected Fire Chief; Greg Pelchuck, President; Toby Talbot, Treasurer; Robin Copping re-elected Chaplain; and Jay Copping was promoted to Lieutenant.

The department has installed a new flagpole and black granite base at our Templeton Road Station in memory of our firefighters who have passed away. The names of Assistant Chief Robert Parker and Assistant Chief Michael Bliss are engraved on the base. Their dedication to the department and their community will never be forgotten. They shall forever be in our hearts.

SAFETY TIPS FROM EMFD

The department has responded to a few structure fires recently, and we don't want the next one to be at your house. Please be sure you have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your homes. You should have a detector on each floor of your home and in every bedroom. Check them every month, and never, never remove the batteries unless you are replacing them with new ones. A detector that has activated has done so for a reason. Please call 911 if you have an alarm activation, even if you can't detect a reason for it.

In case of fire, never go back into a burning building or attempt to put out the fire on your own. We want all of our community to remain safe!

We will see everyone at Rally Day on September 9. Thank you all for your continued support.

—Robin J. Copping, EMFD Chaplain

Thank you to these Signpost Supporters

Contributions are always welcome.

Please mail them to PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

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COUNTY ROAD'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Two years ago, a break-in at a house along County Road prompted residents to start a Neighborhood Watch.

At the organizing meeting, on September 20, 2004, the residents learned why they needed a Neighborhood Watch. Principal speaker at the meeting, Lt. David Harrington, then head of the State Police unit covering our part of Vermont, explained that troopers are few, the area they must protect extensive—18 towns. East Montpelier, he said, among the towns served by the Middlesex Barracks, experiences a higher-than-average rate of property crimes.

If an East Montpelier resident dials 911, especially in the wee hours, he said, response time can vary greatly. It is unlikely to be immediate. And the wait can be long, depending upon the number of troopers on duty and the nearest patrol car's location.

Residents left the meeting determined to begin a Neighborhood Watch for their portion of County Road, encompassing 37 houses. In the ensuing weeks, a volunteer organizing committee set to work. Their aim: to set up roadside signs announcing to passing drivers that neighbors along that swath of road keep an eye on each other's houses.

Setting up signs required meetings with the Select Board. Although the committee had hoped to erect signs at several places along the road, the Select Board worried about "sign clutter." In the end, the Board approved the erection of two signs, one at either end of the organization's swath of County Road. The town's road crew agreed to set up the two signs, alerting drivers on County Road approaching from either Montpelier or Calais.

It turned out that neither the town of East Montpelier nor the Jean Cate Fund could help fund the signs. So the committee appealed to generous neighbors who donated \$640, an ample amount to buy the two signs, plus a sign to hold in reserve in case of damage to one of the erected signs. In addition, the donations allowed the committee to purchase door and window decals, available to any members wishing them. And the Fund pays the postage for mailing the organization's newsletter to residents lacking e-mail.

In operation, a Neighborhood Watch can be as simple or as extensive as residents wish. Mid-County Road Neighborhood Watch serves mainly to keep residents alert to the possibility

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of helping each other. Members of the Neighborhood Watch who must leave their homes unoccupied for a day or a week or longer should feel invited to ask their neighbors to watch over the house while they are away. And the Neighborhood Watch, through its newsletter, encourages residents to keep watch for possibly suspicious activities in their neighborhood.

Such watchfulness is warranted. Recently, for instance, some time during the night vandals rode along County Road firing paintball guns at roadside signs. They also blasted a car, parked in front of a house, with several of the paint pellets, destroying a tail light.

Also, nighttime burglars recently struck the Morse Sugar Shack, just south of the Mid-County Road Neighborhood Watch.

Meanwhile, to East Montpelier's north, a rash of break-ins inspired the creation of the Calais Neighborhood Watch. Its operations include volunteer car patrols of the country lanes.

East Montpelier's Larry Brown, owner of the L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc. in Barre, and both a captain and a chaplain in the Barre City Fire Department, believes the entire town needs a similar organization. He is leading efforts to create a Neighborhood Watch for all of East Montpelier.

He invites all residents to attend the organizing meeting: September 7, at 6 p.m., at the East Montpelier Elem. School.

—Joyce Wolkomir (*in cooperation with the other members of the Mid-County Road Neighborhood Watch Organizing Committee: Gail Anderson, Pam Bockes, Jim Hanna, and Ella May Speer*)

New Playgroup for Children Under 2

Michelle McFadden will be starting a parent/child playgroup in the fall for children under two. Playgroups usually meet weekly, rotating their location among the participants' homes. Michelle feels that playgroups are a great way for parents and kids to get to know each other, building a sense of community. Please call her at home, 229-0286.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN KINDERGARTEN?

Reflections on what kids learned in Mrs. O'Hare's Kindergarten class:

I like to learn first grade writing. *Tien*
I learned that I can draw a bird. And I saw lots of birds. *Cole*
I learned that we can balance. *Alex*
I learned to be quiet and I am happy to see you. *Justin*
I learned how to count to ten in Spanish. *Wilson*
I learned how to write. I learned to read. I learned to listen. *Caleb*
I learned how to write like first grade. I learned how to color birds. *Emily*
I learned how to read. *Stella*
I learned to write words and read. I learned what birds eat. *Calvin*
I learned to write. *Fiona*
I learned how to read and spell and I learned about foxes and red-winged black birds. *Katie*
I learned that school is fun. I learned that today I saw a swallow fly at me. *Ford*
I learned how to count. *Autumn*

FALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Don't let your education stop when you finish school! On Wednesday, October 4, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library will host a program called "Einstein's Century: 1905–2005" with Middlebury College Professor Susan Watson. On November 1, the well-known author and Vermont resident Julia Alvarez will share her recent experience writing historical fiction.

To find out about these and many other free offerings for children and adults at the library, send an e-mail to khlprograms@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us and ask to be added to the online newsletter. You can also check the library's website for information.

LIBRARY HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Children's Room: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

(Adult library staff will assist you after hours.)

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card.

Phone: 223-3338

E-mail: info@kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us

Bookmobile: Check the library website for the fall schedule or call Bettie Kaseguma at 223-4665.

Website and On-line Catalog: www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us

East Montpelier Library Trustee: Charlie Catlin, 229-4273

—Hilari Farrington, Library Director

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One of East Montpelier's well-remembered summer destinations was the Crystal Pool. The pond was originally created circa 1932 as a source for ice and fire protection for George and Peg Sibley's farm on Sibley Road. Neighbor Harold Weed helped build a dam on Sodom Pond Brook in back of the Sibley barn. The men used horses as well as Harold's new Farmall tractor to haul boulders, but after the first dam washed out, a concrete dam was built.

After several years, Crystal Pool was opened to the public, where, for a modest fee, folks could go swimming. Jeff Sibley terms this his mother's project. There was a small beach, a long, narrow bathhouse, and a stand where swimmers could store their clothes in baskets and purchase soda. The Sibleys put up signs directing patrons to Sibley Road as the Pool attracted people from many parts of the Barre-Montpelier area. Even so, neighbors like the Barclays on Vincent Flats Road were frequently asked for additional directions.

The pond was drained annually to remove sediment, maintain the bottom, and keep the pool free of bloodsuckers. Though the pool was closed in 1952 when liability requirements became an issue, many folks today have fond memories of this swimming spot in East Montpelier.

Many thanks to Jeff Sibley, son of George and Peg, for his recollections.

—Anne Ormsbee, EMHS VP/Treasurer

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
East Mont. Senior Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Four Corners School

NOTICES

Last day to register to vote for Primary Election: Tuesday, September 5, by 12 noon

Primary Election Day: Tuesday, September 12, Australian Ballot voting 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting/absentee ballot beginning August 15. Call town office at 223-3313 with your request.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Rally Day - September 9, 2006, at East Montpelier Elementary School. (See article on pages 1 and 2 for details.)

Neighborhood Watch organizational meeting: Sept. 7, 6 p.m., at East Montpelier 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.

Susannah Blachly of Marshfield will deliver her own brand of homegrown Green Mountain traditional music at the **Old Meeting House on September 30, at 7:30 p.m.** Well-known in these parts for her fiddle playing, Susannah is also recognized for her songwriting and vocals, a mix of folk and country. She will be joined in this performance by her musician friends Colin McCaffrey and Lewis Franco. Tickets will be \$12 before the day of the show and \$15 on the day of the show. Tickets will be for sale at Bear Pond Book Store two weeks before the show. If not sold out, they will also be available at the door. Proceeds from this concert will be sent to Kenya to support a Masai school. Supporting this school has been a project of the Old Meeting House for several years.

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

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