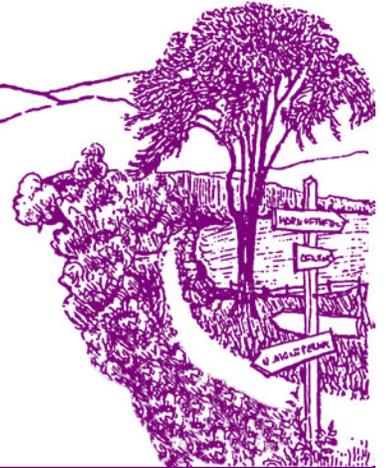


EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XVII — Number Five

May/June 2007

FERN TILSLEY'S GIFT

Fern Tilsley has a gift. She was born with the ability to receive information from the spirit world. Years ago, she found she was able use her gift to help others, and she has recently brought her two businesses, Shaw-nee' Intuitive and Tangle Ridge Hypnosis, to East Montpelier.

For years, as a child, her mother referred to Fern's psychic knowledge as just "feminine intuition." Fern's grandmother was also psychic, but Fern's talent made her mother uncomfortable, and she discouraged her daughter from pursuing her gift further. As Fern became a teenager, her abilities became stronger, and she would often know things she couldn't otherwise explain: who was coming to the door, when someone was lying to her, and when a friend was pregnant (before the friend knew!). She grew up and married in upstate New York. Her two sons benefited from her strong instincts: even if Fern was in another room she would know if something was wrong with one of them. Although she was told about her powers

Continued on Page 4

CELEBRITY PILOT IN OUR MIDST

The name might not sound familiar, as John Astle is new to Vermont, but when you do meet him it's an experience you're not likely to forget. For one thing, he's built on an imposing six-foot, four-inch frame. For another, he sounds unique: his English is colored by a delightful and charming Australian accent that one doesn't hear much around this part of the world. And for a third, he has a job that a lot of kids (and probably a lot of their parents) only dream of.

John Astle flies planes. But he's not just any pilot. John isn't permitted to reveal who his flying customers have been, but they are familiar names in the sports, entertainment, and business worlds. He's a celebrity pilot.



John Astle describes a tricky landing.

I met with John on one of those typical Vermont April days that isn't at all what it should be, and is, therefore, exactly what many of us have come to expect. As he looked outside and watched the snow pile up on his deck, he sank back into his chair a little further. The day before, he was in 80-degree weather in his native Australia and now was feeling jet-lagged and discouraged with the early spring snowfall. But when he talked about the ocean and the beach that he visited on a regular basis growing up—and that he had just left behind—he lit up. At

that moment, I could tell he had transformed himself back there—he was sitting on the beach with no thoughts of snow. It was endearing to watch.

When his thoughts of sun and beach dissipated, John came back to the realities of his new home and said he thought the major difference between Vermont and Sydney was the extreme weather. "One day it can be warm and sunny, and the next it's freezing and we have snow!" The whole concept seemed to boggle him and was the only major difference between Vermont and Sydney he could think of in that moment.

Continued on Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

2—Top of the *Signpost*

5—Poems Between Wallpaper

6—Town Weathervane

9—Signpost Website Ad Policies

11—EMSLI to Plan Senior Housing

Terry Allen: Photography
229-0303 {tallen@igc.org}

Katherine Blow: Mailing
476-6021 {bluequartz@aol.com}

Catherine Buni: Copy Editor
229-1851 {ckbuni@yahoo.com}

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor
229-4273 {shcharlie@hotmail.com}

Rhoda Chickering: Feature Editor
229-5005 {rhoderchick@verizon.net}

Rob Chickering: Business Manager
229-5005 {peacemaker8@verizon.net}

David Coburn: Design/Ads
223-6886 {dave.coburn@comcast.net}

Ellen Knoedler: EMES Reporter
223-6931 {eknoedler@u32.org}

Lori Martin: Layout/Design
223-7970 {lorianne.m@comcast.net}

Carol McKenna: Copy Editor
229-6001 {cmckenna1000@yahoo.com}

Eddie Miller: Organizations Editor
229-0677 {emillervt@comcast.net}

Barbara Ploof: Copy Editor
223-6934 {theploofs@hotmail.com}

Cherie Staples: Copy Editor
229-2541 {skyearth1@aol.com}

Wendy Soliday: Artist
229-9594 {wsoliday@aol.com}

Sylvia Tosi: Town Records
223-3240 {dontsylv@comcast.net}

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

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Spring

By the middle of February when the snow is piled high against the side of the house, and the thermometer dips well below zero and stays there, it is hard to imagine that there will ever be a spring. Yet we know that sometime soon, this frozen landscape will be transformed into a green as deep and lush as a rainforest.

But then comes March, and April, and the days get a little longer, the sun a little brighter, and the snow begins to recede. Our dirt roads give up a season's worth of ice and turn to mud. The bare trees start to bud. You begin to see neighbors who all but seem to have disappeared over the last several months. Birds return to the woods, and the peepers come out in the marshland. Suddenly our yards are full of sound in a way that makes us realize how still and quiet the winter actually was.

And then something else happens. With the snowmelt, we see our fields and pastures again. We see our roadsides. And among the fiddleheads and marsh marigolds are things that don't belong there: a strewn beer bottle, a candy wrapper, a bag from a fast-food restaurant. Sometimes you have to look for them, and sometimes you do not, like a couch I recently found at the bottom of a small ravine.

Fortunately, and right in time, we have Green Up Day—a chance to reconnect with our neighbors, to shake off the slumber of winter. And most important, it's a chance to remove the parts of spring that do not belong there. It's a chance to return the promise of the season.

—Bill Kaplan

GREEN UP DAY IS MAY 5TH

Vermont's Green Up Day began in 1970 when 70,000 Vermonters joined forces around the state to clean up roadside litter that had accumulated during the winter months. After 37 years, the Green Up legacy continues to foster the stewardship of the Vermont landscape. It's about far more than picking up highway litter and cleaning up public parks. Green Up Day is about people of all ages from all walks of life joining together in community spirit to take care of Vermont. It teaches our children pride and respect.

Here's how to participate in East Montpelier's Green Up Day effort: You can pick up Green Up disposal bags at the East Montpelier Municipal Office, Dudley's Store, Riverbend Store, or the elementary school beginning a week before the event. On May 5, green-up your selected roadside, separating out recyclable containers whenever possible. Bring collected trash to the elementary school for free disposal between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please don't come before or after these times, as the town trucks won't be there for loading.

Plan a little extra time afterward, because the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee will again serve a sumptuous FREE lunch in the school cafeteria from 11 to 1. Donations will be accepted and appreciated to help continue the excellent community work of the Jean Cate Community Fund.

East Montpelier has a history of strong involvement in Green Up Day. Last year, over 100 volunteers gathered more than one ton of trash, a truckload of recyclables, and countless car tires from our roadsides. Just as sure as the daffodils will bloom this spring, friends and neighbors will be out on Green Up Day, picking up trash and putting down some tasty sandwiches! Come join in.

Volunteers are needed to help with the lunch. If you would be willing to make two dozen cookies, please call Deb Fillion at 229-1320. If you would be willing to make sandwiches and serve them at EMES on Green Up Day, please call Elaine Manghi at 229-5811.

John was born in Smithton, an agricultural center in the far northwest corner of the island of Tasmania, but as he was growing up, he also lived in New Guinea and Sydney, Australia. As a young man, he traveled extensively through Europe and Asia, including a three-month backpacking trek around India.

Following in both his father's and grandfather's footsteps, John received a Bachelor's Degree in accounting and later in economics. He spent only a few years in the accounting field and quickly became interested in the world of technology. In the early 1980s, John developed financial software and soon after started his own company. On a business trip to the United States, John immediately fell in love with the country. He decided to stay and, in doing so, determined it was time to fulfill his life-long dream of becoming a pilot. He started taking flying lessons in 1989, at age 35, and what started out as a hobby has since turned into a full-time career. John flies a Cessna Citation X plane for Netjets, a luxury airline that flies patrons all over the world. When I asked him what he liked best about his job he looked out the window again and simply said, "The beauty. I can't complain about the view."

In 2001, John and his wife, Sharon had the opportunity to move. John was working for Netjets and could live virtually anywhere in the United States, and Sharon worked for Keane, an information technology company based in Boston. She was given the opportunity to transfer to one of their three sites: San Francisco, Memphis, or Montpelier. For John and Sharon, the choice wasn't a difficult one. They wanted to raise a family and were confident that the best place to do that would be in Montpelier. A month later, they moved to East Montpelier.

Their daughter Fiona, who is 7 years old, has certainly helped get John connected with the community. In fact, if you ask any first-grader who John is, they're sure to know. John is a volunteer in the ELF Program at the East Montpelier Elementary School—a program that teaches children about the environment and how they can protect it. He goes to school two mornings a month: once to learn the lesson and the other to teach it in the classroom. The last lesson John taught was about the white-tailed deer, how they eat, and how they protect themselves in the winter months. It was a wonderful Vermont lesson.

Last fall John decided to fulfill yet another dream. He enrolled and graduated from a motorcycle safety course and purchased a BMW motorcycle. You just might see John riding the back roads of East Montpelier this summer—depending on the weather, of course. Since both the bike and his riding gear are bright yellow, he jokes that he "looks a bit like Big Bird."

John, Sharon, and Fiona share their home with their dog, Daisy, and cats, Apollo and Kelly. They are certain that their choice about living in Vermont was the right one. East Montpelier, they firmly believe, is a wonderful place to raise a family. And, they will quickly add, simply a wonderful place.

—*Martha Trombley Oakes lives in East Montpelier with husband, Shane, and daughter, Paige.*

RALLY DAY 2007—SEPTEMBER 8

The Rally Day Committee is preparing to kick off a new season. We are a dedicated committee continuing the tradition of providing a fun-filled day of community excitement! Rally Day is a day to get to know your neighbors by celebrating our community in a wide range of events and activities. As always, we are looking for new ideas and new faces to help plan our town's main event. **We will be meeting at the East Montpelier Municipal Office on Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m.** Please come out to the meeting and get involved. If you are interested in contributing some of your time or ideas, or if you would like more information, please contact Matt Curtis at 223-7403 or Curtis_mj@msn.com.

—*Matt Curtis, Rally Day Committee*

Thank You for the Food

The Onion River Food Shelf and the Montpelier Food Pantry thank you for the food and cash donations you made at Town Meeting. Your donations filled eight large boxes of food and brought in \$51 in cash. The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee, which had organized the food drive, matched the collected cash. So, overall, more than \$100 plus the food were divided between these worthy organizations.

There is an ongoing need for food, monetary donations, and volunteers. Please call Diana Fielder, 223-6548, or Vicky King, 229-4674, if you would like to help.

CALLING ALL U-32 SENIORS!

Top off your U-32 years in a spectacular way. Come to Project Graduation on Friday, June 15, at the Fitness Edge of Williston. This year's substance-free event will include the use of the pool, sauna, and Jacuzzi, plus game tables, movies, inflatables, an hypnosis show, chair massages, raffles, prizes, and refreshments.

One recent graduate decided to attend Project Graduation "Because it would be the last time I would have a chance to see everyone in my class together." His final judgment: "It was a lot more fun than I thought it would be ... it was awesome!"

For parents, Project Graduation provides some peace of mind. Said one, "I was very grateful that he attended Project Graduation ... Instead of sleeping with one ear open for the phone, I was able to sleep soundly and worry-free."

This year's Project Graduation coordinator is Barbara Austin-Hutchins. She and her committee are busy raising the \$10,000 necessary to allow this event to be free for all seniors. Donations are welcome and may be sent to Project Graduation, c/o Jane Tolassi, 930 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, VT 05602.

For more information, contact Barbara Austin-Hutchins at 225-8194 or barb@mpsvt.org.

by other psychics, she laughed them off, thinking of her mother's words.

When Fern was about 30 years old, one of the psychics, Linda, took the time to demonstrate to Fern how extraordinary her skills were. They started with a deck of playing cards. Linda would place the cards face down, and, one by one, ask Fern, "Is it red or black?" Fern's accuracy was over ninety percent. They progressed to another exercise: Fern picked all the aces from a deck of cards that had been placed face down. In a third example, Fern would determine if the cards, again placed face down, were number cards. Finally, Linda had convinced Fern that her "feminine intuition" was astonishingly accurate with a deck of cards, and Fern began to trust the information she was receiving about people with whom she had daily contact. Linda continued to teach Fern how to protect herself from harmful energy, and how to use different tools such as tarot cards, tea leaves, and flames to do psychic readings.

One day, Fern pushed all of the tools away. They "just got in the way"; the information wasn't coming from the tools. She found what she needed was touch—to hold someone's hand while doing a "reading," to hold a picture or an object, such as a ring, to have access to the energy of the person with questions. Fern moved to California, and developed a practice of psychic readings done in person, small groups, and by mail. Her readings addressed health issues, relationships, finances, and other areas of personal concern. She also provided messages from relatives and friends who had passed over.

Fern moved back east to Maine, and supported herself after the end of her first marriage by working as a suicide prevention specialist and a caregiver for the mentally ill and elderly. Her spiritual information often assisted her work in helping the troubled patients. About seven years ago, Fern qualified as a certified hypnotherapist, specializing in smoking cessation, pain management, stress management, and fibromyalgia. Her clairvoyant abilities helped in this practice as well; she could more quickly evaluate the best approach for each client. As a member of the National Guild of Hypnotherapists, Fern abides by its strict code of ethics and participates in continuing education classes each year.

As Fern's abilities developed, she became more familiar with her spirit guides, two male spirits who gave her the name Shawnee, the name she now uses for her spiritual intuitive practice. They are her "doorkeepers," providing her with information that will help her clients, and keeping away any knowledge that does not serve the highest good. She has never been frightened by her abilities, though for years she felt bombarded by psychic information, especially in public places. Over time, she learned to "turn it off" when she wasn't helping clients, though this also made it more difficult to "turn it on"! Like many psychics, she can't read for herself—subconscious information gets in the way—or for family members, unless she has a strong impression that a loved one may be in trouble.



Fern Tilsley

Fern now lives on Vincent Flats Road near the East Montpelier Elementary School with her fiancé, Barry Langer. Barry is a dowser, and they sometimes work as a couple to help people find lost objects and pets. Over the past decade, Fern has also assisted police departments in finding a number of missing persons where there was the suspicion of foul play. She feels this is a way to give back and help with her gift, though this kind of work is difficult and serious. Her greatest joy is the exhilaration she feels when she has helped a client; the reading is done quickly and accurately and brings peace of mind to the seeker by answering their questions about the past, present, or future.

Fern can be reached at (802) 229-6035; PO Box 187, E. Montpelier, VT 05651; or e-mail Shawneeutuitive@yahoo.com or Tangleridgehypno@aol.com.

—Michelle McFadden and her husband, Chuck Hoffert, live with their four children, Charlie, Michael, Henry, and Princess Maeve, on Kelton Road.

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

POEMS BETWEEN WALLPAPER

"On our desk lies a little magazine called *"Driftwind"* and beside it a telegram. The magazine has a wallpaper cover with parrots on the front and, on the back of it, the printed words '18 cents a single roll' and 'use Pyramid Dry Paste.' It contains an essay on democracy and thirty-nine short poems. The telegram informs us that we can call on its editor no more."

So reported *The Christian Science Monitor*, Boston, Massachusettes, on August 2, 1941.

The editor in question was Walter J. Coates, minister, store-keeper, postmaster, poet, and publisher of North Montpelier. Born in 1880 in Montague, New York, he was educated at St. Lawrence University Divinity School at Canton, New York. He served as student pastor in Marshfield and East Calais and was ordained a Universalist minister in 1904.

After the death of his first wife, Florence, in 1906, he married Nettie Gove of Calais. Instead of pursuing the ministry, he purchased a small printing office in East Calais, partnered with his father-in-law, Austin, in the Coates and Gove store in East Calais, and served as postmaster there 1910–1920. In November 1922, he and Nettie purchased the George Pray store in North Montpelier, and the Coateses, and their son John, continued as the storekeepers.

Since 1917 Coates had been writing poetry, and he published his first slim volume, *Mood Songs*, in 1921. In the summer of 1925, editor and publisher W. Paul Cook, Coates, and Vrest Orton met in North Calais to discuss "how to stimulate widespread and unified literary activity in Vermont—to encourage nascent writers and promote keener appreciation for their works."

The next spring, April 1926, partly because of the North Calais conference and partly as a surcease from morbidity (son John was desperately ill with TB), Coates began publishing the magazine *Driftwind*, containing poetry and essays by Vermont writers, as well as others. Coates explained " ... an antique [Rotary Official] Golding press, 8 x 12, foot power and of forgotten lineage stood unused, disreputable in the back room of the store." He set the type himself and used birch bark or wallpaper as the covers. He gave away copies for a year, as many as 60–80 each issue.

Son John died in November 1926 and Coates almost gave up *Driftwind* until his readers convinced him to continue. The magazine remained an amateur operation produced by Walter, Nettie,

and daughter Flora; by 1932, they were publishing 400 copies a month.

Coates published *Driftwind* for 15 years, as well as operating Driftwind Press, which specialized in Vermont literature and small vanity poetry books. The Coateses operated the store until publishing became full time. A linotype press replaced the Golding press sometime in 1933, and the old press was sold to Weston Cate Jr. in 1937 for \$13.

We also get a glimpse of Coates' public life and political thought: he served as health officer, justice of the peace, town moderator, school director, and chairman of the Washington Northeast District. He was author of a request to allow a member of the Progressive Party on the Calais Board of Civil Authority in 1914. He supported Progressive Robert LaFollette in Vermont when it was unpopular to oppose a Republican candidate. He took up such causes as giving the Communist Party of Vermont the right to appear on the ballot, and he published authors who supported Socialist Eugene Debs.

In 1929, Coates helped found the League of Vermont Writers, which offered encouragement and motivation to its writer-members. UVM conferred on Coates an honorary doctorate in literature in 1938. His "magnum opus" was the *Bibliography and Gazetteer of Vermont Poets*, through letter K, before his untimely death in 1941. Nettie, Flora, and friend Paul Cook continued *Driftwind* until Cook died in 1948.

The East Montpelier Historical Society will celebrate Walter Coates in its exhibit at Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge, June 23 and 24.

—Anne Ormsbee, EM Historical Society

TEL. (802) 223-7191
NIGHTS (802) 229-2728

Since 1960

BLAKE – LOSO
Finest in North Carolina Used Cars
And Trucks
RT. 14, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651
DEDICATED SALES & SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS
A SPECIALTY

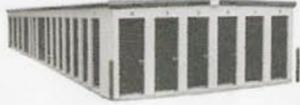
Free Estimates
Fully Insured
Quality Work



Patrick McCoy
249-3003
P.W. McCoy Corp
964 Bliss Road
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

- ✓ **Driveways:** Installing New or Resurfacing (Slate and Gravel); Ditching & Culvert Work, Plowing
- ✓ **Lawns:** Installing New or Rebuilding; Soil Testing & Fertilizing
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Increase Value, Aesthetics and Usability by Tree, Brush and Stump Removal; Contouring Land for Better Drainage; Creating More Lawn or Garden Space; Trail Work Through Woods

K & A LEASING



44 Storage Units
Assorted Sizes
5 x 5 to 10 x 30

Call us for your storage needs
802-224-7170
Locally owned & operated on Rt. 2 in E. Montpelier

TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:00,
Fri 9:00-12:00

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Sherry Culver
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer 2: Denise Brown
eastmonttct2@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	Tracy Phillips
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Pat Biggam	Sandy Conti
Jeff Cueto	Steve Kappel
Cliff King	Mark Lane
Gray Ricker	Jane Grinde

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair 229-0826
gburley@u32.org

Sue Chickering 229-6232
dragonfly@ezcloud.net

Elementary School

Marlene Betit, Chair 223-6028
mabetit@aol.com

Jan Aldrich, Vice-chair 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Julie Roachat 223-1423
vtseven@yahoo.com

John Audy
vtfiredog@comcast.net

Andy Colnes
alc@sover.net

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Sarah Cassidy Kain, born Nov. 21, 2006, daughter of Pamela Nelson & Kevin Daniel Kain
- Ella May Balentine, born Jan. 4, 2007, daughter of Tiffany Ann & Jason Scott Balentine
- Amelie Jade Whittaker, born Jan. 23, 2007, daughter of Kristine Allison Pozatek & Robert Edward Whittaker
- Mason Hunter Frazier, born Jan. 23, 2007, son of Diane Louise & Timothy Joseph Frazier
- Eric James Burgess, born Feb. 12, 2007, son of Christie Lynn & Edward James Burgess
- Hunter James Wheeler, born Feb. 17, 2007, son of Aleen Anne & Luke Adam Wheeler

Marriage

- Jason Donald Giroux and Rachel Lynn Metayer, Feb. 24, 2007

Deaths

- Edwin A. Clark, Jan. 30, 2007, father of Kimberly Gay, brother of Linda Royce & Mary Jane Porter
- W. Howard George, Jan. 31, 2007, father of William George
- Harold E. Pastore, Feb. 17, 2007, spouse of Carolyn Pastore
- Leona Arlene Andrus, Feb. 23, 2007, spouse of George R. Andrus, Jr.

Property Transfers

- Karl E. Strassberger & Lois E. Monnett to Laurence L. Laquerre Jr., Rosalie F. Laquerre & David A. Freeman, 12 acres & dwelling, US2
- Phyllis O. Duso to David P. O'Vitt, 7 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- John F. & JoAnn Ihley to Julio Thompson & Linda Urban, 3 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- Michael & Dona Matheson to Jean K. Myers, 0.63 acres & dwelling, Pine Ridge Rd.
- E. Gary Pletzer to George W. Estes, III, 0.4 acre & multi-family building, US2
- Douglas J. Hill to Willem L. & Ida Lange, 12.1 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- Jeremy A. & Angel M. Lewis to Gino & Megan E. Castonguay, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Christopher S. Grimard to Damian Taylor, 3.8 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Kevin A. & Elizabeth Goddard to Jessica M. Kobb & David H. Webb, 26.65 acres, North St.
- Anthony P. & Susan E. Austin to Jeffrey B. & Debra L. Cochran, 3.69 acres & dwelling, US2

- Coleman B. & Jody M. Parker to Patricia Lynn Coughlin-Mol, 3.06 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- Michele & Wesley Guyette to Adam Woodworth, 1.93 acres & dwelling, VT14N
- Jay Benton Carr to Hershel Prengler, 3.49 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- Gunnar Urang & Sarah C. Horton to Howard & Elinor L. Yahm, 8.2 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- Kimberly A. & Timothy M. Vincent to Liza Hopkins & Joshua Ashline, 2.14 acres & dwelling, VT14N

SELECTBOARD

January 17, 2007

- Budget review with no motions made.

January 22, 2007

- Budget review and Treasurer's report with no motions made.

January 23, 2007

- Meeting held to give an update on the US2 & VT14 intersection and the town bridge projects. Major questions which have not been answered include: "taking of properties" and associated questions about relocation, dealing with historical sites, getting a right of way from landowners where necessary, and funding.

January 26, 2007

- Budget review with no motions made.

January 29, 2007

- Accepted the Capital Reserve Budget as amended.
- Approved the proposed revenue page as stated in the FY08 budget spreadsheets.
- Approved Town Meeting Articles of Warning as amended.
- Approved liquor licenses for the Riverbend Store and the CP Dudley Store.

February 5, 2007

- Approved a right of way on Johnson Rd. for Jared Lamere, subject to recommendations from Road Foreman Mike Garand.
- Approved use of a small portion of Horn of the Moon Rd. for access to snowmobile trails for the trail groomer.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 4, 2007

- No votes taken at this meeting. Discussed Heffernan Sketch Plan, Garland Sketch Plan, the 2006 Town Report, and Fire Protection matters.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

February 1, 2007

- Approved Bailey Subdivision Application as presented.
- Reviewed Coburn Sketch Plan and listened to Winston/Silberberg Property presentation.
- The Senior Housing project received grants for \$15,000 and \$7,000 and will be hiring a consultant for a market study.
- Discussed Hawkins Subdivision on Towne Hill Road and Zoning Regulations rewrite process.

February 15, 2007

- Approved Heffernan Subdivision as presented.
- Reviewed Comi Sketch Plan.

March 1, 2007

- Reviewed Heller Sketch Plan.
- Approved the Zoning Administrator's job description
- Recommended to the Select Board that Deb Fillion be appointed as Acting Zoning Administrator for 2007.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

January 16, 2007

- Approved a one-year time extension of the ZBA approval of the Coburn Road Wetland Mitigation Site.
- Approved conditional use, with no conditions, of the Quattrone Variance request.

January 30, 2007

- Voted to approve the Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy pending determination of possible mandated language in rule #11.

U-32 JR. AND SR. HIGH SCHOOL

January 3, 2007

- Tabled until next meeting the issue of grades in driver's education as presented by Student Representative Andrew Huckins-Noss.

January 10, 2007

- Tabled a discussion about having a local business provide support for a sports program.
- Approved the School Meeting Warning.

January 17, 2007

- Had readings of policies on English Language Learning, Integration of Home Study Students, Local Action Plan Policy, and Nutrition & Fitness.
- Voted to continue participation in the Winooski Valley Public School Choice Collaborative.
- Appointed Theresa Cahill Custodian.
- Voted, with two abstentions, to uphold the administration's recommendation on grading policies. The Curriculum Committee will examine this topic, including which courses are included in a student's GPA.

February 7, 2007

- Held a discussion with legislators about current education issues.
- Voted to set the tuition rate for U-32 at \$10,669.
- Voted a tuition waiver for trimester three for a foreign exchange student.
- Approved the Equity Coordinator Contract.

February 21, 2007

- Approved motion to commit \$30,000 from the fund balance to help fund the construction of tennis courts provided the remainder is raised from other sources.
- Approved motions to:
 - authorize the GMP bills be paid by electronic payment
 - reserve \$60,000 of the Food Service budget for a Food Service Capital Fund
 - adopt Nutrition and Fitness: Policy F28
 - adopt English Language Learners: Policy F19
 - adopt Integration of Home Study Students in Programs and Activities: Policy F23

- renew administrative contracts of the Assistant Principle, the Special Services & Programs Director
- Approved request for leave of absence from Michelle Ksepka.
- Voted to not renew the contract of the Guidance and Counseling Director.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 19, 2006

- Examined, explained, and discussed the FY08 budget.

January 9, 2007

- Voted to accept the proposed FY08 budget of \$2,660,498.
- Approved the wording of the School Meeting Warning subject to changing the wording on Article 7 after counsel with the school attorney.
- Voted, with two abstentions, to adopt Student Attendance Policy F25 as proposed.
- Approved request for unpaid extended maternity leave for Kimberly Brown, Preschool Assistant, on the condition that the proper paperwork is received.

February 13, 2007

- Adopted the Nutrition and Fitness Policy.
- Voted to set the tuition rate at \$9,937.
- Approved an extended leave for a staff member.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Michael Berry.
- Community Connections is meeting with a consultant regarding sustainability.
- The supervisory union is looking into a supervisory-wide WAN line.
- Principal Mitch Golub reported the school now has a fitness room. Kris George is the Volunteer Coordinator.
- George Morris has created bumper stickers to promote the school.
- Two departing board members were thanked for their service.

Kevin E. Hudson

2235 Brazier Road
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Trucking:	Slate	Gravel	Topsoil	Firewood
Excavation	Loader Work	Driveway Repair		
Ditching	Culverts	Water Lines	Septic Lines	
Septic Tank Risers	Landscaping	Rototilling		
Brush Hogging	Parking Lot Sweeping	Fences		

*Free Estimates

*Fully Insured

*Quality Work

Maple Syrup • Vermont Products • Country Store
Corporate Gifts • Woodshed Theatre • Folk Art



MORSE FARM
MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Where the sap runs sweeter

1168 COUNTY ROAD, MONTPELIER, VT 05602
1-800-242-2740 • WWW.MORSEFARM.COM

ADAMANT FRIENDS

Every year, as we always do, we make scarecrows
and give them a home in the field,
by the brook where we catch crayfish,
and splash up the stream.

There's the store across the street.
It sells penny candy and ice cream and treats,
and they are all tasty and good things to eat.

Every year, when the snow starts to melt, big flies
pop out,
and buzz by the Adamant stoop.
We dress up in costumes, we dress up as flies,
and bug spray and stingers.
We're a buggy surprise.

Eight friends (and their pets), let us never forget.

Every year, in the summer, we put on our swimsuits,
and we try to catch frogs.
Sometimes we see fish,
and the greatest place on the face of the Earth is
the Adamant Pond.

And now we give this poem to you.
May you have it and our friendship for as long as you live.



—To Ceres, Eli, Ethan, Ford, Nadia, and Tillie, and their pets.
By Ben and Frances Buni Kaplan, ages 8 and 6.
—The painting is by Janet MacLeod.

PAINT THE TOWN YELLOW!

Take notice of the daffodils this spring at the bases of the signposts in East Montpelier! We thank the volunteers who have picked bulbs up at Rally Day and planted them during the past two autumns for these cheerful additions to East Montpelier. These flowers will spread as time goes by, but putting them in new locations is up to you. On Rally Day the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee will again have bags of bulbs and planting medium. Their map will let you know where bulbs are still needed. Please stop by and see if your corner signpost has been decorated yellow.

Casey J. Northrup
Owner, ASE Master Certified

KC's Performance Auto Care

- Auto Repair
- Used Cars
- Performance Parts
- Accessories

4423 US Route 2
E Montpelier, VT 05651

Phone/Fax
802-224-7170
kcsautovt@yahoo.com

The West Window
a novel by
John S. Hall

The West Window
a novel by
John S. Hall

East Montpelier Author

available at

Bragg Farm Sugar House & Gift Shop
Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks
Area book stores
or call 223-5912

Open Everyday 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Maple creemees-just gotta have one!

We ship anywhere

"A quality family farm shop"

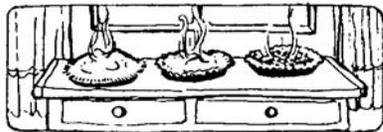
802-223-5757

BRAGG FARM
SUGARHOUSE & GIFT SHOP

Vermont handicrafts
Gifts
Vermont cheese
Mail-order maple products

1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

PAULIE'S RECIPE



Meringue Lemon Pie – Ruth Butterfield

Juice and grated rind of 1 lemon, 2 eggs, saving whites for meringue, 2 tablespoons flour (heaped), 1 cup sugar. Mix these well, add 1 cup boiling water. Cook in double boiler until it thickens. Pour into baked crust. Spread beaten whites of eggs with 3 tablespoons sugar over it, and brown in oven.

Ruth and Joe Butterfield lived on Butterfield Road in North Montpelier in the late 1800's. Later Ruth's grandniece, Margaret Richey, (an editor of the *Signpost* during its formative years) lived in the house for many years.

Paulie's comments

This makes a small but wonderful 8-inch lemon pie. The filling would also be good using a graham cracker crust.

Helpful hints

- Rice will be whiter and fluffier if a teaspoon of lemon juice is added to the water while cooking.
- Tough meat or fowl may be made tender by adding a teaspoon of vinegar to the water. This also will shorten the cooking time.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE SIGNPOST?

As Business Manager of the *Signpost*, I am concerned that our local paper may not be fulfilling its mission to inform and entertain East Montpelier residents. We are not receiving any direct negative feedback, but we are also not receiving nearly the number or total amount of contributions that we have in the past.

From September 1, 2005, until March 15, 2006, 44 generous contributors sent in \$1,856. During this same interval this year, September 1, 2006, to March 15, 2007, we have received only \$616 from just 18 contributors. Contributions provided 27% of *Signpost* revenue last year. Without these contributions our volunteer staff cannot continue to produce the paper every other month and send it to all East Montpelier residents.

So if there is something amiss about the publication, let us know by sending us a note addressed to The *Signpost*, PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651 or calling one of the staff. If you enjoy the paper, consider sending in a contribution to the same address.

—Rob Chickering, *Signpost* Business Manager

SIGNPOST WEBSITE AD POLICIES

Now that www.emsignpost.com has been up and running for several months, it is time to bring its potential as an advertising tool to the attention of the business community. This website can become the "one place to look" for goods and services in the East Montpelier area.

General Policies and Fee schedule:

- For now, the website will **not** accept political ads, classified ads, or ads for businesses located outside of East Montpelier not owned by town residents.
- The *Signpost* staff reserves the option to reject any proposed ad as not being within the spirit of these policies.

Business Ads: Any business located in East Montpelier and any East Montpelier business owners, regardless of where their business is located, may advertise on the website.

- Block ads: 3.5" by 2", like those in the print *Signpost*
 - On the "Local Business Supporters" page for \$50 per year.
 - For up to two weeks on the home page for \$20
 - These will be linked to the business web page if there is one.
- Line ads: similar to those in the "Yellow Pages," up to three lines on the "Local Business Supporters" page. The name of the business, a description of what product or service is provided, a phone number and an email address and web page (if there is one—with a link thereto) for \$25 per year.

Private Ads: Town residents with a product, service, or adventure trip of a commercial nature, but who do not normally make this available as a business, may advertise on the site.

- Block ads: 3.5" by 2", like those in the print *Signpost*
 - On the "Local Business Supporters" page for \$30 per year.
 - For up to two weeks on the home page for \$10
 - These may be linked to a web page if there is one.
- Line ads: similar to those in the "Yellow Pages," up to three lines on the "Local Business Supporters" page. The name of the person, a description of what product or service or event is provided, a phone number, and an email address and web page (if there is one—with a link thereto) for \$15 per year.

For information and forms contact David Coburn at 223-6886 or dave.coburn@comcast.net.

Rosie's Girls Summer Camp Openings In Barre

Sponsored by Vermont Works for Women

Camp Dates: July 16–August 3, 2007

Girls entering 6–8th grades (in the fall of 2007)

Grab a hammer, toolbox, and swimsuit and get ready for this fun, trades exploration day-camp.

More information on the *Signpost* website:

www.emsignpost.com

WRITING FROM EMES

These were generated by Mr. Berry's Kindergarten class during their study of fairy tales.

If I could be a fairy tale character...

- Rae:** I would like to be a fairy because they go in a castle.
Miranda & Callista: I would like to be a fairy because it flies.
Jordan & Sam: I would like to be Jack because he is cool.
Gabriel: I would like to be the crazy old man because I like his hat.
Max & Max: I would like to be Jack because he is sneaky.
Joshua: I would like to be the beanstalk because Jack and Kate climb it.
Parker: I would like to be the harp because gold is my favorite.
Lily: I would like to be the golden goose because it lays golden eggs.
Emily: I would like to be Kate because she can dress up in dress-up clothes.
Kolby: I would like to be Jack because he climbs the beanstalk.

Mrs. Shedd's first-grade class wrote about what they hate and love about winter. Here is a representative sample. The contributions of all students may be found at the Signpost website at www.emsignpost.com.

What I Love About Winter

By Celine Biron

Snowshoeing
Hot cocoa
Sledding
Sliding on ice
Ice skating
Snowball fights
Making snow forts
Snowmobiling

By Stephen Looke

Sledding
Ice guarding
Playing inside
Big snowball fights
Playing Game Boy
Light saber games
Playing Connect 4

These are all the things I love about winter.

What I Hate About Winter

By Ford Porter

Too warm
Getting hit by a snowball
No swimming outside
Snow that is not good for snowballs
Itchy hat
Wet socks
Frostbite
Not enough snow

By Sean Sullivan

Wearing outdoor clothes & boots
Cold hands
Hot chocolate
Snow in my mittens
Falling in snow
Bears that might wake up and get me
Snow on my back
Losing white toys

These are all the things I hate about winter.

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

Bringing the Library to You

If getting to the library is a challenge, or even impossible for you, the folks at the Kellogg-Hubbard are happy to bring the library to you! A simple phone call will put you in touch with a volunteer who will deliver books, videos, and DVDs, books on tape and CD, and magazines, right to your doorstep. You can request specific titles or just let us know what your interests are and we will pick out materials we think you would enjoy. To request home delivery (or if you would like to volunteer to deliver books), call the library at 223-3338 and ask for Rachael Grossman, Outreach Coordinator.

East Montpelier Children Display Their Art at the Library

The children in Mrs. Gannon's grade 4 class at EMES will be exhibiting their art in the Kellogg-Hubbard Children's Library from April 1 through May 10. There will be an opening reception on April 28, with art teacher Heidemarie Holmes-Heiss. For the show, each child selected one artist, studied the biography of that artist, and created an artwork in that artist's style. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Events

There are always events for children at the library. Call the children's library at 223-4666 or check the library website for upcoming events for kids.

You can request the library's electronic newsletter by e-mailing Rachel Senechal at khlprograms@kellogghubbard.org. You can also check the website at www.kellogghubbard.org. If you're not a computer user, check for Kellogg-Hubbard newsletters at the Town Hall or ask the library to mail one to you. Just call Hilari at 223-3338.

Visit our website at www.kellogghubbard.org.

Library blog: <http://www.kellogghubbard.blogspot.com/>

—Hilari Farrington, Library Director

Spiritual Intuitive Readings

Reading by mail - \$40,
include 5 questions and recent photo
of self and those included in your five
questions. Photos returned with
reading. Individual or group
readings are also available.

Shaw-nee'
PO Box 1396
Montpelier, VT 05601
Phone: 802-229-6035
Shawneeintuitive@yahoo.com

EMSLI AND CONSULTANT TO PLAN FUTURE SENIOR HOUSING

With help from two grants, the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) has hired a professional consulting firm to lead us through the planning and design phases of our mission to address the senior housing needs of our community. The result of more than 18 months of meetings and organizing, this is a major step toward making our vision a reality. Committee Chairman Austin Cleaves says the goal of EMSLI is "to provide an in-town place for people to live as they age, so they can continue being part of the community, even if they're no longer able to maintain a house."

Funding from the Vermont Community Foundation and the Vermont Municipal Planning Grant Program has enabled us to hire Crane Associates, Inc. of Burlington to complete a series of essential tasks that will lay the groundwork for the construction of a senior housing project. The tasks include evaluating the demand for senior housing through surveys and interviews, generating public input, finding an appropriate building site, developing conceptual drawings, and analyzing financing options.

We've met with Michael Crane, the firm's president, and created a timeline. A new survey is being mailed to a portion of the households in town. This is a follow-up to last year's town-wide written questionnaire. Crane tells us that getting responses from our survey is very important in designing the right project. If you



At EMSLI's meeting with Michael Crane, left to right: Rick Mastelli, Deborah Fillion, Dave Coburn, Wes Cate (standing), Paul Cate, Richard Hoffman, Ross Hazel, Austin Cleaves, Cherie Staples, Doris Washburn, Molly Wingersky, Fern Tilsley. Committee members not shown: Steve Jerome, Stanley St.John, Bob Bisson, Nancy Bisson, Donna Hall, Sandy Fair, Norma Raymond

receive a letter from EMSLI, we encourage you to participate by completing and returning the survey form.

Wes Cate, committee member and longtime resident, says that the EMSLI group is dedicated and has a lot of talent. "We have accomplished a great deal. Thanks to this funding, we can engage professional help and do even more."

EMSLI meets at 6:30 p.m. on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Town Clerk's Office. Anyone can attend our meetings and new members are always welcome.

—Deborah Fillion, EMSLI

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS—ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

Eight weeks of camps for grades K–12 will be held between June 25 and August 17, 2007. Along with core activities, each camp will have its own special theme, with games, projects, crafts, and field trips.

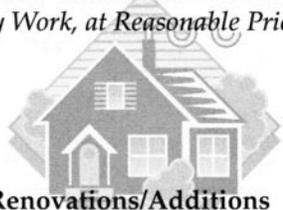
For middle and high school students, there are camps in kayaking, woodcarving, mountaintops and swimming holes, drawing

& animation, film, lego, all-girls sports, woodworking, road biking, mountain biking, songwriting, herbalism, and nature explorations.

If you're looking for outdoor fun and sociability this spring, consider joining the **Classroom Cup Challenge**, Wednesday, May 30, at U-32. The Classroom Cup is a fun trail-walking event. Walkers in teams of three will head out onto the beautiful cross-country trails at U-32 Middle/High School. Choose from three different walks on well-marked trails, from one to two-and-a-half miles in length. You'll finish your walk on the U-32 track, where you'll experience the "thrill of victory" as you come to the finish line. There will be prizes and rewards for best costumes. This free event can create a spirit of silliness, and mixed age teams are encouraged. Sponsored by the Community Connections PEP project and partners.

Call Bill Merrylees at 223-3456, or go to www.communityconnections.us more information on these activities.

AUDY CONTRACTING
"Quality Work, at Reasonable Prices"

Interior Remodeling Sheetrocking Taping Painting	 <p>Renovations/Additions P.O. Box 136 East Montpelier, VT 05651 (802) 223-7899</p>	Exterior Roofing Siding Windows Decks
--	---	---

Fully Insured

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)	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 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

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

2007 Homestead Declarations were due on April 17, 2007. Late applications may be filed until September 1, 2007 with a 1% penalty due. Filings made after September 1 will not be eligible for a property tax adjustment for 2007.

This year, for the first time, eligible homeowners will not receive a separate prebate check. The amount of the property tax adjustment (the prebate) will be subtracted from each homeowner's 2007-08 property tax bill. Beginning July 1, 2007, the VT Department of Taxes will send notification to homeowners of the amount credited to their property tax bills.

EVENTS

Adamant Village Meeting and Potluck: April 29 (Sunday), 4:30 p.m. at the Adamant Community Club

Self-Development as an Adult—Living Your Life as an Example, lecture by Jacqueline Gabe: May 15 (Tuesday), 6:30–8 p.m. at the Orchard Valley School. Please call ahead.

Rally Day Committee meeting: May 16 (Wednesday), 7:00–8:30 p.m. at the EM Municipal Office. All are welcome. Help plan 2007 Rally Day, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2007.

Black Fly Festival: May 20, 11a.m.–6 p.m. (Sunday) in the Village of Adamant. Come enjoy fun, food, festivities, and a parade. Contact Cindy, 223-1330, ccook@adamantaccord.com, if you'd like to volunteer.

Classroom Cup Challenge: May 30 (Wednesday) at U-32, call Bill Merrylees at 223-3456 (see article on page 11)

Vermont History Expo (EM Historical Society will exhibit): June 23 and 24 (Saturday-Sunday), at the Tunbridge, VT Fairgrounds.

Vermont Eco Tour: June 24 (Sunday), at Morse Farm. All ages walking and biking to benefit homeless youth in Central Vermont and orphans in Moscow, Russia. For info, call Maureen McIntyre (WCYSB Boys & Girls Club) at 229-9151 or www.ecotour2007.com.

U-32 Graduations: Class of 2007 on June 15 (Friday) at 6:30 p.m.; 8th graders, June 14 at 7 p.m.

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

East Montpelier *Signpost*
PO Box 184
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651
Return Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Barre, VT

www.emsignpost.com

- Up-to-date calendar listings
- Signpost archive
- Organizations in town