

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XI, No. 2

November/December 2000

MABEL (CHRIS) WRIGHT

by Ann Stanton

The bright September sun was no match for the chill as I walked up Barnes Road to visit with Chris Wright. She ushered me into her warm and comfortable "mother-in-law" apartment. "I'm a little bit nervous," she began. "I don't feel I've accomplished nearly as much as I want to in my life, and I don't quite know what to say." Then I was treated to an account of an eventful past and a very full present — a life crafted out of an abiding interest in all the world has to offer.

Chris's given name is Mabel, her nickname deriving from her maiden name. She was raised on the Christiansen farm in East Montpelier which her brother and nephews farm to this day. Although she drove the occasional horse rig, her interests lay elsewhere; and off she went to Lyndon Normal School, where she obtained her teaching certificate and then taught for four years. World War Two was in full swing. Very patriotic, she answered the call; and in March, 1943, she joined the Women's Army Corps. She finished up the school year and reported to basic training in June. The tales she tells are marvelous, ranging from performing drills with 30 pound backpacks and being thrown overboard to swim ashore to being stranded in Newfoundland due to a ship with engine trouble. There, base commanders organized a dance, found an Arthur Murray dance instructor and sent in two

shifts of soldiers to dance with the young WACs, the first women most soldiers had seen in many months. I asked about the training and the military discipline. "Oh yes," Chris replied, "we did all that. We loved it. We were very proud of ourselves. And I made wonderful friendships."

Chris notes that the whole experience was very broadening for a youngster from rural Vermont. Her best friend from Los Angeles spoke three foreign languages. The young WACs lived and worked in England (enduring the bombing raids in London), France and Germany. She herself was assigned at one point to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (under command of Gen. Eisenhower) and was entrusted with top secret cables. The next phase of her life entailed a return to Vermont, marriage and eight children, who have, in turn, presented her with nineteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She stayed home for 23 years but then went out to work. From scrubbing paint as a housekeeper, she moved on to being a nurse's aid at Heaton Hospital and then served as a long-term substitute in Woodbury School and taught at the North Calais school. That ended when her mother had a stroke. "In those days, daughters were expected to take care of their mothers," she explains, so she resigned from her job and nursed her mother to recovery. Later, she put in a thirteen year stint with the State of Vermont.

Deep into the discussion of children and work, she remarked, "I'm a feminist. I deeply believe in equality for all and especially for women." Intrigued, I asked her how she had arrived at this position. "By reading *The Feminist Mystique*," she answered. "It was a real eye-opener. I took it to heart." Among other things, that meant that she worked hard so that her daughters could go to college and, as she says, she "preached" to them that they should work and live on their own before marriage. "That didn't always happen," she smiles.

She is still very much "on the go" these days. She is an active member of the Older Women's League, which meets monthly and just sponsored a Meet the Candidates forum in Barre. And she's the treasurer for the Women Veterans Association, Chapter 100. She plays bridge weekly, and she travels a lot, spending three weeks in Utah and a month in California every year visiting her children.



(Continued on page 2)

Top of the Signpost

Did you find a little surprise folded into this issue of the *Signpost*? The new pamphlet *About East Montpelier* is the product of a quiet little group of citizens who have been meeting since Town Meeting Day. You may remember all the discussion at that meeting about increasing participation and informed voting at Town/School Meetings. The Selectboard invited interested citizens to sign up to explore ways to encourage more people to take part - both in Town Meeting and in town government in general. From that list grew Take Part: a Citizen Participation Committee.

Why the booklet *About East Montpelier*? You will find it full of useful information - dates, deadlines, definitions,

resources, a map - and much more. We hope that as you know more about how our town government works, you will find it easier and more interesting to take part. The booklet was designed so it wouldn't become out-of-date in a year or so. Please post your copy on the fridge, or save it with your town reports. It's truly a gold mine of information.

About East Montpelier is only the first product of the Take Part committee. You may expect to learn of other efforts and recommendations for ways to increase informed participation in our town government during the next year. The committee's work is reported elsewhere in this issue. Stay tuned.

Jean Cate

(Continued from page 1)

Right now, she reports, "I'm just fascinated with computers." She has one of her own, housed in a special computer desk in her bedroom, which she uses to communicate with her family, to keep up with the stock market (which she also finds fascinating) and to play bridge. Throughout our conversation, she mentions books that she's read or ideas that she's interested in. "If I could live my life over again, I would be a physical therapist or a nutritionist," she says, and explains her interest in healthy eating and cookbooks. She hands me a copy of her recent letter to the editor. "I hope I don't lose any friends over this," she remarks, and explains how upset she has been at the divisiveness marking this year's elections. "It's the civil unions issue, really. There's so much fear and anger over that." We talked about the tradition among farmers of tolerating and helping out neighbors, even if you didn't agree with them, and the need to foster mutual caring and working together in our communities today.

This summer, her family held a big gathering in Chris's honor. All the children who live in the West came back at the same time to celebrate her upcoming eightieth birthday. I, too, want to celebrate this wonderful woman in our midst. My walk home was warmed by the excitement of meeting a true elder, someone to look up to — full of wisdom from a long and interesting life, still engaged and embracing the world with vigor. Happy Birthday, Chris!

Ann Stanton has lived in East Montpelier since 1991 and teaches in Vermont College's Adult Degree Program. She is married to David Connor and they live on the corner of Bliss and Center Roads.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

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.

John and Jana Bagwell
Alex Brown and Clarke Jordan
Augustus and Alberta Pacini
H. Roger and Genevieve Chapell
Fred and Granthia Preston

Mildred Heller
Marion Codling
Linda Royce
Earle Ellingwood




ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
 at
THE COTTAGE SHOP
 Sunday, November 12, 2000
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Unique Crafts ★ Painted Slates
 Stained Glass ★ Gift Items
 Located on Quaker Road in East Montpelier




CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care 10:00 a.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.

December 17—Christmas Pageant 9:30 am

December 17—Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

December 24—Christmas Eve Services 5:00 and 7:00 pm

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton

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



Rally Day 2000 — Beats All Records

by Rachel Senechal and Jean Cate



September 9 was a spectacular day. The weather, the crowd, the races, the market, our colorful little homegrown parade, the happy competition at the *Signpost* Auction, and the enthusiastic dance in the evening topped off by some of the most brilliant fireworks many of us had ever seen - all these created a sort of magic that made us glad to be a part of East Montpelier. It was indeed a treat to see this Rally Day come into its own - the 12th year after it was launched on a hurricane weekend in 1989.

At 7:30 when Paul Cate, Hobie Guion, and Jon Dunkling arrived to set up the tents and parking signs, the fog was so thick that we couldn't see the Kings' house across the road. By 9:30 the sun had chased the fog away and warm rays enveloped the hundreds of people who attended Rally Day. The Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary was ready with homemade cinnamon rolls, donuts, and coffee donated by Capitol Grounds. Fitness buffs ruled the early morning. Jeff Cueto led a five mile bike hike, and runners ran in 1k and 5k races organized by Mark and Sue



Stephen. The winning runners were: (ages 5-7) Ryan Shea and Ally George; (ages 8-10) Silas Chickering-Ayers and Alice Curchin; (ages 11-12) Koby Dunkling and Lily Herzig; and 5k (12 and under) Will Karnedy; (ages 13-30) Hunter Karnedy and Liz Stephen; (over 30) Harriet and Jim Shea. Prizes were donated by Dudley's Store, Pizza Joe, Video Box Office, and Onion River Sports. Kids and adults entered their photos in six categories of the Photo Contest. Winners were by popular vote: Anders Christiansen - My Favorite Place; Emily Parker and Zoe Christiansen - Gardens; Carmen Pudvah - Friends, Family & Neighbors; Shirley Wright and Miranda Bushey - Scenics; Carmen Pudvah and Erin Blosser - Pets; Zoe Christiansen and Emily Parker—Close-ups. And did you see Sylvia Tosi's photo collage of her gardens, decorated with pressed fern and Queen Anne's lace? Kudos to Cathy Suskin for organizing this contest.

Zucchini, honeydew melon, eggplant, butternut squash, cucumbers, a lemon, carrots, and celery appeared in imaginative disguise for the Kids Decorating Contest. Every entry was a winner with Becky Crandel's equally creative awards. There were games for kids, face painting, hair banding, bubbles, Jack Pauly's hoop shoot, and an amazing inflated Dalmatian for kids to bounce in. Tom Brazier had promised that the Fire Dept. would provide something fun for kids - and the jumping dog was a huge hit. Then it was off to the Four Corners Schoolhouse where Sandal Cate helped kids decorate bikes for the parade.

That home grown parade was a pleasure to watch: the kindergarten class marching together, the many bike riders, and the floats. Seth and Michelle Gardner always come through with a nifty one, and did you see that shiny blue dolphin held high by kids with lobsters on their heads? A North Montpelier neighborhood group marched together, using the idea suggested in the last *Signpost*. It was great fun, and Hobie Guion hopes you will

join him in next year's parade.

After the parade the Crossroads Christian Church served a very well organized lunch, with the 4-H providing dessert. Then it was on to the Four Corners Schoolhouse for an old fashioned whist party with instruction, prizes and lemonade. Meanwhile the kids and adults created a mural, and the Vincent Flats Blues Band played on. While Sue Chickering and Jim Shea outlined the soccer field in the Rec Field for the 2 pm game, several kids played an impromptu game next door. It doesn't take much to get folks playing this popular sport!

The Craft Show and Farmers Market offered beautiful baskets, pottery, wreaths, stained glass, painted slates, knitted sweaters, sock monkeys, honey, vegetables and more. Jennifer Boyer was responsible for putting this event together.

As the afternoon moved on, some folks made a visit to David and Phoebe Houghton's Center Road farm to see their old breeds of spotted pigs, sheep and cattle. Others joined Paul Cate for a mushroom walk behind the Elementary School. Then it was off to the Old Brick Church to enjoy lasagna and brownies *a la mode*, then racing back to the school to get in those last bids on the array of items in the *Signpost* Auction.

The auction was extremely well organized and well supported this year, raising a record \$2,886.75 towards the *Signpost* budget. It succeeded because Deb Fillion and her team worked so hard. They are Wendi Coburn, Kathie Hickman, Linda Trono, Jean Vissering, Anna Saxman, Sue Mugford, with set-up help from Jennifer Boyer, Rachel Senechal, and Jane Burroughs. Thanks are also due the many who donated to the auction and those who bid—and bid—and bid throughout the day. We were all winners.

Many people came out for the Family Dance, with disc jockey Dana Barber playing music for all ages. It was great to see so many people dancing! But surely the climax to that beautiful day came with the fireworks display. The spectacular show was a gift to our town from Northstar Fireworks, and this was the third year that Dave and DeeDee Swenson have made this gift. We learned that folks all over town and even outside could see the display. It was like a twenty minute finale to a great day. Our thanks to the Swensons!

There are many others who helped carry out Rally Day, but there is a little moral to this tale. After Rally Day last year, twice chairman Rachel Senechal told us she needed a successor. The Recreation Board agreed to help, but no one would chair. Guess what - Rachel did it again this year. Next year HAS to be different. If townspeople value this wonderful day, someone—or a team of someones—needs to agree to put it together in 2001. It is truly a fun job. Of course it takes time and some phone calls, but it is one of the most energizing and rewarding gifts you can give our town.

Let's get a team together next spring to make Rally Day 2001 the best ever! Please, call Rachel Senechal (223-0539) or Jean Cate (223-2951) NOW to say you'll help.

A Rally Day footnote: for the third year a Citizen of the Year was chosen and honored. How we were able to surprise Rachel Senechal is a miracle! Well deserved, Rachel.



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

*Edie Miller, Chair,
Tom Brazier, Tim Meehan*

July 19, 2000

- >Voted to rename the portion of TH#51 that runs between Drake and Fair Roads Banfield Road.
- >Voted to name the road off Northwood Drive Elliott Pratt Rd.
- >VLCT property and casualty insurance liabilities were reviewed and appear to provide the necessary minimum coverage.
- >Ms. Betit noted a \$45,000 bridge and culvert grant was received from AOT for Bennett Brook on Center Road. The Town is responsible for 10% or \$4,500.

August 2, 2000

- >Heard report of Road Foreman Garand.
- >Wes Cate spoke regarding the Voter Participation Committee appointed by the Selectboard to suggest ways to increase participation in the voting process and Town/School meetings. The committee is working diligently. One suggestion was that the Selectboard advertise budget meetings more widely. The Selectboard agreed to do this.
- >Norma Raymond, Delinquent Tax Collector, reported on the 29 delinquencies totaling \$72,000 she is collecting.

August 23, 2000

- >The Alternative Sewage System request from Sewage Officer Richard Czaplinski for Lot #3 Sparrow Subdivision was approved.
- >Planning Commission requested Sign Ordinance be discussed. Will be on September 6th agenda.
- >Brought up possibility of having some kind of dog ordinance.

September 6, 2000

- >Reviewed proposed Sign Ordinance with Planning Commission members. Suggested some changes to clarify language and intent. Selectboard will support ordinance.
- >Appointed Deborah Fillion to the Funding Request Committee.
- >Approved spending \$695.53 to repair front steps, replace steps on Kelton Road side of building, wash exterior of building, build two window screens, and scrape and prime exterior of building.



PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

August 2, 2000

- >Preliminary and final plat review of one-lot with house subdivided off Ferrada property on Morse Road. Approved.
- >Approved renewal of junkyard license for Montague.
- >Approved preliminary and final plat review of one-lot subdivided off Cerasoli property on US 2.

September 7, 2000

- >Accepted sketch plan for two-lot subdivision off Carr property on Center Road.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

July 24, 2000

- >Heard request for setback variance for Lori Rice to construct a 28' x 20' addition to her barn on Jacobs Road. Hearing recessed.

August 14, 2000

- >Continued hearing Lori Rice's request for variance for barn addition. She has changed request to addition of deck off west side of barn. Will require a new warning and hearing.

August 28, 2000

- >Request by Sally Longhi for setback variance for above ground pool at 170 Pine Ridge Road. Granted.
- >Request by James and Sheila LaPerle for Conditional Use Approval for construction of private residence off US 2 East on 1.27 acre lot divided off back of Cerasoli property. Approved without conditions.

September 11, 2000

- >Recessed hearing on Mark Lane's request for a variance to build a garage at 1575 Gould Hill Road.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313

Email: EastMont@together.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn

Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit
(W & Th 9-5)

PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
(Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Jan Aldrich, Chair, Lisa Rice, Cheryl Rus,
Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas*

August 2, 2000

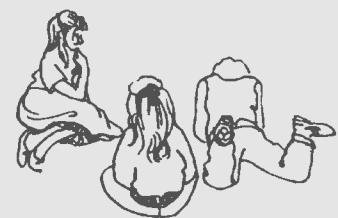
- >Jan Aldrich reported that the Washington Central Supervisory Union Executive Board is recommending all boards meet together four times a year on the third Wednesday of the month. This will allow presentations from the Central Office staff to be made once for all boards. Each board would then hold its own meeting in a separate part of the building. The first such meeting will be October 18th at U-32.
- >Carol Randall reported that she and four staff members attended the BEST Institute in June. Cafeteria climate, bullying and teasing are the two targets the staff will be working on this year.
- >A committee has been formed to assess family child care needs before school because of the 9:00 am starting of school.
- >Rachel Grossman is working on a sub-committee to get more voter participation at Town Meeting and the school budget process. The best time for people to come to give input is before January.
- >The Town Forum for discussion of the school budget for FY01-02 will be January 4, 2001.

August 22, 2000

- >Will fund a child care program before school begins each morning for two months for up to forty children.

September 7, 2000

- >Carol Randall reported on the three in-service days held before school started. Staff members who attended the BEST Institute brought back information to share with the staff on behavioral issues in the cafeteria. Ron Rubin, a consultant at the Crisis Prevention and Management Project, spoke on building a strong school culture. Laurie Reilly, school nurse, presented a health training to the staff. The Standards Linking project was the focus of the second day.
- >Reviewed bids from oil companies.





THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

*Tony Klein, Chair, and Ginny Burley,
East Montpelier members*

July 5, 2000

- >Building Project update. Time line for completion of A Wing (Tech. Ed., Health, Driver's Ed.) is by Christmas.
- >Approved resignation of Randy Brown.
- >Approved appointment of Stephanie Heath as 0.8 FTE science teacher as one-year replacement for Brian Slopey.

July 19, 2000

- >Marta Cambra appointed to full-time position.
- >Approved tuition waiver for foreign exchange student.

August 2, 2000

- >Approved 2000-2001 bus routes.
- >Heard report from Jon Winston regarding construction. It is going well.

August 16, 2000

- >Approved the even distribution of the Middle School budget to the three middle school cores.
- >Tony Klein presented copy of first check from State of Vermont for state aid for the building project.

September 6, 2000

- >Student Council representatives met with the Administrative Council to discuss parking situation. Came up with a temporary solution. Jon Winston gave information regarding other options.

2000 - 2001 East Montpelier Elementary School Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be 5 years of age before September 1, 2001, please call the East Montpelier Elementary School office (223-7936) so his/her name can be included in the 2001-2002 kindergarten census. This is important information for planning teaching and room requirements for the next school year.

Thanks to Larry Brown who donated the printing of the Rally Day brochure again this year. Have you come to expect it in your tax notice in August? Nice color!

MILESTONES

Births

Kaelee Blaise Moshinskie, July 19, 2000, daughter to Kami Joy & Erick Paul Moshinskie.

Marriages

Douglas Erick Wheeler to Heather Marie Orcutt, July 23.

Michael James Lyons to Sarah Ellen Bancroft, August 26.

Joey Allen Gallant to Cynthia Jean Farnum, September 16.

Civil Unions

Meredith Tredeau to Shelley Vermilya, September 9.

Diane Helen Holland to Patricia Alayne Holland, September 16.

Deaths

Mabel Ella LaBounty, September 4.

Land Transfers

>Reza & Guylaine Ohadi to Shayd A. & Laurie A. Pecor, .48 acres & dwelling, VT 14S.

>Ramon L. & Marion J. Spooner to Lawrence Jacobs, .89 acres & mobile home, VT 14S.

>Robert Quinlan Jr. to Karen S. Mattson, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Pk.

>Steven Kappel & Elizabeth Scoville-Kappel to Douglas Aja & Janis Mattson, utility easement, North St.

>Bradley R. Perry to Jamie Forrend, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Pk.

>Laprade Realty, partnership, to Wilfred A. Laprade, 54.4 acres, VT 14S.

>Wilfred A. Laprade to William Gray Ricker IV & Debra Lee Ricker, 1/2 interest in 54.4 acres, VT 14S. (This was done in Dec. 1999)

>Wilfred A. Laprade to William Gray Ricker IV & Debra Lee Ricker, 1/2 interest in 54.4 acres, VT 14S. (This was done in June 2000)

>George L. Raymond to Sarah Johnson & Sam Lund, 22 acres, Towne Hill Rd.

>Fecteau Homes to Sarah M. Johnson & Samuel W. Lund, mobile home to be located on Towne Hill Rd.

>Charlene Laclair to Timothy J. & Diane

Frazier, 1.25 acres & dwelling, VT 14S.

>Bruce Satterlee to Carlton & Elaine Ryan, easement, Barnes Rd.

>Earl Philip & Lorraine J. Porter to Jeffrey H. Parker, 3.5 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.

>Cheryl Potter to Michael J. Donnini & Pamela Kessinger, 20.9 acres & dwelling, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.

>Robert L. & Alice M. Wright to Jerrine H. Payne, mobile home moved to Woodbury, VT 14N.

>Guy W. Teschmacher to Patricia A. Ellison, 3.2 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.

>Douglas A. Bell to Leslie A. Drown, 37 acres & dwelling, VT 14S.

>Donna G. Perry to Alan J. & Julie J. Ritchie, 40 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.

>Chester J. & Judith V. Cookson to James M. & Sheila Laperle, Right of Way, US 2E.

>Joseph A. Cerasoli, Jr. to James M. & Sheila LaPerle, 1.25 acres, US 2E.

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS

Have you enjoyed the East Montpelier Trails this year? We would like to find a few residents who could volunteer some of their time for a little trail maintenance. If you and/or your family could help with some small trails projects, please contact: Jamie Shanley 223-4856. Thank you!

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Rachel Senechal, President

> Elaine Manghi has replaced Marion Codling as the scheduler for use of Four Corners Schoolhouse. Her phone is 229-5811. Please call between 6 and 8 pm.

>The Vermont String School is no longer using the schoolhouse for lessons, as they failed to find a teacher for this function.

>The old-fashioned Whist Party held at the schoolhouse on Rally day was well received by the six tables of players.

Rachel Senechal thanks all members of the Four Corners Schoolhouse Board of Directors for their work on some aspect of Rally Day.

The East Montpelier School Directors invite you to the
SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUM ON NOVEMBER 1st

OSOSOS celebration of our progress in school improvement and planning for our future **OSOSOS**
Potluck dinner 5:30 to 6:15 ♦ information sharing groups 7 to 8:30 pm ♦ free childcare will be available

Take Part: a Citizen Participation Committee

Since May, a group of nearly twenty East Montpelier people has been meeting to explore ways to increase informed voter participation in town affairs. These folks signed up at town meeting and were officially appointed by the Selectboard. Subcommittees are basing their work on such questions as:

- What do our schools teach about town citizenship and what improvements can be suggested?
- What are our neighbors' attitudes about attending town meetings and why?
- Are there better times to hold town meetings and how successful are they elsewhere?
- What are the policies of local businesses about their employees taking time to attend town meetings?
- In what ways do methods of voting affect town decision making?
- What new options would a town charter provide East Montpelier?
- How can we have input in town and school budget building early in the process?
- Would it help new residents to take part if they knew more about how the town works?

Committee meetings are held at the town office, and citizens are always welcome to attend. Check with the Town Clerk for meeting dates.

Weston Cate Jr., chair

Important Dates To Remember

Voter Registration at Town Clerk's Office. Last day to register, Saturday, October 28, 2000 - Town Clerk's Office open from 10 am to 12 noon.

Absentee Ballots available after October 3, 2000. Call Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313.

General Election, November 7, 2000, Voting at Elementary School from 7 am to 7 pm.

Tax Due Date, November 15, 2000. Taxes are due by 5 pm that day. No postmarks accepted after that day.



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EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Bill George

East Montpelier Fire Department members are anxiously waiting to find out when their new rescue truck will be delivered. The body for the new truck is being assembled by Vtech on a Ford F550 4x4 chassis. This new rescue truck will replace the 1976 rescue truck that the department purchased used in 1986. The new vehicle will be housed at the village station and will respond to all emergency medical calls, motor vehicle accidents and most fire calls. Features of this rescue vehicle include a heated compartment for fluids and other freezable items, increased lighting capabilities, compartments designed to fit the Lukas hydraulic tool and other tools carried by the present rescue vehicle.

A set of airbags has been purchased, made possible by the many donations the EMFD has received. This set of three airbags contain two that have the capacity to lift 18 tons and a smaller one which has the capacity to lift nine tons. The airbags have proved useful in moving parts of motor vehicles and other heavy objects in order to extricate an injured person.

If you would like to have a tour of the new rescue truck after it arrives and/or a demonstration of the new airbags, contact Chief Tom Brazier (223-7853) or any other member of the fire department. On behalf of the fire department members, Chief Brazier would like to thank all the people who have made donations to the EMFD making possible the purchase of the rescue truck and airbags.

The fire department is presently undertaking the necessary steps to reactivate a Junior Firefighter Program. This program will be open to all persons 14-18 years of age who live in East Montpelier or Calais and have a strong desire to learn more about the fire, rescue and emergency medical services that the EMFD provides. Again, if anyone is interested contact Chief Brazier or any other member of the fire department.

The EMFD is always looking for men or women to become members of the department. The hours can be long, unpredictable, and the work challenging, to say the least, but the training is free, rewards are numerous, and you would be providing a valuable service to yourself, your family, and your community. If interested contact Chief Brazier or any member of the fire department. All are welcome to stop in at the Templeton Road station on any Tuesday night or at the Templeton station or Village station anytime the doors are open.



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YOUR PET NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD!

by Deborah Phillips based partly on an
article by Lauren Miers in the World

What do you do if your new puppy presents something of a challenge when it comes to obedience training? Well, you get so good at animal training and care that you eventually open your own kennel and name it after that "reluctant learner" turned star pupil.

That's the story behind Ruby's Run, a new full-service pet bed, board, grooming and training facility on VT14 in East Montpelier, owned by Abby Bruce and Sean Downey. The famous Ruby, a now very well behaved and friendly Newfoundland, is 10 years old, and finally, laughed Bruce, "she's got us trained perfectly."

Ruby's Run makes the casual human visitor wish she could stay there too. The kennel is bright and spacious, with windows and hanging plants, and an indoor/outdoor run for each dog. There are cozy runs for smaller dogs, larger ones for bigger dogs like Ruby and even double-sized runs for dogs in pairs. Ruby's Run has state-of-the-art ventilation system to make sure the air is fresh and clean and doesn't develop that offensive "dog smell". The runs are separated by panels that prevent dogs from seeing their neighbors, eliminating fence fighting and preventing cross-contamination. The floor is radiant heated and very cozy on the paws and belly.

Downey explained, "You go into a lot of kennels and they're dark and dingy. They don't feel like somewhere you'd want to stay."

"We wanted to do something where people would walk in and say, "Oh! that's where I want my dog to stay," said Bruce. Besides the main kennel, there are plans to have a "geriatric room" with six completely indoor runs. This room, Bruce explained, will be for older dogs, dogs recovering from an operation or as a halfway house for dogs that might have trouble being thrown into the kennel lifestyle all at once.

The cat room can accommodate up to ten, with each cat in a very pleasant two-chamber suite. It is also a very comfortable, bright room, with the same ventilation system as the dog kennel. There are bird feeders outside the windows for entertainment, and a rocking chair so feline guests can receive some one-on-one cuddling. In fact, all the guests at Ruby's Run receive individualized care.

Downey and Bruce currently offer private obedience lessons and consultations. They will be offering obedience classes soon. This past spring, Downey and Bruce set up a large fenced-in area so canines can come out of their runs for some one-on-one ball-playing and running around. This fenced-in area will be used for "doggy daycare" and obedience classes. But if the weather turns nasty, not to worry. Their basement is designed to be dog friendly for running around out of the elements.

Another reassuring aspect of Ruby's Run is that Bruce and Downey live upstairs, so the animals are never left unattended. The owners feel it's their

responsibility. Said Bruce, "You can't just lock up and walk away and leave a bunch of dogs in here."

Ruby's Run will provide meals for its guests, but they recommend that owners bring their own pet food. Downey and Bruce emphasize that it's very important to maintain the diet the animal is used to, and with all the different diets on the market, it would be impossible for the kennel to keep all of them on hand and fresh. If you bring it, they're happy to fix it, whatever the concoction may be. There's a full kitchen just down the hall from the kennel, specifically for animal food preparation.

Ruby's Run is also the new home of Wash & Wag, previously located at the Onion River Animal Hospital. Wash & Wag is a full pet grooming center with two tubs and an experienced staff to satisfy all of your dog's styling needs.

For more than five years, Downey and Bruce worked on the plans for Ruby's Run and searched for the perfect location. "We feel fortunate to be in East Montpelier. The location is beautiful. The community is open-minded and friendly, and our neighbors welcomed us to the neighborhood," said Bruce.

So, if you have to go away for a weekend, a month or even a day, take your pet to Ruby's Run and rest secure in the knowledge that he is well taken care of and receiving some much-needed and well-deserved R&R.

For more information about Ruby's Run, call (802) 479-2345, for Wash & Wag grooming, call (802) 479-3456.

Deborah Phillips is co-owner of the World. She lives with her husband and two children near Ruby's Run on VT 14.



COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

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 Wednesday	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.	2nd Wednesday	7:00	Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change.

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 28	Last day to register to vote	10:00 am to 12:00	Town Office
November 1	School Community Forum	7:00 to 8:30 pm	Elementary School
November 7	General Election	7:00 am to 7:00 pm	Elementary School
November 15	Last day to pay tax	by 5:00 pm	Town Office
November 22	Thanksgiving	All day	All over Town
December 17	Christmas Pageant	9:30 am	Old Meeting House
	Candlelight Service	7:00 pm	Old Meeting House
December 24	Christmas Eve Services	5:00 and 7:00 pm	Old Meeting House

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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Ruby's Run

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