

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVII — Number Six

July/August 2007

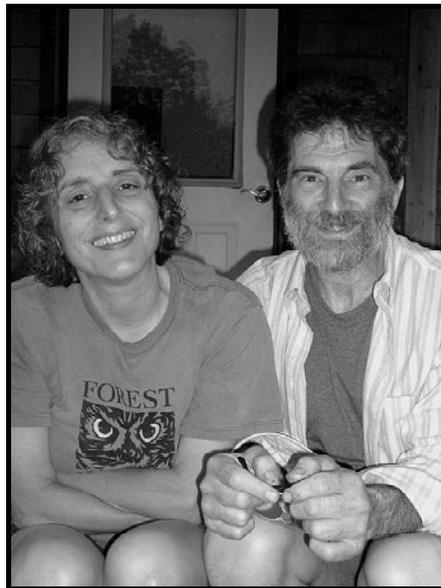
PLAINFIELD HARDWARE: NUTS 'N BOLTS ... AND WINE AND CHEESE AND MORE

To say I was pleasantly surprised when I visited Rich and Gaye Christiansen at their Plainfield Hardware site would be a huge understatement. This is definitely not your run of the mill hardware store. In addition to the typical items you find in a hardware store, they also offer a wide variety of other items, including bedding plants (supplied by Legare Farm), groceries, feed grain, hot dogs, beer and wine, all-natural cleaning supplies, wrought-iron pieces, and crafts. And even more new items are being considered.

Rich and Gaye were raised in Plainfield, in the Christiansen and Bartlett families, respectively. Having grown up in the area, and after working in other positions, Rich and Gaye decided they wanted to purchase a local business. After considering a few that wouldn't work for them, they purchased the hardware store in Plainfield village in 1999. Seven years of expan-

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100 BRAZIER ROAD, PLANET EARTH



Rachael Grossman and Paul Erlbaum

Like a beautiful set of nesting dolls, the Grossman-Erlbaums live comfortably within the context of family, neighborhood, community, and as global citizens with responsibility for helping shape a preferred and more sustainable future. Living on Brazier Road near the intersection of Towne Hill and Gallison Hill Roads, Paul Erlbaum offers tremendous insights into how seeming dichotomies can come together in a single person. Get to know Rachael Grossman and you can begin to understand how a passion for people and loving relationships nets you the title "CEO of the Universe".

Paul and Rachael moved to East Montpelier 28 years ago from New Jersey via Rockland County, N.Y., and Franconia, N.H. They met in college and soon realized that their future lay in the bucolic splendor that was, and still is, East Montpelier.

Knowing that Paul is a civil rights investigator with the Vermont Human Rights Commission, you might be tempted to think of him in terms of stereotypical images of a licensed attorney—but you'd not even come close to getting it right. Likely to answer phone calls with an overtly optimistic outlook, Paul began his work life in Vermont at National Life, read for the bar exam (meaning he taught himself what he needed to know in order to pass the bar exam), and worked as an Assistant Attorney General before taking his current job with the Human Rights Commission. Outside of his professional life, Paul co-founded Milestone Adventures. Through Milestone, he sponsored and led cross-cultural tours to Newark, N.J. and Harlem, N.Y. He's even twice brought the 100-member Eleven O'clock Mass Choir from Newark to share their powerful gospel music with mostly white audiences at the Barre Auditorium. As the choir's pastor, Reverend Thomas joked at one of the concerts that when the choir's buses crossed the state line they tripled the black population of Vermont.

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Ah, July ... sun and sweat, dramatic thunderstorms, fields of flowers ... and the strawberries! Every year our family picks bucketloads of strawberries, eats them in every fashion we can imagine, and cans the rest as preserves that we enjoy all winter long.

Our summer here is brief and precious. But it can pass us quickly by in our rush to do the gotta-do's. I propose that each of us considers a decision to slow down and more fully experience our wonderful summer in East Montpelier. Here are a few things that could go onto our summer to-do list:

Bike and walk the dirt roads. Our town has over 60 miles of them, and every mile has a beauty spot. Take the risk of getting a little lost and turn onto an unfamiliar road. You'll find yourself again soon enough, and you might discover a hidden treasure along the way.

Walk along Mallory Brook. This is a natural gem that all of us have helped preserve, but few have yet visited. It's well worth the trip.

Go to neighborhood meals and gatherings. Many of our neighborhoods, most notably Brazier Road and Horn of the Moon, stay in touch via e-mail or phone, and schedule meals regularly. It is a wonderful way to stay connected. Your neighborhood doesn't do this? Then start it up. You'll find it to be rewarding.

The biggest neighborhood gathering, of course, is Rally Day. If great people are East Montpelier's crop, Rally Day is one great harvest festival.

Savor this short season. Like strawberry preserves out of the cupboard, our summer experiences will still be sweet next January.

—Bill Merrylees



MIKE HITS THE ROAD... WE'LL MISS HIM!

The Town of East Montpelier would like to thank Mike Garand, Road Foreman, for many years of leadership and hard work. Not only are our roads in excellent shape, but Mike has always worked well with East Montpelier citizens. Our loss is Montpelier's gain, since Mike will be assuming oversight of the city's many streets and roads. Thanks and good luck, Mike!

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Published six times a year.
Mailed free of
charge to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

WELCOME TO THE OFFICE!

We welcome Lynn Commo to the position of Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer. Lynn is known to many as "Peaches." She lives on Barnes Road with her husband and four children. Lynn moved to East Montpelier three years ago and has been driving a school bus route for EMES for the past couple of years. Before that she was a secretary at Harwood Union. Lynn is very pleased to have been appointed to serve East Montpelier as its Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Paul has traveled with his family to Italy to do community service work, and traveled with his son, Ari, to Chile and Argentina to help on an organic farm and to learn what he could about permaculture in practice. More typically, however, he can be found at home in soft clothes either meditating in his attic, wrestling boulders from the ground, or digging in the dirt, nurturing his latest crop of garlic. Paul's many contributions to a better world go largely unknown to everyone, for he practices the highest form of giving, or in Hebrew, *mitzvah*, often giving anonymously. Paul is a true humanitarian and a wonderful friend to others who carries with him no pretenses or hidden agendas. He exudes a love of life, and tirelessly pursues his passion for social equity, justice, and, of course, his endless crop of garlic.

Rachael Grossman is the quintessential woman working behind the scenes to make sure her family—and the world—continue to function as it should. When Rachael first came to Vermont with Paul, she worked for the Department of Education. Today she manages the outreach program at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and coordinates the Housing and Supportive Services Program for Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice. Often outside the glare of the limelight, Rachael's organizational skills and commitment to community have helped ensure that the Brazier Road community meals keep happening. On Town Meeting Day, Rachael makes sure that there's adequate food and many helping hands so that no one goes hungry. She has served on the Town Funding Committee to encourage all of us to live up to our responsibility to care for organizations helping those who need help.

As unofficial CEO of the Universe, Rachael sees that everything runs well, and that her family members have what they need to grow and to self-actualize in this ever-expanding universe.

Inspirational in a world that is sometimes full of woe and far too many problems, the Grossman-Erlbaums remind us of the positive roles each of us can, and must, play in nurturing family, neighborhood, community, and a future we all have the power to shape on a daily basis.

—Doug and Renee Kievit-Kylar live in East Montpelier with their son, Brent, and Tippy (a dog they share with the Grossman-Erlbaums)

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sion convinced Rich and Gaye that they needed more space. They bought the Legare farm stand on Route 2 between East Montpelier village and Plainfield. The existing space and a large log-structure expansion have given them the space they need for the additional items.

With the expansion has come the need for more employees. Rich and Gaye work the full schedule along with their son, Ryan. Their daughter helped during summer months but is now an athletic trainer in Middlebury making use of her degree from UVM. In addition to the family, there are nine part-time employees, all from the local community. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.



Rich, Gaye, and Ryan Christiansen

Another change that has come with the move to the new building is that the Christiansen's store now carries Poulin grain products because Poulin is more service-oriented than their previous supplier. As an example, Poulin will conduct a nutritional analysis of a farmer's hay in order to recommend an appropriate grain supplement. They will also confer with customers on other nutrition issues.

Rick and Gaye are making every effort to establish a true community enterprise. They are hiring employees from the local area. They will rent a rototiller to local gardeners. They are featuring products that are either grown or produced locally, such as the baked goods and the natural cleaning products. They will even carry your purchases to your car for you.

With all the useful products that are now available and the new ones that Rich and Gaye are planning to add, the Plainfield Hardware store is a source of lots of good things for East Montpelier residents. You owe it to yourselves to stop in and look around. Rich, Gaye, Ryan, and all the other employees will be happy to help you find the items you thought you might need—and some you may not have realized you wanted.

—Dave Grundy and his wife, Darlene, live on Clark Road where they raise fruits and vegetables for themselves and their extended family of seven.

WHAT DOES OUR FUTURE HOLD?

Share Your Vision for East Montpelier 2027

A little more than 20 years ago, 268 students filed into East Montpelier Elementary School every morning. This year, roughly 200 children filled classrooms. In 1986, some 935 houses and businesses lined the streets. Today, there are closer to 1,150. In 1988, East Montpelier had 1,402 registered voters. Last year, 2,059.

"Our roads are a lot better," says East Montpelier's Lister Rosie Cueto, when asked how the town has changed since 1987. Noting the downside of improved roads, Wes Cate, whose family has called East Montpelier home for seven generations, says, "County Road has changed dramatically. They come tooting down here pretty wildly now."

What with electronic communications and better road maintenance, life in East Montpelier certainly is faster. Some would also argue better. "Maybe it's simply an impression," says Cate, "but I think we have a greater sense of community. We have Rally Day. We have the *Signpost*. We have three or four groups that get together regularly for potlucks. We didn't have those 20 years ago."

What we did have, however, were more family farms. "It's too bad," says Cueto, "Twenty years ago, we had 10 or 12."

We also had more youth, says East Montpelier's historian, Anne Ormsbee. Today, she says, "None of our children live around here."

Twenty years from now, would Ormsbee like to see East Montpelier's children putting down roots in East Montpelier? You bet. She'd also like to see more residents, whose children are no longer around, get involved in the school, perhaps teaching history or coaching sports. She'd like to see the Senior Housing initiative take root, more affordable housing, more web-based business, and more diversified agriculture. "And maybe in the future," she adds, "we'd try a little wind power."

The *Signpost* and your neighbors would love to hear how you'd envision East Montpelier in 2027. Your ideas and words will be published in the *Signpost* and posted on the *Signpost's* website in hope of facilitating a dialogue about our town's future. After all, it was just this kind of conversation that sparked the beginnings of this publication, almost twenty years ago.

Send letters, postcards, or emails to the Signpost by July 15, c/o Edie Miller, 1225 Murray Rd., East Montpelier 05651; signposteam@comcast.net; 229-0677. Please include your name, address, email, and phone. Suggested maximum word count for submissions is 150 words, but please feel free to send along any and all thoughts; we will gladly edit submissions for length.

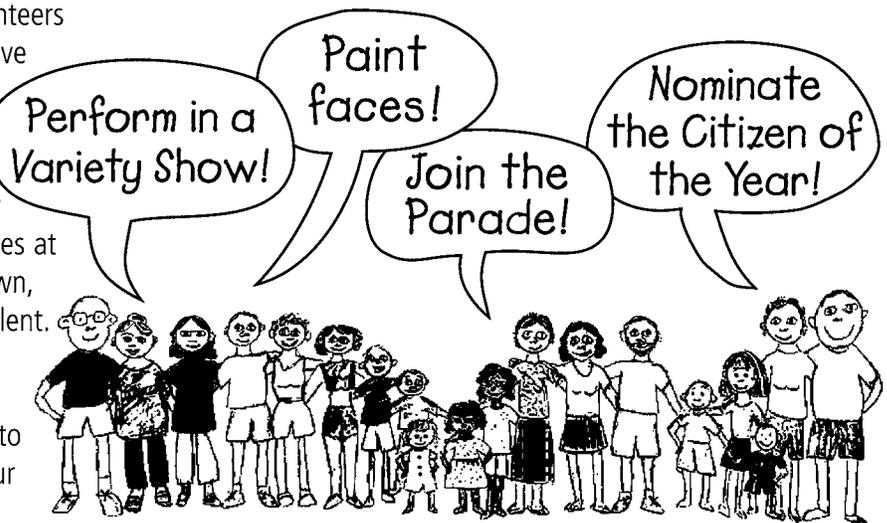
—Signpost editors

If you can blow bubbles... throw a frisbee... brew tea... pitch a tent... or have other talents... Please call now to volunteer for an hour on Rally Day!

Rally Day is a town event, organized by volunteers of all ages, to celebrate community. If you have not participated before, now is your chance. Mark your calendars: The 19th Annual Rally Day will be Saturday, September 8th. Join your friends and neighbors for a fun day of games, a parade, food, and various activities at the Elementary School and places around town, all topped off with a Variety Show of local talent.

It takes a lot of hands to put together our annual celebration. Take a moment to think about how you can give a little of your time to help with the festivities. Then call us with your suggestions or to sign-up to be a helper:

Bill Merrylees 223-4951; Colin McCaffrey 454-1007;
Barbara Brown 223-2842; Erica Zimmerman 223-6930;
Peter Burroughs 229-2107; Matt Curtis 223-7403.



The only way to have more fun on Rally Day is to help make it happen!

SURVEY SHOWS HOUSING NEED FOR SENIORS: LAND NEEDED

The East Montpelier Senior Housing Initiative, with help from consultant, Michael Crane AICP, completed a survey of senior households in town to determine the demand for affordable senior housing and the type that would be most preferable. Of 310 surveys sent, more than half were returned, and EMSLI thanks everyone who took time and responded! We appreciate your help.

The survey results indicate that about two-thirds of the respondents have no plans to move. Of the remaining respondents, 29 indicated they would like to live in an independent senior housing facility. Other responses show that if an affordable senior housing project were built that it would be occupied. Currently, about one-third of the respondents are paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing, which is more than the generally accepted limited that defines an affordable living situation.

Further analysis of the survey findings reveals that even some householders who own their homes free and clear (with no mortgage payments) are living in unaffordable housing. Of the respondents who said they owned their homes outright, 16 were spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, and most of those had annual incomes of less than \$20,000. In terms of a town-wide approach, this market study indicates that EMSLI may be more productive by seeking to build subsidized senior housing.

EMSLI is now investigating building sites and needs your help. If you know of a suitable building site in town or would like to be involved and learn more about this project, please contact Michael Crane at Crane Associates, 802-657-3720, or Austin Cleaves, chair of EMSLI, at 802-229-5223. Also, if you are in a position to donate land for creating permanently affordable senior housing in town, you may be eligible for significant tax benefits. More important, you would be helping improve the lives of many East Montpelier seniors for generations to come.

The EMSLI committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 at the Town Office. You're welcome to join us.

—Michael Crane, Consultant to the EMSLI Committee

Thank you to these *Signpost* Supporters

Contributions are always welcome.

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

Roy and Joanne Bair	Ted Allen
Maurice and Barbara Brown	Abigail Bruce
Raymond and Jody Brown	Weston Cate
Sarah Kinter & Thomas Curchin	Grace Cook
Dave and Darlene Grundy	Nancy Couch
Fred and Joyce Jacek	Minnie Lane
Marty and Edie Miller	Lois McKnight
Conrad and Anne Ormsby	Eric Pauly
John Ordway and Molly Power	Thelma Welch
Norma Raymond	Mabel Wright

WITH GRATITUDE: SIGNPOST CONTRIBUTIONS INCREASE

Many thanks to those folks who sent in contributions and comments in response to my short piece in the last *Signpost* about a decline in donations. The notes were all positive and encouraging about our publication. Several people mentioned how easy it is to forget to make a donation and appreciated the friendly reminder. If you have a comment or want to contribute, just send it along (see box above for address). Many thanks!

—Rob Chickering

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TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
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Fri 9:00-12:00

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eastmonttct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Lynn Commo
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Lisa Rice
Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Chief Lister: Rosie Cueto
Mon-Fri 9:00-11:30

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
Tues & Thurs 11:00-2:00
eastmontza@comcast.net

Sewage Officer: Carl Etnier
223-2564

TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair
Stephen Jerome, Tracy Phillips

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Mark Lane	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Kim Watson
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Sandy Conti	Jeff Cueto
Steve Kappel	Cliff King
Mark Lane	Gray Ricker

Jane Grinde

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

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dragonfly@ezcloud.net

Elementary School

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John Audy
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Andrea Colnes
alc@sover.net 223-8474

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Jonathan An-Jin Miller, born December 1, 2006, son to Linda Lin and Benjamin Miller
- Ava Grace Pryce, born Feb. 20, 2007, daughter to Tonia Jean & Derek Tate Pryce
- Gideon William Johnson, born March 7, 2007, son to Judith Mary & Matthew Peter Johnson
- Aaron Shane Case, born March 12, 2007, son to Stacey Ann Morris Pamitzke & Shane Edward Casey
- Christin Lauren Haynes, born March 25, 2007, daughter to Julia L. & Paul Wesley Haynes

Marriages

- Jorge Monrique Logan Arias and Lauri Beth Brewster, April 20, 2007

Deaths

- Virginia Lee Sludhoff, April 14, 2007
- Paul Ideale Mascitti, April 24, 2007, father of Paul A. Mascitti & Pauline Lee.
- Gene W. Budbill, May 8, 2007
- Sandra Jean (Kiser) Holt, May 9, 2007, spouse of Larry C. Holt

Property Transfers

- Thomas C. & Patricia M. Barlow to Paul J. Dayton, 5.6 acres & dwelling, Haggatt Rd.
- Cummings Farm LLC to David & Christine Oliver, 3.02 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd.
- John W. Graham III & Denise K. Mullane to David & Amy Thornton Kelly, 12.3 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Carol Patterson to William A. Dunn, 1.07 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- Ron E. & Carol J. Benoche to Elizabeth Killiam Chambers, 1.44 acres & dwelling, Evergreen Ln.

SELECTBOARD

March 12, 2007

- Accepted the warning and the schedule for the run-off election.
- Appointed newly elected First Constable Sandy Conti as Animal Control Officer.
- Approved Access Permit for Duane Wells.

March 19, 2007

- Appointed Tom Brazier as chair of the Selectboard.
- Approved the list of volunteer citizens to work as an ad hoc committee and research Ancient Roads.
- Granted Excess Weight Permits to Ultramar, Allen Lumber, Warren Hill Trucking Inc., McCullough Crushing Inc., Camp Precast Concrete Products Inc., Pike Industries.

- Bill George and Lisa Rice will meet in April to update the Rapid Response Plan.
- Approved the East Montpelier Senior Living/ Crane and Associates contract.

April 2, 2007

- Tracy Phillips was welcomed to the board.
- Terry Conti attended an informational meeting on rebates and prebates. The Town will receive rebates and prebates July 2 and Sept. 1. Conti indicated that NEMRC would be available for any issues that might arise.
- Health Officer Elliot Morse and First Constable Sandy Conti were in attendance to discuss their responsibilities. The Town needs to have a dog pole and kennel for dealing with possible rabid animals.
- Approved naming the road in Duane Wells' development Captain Kidd Road, based on the fact that Captain Kidd was the actual person who built the "Banfield House," which originally included the land being developed.
- Accepted the proposal for the 2007 International 4200 4x4 truck with the options for financing as described by Mike Garand.
- Approved allowing Sterry. Leno to begin the work on the Town Garage in three weeks.
- Mike Riker will be leaving the town road crew. Two new people will be trained on the grader for this summer.
- Granted Excess Weight Permits to Haskins Concrete, McCullough, Gillespie Fuels, Ranmar, Powers Trucking, E.E. Packard.

April 16, 2007

- Terri Conti reported the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer terminated her employment.
- Susan Kittredge was appointed as the Town Service Officer.
- Tracy Phillips will resign from the Planning Commission to serve on the Selectboard. Tim Carver indicated his interested in being appointed to the Planning Commission when the position becomes available.
- Voted to approve the lease of a phone system on the condition Lisa Rice research costs and features of the lease agreement.
- Voted to accept Clark's Baystone lease proposal for the 2007 International 4200 4x4 town truck with plow package.
- Selectboard reviewed letter from the Town Health Officer, Elliot Morse, regarding a complaint from an apartment tenant. Complaints were validated and apartment owner notified via letter of the need to make improvements based on Vermont Health Regulations.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

May 7, 2007

- Robyn Hall will be backup Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer until the position is filled. The current budget-to-date figures are up to date.
- Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Representative Ginny Callan encouraged the town to adopt a local ordinance against illegal burning in order to reduce illegal burning, which is harmful to the environment. Lisa Rice will look at such an ordinance on the Marshfield website.
- Mike Garand has hired Kenneth Lorden at \$17/hour to fill Mike Riker's position. Garand discussed the need for funds for paving/resurfacing to be built into future budgets. He has diluted the calcium chloride in some areas to cut costs.
- Awarded the 2007-08 sand bid to Black Rock Coal, a local company.
- Approved requests for Garand and his crew to attend the Vermont Municipal Highway Association seminar in Barre.
- Rice will attend the Vermont Town and City Management Association conference.
- Granted Excess Weight Permits to Hutch Crane, The Johnson Co. LLC, Frank Whitcomb Corp., Ray Laperle, Duane Wells.
- Accepted proposal from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to put together a Road Surface Condition Inventory.

PLANNING COMMISSION

March 15, 2007

- Accepted the subdivision plat as presented for preliminary and final plat review of Application submitted by Barbara Starr, located at 300 Center Rd., to transfer 0.053 acres to Richard Comi, located at 260 Center Rd., as a boundary adjustment between the two properties.

- Deb Fillion accepted the Commission's nomination to be appointed by the Selectboard as Acting Zoning Administrator.
- The Chair will ask Tim Carver if he would like to continue as Regional Planning Commission representative.
- Regarding septic delegation, the State takeover/rules take effect July 1, 2007. After that date, any addition to a house may be subject to state wastewater rules.

April 19, 2007

- Elected the following officers: Rob Chickering, Chairperson; Rick Hopkins, Vice Chairperson; Carol Welch, Corresponding Secretary.

May 3, 2007

- Burr Morse came to the Commission because he has been asked by the Montpelier Historical Society to build a shed on his property to house a model of the State House. Morse is applying for a permit to build the shed. Approved the application as submitted.
- Ty Rolland would like to put a model modular home on his property; the back would be to the woods towards the Biron's property. Approved the application as submitted.
- Rolland is requesting a sign that would be placed to the left of his driveway, facing US2. Approved the application as submitted.
- A permit for a bed and breakfast on Green Road has been approved.
- There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

May 17, 2007

- Approved the application as submitted by the Estate of Dorothy A. Morse to subdivide the 224.7-acre property located along County Rd. Burr Morse reiterated that no development is planned for any of the subdivided property; the will specifies that the land remain open.

- Vermont Dept. of Transportation (through Trevor Lewis) has requested approval to run some tests of manufactured topsoil on the current wetland mitigation site. The Chair may request that someone come before the board to explain the testing and answer any questions.
- The new septic rules will be in effect as of July 1, 2007. An applicant cannot start building until the State permit is applied for and proof is shown to the ZA.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

March 14, 2007

- The following board members were elected to positions: Ginny Burley, Board Chairperson; Mark Berry, Vice-Chair; Conrad Smith, Clerk; Mark Berry, Washington Central Policy Committee with Tom Williams as alternate; Tom LaClair, Washington Central Transportation Committee; Dan Violette, Truant Officer.
- Board Committee assignments as follows: Finance: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith; Policy: Tom Williams, Mark Berry, Allen Gilbert; Curriculum: Sue Chickering, Adrienne Magida, Ginny Burley; Personnel: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley; Co-Curricular: Sue Chickering, Tom Williams, Adrienne Magida; Facilities: Conrad Smith, Ginny Burley, Tom Williams; Negotiations: Mark Berry, Ginny Burley.
- Meetings will be held the first and third Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- Official postings will be in the *Times-Argus*.
- Passed a motion to designate U-32 as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter.
- Approved the leave of absence requested by Paula Emery.
- Approved a 0.6 FTE contract for Amy Herrick.

Continued on Page 8

Kevin E. Hudson

2235 Brazier Road
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Trucking:	Slate	Gravel	Topsoil	Firewood
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TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

March 21, 2007

- Approved Vicky Palmer's request for unpaid leave.
- Approved the winter and spring athletic contracts as presented.
- Approved the resignation of Chantal Boulanger.

April 4, 2007

- Awarded the roof project contract, not to exceed \$274,000, to A. C. Hawthorne.
- Appointed John LaRosa as Clerk of the Works for the roof project.
- Accepted the administration's staffing recommendation for 2007–08.

April 18, 2007

- The school has qualified as providing Adequate Yearly Progress in all areas for last school year.
- Will use grant money to purchase an air quality meter.
- Cross Vermont Trail Association's (CVTA) proposed trail goes across U-32 property. Mark Chaplin will serve as the liaison between CVTA and U-32.
- Voted to use the Microsoft settlement money for future technology purchases.
- Approved the coaching contracts as presented.

May 2, 2007

- Approved the administration's 2007–08 staffing recommendation, keeping staffing at the status quo.
- Accepted the resignation of Jessica Kipnes, Assistant Athletic Director & Athletic Trainer.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 13, 2007

- Elected Marlene Betit, Chairperson; Jan Aldrich, Vice Chairperson; Julie Rochat, Clerk; Jan Aldrich, representative to the WCSU Executive Committee; Julie Rochat, representative to WCSU Policy Committee; John Audy, representative to WCSU Transportation Committee; Jan Aldrich, representative to the Negotiations Committee with Marlene Betit as alternate; Mitch Golub, Truant Officer; Andy Colnes, Community Connections Site Council; Recreation Department, Jan Aldrich; Facilities Committee, John Audy.
- Approved the F7 Drug & Alcohol Policy with the word "program" changed to "curriculum" throughout the document.
- Adopted F3 Student Search and Seizure Policy including the amendment of "Every possible attempt will be made to contact parents before and after the search."
- Adopted with amendments the H2 Family Involvement Policy.
- Appointed Bethany Parker as kindergarten Teacher.
- Approved Reduction in Force for paraeducator, 2007–08.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Julie Rochat, Preschool assistant.
- Approved a guidance counselor position increase from 0.8 to 1.0 FTE.
- Approved beginning the hiring process for a math teacher for 15 hours per week for 2007–08.
- Approved increase of paraeducator's time from 0.9 to 1.0 FTE.
- Community Connections EMES programs are listed on the school website.

April 19, 2007

- Voted to display a plaque on the EMES soccer field in recognition of those who worked on its creation.
- John Audy will be the clerk of the works and board liaison on the roof project.
- Will take to the WCSU Policy Committee the issue of accepting tuition students, which is currently against policy.
- Adopted the English Language Learners Policy, with an explanation of the terminology "ELL: English Language Learner."
- Board meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- The Community Connections grant expires on 10/1/07, and an extension has been requested.
- Mitch Golub thanked the playground committee for their hard work and Jane Badger and Ellen Shedd for their work on the school website.

Four Corners Schoolhouse: Getting Better All the Time

We have refinished floors, a freshly repainted piano, a new pressure tank, and a continuing indoor geranium garden. It's a great space for meetings and special events. For information about uses of the space, contact Elaine Manghi at 229-5811. Our Board of Directors includes Rhoda Carroll, Paulie Coburn, Barb Dall, Diana Fielder, Rachael Grossman, Hobie Guion, Benedict Kohler, Elaine Manghi, Conrad Ormsbee, and Rose Riley. Officers for the year will be elected at our annual meeting in June.

—Rhoda Carroll

Casey J. Northrup

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KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

Books on Wheels Comes to EMES in July!

Taking books out of the library will be easier than ever this summer! For the month of July, the Kellogg-Hubbard Library's Books on Wheels will be at EMES every Tuesday from 9:30–10:15, with a special story time on July 24th. Children's books will be available as well as books for kids participating in the library's Summer Reading Program. There will also be a limited selection of books for adults. Feel free to call the library with requests, and we will happily deliver them on Tuesday mornings. Have a good summer and happy reading!

Summer Fun for Kids!

We all want the children we love to continue to read during the summer, and the Kellogg-Hubbard is the place for summer reading. There will be many events for children of all ages throughout the summer. Pick up a schedule of summer events at the Children's Library, or call 223-4665 for more information.

Biking for Boomers (and others)!

Here's the perfect summer program for adults of all ages interested in getting back on their bikes. Meet at the library on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. from June 25th through July 30th. Bring your bike, lock, and helmet. There will be a brief presentation in the Hayes Room, after which you'll take to the road!

Something for Gardeners

Tues., July 24, 2007, at 7 p.m.

Creating the Natural Garden- Judith Irven, Outdoor Spaces Landscape Designs, Goshen, Vt. Co-sponsored by the Washington-Orange Chapter of the Vermont Master Gardener Program.

Summer Hours at the Library

Mon.–Thurs., 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Children's Library closes at 5:30)

Fri. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Website: www.kellogghubbard.org

Phone: 223-3338

Volunteers Needed

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library's Books on Wheels Outreach Program is looking for volunteers to bring books to area day cares and community centers. If you are looking for an opportunity to meet people in your community, and/or you like children, please call Rachael Grossman at 223-3338 to learn more.

WALTER J. COATES: NORTH MONTPELIER GROCER AND POET

A biographical sketch of Walter J. Coates in the last issue of the *Signpost* described a storekeeper, postmaster, fire insurance inspector, poet, printer, and publisher of the poetry magazine *Driftwind*. He chose to publish works by nascent Vermont writers, thus promoting the idea that literary activity in Vermont should be encouraged and appreciated.

Coates also produced his own work, in between measuring out molasses and operating the Golding foot-powered press in his North Montpelier store. He sometimes wrote about social concerns of his day (the 1920s), as in *The Babbitt Psalm* or *The Creation*, which were pieces critical of greed and monopoly using paraphrases of Biblical passages. Yet he wrote eloquently on the occasion of the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Hubbardton, July 7, 1927, and created poetry about Vermont's seasons, its people, and its beauty. In honor of our nation's 231st birthday, here is Coates' *The Ideal State*, written on March 3, 1929.

'He governs best who governs least,' 'twas said,
And truer words no prophet ever cried:
The sage had learned what lesser tongues denied.
Autocracies have flourished, kings long dead
Repressed our human hopes, and cliques have bled
Man to the bone, while heroes vainly died
For lost Equality: vital life can bide
At trunk, when only root and limb be fed.
My chosen government is one in which
Freedom begets more freedom, under wise
And equitable pronouncements. Neither rich
Nor poor shall lack in honor or emprise,
But mutual aims and interests understood
Shall make for peace and universal good.

—Anne Ormsbee, East Montpelier Historical Society

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

Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor

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

Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

GREEN UP CREW'S RECIPE OF THE DAY

Though all the homemade cookies at the Green Up Day lunch were delicious, one kind was truly unique and very tasty. It was more of a cracker than a cookie and had been baked by John Ordway. Deb Fillion asked for the recipe and here is his reply:

Indeed there is a recipe and it comes from Camille Glenn's *The Heritage of Southern Cooking* and is titled "Very Special Cheese Straws."



Very Special Cheese Straws

- 1 lb. aged sharp Cheddar cheese
- 8 tbsps. unsalted butter (both at room temp)
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour

Grate the cheese by hand or in a food processor. Cut the butter into pieces and blend it with the cheese, in the processor or with an electric mixer, until smooth. Add the cayenne pepper, salt, and flour. Mix well. Chill the dough for at least an hour, so it will be easier to handle. You can prepare the straws with a cookie press, using the thin serrated ribbon blade to create 3-inch straws. Or you can form the dough into small balls, then roll them into thin rounds. Use the tines of a fork to etch grooves into the rounds. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Lay the straws on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake until done, about 20 minutes. The straws should have a slight tinge of brown on the bottom but not on the top. If they brown too much, they will toughen.

For my version, I use 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper, salted butter, and no salt. After chilling, I take about 1/3 of the dough and roll it out onto a floured surface fairly thin. Then I cut strips and lift them onto the baking sheet. If I'm in a hurry or the dough isn't behaving, I make squares or any larger shapes. I bake in a 310-degree preheated convection oven for 22 minutes, take a look at them, and maybe give them one or two minutes more.

—John Ordway (Molly makes them too!)

Take a Turn: Serve Our Town

Have you considered being on a committee?

The Selectboard will be appointing town committees this summer, and would like the citizens of East Montpelier to share their resources.

- **Policy & Ordinance Committee:** This committee will assist the Selectboard in determining future needs for various policies and ordinances.
- **A Municipal Building Committee:** This committee will assist the Selectboard in looking into future planning for the town office building.

Please contact Lisa Rice, Town Administrator at 223-3313, if



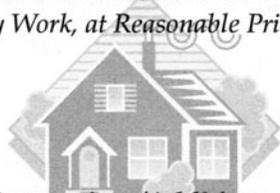
A "Good Beginning"

The women and their babies in this photograph, Lynn Sykulski with Jasper, Grace Book with Rowan, and Sarah Keeley with Noah, are from East Montpelier. These mothers, along with 65 other new moms, were honored at the Seventh Annual Mothers' Luncheon, sponsored by Good Beginnings of Central Vermont. The Luncheon, which would not have been possible without tremendous volunteer support, featured gifts and food donated by 40 local vendors, live music, and shared stories. Good Beginnings offers home visits to families of newborns. If you would like information on becoming a volunteer, please call Andrea Brassard, Volunteer Coordinator, at 225-5990.

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LET'S TALK TRASH



Here's a little trash talk you won't mind hearing. We had a terrific turnout of volunteers on May 5 to make East Montpelier's Green Up Day a great success.

One hundred twenty people collected 1,740 pounds of trash, 77 tires, and 22 bags of recyclable containers. Our sincere thanks go out to all of you picker-uppers; to the Jean Cate Committee and their cookie-baking crew for the wonderful lunch; and to town road foreman, Mike Garand, and his staff, who trucked it all away.

Many folks reported they were seeing less trash than they have in previous years, and our totals reflect this. It may be due to the fact that more and more families are picking things up when they go walking and even "adopting" their local road for year-round Green Up. Let's hope that it's also because fewer people are littering. Mike Garand says you can help keep an eye on our 60-plus miles of town roads. If you see that something large has been dumped, you may leave a voicemail at the town garage at 223-5870 with your name and the location. To adopt your road for year-round Green Up you may contact Bill Merrylees at 223-4951. Thank you all!

HOW DOES YOUR RAIN GARDEN GROW?

If you've seen folks in orange vests working at the intersection of County and Center roads, you may have had to look twice to figure out that this is not the usual road crew. They are Master Gardeners and community members building a rain garden.

Rain gardens are an attractive way to temporarily store rainwater so that it can seep more slowly into run-off ditches, brooks, and rivers. By stopping rapid run-off, water levels are more consistent, less erosion occurs, and less sediment is carried into the streams.

Our rain garden at County and Center roads is a demonstration project organized by Emma Melvin from the UVM Extension Service Lake Champlain Sea Grant, making rain gardens throughout central Vermont. The funding comes from a Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation watershed planning grant.

You can learn more about how to construct a rain garden to help control the amount of stormwater discharging into a stream or lake by contacting the UVM Extension Master Gardener Hotline at 800-879-4493 or Master.Gardener@uvm.edu.

—Barbara Ploof

GET IN TOUCH: IS IT TIME FOR AN EAST MONTPELIER EMAIL LIST?

Every once in a while someone suggests that it would be great if there were an email list for the folks in East Montpelier so announcements of this or that could be sent around more easily. There are already informal lists that people have put together on their own, and anyone who lives in town and has an email address will periodically receive a notice of some sort. There was one such list that was used recently to help find a lost dog.

So, this is an inquiry to see if there is sufficient interest in developing a formal list under the general direction of the *Signpost* staff. This list would be a companion to the *Signpost* website and would be used periodically to send out notices of some special event that had been posted on the website. The email list could also be used to solicit assistance on community projects, help find lost pets, and similar public service notices. The rules could be simple. One would have to ask to have their email address added to the list and could have it removed at any time. There would be no political notices or advertisement (ads can be put on the website).

The *Signpost* staff is open to suggestions on how to proceed. For instance, should it be run from a central point—that is, all prospective messages are sent to one person who then sends them out to the addresses on the list, or should the list be managed as a blog—that is, open to anyone who wished to post an item?

One argument against building an email list is that it would increase a person's volume of spam and junk email. Perhaps that is so, but given the amount that already flows into my mailbox, I doubt I would notice the difference.

Give this some thought, then add to my volume of email at dave.coburn@comcast.net. Thanks.

And for those who may have missed it, the *Signpost* website can be found by logging on to www.emsignpost.com. Check it out.

—Dave Coburn

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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	1st & 3rd Tues	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)	3rd Thurs	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 Schoolhouse 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	Town Office

NOTICES

Public Information Meeting

The Town of East Montpelier will be holding a public information meeting on a conceptual development plan for a community center and mixed use development near the intersection of routes 2 and 14 in East Montpelier village.

Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Time: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.

Place: East Montpelier Elementary School Gym.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Selectboard.

EVENTS

The Old Meeting House presents an Outdoor Picnic Concert: June 30 at 7 p.m. with Jake Amerding

Jake Amerding, back by popular demand, will play a concert at the Old Meeting House's Outdoor Picnic, June 30 at 7 p.m. Amerding played at the Old Meeting House in January, and the audience requested a return engagement. Having just released his second CD this spring, Amerding is on tour with a full band this year. The new album, "Walking on the World," is as difficult to categorize as much of today's best music—equal parts New England singer-songwriter, acoustic rock, and traditional bluegrass; no genre is exactly safe. But the effect is natural. Listening to Amerding perform, hearing these diverse elements overlap, you find yourself wondering why these genres, strangers until now, haven't been friends all along. **Tickets are for sale at Bear Pond Books in Montpelier, for \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of show, or online at www.oldmeetinghouse.org (click on Arts Ministry).** Be sure to bring picnics, lawn chairs, and blankets. For more information, call 229-9593, or see <http://www.jakearmerding.com>.

Three Fun Work Days On Mallory Brook Trail: June 23, July 21, August 25: Meet at 9 a.m., end of Johnson Rd

Mark your calendar and come for the day or half a day to help with trail improvements on the beautiful Mallory Brook section of the East Montpelier trails. Any and all volunteers are welcome and will be supervised by trail professionals Greg Western and Zyla, from whom one can learn all the cool moves and methods for every aspect of trail building. Questions? Contact Greg Western 655-6051 gwestern@comcast.net or sue Riggen 223-4262.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 1, 2007, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, theploofs@hotmail.com

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