

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XI, No. 6

July/August 2001

"Art is Everything To Me" — Heidemarie Heiss Holmes

by *Mary Ann Rob*

"This is about the mountains. It's about all the different ways I see the mountains, have been in the mountains and love the mountains," Heidemarie explained, as we looked at an abstract painting she had created. Heidemarie Heiss Holmes grew up in the Alps near the city of Salzburg in Austria. She lived in a small town, Zell am See, which is nestled amidst mountains 10,000 feet in height. Heidemarie said, "Growing up in the Alps, I was an intense rock and mountain climber. I think these experiences involving risks and facing extreme challenges at high altitudes, often with long periods of non-verbal communication, were in a way preparing me for the solitude and the struggles of being an artist."

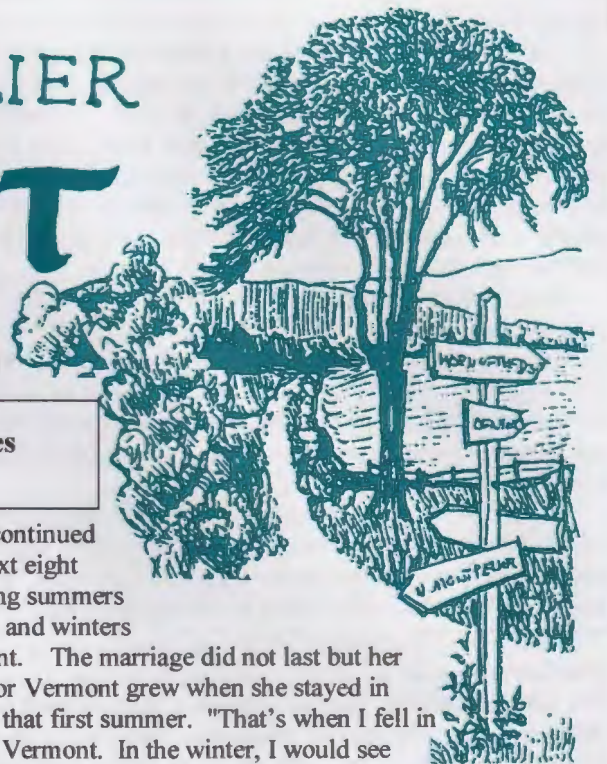
It wasn't art though that brought Heidemarie to Vermont. It was Hermann, her mountain climbing friend. At age 17, Heidemarie was working in an office in Salzburg from 8:00 to 5:00, attending business college from 7:00 to 10:00, and studying from 10:00 to 2:00 in the morning. She was an avid reader and dreamed of travel in Russia and Africa. Her friend Hermann convinced her to take a job as a ski instructor in Killington, Vermont. She eventually married Hermann, and they had a daughter, Gerrit.

They continued for the next eight years living summers in Europe and winters in Vermont. The marriage did not last but her feelings for Vermont grew when she stayed in Vermont that first summer. "That's when I fell in love with Vermont. In the winter, I would see only the New Yorkers and tourists. However, in the summer, I got to see the families working on their farms. I learned how to milk cows, hay, dance and cook soups. We would gather together to help each other out when the families needed support. I felt acceptance." She met and married Stephen Holmes in Windham, Vermont. Stephen works with the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Heidemarie earned her certification in Elementary Education, Art and German. She has an associate degree in Business and Trade from Austria and a BS degree with honors in Education from Johnson State College. After Elisabeth was born in 1987, the family moved to East Montpelier. It was there that Heidemarie completed a Master of Arts degree in Women's Development and Fine Arts. Ann Stanton from East Montpelier and Pat deGorgorza from Calais were her mentors.

Heidemarie has a long list of accomplishments. She is the co-founder of Women's Work, the program that celebrates the artwork of women, during the month of May in the storefronts of Montpelier. She has been President and a board member of the Onion River Arts Council as well as an artist-in-residence for the organization. She is co-founder of the Vermont Artist Exchange Program which organizes the exchange of artists' work between Vermont and other countries. The most recent one was with Dachau, Germany. Heidemarie has worked for Head Start as a teaching artist and is perhaps best known in the community for *heARTSenter*, a drama and fine arts summer day camp which she offers for children ages 7 to 11.

(Continued on page 2)



Top of the Signpost

This past winter I walked into a subject that I really never intended to pursue. Life, it seemed, was already filled to overflowing with activities and ideas, so when I attended a meeting in the Four Corners Schoolhouse introducing some ideas about sustainable living, I never meant to follow it up. Instead my family and I have become immersed in a series of neighborhood discussions that are both thought-provoking and helpful - and quite fun. What do we talk about?

Our bi-weekly meetings, always preceded by a chatty potluck supper, explore what our country and the world will need for energy, space and material goods in the years ahead. (The California crunch and high gas prices make us all sit up and take notice!) We look at the laws of nature to assess how our resources compare with our needs. We reflect on how our own choices make a difference.

Does this all sound depressing? I thought such a study would leave me totally pessimistic about the planet's future. But guess what, I've been heartened to learn of the multitude of projects designed to make living in this new century more

sustainable. Some examples are in the business world, some are in housing, many are being carried out in communities, and, most immediate, we can and are practicing sustainable ways in our own homes and families. It goes far beyond those energy-saving light bulbs you installed when Washington Electric Coop offered them. It does not even mean that we must deny ourselves a comfortable lifestyle. We can still make a huge difference with some sustainable choices about how we live and what we buy.

Interested? There are many homes in which discussions like this are happening. If you would like to find out more, ask about the Earth Institute which provides the discussion outlines. Richard Czaplinski is the contact person for this area, and I can connect you with local folks who take part in these discussions. You may find it as absorbing as I have.

Jean Cate

(The business story featured in this issue came onto my screen after this essay was born. A very neat connection!)

(Continued from page 1)

The camp has provided many public and home schooled children in East Montpelier with a studio exposure to the arts. Presently she is the visual arts teacher for Calais and East Montpelier Elementary Schools.

While sipping "Oregon Chai," she led me to the computer that sat in the corner of her studio. Her enthusiasm was infectious as she brought up a student's work on the monitor. Heidemarie explained how ARTT (Art Responding Through Technology) works; a web project to which she is highly committed. The Vermont Arts Council offers grants to schools, which allow students to receive responses about their work from professional artist mentors, like Heidemarie, throughout the state. I asked Heide about her philosophy behind art instruction for children. "To me, art making is about taking risks; it's about problem solving; it's challenging; it's experimenting and it's tapping into the feelings of life experiences. It is about art history; human relationships and our environment. It is non-verbal as it is a witness to the children's imaginations, experiences and skills. I love looking at children's art. Their lines, marks, shapes, forms and choices of color have an incredible freshness. I supply the materials, the themes and the structure. Children learn skills by looking at each others' work, by objective critiquing and by sharing ideas. Every subject taught in the schools can be integrated into the arts. Some people think it is just time filler. That is not the case. To me art is everything!" Keeping up with her own personal art is important to Heide. She has participated in solo and group shows in the United States and Europe. She has attended residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson and The New York Studio School, known as the Drawing Marathon.

Her studio, a converted garage, is warm and spacious, full of finished and ongoing pieces. It's easy to see why she loves the space so much. I note that her paintings seem to reflect a sensitive, gentle and soft quality. "Painting," she responds, "is very calming and peaceful; it is also spontaneous, surprising and always changing. I learn to listen to my heart."

Heidemarie has a remarkably disciplined structure to her days. She gets up at 5:00 a.m. for her Sun Do Yoga classes at the Movement Center or in her studio. Then she's off to the elementary school until dinner. Later, she's back in her studio fulfilling her role as artist mentor on her computer and making the next day's teaching plans until bedtime at 9:00. "Heidemarie has a boundless supply of energy, and it is an inspiration just to be around her," her husband Stephen told me. Her daughter Elisabeth, who is a student at U-32, added "I am really proud of my mom!" As we sat munching chocolate-covered marzipan Mozart Kugel candies from Salzburg, I thought how fortunate East Montpelier has been that Heidemarie traded the Alps for the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Mary Ann Rob lives in East Montpelier Center. She was a teacher at the East Montpelier Elementary school for twenty years. She teaches after school art classes and is a pastelist.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Rev. Marcheta Townsend, Pastor
Worship and Child Care 10:00 a.m.

OLD MEETING HOUSE

Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge,
Co-Pastors
Worship and Child Care 9:30 a.m.

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.



ALL ABOUT TOWN



Royalty in Town!

Miss Vermont, Hannah Nelson, of Ryegate came to visit the Town Clerk's Office on May 10, 2001. She is traveling the state hoping to make all 251 towns by July 1. We were town #122. She hopes to visit all 251 towns and become a member of the 251 Club. An official letter stating she visited our municipality was given to her along with our new East Montpelier booklet and town report for 2000.

Hannah is the reigning Miss Vermont until a new one is chosen at the pageant to be held at the Barre Opera House this year. Hannah graduated from Lyndon State College and majored in psychology. Once her reign is over on July 7, she hopes to find a job in the Central Vermont area.



GET INVOLVED WITH THE TOWN PLAN

The Town Plan is East Montpelier's 112-page mission statement and five-year plan. It describes who we are and what our community's goals are. It provides a guide for town officials as they develop and administer zoning and subdivision bylaws, as well as capital and operating budgets. And the Plan plays an important part in the Act 250 process.

Our current Town Plan, adopted in 1993 and reapproved in 1998, needs to be updated as it will expire in 2003. The Planning Commission would like to tap into the expertise and energy of our townspeople and to involve as many as possible in this process. So, we've divided the plan into a couple dozen bite-sized chunks of about three pages each. The people listed here have agreed to act as coordinator for a section. If you have experience, passion, or just plain curiosity about any of these topics, please contact the appropriate person listed here to find out how you can be a part of this project. Or call one of the members of the Planning Commission's Town Plan Subcommittee:

- ◆ Rob Chickering 229-5005 <rchick@bypass.com>
- ◆ Deborah Fillion 229-1320 <fillion@bypass.com>
- ◆ Jack Pauly 223-7539 <Jlpauly@aol.com>
- ◆ Tracy Phillips 223-0126 <Ouimetphil@aol.com>

Town Plan Topics and People to Contact

- ◆ Agriculture: John Hall 223-5912
- ◆ Woodland Resources: Steve Sinclair 229-4634
- ◆ Housing; Villages & Residential Areas: Richard Angney 223-7717
- ◆ Fish, Wildlife, & Natural Areas; Wetlands & Waterways: Rick Hopkins 229-4375
- ◆ Recreation: Ginger Hopkins 229-4375
- ◆ Trails; Scenic Resources: Jamie Shanley 223-4856
- ◆ Business Activity: Peter Hill 223-5522
- ◆ Transportation: Mike Garand 454-7703
- ◆ Utilities: Michael Duane 223-6931
- ◆ Solid Waste: Stephen Jerome 223-3734
- ◆ Waste-Water Disposal: Richard Czaplinski 229-4534 <rczaplinski@madriver.com>
- ◆ Water and Aquifers: Richard Czaplinski 229-4534 <rczaplinski@madriver.com>
- ◆ Energy and Energy Conservation: Andy Shapiro 229-5676
- ◆ Education: Jan Aldrich 229-0406
- ◆ Town Government: Wes Cate 223-2951
- ◆ Finance: Rosie Cueto 223-3673
- ◆ Fire Protection; Police, Ambulance, & Disaster Planning: Tom Brazier 223-7853
- ◆ Social Services: Dave Grundy 476-4300 <ddgrundy@aol.com>
- ◆ Regional Issues: Ed Blackwell 229-9588
- ◆ Historic Resources: Lyn Blackwell 229-9588



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.

N. James and Judith Clark

Robin Copping



MILESTONES

Births

- >Taryn Elizabeth Tremblay, born March 3, 2001, daughter to Elizabeth Dell & Mark Ernest Tremblay.
- >Lily Jones Parker, born April 3, 2001, daughter to Bethany Sue & Todd Leon Parker.
- >Cade Robert Bedell, born April 8, 2001, son to Michelle Marie & Bryan Robert Bedell.
- >Madison Celia Audy, born April 11, 2001, daughter to Kathleen Celia & John Joseph Audy, Jr.

Marriages

- >Scott Allen Raymond to Mona Lisa Whittemore, married April 15, 2001.

Deaths

- >Enrico Pastore died April 1, 2001, spouse of Theresa Gorga Pastore, and father of Harold Pastore.
- >Marah Loretta Hawkins died April 2, 2001, spouse of Hugh C. Hawkins, mother of Beverly Lavin.
- >Blossom O. Rodger died April 9, 2001, spouse of Martin S. Rodger.
- >Byron G. Hill, died April 29, 2001, spouse of Camellia Hill.

Land Transfers

- >Dana A. Poulin to Chittenden Bank, 1.67 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Melinda W. Saia, Estate of; Michael D. Caccavo, Estate Administrator, to Robert L. Welch and Sherry L. Blake-Welch, 1.01 acres and mobile home, VT 14S.
- >Fecteau Homes to Guy & Jennette Belleville, mobile home, Sandy Pines Trailer Park.
- >Rosendo Cueto Jr. and Armonia Cueto to Julie Ellen Cueto, 3 acres and dwelling, Murray Rd.
- >Joyce A. & Woodrow V. LaMountain, Jr. to Joyce A. & Woodrow V. LaMountain, Jr., 12.12 acres and dwelling, Haggett Rd.
- >Roger Thivierge, Sr. and Geneva Thivierge to Woodrow V. LaMountain, Jr. and Joyce A. LaMountain, Thomas & Julie Haggett, 1.5 acres and dwelling, Haggett Rd.
- >Joyce A. and Woodrow V. LaMountain Jr. to Thomas & Julie Haggett, 2.23 acres and dwelling, Haggett Rd.
- >Chad E. & Amy B. Scribner to Janet Allen, 16.3 acres and dwelling, VT 14N.

- >William Brooks Morrison & Jayne Marie Ollin to Jayne Marie Ollin, William Brooks Morrison, Nakima Draper Ollin and Benjamin G. Draper, 4.6 acres and dwelling, Templeton Rd.
- >Chittenden Bank to Clifton A. & Susan A. Matthews, 1.67 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Dwayne C. & Margaret Senter to Rene Crete, .35 acres and dwelling, US 2 East Village.
- >Peter & Mary E. Wonson to Edward H. Johnson, .31 acres and dwelling, US 2 East Village.
- >Paul I. Mascitti to Mikeljon Mascitti, .25 acres and dwelling, VT 14S.
- >Susan Carpenter to Stephen Jerome, 5.1 acres and dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- >Gregory P. Carriveau to Dody Gallison, 1 acre, County Rd.
- >Ray's Homes to Dody M. Gallison, mobile home, County Rd.
- >Gerald C. Jourdan Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Steven and Susanne Megrath, 10.1 acres, Clark Rd.
- >Stephen A. and Patricia R. Ribolini to Deborah Glottmann, 3.04 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Estate of Irma Butler to Lisa Butler, 5.8 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Stephen F. Moore, Trustee of Irma Butler Estate, to Lisa Butler, 5.8 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Lisa Butler to Malcolm S. and Mary E. Rode, 5.8 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313
 Email: EastMont@together.net
 Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
 Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Paulie Coburn
 Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins
 Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit (W & Th 9-5)
 Lister - Rosie Cueto (M-F 9-11:30)
 Zoning Administrator—Gene Troia (T & Th 3:30-5)
 PO Box 157, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
 (Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon)

Notes From the Town Office

- ◆ The Town Office vault has been renovated to replace shelving and file cabinets with a Side to Side Lateral Storage System. The cost of \$8,500 was included in this year's budget. It will provide more filing space and ample room for additional Land Records Books. Anyone wishing to look at the reorganized vault is welcome to come in.
- ◆ At the Legislative Redistricting meeting at the Danville Town Clerk's Office, it was announced that our district would have two representatives and tentatively would include Calais, East Montpelier Middlesex, Woodbury, and Worcester, with Plainfield and Marshfield becoming a separate district. The town will be notified in June as to the final proposal. Boards of Civil Authority for all towns in the district will gather to decide whether to accept this plan or to break up into two single-member districts.
- ◆ Stephen Jerome has been appointed as our representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District. He replaces Conrad Ormsbee who has served a number of years. Nona Estrin was appointed the alternate.
- ◆ VT 14 is being paved from the Barre Town line to the Calais line in North Montpelier.

Lily Alert

Volunteers are needed to dig a lily border at the Town Clerk's office. If you are dividing lilies now until fall, donations of time and/or lilies are welcome. If interested please call Jean Vissering (223-3262) or Ruth Frost (223-6892).



We have learned that Marcheta Townsend, pastor of the Old Brick Church in East Village, will be submitting her resignation in the near future.



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

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

April 2, 2001

- >Approved letter to Governor Howard Dean regarding livable wage resolution passed at Town Meeting.
- >Approved Washington County Sheriff's contract for April 1, 2001, through March 31, 2002.
- >Approved VTrans plans for US 2 and VT 14 intersection project.

April 16, 2001

- >Approved Town Officer appointments.
- >Heard an update on Wheels Transportation program.
- >Nona Estrin and Jamie Shanley discussed possible solutions to the lack of off-road parking for trail use.
- >Paul Cate informed the board that the Town Forest Committee might be looking to purchase an access to the Town Forest.
- >Road Supervisor Mike Garand provided members with a day by day road report for the period of Feb.1 - April 10.
- >Coburn Road Intersection Permit Application was signed.

May 7, 2001

- >Signed Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways.
- >The Town Garage has been removed from the Vermont Hazardous Sites list.
- >The Board of Adjustment will perform the biennial reviews of Barre Granite Association's granite sludge drying and Casella's waste management operations.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

March 15, 2001

- >Committee formed to update town plan.
- >Carol Welch elected as Chair, Tracy Phillips as Vice-Chair.

April 5, 2001

- >Selectboard would like to meet with the Planning Commission to review progress on update of Town Plan. Work will be going on all summer.
- >A public hearing for Signs and Setback amendments will be held on April 19.
- >Town Plan subcommittee to meet with Stefanie Leif from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to explore ways to use CVRPC resources.

April 19, 2001

- >Zoning Administrator reviewed recent permits.

- >Held public hearing on proposed zoning changes in updating Sect. 11: signs and the setback for pre-existing small lots.

May 3, 2001

- >Town Plan committee will organize project by categories. Public participation will be solicited in the *Signpost*.
- >Copies of access permit and rough sketch for a three-lot subdivision of Paul and Erika Dayton property on Cummings Road were distributed.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

April 9, 2001

- >Hearing on application of Patricia Renzello for permit to build a second dwelling on VT 14 property. Denied because of setback requirements. May return with revised plan.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

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

March 7, 2001

- >Jon Winston gave a building project update. Bond vote was favorable, asbestos abatement is on schedule, new wing also, and infrastructure for music section is going up. Building interior will begin this summer.
- >Tony Klein elected as Chairperson, Ginny Burley as Vice-Chairperson, and Eric Zency as Clerk.

March 21, 2001

- >Dot Blake reported highlights of climate discussions at faculty meeting last week. Student assemblies went well and students were receptive.
- >Beginning in school year of 2001-2002, approved a full time administrative position of Athletic and Recreation Director and part-time position of Co-Curricular Administrative Assisant.
- >Approved appointment of Dorothy Blake as permanent principal with contract and salary to be negotiated by the personnel committee.
- >Accepted resignation of Marta Cambra with regret. Board thanked Marta for her commitment to U-32 and her work with the Middle School program.

April 4, 2001

- >A memorial fund has been established for Larry Blaisdell.
- >Vermont has received a \$1 million grant for bookmobiles. Voted support for proposal for U-32 Bookmobile.

- >Voted to continue employing Jon Winston as Project Manager for building project for coming year.

- >Voted to award transportation bid to Transportation Rentals Inc. for three-years.
- >Approved establishment of an Associate Principal Search Committee.

April 18, 2001

- >Alternative Program has moved to Woodbury College campus, and faculty is working with students relative to behavior expectations.
- >Ginny Burley and Tom Williams appointed to represent Board in Associate Principal search.
- >Board expressed kudos to Dan Boomhower for amazing job he did with this year's talent show.

May 2, 2001

- >Contract awarded to E. F. Wall for installation of mechanical changes and installation of a 50-ton chiller.

EAST MONTPELIER

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jan Aldrich, Chair, Lucy Ferrada, Bob Rikken, Anna Saxman, Nancy Thomas

March 8, 2001

- >Jan Aldrich re-elected Chairperson, Nancy Thomas Vice-Chairperson and Anna Saxman Clerk.
- >Approved Board member assignments to committees.
- >Linda Hall presented viability study for a Before and After School Child Care Program. Need 18 children to make this feasible. Approved.
- >Applauded Ellen Knoedler and staff for making the Celebration of Learning successful for students and community.

April 5, 2001

- >Carol Randall presented the components of a safe school climate. Ron Rubin, Crisis Prevention & Management Team at UVM, shared ideas.
- >WCSU focusing on civility and literacy pre-kindergarten through grade 12.
- >Becky Crandell gave a tour of the Four Corners School and presented information on the preschool program.
- >Approved contract with Transportation Rentals, Inc. for bus services to EMES. Lower bid than Laidlaw.
- >Awarded three year audit contract to Angolano & Company.
- >Adopted Student Conduct and Discipline Policy.



SIGNPOST SNIPPITS



RALLY DAY

Mark your calendars! Rally Day will take place Saturday, September 8th, rain or shine, with fun activities for all ages. The search is on for ideas and volunteers. Are you a kite aficionado who can lead a kite making group? Do you want to lead a hike, organize a scavenger hunt or help with kids activities? All ideas are welcome. Call Rachel Senechal at 223-0539 if you want to help out. If you have a donation for the Annual *Signpost* Auction call Deb Fillion at 229-1320. And keep the Farmer's Market in mind as you plant your garden or do a craft project. Young people are encouraged to participate. Jennifer Boyer (223-8926) is coordinating the Farmer's Market. We're looking for a couple of lawn tents to borrow for the day. Call Jennifer if you have one.



Photos by Rick Mastelli

Think Rally Day!



FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rachel Senechal, President

At its annual meeting on April 11th, Paul Cate, Stanley Christiansen and Elaine Manghi were re-elected to the FCSH Board of Directors for three year terms. We thank them for their work for the Board in past years and for their willingness to serve another term with us.

At the Board meeting that same night Rachel Senechal was re-elected President, Hobie Guion Vice-President, and Marion Codling Clerk/Treasurer.

A tentative date of September 29th was set for the next Whist Party at the schoolhouse.

An Open House for the Preschool was held on May 9th. The teachers and preschoolers conducted a tour of the classroom and visited with the attendees. The teachers were well-pleased with the multi-generational group of attendees. Everyone enjoyed refreshments during their visit.

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

Quite a bit has changed at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library over the last year. In addition to the addition and renovation, the new automated catalog, the new children's library, more computers and new morning hours, the Library also has two East Montpelier residents in prominent new library positions. Petie Ferris has recently been appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. Petie has long been a volunteer at the Library and is responsible for the wonderful home-delivery service that many people in the area have enjoyed. In addition, East Montpelier resident Hilari Farrington was appointed Library Director this March, to replace Janet Nielsen who has retired.

The Library's Official Grand Opening will take place on Sunday, July 1st. Stop in for refreshments and for a tour of the beautiful addition and renovation. While you're there, take a look at the East Montpelier Room - a meeting room which is available free to any non-profit group. To join the library, just show proof of residency in Washington County.

Summer hours are as follows: ADULT LIBRARY:

- ◆ Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
- ◆ Friday: 10 am - 5:30 pm
- ◆ Saturday: 10 am - 1 pm

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY:

- ◆ Mon. - Wed.: 10 am - 5:30 pm
- ◆ Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
- ◆ Friday: 10 am - 5:30 pm
- ◆ Saturday: 10 am - 1 pm

For information, call 223-3338; on the Internet: www.kellogghubbard.lib.vt.us.

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Maurice and Sue Cerutti - Owners

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Vermont Cheese
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MORE POWER TO YOU

by Rob Chickering



Jim Grundy is a man who practices what he preaches. His company, Elemental Energy, provides consulting, planning and installation services for technologies which homeowners and businesses can use to generate their own electricity. Solar panels mounted above his greenhouse provide the electric energy he needs for his office and living space on Clark Road in East Montpelier. Indeed,

Jim often uses his own house to show clients how dwellings can be constructed for living "off the grid." His place is not connected to any power lines.

The son of Darlene and Dave Grundy, Jim grew up next door to where he now lives. He attended East Montpelier Elementary School and U-32 before graduating from Vermont Technical College with an Associate Degree in Architecture in 1991. His interest in alternate energy sources was heightened during an independent study on photovoltaic technologies at VTC. Jim then worked seven years for Solar Works of Montpelier. This employment found him working not only on local Vermont homes, but also for the Nature Conservancy in Oregon and training technicians in one of India's most successful rural electrification programs. In January 1999, he founded Elemental Energy.

1999 was a particularly auspicious year for launching an alternative energy firm. With the Y2K scare, many folks were scrambling for protection against a New Year's Day blackout. Jim has found continuing strong demand for his services and has no trouble finding clients. Vermonters, with their long tradition of independence, find energy self-sufficiency especially appealing. Elemental Energy gets work by word-of-mouth and does no advertising.

Jim specializes in design consulting and equipment installation for solar houses which, like his, will not be connected to the power grid. He also works with homeowners on small-scale wind, hydro-electric and solar water heating installations. Clients don't have to give up any of their appliances or lights. Jim shows them how to maintain the lifestyle they choose with smaller amounts of electricity that they generate on-site. Although Vermont receives less sunlight than any other state except Washington, Jim's own solar panels store enough power in his battery bank to supply his house for a full month of cloudy days. He rarely uses the back-up generator which he keeps for occasional high use needs.

Homebuilders who want to site new houses in locations distant from electric power lines are especially good candidates for self-generated solar power. When power companies charge about \$8 per foot to extend overhead lines to a new house, it could cost up to \$10,000 or even \$50,000 to bring power to some new residences. Anticipating this kind of expense could make it more cost effective to spend \$10,000-\$30,000 for on-site, renewable solar power. Jim's is one of a small handful of East Montpelier homes which doesn't get electric bills.

Utilizing renewable energy is not limited to off-the-grid sites. Hobie Guion and Apple Faulkner, Elemental Energy clients and East Montpelier neighbors, decided to generate on-site power after they won a free solar panel in a Washington Electric Coop promotional lottery. To that one free panel, they added enough others to provide for 50% of their household electric needs. During those sunny days when they are not using all the power their system produces, their utility electric meter actually turns in reverse as their excess electricity flows back to the grid. Pending legislation, with bipartisan support in the Vermont House, would create tax incentives to promote more of this type of installation.

On-site electrical generation from renewable sources is particularly well suited for developing countries which lack the infrastructure and resources to construct large scale power transmission networks. The demand for electric power in these areas is escalating. Although to date most of Elemental Energy's projects have been in New England, Jim recognizes the great potential for overseas work.

Closer to home, the energy crunch is often in the news these days with regular predictions of rolling blackouts in California, President Bush's controversial energy policies and suggestions for a coal-fired generator in Vermont. Jim Grundy agrees that Vermont must plan for its energy future now to prepare for the time, in ten to twelve years, when both Vermont Yankee and Vermont's Hydro Quebec contracts will be gone. A recent study estimates that as much as one billion dollars per year presently leaves Vermont to pay for energy. Larger scale use of renewable energy could reduce that money drain, keeping dollars in Vermont's economy, and supporting local businesses. Elemental Energy is working to help assure Vermont's stable energy future.

For more information or a tour of Elemental Energy, call Jim at 476-3441.

Rob Chickering lives with his wife Rhoda on Kelton Road. He co-owns an energy efficiency company called EnSave Energy Performance Inc.



COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| Selectboard | 1st & 3rd Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office |
| Planning Commission | 1st & 3rd Thursday | 7:00 pm | Town Office |
| Zoning Board of Adjustment | 2nd & 4th Monday | 7:30 pm | Town Office |
| Conservation Fund Advisory Comm. | 2nd Thursday | 7:30 pm | Town Office |
| Volunteer Fire Department | Every Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Fire Station, Templeton Road |
| U-32 School Board | 1st & 3rd Wednesday | 6:30 pm | U-32 High School |
| Elementary School Board | 1st Thursday | 6:30 pm | Elementary School |
| Recreation Board | 3rd Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office |
| Town Clerk's Office Hours | Mon-Thur: 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 | | Town Office |
| Zoning Administrator | Tuesday & Thursday | 3:30 to 5:00 pm | Town Office |
| Lister | Monday to Friday | 9:00 to 11:30 am | Town Office |
| Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn. | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Four Corners Schoolhouse |

EVENTS CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
| July 1 | Open House | Kellogg-Hubbard Library |
| September 8 | Rally Day | All day All over town |

It's going to be a very quiet summer!

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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INSIDE:

**ART AND
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