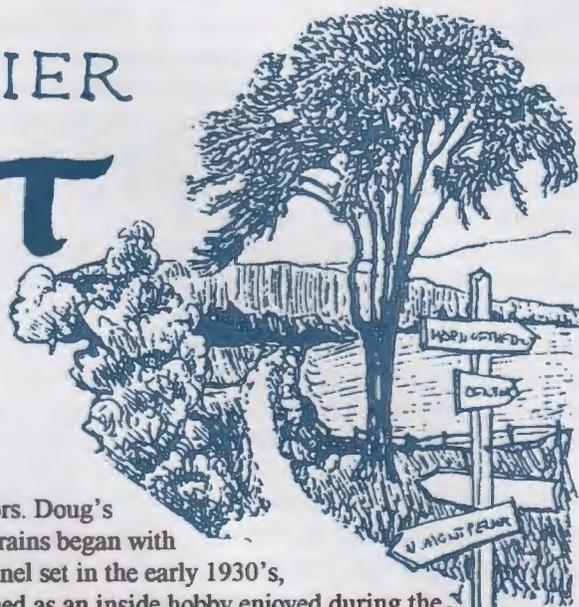


# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume VIII, No. 6

July/August 1998

## WORKING ON THE RAILROAD



Several years ago, while taking my infant son Henry for our regular walk down Kelton Road, I found my neighbors Doug and Joanne Johnson out tending their extensive flower gardens. We hailed one another, as we'd done before, but this time I was invited up to view the garden railway that I'd heard so much about. I parked a sleeping Henry in his stroller and joined them for what was to be the first of many train visits with this lively and laughter-filled couple. Before me lay a fantastic Lilliputian land of miniature buildings and trains nestled among carefully tended dwarf shrubs, perennials and mosses. I was full of questions, and their answers were full of chortles and guffaws. Being a railroad innocent, I was amazed at all the effort, expense, enthusiasm and time required for this project. This isn't just a casual hobby, I thought to myself. These folks are really hooked! I left that day with a wide smile on my face, rejuvenated by time spent with such gregarious and truly happy people.

Fast forward three years. I am delighted to be asked to write about Doug and his trains. Henry is now three and a half, and begs me on a regular basis, "Can we go see the Train Man today!?" Henry has grown, but sadly other changes have happened, too. In January of this year, Joanne died after a lengthy bout with cancer. Despite his loss, perhaps because of it, Doug has continued with the trains as energetically as ever.

Doug and Joanne moved to East Montpelier from Ashland, Massachusetts, in 1983. When Doug retired from the insurance business in 1991, he was eager to spend more

time outdoors. Doug's interest in trains began with his first Lionel set in the early 1930's, and continued as an inside hobby enjoyed during the winter holidays. In 1991, their curiosity was piqued by a photograph of a garden railway in a catalog. Already avid gardeners, they were excited by the thought of combining two interests and declared, "We can do this!" They quickly subscribed to *Garden*



*Railway* magazine and headed down to Washington, DC, to attend a garden railway convention, immersing themselves in their newfound hobby. After purchasing an engine, a few boxcars, a caboose, a power pack and some track, the Patio and Puckerbrush Garden Railway was born.

The layout began as a simple loop. It quickly became apparent that Joanne and Doug wanted to do more, so another loop was added, this one encircling their gazebo. The momentum increased with each successive year. In 1994, the town of Puckerville was built, replete with an inn,

shops, Post Office and J.J.'s Cafe named for Joanne. The village green is surrounded by a stone wall, each almond-sized stone laboriously glued to its neighbor. Not ones to rest, they continued the following year with a tunnel, then a long painstakingly handmade trestle, and more buildings. The most recent additions include a separate trolley which takes passengers to the base of the new cog railway. Doug laughingly reported that unfortunately there were no budgetary checks and balances because he and Joanne were both so eager to expand and develop the railway.

## Top of the Signpost

Try to picture our town 150 years ago. East Montpelier was then a part of Montpelier and had probably been charted unseen by Ira Allen in 1781. The square of land was six miles on each side, most of it densely forested. After the charter was granted, the usual pattern of clearing land, building homes, and establishing mills and small shops followed. In 1805 Montpelier became the state's capital.

By 1848 - that was 150 years ago - the outlying hills and valleys were filling up with thriving farms. Residents of the bustling village in the elbow of the Winooski River and the North Branch apparently felt that the needs of the village and the outlying farms weren't compatible, so they moved to divide Montpelier into two towns. A committee of villagers considered the division, and the village voted in its favor at a special village

meeting. By October 1848 a bill was filed in the Vermont Legislature to separate the square mile "downtown" from the outlying acreage. The "country dwellers" were either opposed to the move or weren't consulted. Indeed the legislative reports show only the briefest consideration before the act was passed on November 9. And so East Montpelier was born. Town leaders met January 1, 1849, to choose officers and plan for division of school districts and other details brought about by the division.

During these next few months, we will be observing the 150th birthday of our town. You may expect to see historical information and special events occurring throughout this next year, starting with our next issue of the Signpost. We are proud to kick off this birthday celebration for our favorite town.

Jean Cate

After six years of work, the railway is a sight to behold. Four hundred and eighty feet of track cover an area roughly 1000 square feet in size. Doug's train shed is full of equipment including seven engines which pull both freight (logs and lumber) and passengers. He even has a circus car with holes on top for the giraffes to stick out (complete with giraffes)! The buildings and trains don't represent a single place or time period, and new pieces are added purely for their appeal. The careful planting provides a realistic yet magical backdrop. Although it requires considerable maintenance, rearranging and experimenting with new plants is part of what makes flower gardening fun. The garden railway is an outlet for Doug's imagination and love of building. Appropriately enough, Doug and Joanne were once members of a train club called A.W.N.U.T.S. (Always Whimsical Not Usually To Scale). But Doug sums it up best, stating emphatically, "We are not purists! We are not rivet counters!"

The hobby of garden railroads began around fifty years ago then a German toy maker started making model trains designed for outside use. All garden railways run on what is known as g-gauge, a standardized track width of 45 mm. Toy manufacturers, however, vary the scale of the trains themselves, though most are around 1/2" scale. Not surprisingly, the hobby attracts a lot of older men, but Doug added, "There are quite a few husband and wife teams, and children, too." The hobby took off in the Bay area, and Doug and Joanne attended three conventions in California alone.

For those of you interested in finding out more, contact Doug about the Vermont Garden Railway Society. Started in 1992 by Doug and Joanne, it now has approximately 35 members, twelve to fifteen of whom have layouts. They meet about six times during the summer to "swap plants, ideas, plans, hopes, dreams and information". Doug also welcomes visitors to the Patio and Puckerbrush Garden Railway, and kindly requests that you call in advance. Maybe by the time you visit, he'll have the replica of the Wolcott, VT covered bridge ready!

*Apple Faulkner lives with her husband, Hobie Guion, and their two children on Kelton Road. Her given name is Abigail but she prefers to be called Apple.*

## Rally Day Celebrates Its 10th Year On September 12, 1998

What better way to celebrate ten years of Rallying around East Montpelier than a parade! Get out your marching shoes or bikes or maybe even skateboards and take part in the 11 o'clock event. Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H'ers, church groups, dance troupes, musicians, clowns, antique cars, fire trucks, and veterans all make up a great parade. Maybe you and your neighbors would like to march together as a lawn mower brigade? Businesses in town are encouraged to have floats. Creativity will make this parade one not to miss!

This summer there are many ways you can prepare for Rally Day '98. Keep your camera ready for that winning photo. One young shutterbug is submitting a picture of a car deep in mud season for the second annual photo contest. The categories are: East Montpelier Close-ups; Scenics; and Friends, Family and Neighbors.

Another way to prepare is to grow your vegetables and flowers for the Town Fair. Enter them in the standard and decorated vegetables categories and flower arrangements. Use a pumpkin as a vase and the judges are bound to notice. Let your imagination run wild!

We will have perennial favorites like the Rally Day Rural Race, Bike Tours, Kid's Art Hike (at the school this year), the Signpost Auction, a Fire Department Demo, Plant Sale and Swap and Memory Hour at 4 Corner Schoolhouse.

If you have an item or a service that you can donate to the Auction, we'd love to hear from you. Or if you know someone that we could call to solicit a donation for the Auction please call Rachel Senechal, 223-0539. The Signpost Auction keeps the bi-monthly news coming to our homes. Please give generously!

New this year will be a family bingo game in place of the Variety Show. We won't be exchanging money, but will have small prizes for the winners. If you'd like to help please call Rachael Grossman, 223-3177.

We're still in the planning stages and will present more surprises on September 12th, so mark your calendars and join us for the 10th Annual Rally Day!



MILESTONES

Births

- \*Anna Claire Ball, born March 16, 1998, daughter to Linda Diane Blake.
- \*Alexa Marie West, born March 18, 1998, daughter to Catherine Marie & Richard Allen West.
- \*Veronica Ann Vilbrin, born April 6, 1998, daughter to Irene Cook & Timothy John Vilbrin.
- \*Ethan Robert McCollister, born April 25, 1998, son to Erica Jane Zimmerman & Kevin Patrick McCollister.

Deaths

- \*Donald Delmar Straw, died April 6, 1998, husband of Phyllis Straw.
- \*Alice Mable Falldorf, died April 27, 1998, mother of Diane Brown.

Land Transfers

- \*Harry Morse Sr. & Dorothy Morse to Sherwood & Roberta Morse, 1.5 acres, County Rd.
- \*Guy A. Rouelle, Sr. to Nancy Durgin & Forrest W. Rouelle, 0.58 acre & dwelling, Upper North St.
- \*Elaine & Donald Edwards to Elaine & Donald Edwards, Julie Edwards Lesure & Lorie Edwards, Trustees, 2.1 acres & dwelling, Gould Hill Rd.
- \*Wanda Bailey Gable Estate, Craig A. & Debra A. Gable, Co-executors, to Norman & Carla Messier, 13.4 acres, East Hill Rd.
- \*M & T Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, 1.10 acres & dwelling, Carlton Blvd.
- \*Annegret F. Pollard to Robert A. Clark & Nancy R. Bergeron, easement correction, Factory St.
- \*Robert A. Clark & Nancy R. Bergeron to Annegret F. Pollard, easement correction, Factory St.
- \*David W. Pope to David W. Pope & Pamela S. Bockes, 11.05 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- \*George D. & Leatrice M. Brown to Paul H. & Jane L. Knight, 1 acre & dwelling, North St.
- \*Barbara H. Fitch to Bruce Walker & Claudia Faust Fitch, 150 acres & dwelling, Fitch Rd.
- \*Malcolm R. Graves to Peter G. & Mary E. Wonson, 0.89 acre & dwelling, U.S. Rt. 2, Village.
- \*Richard E. & Ann W. Russell to Leon J. & Jean M. Boucher, 2.41 acres & dwelling, Maplewood Rd.
- \*Mathew Rubin to Richard S. Smith & Jennifer L. Myka, 0.90 acre & dwelling, Schoolhouse Rd.
- \*Dorothy J. Sparrow, Philip L. Sparrow, Roger B. Leland, trustees of the Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust to Dorothy J. Sparrow, Philip L. Sparrow, Roger B. Leland, trustees of the Dorothy J. Sparrow Living Trust, Declaration of Covenants & Restrictions, Gould Hill Rd. & North St.
- \*Estate of Ernest B. Eniti to Sari K. Eniti & James P. Eniti, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.

- \*Sari K. Wolf f/k/a Sari K. Eniti to Sari K. Wolf & Cleo B. Wolf, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- \*Patricia L. Woodward to Paul S. & Lynn Guare, 14 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- \*Alfred V. & Lynda Szulc to Sean M. & Joanna W. Fowler, 5.6 acres & dwelling, Haggett Rd.



THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eleanor Barber           | The Nist Family           |
| Raylene C. Blanc         | Robert, Deborah, Chelsea, |
| Robert & Madeline Cutler | and Jessie Phillips       |
| Ernest & Estella Dodge   | Robert & Geneva Woodward  |
| Larry & Joan Fitch       | Florence Young            |
| Martin & Edith Miller    |                           |

The Signpost welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received - \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, The Signpost, 315 Putnam Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651-4119. All new contributors will be recognized in the next issue.

**Open Everyday 8:30am to 8pm**

<p>We ship Anywhere</p> <p>"A Quality Family Farm Shop"</p> <p>802-223-5757</p>		<p>Vermont Handicrafts</p> <p>Gifts</p> <p>Vermont Cheese</p> <p>Mail Order</p> <p>Maple Products</p>
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1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)



**SELECTBOARD**

*Tom Brazier, Chair  
Edie Miller, Tim Meehan*

**April 1, 1998**

\*Met with Regional Planning Commission representatives re: Act 250 Application Review process. Selectboard concerned RPC reviewed application for proposed Montpelier sludge composting facility without notifying Selectboard to get their input.

\*Constable Dennis Carver investigating increased number of dog complaints. Asked for compensation.

\*Authorized purchase of new road signs to be made by VT Correctional Industries.

\*Reviewed and signed annual Financial Plan for Highways.

**April 15, 1998**

\*Approved Robert and Virginia Bragg's plans for a subdivision road for zoning purposes as a possible future public street.

\*Voted to hold vote on appropriating additional \$40,000 for the gravel budget. \$34,784 of the budgeted \$40,000 has been spent.

\*Approved purchase of new dump truck from Clark's Truck Center and dump body, plow and sander equipment from Hill-Martin, Inc.

\*Appointed town officers.

\*Approved liquor license renewal for Dudley's Store.

\*Town Plan, adopted five years ago, is expiring. Will meet with Planning Commission.

**May 6, 1998**

\*Toured roads for possible summer projects.

\*Voted to set annual \$750 stipend for Constable Carver for handling dog complaints.

\*Ed Blackwell, representative to C.V. Regional Planning Commission, discussed proposed revisions to Regional Plan.

\*Selectman Brazier reported on progress of committee working on a regional ambulance service.

**May 20, 1998**

\*Public Hearing on Special Town Meeting vote for gravel appropriation.

\*Joint meeting with Planning Commission. Discussion of re-adopting

Town Plan with minor updating.

\*Discussion of possible Zoning Ordinance changes. Possible commercial uses in industrial zone and interpretation of term "frontage" are areas of concern.

\*Adopted policy that Town co-hold trail easements with East Montpelier Trails, Inc., subject to designation of such trails as part of the VT Trails network for liability purposes.

\*Signed agreement for Sheriff's traffic patrol.

\*Awarded contract to McCullough Crushing, Inc. for 4,800 tons of washed sand.

\*Awarded roadside mowing contract to Grout Farms.

\*Reappointed Jeff Cueto and Earle Ellingwood to Board of Adjustment for three year terms. A vacancy will be advertised.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

*Doug Johnson, Chair*

**March 19, 1998**

\*Approved Final Plat Review of Chris Pratt two-lot subdivision.

\*Discussed changes to Zoning Regulations.

**April 2, 1998**

\*Approved revisions to Bragg subdivision regarding right-of-way.

\*Discussed minor revisions to Hawkins subdivision on Towne Hill Road.

\*Discussed Zoning Regulations.

**April 16, 1998**

\*Reviewed boundaries Lot #3 Hawkins sub-division. Approved.

\*Reviewed Preliminary Platt Review Meunnick subdivision on Guyette Road. Approved contingent on updated plan.

\*Approved building permit to construct two buildings on lots 1 and 2 Packard Industrial Park.

\*Continued discussion of zoning changes.

**May 7, 1998**

\*Approved plan for Guyette subdivision.

\*Approved request of Lauren Isaak to operate retail store Route 2 on Wanson property. Sign approval postponed until site visit.

\*Voted to re-adopt Town Plan with minor updating.

**May 21, 1998**

\*Approved Isaak sign permit request.

\*Approved final updated plan of Donald Cote for storage units and driving range.

\*Approved request of David Swenson to build two Type 4 storage buildings for fireworks at Packard Park.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

*Earle Ellingwood, Acting Chair*

**March 23, 1998**

\*After hearing and discussion voted to uphold Zoning Administrator's decision that Michael Liff does have a junkyard and is in violation of the zoning ordinance.

**April 27, 1998**

\*Abigail Bruce and Sean Downing want to purchase 8 acre parcel on Route 14 across from Fair Road and build a dog kennel boarding training facility. Hearing to be rewarned.

\*Hearing regarding Chris Hedges' plan to build an apartment in his barn on Fair Road.

**May 11, 1998**

\*Hearings resumed.

\*Denied application of Abigail Bruce and Sean Downing. Area is zoned industrial and the kennel would be commercial, not a permitted use in industrial zone.

\*Chris Hedges application denied. He does not have necessary acreage or adequate setbacks for Zone D.



**EAST MONTPELIER  
TOWN OFFICE**

**Phone: 223-3313**

**Email: EastMont@together.net**

**Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi  
Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Paulie Coburn  
(M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)  
Administrative Assistant - Bill Bryant  
(W & Th 9-5)**

**PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651**



**EAST MONTPELIER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Richard Curtis, Cheryl Rus, Loring Starr, Nancy Thomas*

**April 2, 1998**

- \*Discussed flooring issues.
- \*Discussed process for hiring new custodian.
- \*Will look into testing for air quality.
- \*Approved use of school building for two weeks by Sara O'Hare for summer camp. She must supply proof of liability insurance.

**May 7, 1998**

- \*Approved hiring Jason Aldrich for 50 days as summer custodian.
- \*Bill Root reported on study of woodchip storage options and cost of keeping a storage trailer on site, and costs of conversion to oil.
- \* Board authorized Robbe Brook to seek bids for a three year bus contract for EMES.
- \*Approved 1998-99 school calendar.
- \*Approved purchase of one set of new basals for grade one. Would incorporate phonics and good literature.
- \*Heard Mike Rogers from the Health Dept.
- \*IAQ will be on agenda for June. Report from H.L. Turner will be reviewed.

**U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL**

*(Chair, Peter Schober), Ginny Burley and Tony Klein, East Montpelier members*

**March 31, 1998**

- \*Moved to create an inventory of everything in the building.
- \*Will offer Jon Winston one-year contract as Director of Buildings and Grounds.
- \*Agreed not to grant a dispensation of current alcohol/substance abuse policy for student overseas trips.
- \*Marilyn Miller resigned from Board.

**April 7, 1998**

- \*Eric Zencey elected Board Clerk.
- \*Authorized energy audit by VEIC.
- \*May 26 will be a make-up day. Any further days lost because of bomb threats will be made up on next practicable Saturday.

**April 28, 1998**

- \*Voted to oppose sludge facility based upon total protection of staff and students in the school.
- \*Accepted 1998-99 WSCU calendar.
- \*Nominated Mark Berry to fill Marilyn Miller's position.

**May 5, 1998**

- \*Bid process for bus contract discussed.
- \*6th grade parent orientation scheduled for May 6.
- \*Approved Special Ed contract.

**May 15, 1998**

- \*Community forum to "Take Back Our School". Discussion of recent bomb threats. Top priority is that education continues and cooperation with VT State Police is maintained. Many comments and recommendations.

**FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE**

*Rachel Senechal, President*

- \*At the annual meeting on April 15th, officers elected for 1998-99 were Rachel Senechal, President; Hobie Guion, Vice-President; and Marion Codling, Clerk/Treasurer. Paul Cate was re-elected to a new term, and Stanley Christiansen is a new member of the Board of Directors.
- \*The new scheduler for use of the schoolhouse is Ruth Frost, 223-6892. The alternate is Marion Codling, 223-2058.
- \*The organizational meeting of the Garden Club was held at the schoolhouse on May 11th, planned by Ruth Frost, Board member. A full summer schedule has been planned. For further information and/or a schedule contact Ruth Frost at 223-6892.
- \*As a Four Corners Schoolhouse project, a Perennial Plant sale was held at the schoolhouse on May 23rd, planned and managed by Ruth Frost and Wendy Deutsch.

**CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**April 1, 1998**

- \*Elliott Morse elected Chairman, Weston Cate, Jr., Secretary for ensuing year.
- \*Voted to meet on second Wednesday of alternate months.

**RECREATION BOARD**

*Pat Fitzsimmons, Rachel Senechal, Co-Chairs*

- \*Letters from the Selectboard will be sent to new Recreation Board members Sandy Chaloux and Rene Kievit-Kylar.
- \*There are a few spaces left for the summer swim program. Anyone interested please call Robyn Hall to register, 223-3308.
- \*Both the Recreation Board and the Four Corner Schoolhouse Association have agreed to recommend to the Selectboard that \$1,000 from the Carleton Smith Fund be sent to the Central Vermont Civic Center.
- \*Picnic tables are wanted for the recreation field. If you can build one, or have a sturdy table you'd like to donate, please call Rachel Senechal, 223-0539.
- \*We'd like to make the recreation field more family friendly. Do you have Little Tykes slides, covered sand boxes and the like? We are going to make a playground for small children. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.
- \*A sign design contest will be held for the recreation field sign that will be erected next year. The contest will take place among the elementary school children. Ginger Hopkins will coordinate this effort.
- \*A safety reminder to parents: Please do not park on the road when attending your child's game at the recreation field. Please park in the recreation field or the school parking lot.



## QUILT SHOW

Area quilters are invited to participate in the 1998 Washington County Field Days Quilt Show and Contest. Field Days will be held August 1 and 2 at Parker Field on Route 2 near East Montpelier village.

There will be six contest classes: tied baby and youth size quilts, tied twin and larger quilts, quilted twin and larger quilts, tied wall hangings, and quilted wall hangings. Judging will occur before the quilt show.

If you're in the process of creating a quilt or wall hanging, or have made one within the past two years (completed after Aug. 1, 1996), here's an opportunity to show off your handiwork. For more information, contact Anne Ormsbee at 223-5372 or Judy Fowler at 454-7823 (evenings).

## MOOSE LIPS

On May 27, the Tri-Village Homemakers were honored for 25 years of providing the flowers that border the parking lot of the Plainfield Post Office. The current eight members come from the towns of Plainfield, Marshfield and East Montpelier and the Town Clerks of those towns presented the women with plaques and paid tribute to their service to the community. Sylvia Tosi presented a plaque to East Montpelier member Theresa Goslant. Congratulations!

The special Town Meeting held May 27 voted 61-8 to appropriate an additional \$40,000 to the gravel budget, which was severely depleted by this spring's incredible mud season.

Thank you to Brett Coburn for becoming the photographer for the *Signpost*.

**Donate a service or an item to the Rally Day Signpost Auction. Creative ideas for service are welcome!**

**Call Rachel Senechal, 223-0539.**

## TRAILS COMMITTEE NEWS

We need help with summer maintenance projects and with some bike problems.

1) All you trails users, please volunteer to help with summer maintenance projects! Please call Jamie Shanley (223-4856) or Nona Estrin (223-7745) for information and to volunteer.

2) We have some problems with mountain bikes and our trails. A lot more people than expected have been enjoying the trails on their mountain bikes. Use is heavy, and some bikers have ignored the signs requesting that people bike on the trails only at certain times of the year. We all must understand that our trail easements are for foot traffic only on Sections 1, 2 and 3. Permission for other uses, like biking and horses, is ONLY at the landowners' discretion, and can easily be taken away. So, please pass the word--we must be sure to respect landowners' wishes and honor the signs. We really don't want to close some sections of trail to bicycling because it is a pleasure for so many people. Please honor the rules, for everyone's sake. Many thanks!



## A CENTURY AND A HALF

East Montpelier's birthday celebration is in the works. A history-minded group met May 19 in an enthusiastic brainstorming session. Lots of ideas were floated and a second meeting is scheduled for June 15. Ideas include re-enacting a historical drama, displays in the town office, a Rally Day light-up for the anniversary year, possible restoration of some of the town's historic documents, welcome signs at approaches to the town, and souvenir items. Have you other ideas? Call Sylvia at 223-3313.

\* \* \* \*

Are you interested in local history? With plans being made for our town's susquecentennial, perhaps this is the time to re-activate the East Montpelier Historical Society by having an early September re-organizational meeting. To express your interest, call Anne Ormsbee at 223-5372.



### CHURCH BELLS



#### OLD BRICK CHURCH

*Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor*

Summer Worship - 9:30 a.m.

Hymn Sing/Worship Service

Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

#### OLD MEETING HOUSE

*Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge,*

*Co-Pastors*

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care 9:30 a.m. July

Closed August

#### CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Rev. Bob Walton*

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

## An Old Building - A New Life The East Montpelier Home Center

The building in the Village still known to many of us as the Old Creamery Building has housed several businesses over the years and has often stood empty. It had most recently been an auto body shop before it was bought by Warren Noyes, who owns a building supply business in Waterbury. His son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Janet Noyes, run the new business, which opened in August of 1990 and is called The East Montpelier Home Center.

Steve had experience as a carpenter and foreman working for his father so he had practical knowledge of the building trade. Janet, who met Steve around the time the building was being purchased, was a teacher in the Cabot schools. After they married, she worked at Harwood Union High School where she taught Health and Home Economics. She now does the book-keeping and works behind the counter. They have one part time and four full time employees. Two of them, Joe Tomasello and Doug Royce, live here in East Montpelier.

Steve and Janet commute from Moretown where they live with their three children. Josh is five and is in pre-school. The twins, Sarah and Jocelyn, are three. Having your own business, three pre-schoolers and a commute to work seems like a lot to handle. When I spoke with Janet the other day I asked if they ever bring the children to the store. She said they do and that the kids like it a lot. Josh uses his imagination to turn the freight dolly into a fork lift and there are endless things to get into with lots of intriguing little items at their eye level. It is a fascination that continues in much the same vein as we grow up. As Janet was taking a phone call at the counter, I watched a woman and her son peruse the array of tools and gizmos, in no hurry to be waited on because, for whatever specific and practical reason one goes to a hardware store or lumber yard, there is often a desire to take stock, to put away for future reference the existence of that tool, that metal shape, that bit of molding.

When the Noyes family first opened the Home Center, the business occupied only the main brick building. The large room where the counter is now was storage as was the walkout basement below. They built a large storage shed the next year. This houses 4X8 materials such as drywall and plywood. Three years later they added a long lumber storage shed at the back of the yard. Behind this is their inventory of pressure treated materials.

They get most of their business by word of mouth and Steve obviously already had contacts in the building world. They have a part time salesman who checks on building permits in

the area, notes cellar holes going in and finds out who is doing the building. As prospective builders of a new home, my husband and I received a letter from them before we started to build last year. In January of 1997, they were computerized, making it easier to give people quotes on their buildings material list.

I had already heard via the grapevine that the Home Center was competitive in price. I've since become a regular customer and find that they carry most of what I'm looking for from hardware, paint and plumbing supplies, to stovepipe

and garden tools. They also have some doors and windows on hand for that last minute building you might throw up over the weekend. But, for those who plan ahead, I recommend the library of suppliers behind the counter. You can order whatever you need and expect to get it in less than a week if it's a stock item.

The location has been good for the business. The traffic on Route 2 may get a little heavy during the afternoon rush but The Home Center is very convenient for a lot of people and they are open seven days a week.

As with many small businesses, there is sometimes extra work that needs to be done outside business hours. Steve gets up early in the morning and does quotes when his mind is freshest. I asked Janet about the commute and she told me that it is her quiet transitional time between the business and picking up her children. It may be a busy life but both Janet and Steve, as well as their employees, seem to have all the time in world to help you, the customer, figure what you want and how to get it.

*Janet MacLeod and her husband John ("Spike") Holden live in a not quite finished house on Templeton Rd. She grew up in East Montpelier Center. She is an artist and carpenter, mostly.*



## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDER

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Tuesday	6:30	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thursday	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00	Town Office
Town Clerk's Office Hours	Mon-Thur: 9-5, Friday 9-12		Town Office
Zoning Administrator	Tuesday & Thursday	1-2:30	Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	3rd Wednesday	7:30	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

July 4	CELEBRATE		
Aug. 12	Cemetery Commission	Town Office	7:30
Sep. 12	RALLY DAY	EMES and all about the town!	All day

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Published six times a year, mailed out free of charge to all residents of East Montpelier.  
Subscriptions mailed out of town for \$10 a year. Business card ads: \$15/issue or \$75/year.

Jean Cate, Publisher, 223-2951  
Dave/Darlene Grundy,  
Layout/Design, 476-4300

David Coburn, Copy Editor, 223-6886  
Margaret Richey, News Editor, 454-7862  
Brett Coburn, Photography, 223-6886

Anne Sherman, Business Mgr., 223-2693  
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