

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XII, No. 2

November/December 2001

SUE AND PUT CLAYTON - PLUGGERS FOR US ALL

by Rose Riley

Have you ever wondered about the people behind the community newsletters like the *Bus Stop Conversations*? Have you been curious about the Washington Central Friends of Education? I had enjoyed reading the articles in the past and was curious about the group that is so active in keeping the community informed. It was a lovely coincidence that I was asked to write an article about two retired educators, Sue and Put (Putnam) Clayton, who are committed to bringing schools and community members closer together. Both are active members of Washington Central Friends of Education. Sue has had leadership roles for eight years, and Put has been the treasurer. Interviewing them would be a mine of information about the many avenues that the group is exploring, so I was eager to do an interview.

Several days later, I found myself sitting at Put and Sue's dining room table. Their home is nestled in a cove of trees just past the second bend on Horn of the Moon Road. It is a lovely spot, with a view that will grow as the trees shed their leaves. It would be vividly colorful in a few days. As I looked around, evidence of Put and Sue's hobbies enticed my eye with their textures. Put is an adept weaver, a creator of beautiful patterns. Some of his dishtowels were at the silent auction this past Rally Day. Sue is a skilled potter. She uses the studio at River Street Potters, and her work is practical as well as lovely to touch. Together they have created a welcoming home, a very comfortable place to sit and chat.



Both Sue and Put are native Vermonters. Put comes from Bennington and went on to attend college at

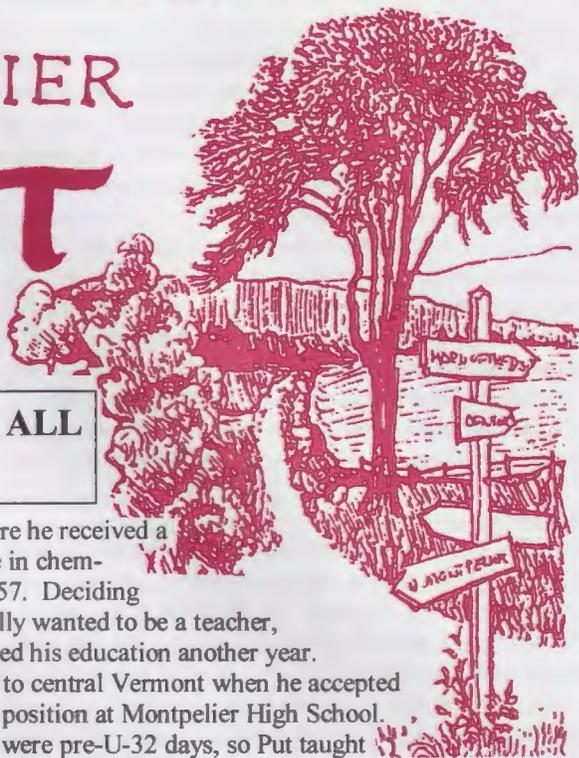
UVM where he received a BA degree in chemistry in 1957. Deciding that he really wanted to be a teacher, he continued his education another year. He moved to central Vermont when he accepted a teaching position at Montpelier High School.

These were pre-U-32 days, so Put taught math to East Montpelier residents as well as Montpelierites. He often sees his past students in the community. Sometimes they share a chuckle about the antics in the classroom. He taught mathematics for 30 years until his retirement from teaching in 1988. Put then worked at Rumney Elementary School in Middlesex as bookkeeper for several years.

Sue came from Burlington, attended the University of Chicago, graduated in 1969 and became an art teacher. Hired by Montpelier High School, she met Put there. They married and settled in East Montpelier. Sue retired from the classroom after nine years and raised their two children, as well as writing for the *Washington World*. Their elder child Rick is now grown up and residing in Williamstown. Their daughter Katie is a senior at Earlham College in Indiana.

Retirement has not slowed down their efforts to support education in their community; it has simply changed the direction of their energy. Their involvement in Washington Central Friends of Education shows the extent of their commitment. This organization has two primary focuses. First, and the most noticeable, is to keep the community informed about what is happening in our school systems. *Bus Stop Conversations* is sent out sixteen times a year in the *World*. As Sue pointed out, it is very important that the entire community be kept informed. There is a large segment of the town's population that no longer has direct involvement with the school, yet they still continue to support the system with their taxes. In order to keep healthy support, there needs to be good communication about the many things that our schools do for our children. Another method of improving communication is the phone directories that U-32's seventh graders receive each year. Originally Sue's idea, they are well appreciated by both the parents and the students. These help the transition from elementary school to U-32, making it much easier for students and parents to make new connections.

(Continued on page 2)



TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

We are all a community. No one of us can live without the people around us, and the sobering lessons of the past few weeks have etched this message on our brains as no other event of our lives has ever done. So what IS a community? It is neighbors helping neighbors in good times and bad. It is every one of us taking part in making our governments work. It is townspeople gathering on a brilliant September day to celebrate just being our town, as we did on Rally Day. No surprise that several people have reflected that our day in the sun became immeasurably more precious because of what happened in New York and Washington just three days later. We here in East Montpelier are truly a community.

Like all good things, a community takes many people helping to make it work. Every Fire Department knows this.

Every church knows this. Towns are no different. We all understand that to live together we must be part of our community. Perhaps it is harder to appreciate our state as a community — or our country. Hardest yet is to comprehend the community of all the people in the world. It is just too vast and too diverse. We have lived our whole lives with prejudices about some group of people or another, and the hardest lesson that we will ever learn is that understanding people who are different from us must happen if our civilization is to survive. No longer can we live comfortably in East Montpelier without seeing all people of the world as a community and living in peace with them all. That to me is the lesson of community.

Jean Cate

(Continued from page 1)

The other function of the group is to explore alternative options for funding, applying for grants, and searching out new opportunities for funding. Recently the group joined with Washington Central Supervisory Union, the Montpelier School system and the Montpelier Downtown Community Association in an effort to obtain a grant for \$1.5 million. This was to begin a new out-of-school program called Community Connections. It took over a year of fact finding, data gathering, organization and writing to successfully apply for this coveted competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Through this, ten Community Learning Centers will be established, one in each of the schools of the combined U-32 and Montpelier districts. These will provide educational opportunities as well as enrichment activities after school, on weekends and during vacations. The possibilities are endless. The potential of this program is breathtaking. Both Sue and Put are excited. They hope to see the townspeople take full advantage of the opportunity. It is a new direction for education, reaching into the after-school life of the community.

Obviously this new program is a huge undertaking. It takes many dedicated people to get something like this off the ground. The executive chair, Deb Wolf from Middlesex, keeps things moving and supports project director Ginny Burley in many activities. Both Put and Sue spoke glowingly of the other board members including Kim Martin of Middlesex, Wanda Baril from Berlin, and East Montpelier residents Ginny Burley, Gary Hass, and East Montpelier principal Carol Randall, who have put so much effort into keeping the organization going. "We're always looking for new board members. It's a good group to work with," Sue assured me. "If anyone is interested in becoming a board member, call us at 223-7423. We'll be happy to talk to you."

I was very inspired by the teamwork of Put and Sue. East Montpelier is lucky to have such a dedicated couple working for its children's benefit. They truly are friends of education.

Rose Riley is also an educator. She lives with her family on Foster Road.

MORE ABOUT THE 21ST CENTURY PROJECT

Guy Viens has been hired as the Site Coordinator for East Montpelier's Community Connection program to be funded through a 21st Century Grant. Other staff will be hired soon to provide direct service. The program will be for both children and adults and will include a variety of course offerings that could range from homework support to drama, outdoor activities, cooking classes and much more. East Montpelier's Learning Center is still in the development phase but will include daily after school programs as well as some evening, weekend and summer offerings. As part of our goal to encourage adult and community involvement, surveys will be made available for your input.

Community members can get involved in many ways including teaching a course, taking one of the course offerings or working as a mentor/helper. Please take the time to return the surveys which will assist in developing a program that meets your needs. Also, feel free to contact Guy Viens at East Montpelier Elementary School at 802-229-0976 or 802-223-7936 if you have any suggestions or are interested in being a course provider.

A reminder to please return the questionnaires you received in the World. Copies may be picked up at the school or town office.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

There is no regular minister now. For information on times and events, call Marion Codling, 223-2058

OLD MEETING HOUSE

*Rev. David W. Connor and Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge,
Co-Pastors*

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

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton

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

KUDOS ALL AROUND

RALLY DAY 2001

Rachel Senechal

We've heard from so many residents who enjoyed Rally Day and the wonderful feeling of community that exists in East Montpelier. The various events throughout the day brought out friends, family and neighbors and culminated with a huge crowd for the family dance and spectacular fireworks. People appreciate the gifts given on Rally Day.

We feel so fortunate to have generous people in our midst. Throughout the day many people volunteered their time and talent. Every activity enjoyed by young and old on Rally Day was organized by at least one volunteer and usually many more. From running races, touring on mountain bikes, playing games, blowing bubbles, entering the photo contest, jumping in the fire dog gym, listening to live music, decorating vegetables, decorating bikes, marching in the parade, celebrating the Citizens of the Year, bidding at the Silent Auction (which raised \$2829 for the printing and mailing of the *Signpost*), buying local products at the Farmers and Craft Market, making kites, playing soccer, discovering trail treasures, buzzing about bees, shooting hoops, to eating breakfast, lunch and supper; there were people who worked to make these things happen. Volunteers gave their time to make Rally Day a special day for their friends and neighbors. If you're new to town, it's a great way to meet new people. By evening people were elbow to elbow rejoicing in the day.

Dana Barber, an East Montpelier disc jockey, drew many people to the outdoor dance floor on the basketball court in front of the elementary school. Dave and DeeDee Swenson, who own Northstar Fireworks, dazzled us with a fantastic blend of colorful fireworks. The crowd applauded, they smiled and then went home thankful that they live in East Montpelier.

THANK YOU, SHUTTERBUGS

We've been so fortunate in getting volunteers to take the pictures for the *Signpost* over the twelve years we've published. Brett Coburn has served for a number of years and now is ready to move on. Elaine Manghi is stepping in to help us, and her pictures appear in this issue. We hope you appreciate their gift in scheduling the photo shoot, tailoring their pictures to the stories they illustrate and seeing that we get them promptly when it's time to lay out the paper. Thanks to you both.



EAST MONTPELIER CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

For the fourth year, East Montpelier honored Citizens of the Year on Rally Day. We were proud to select Anne and Conrad Ormsbee as this year's honorees. They rode in Dave Connor's classic convertible in the Rally Day parade, then received a big bouquet and our applause as we paid tribute to their many gifts to our town.

CONGRATULATIONS MIKE

On September 27, 2001, at the Vermont Municipal Highway Association (VMHA) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Annual Town Fair, Road Foreman Mike Garand received the Vermont Highway Person of the Year award. Mike received the award for a municipality with population between 1,000 and 3,999. The VMHA Highway Person of the Year must demonstrate:

- a commitment to professionalism in the highway field,
- outstanding public service to his/her municipality, and
- involvement in local community service activities.

Mike's public service includes 28 years in volunteer fire service—10 years as Chief and seven years as Deputy Chief and as a member of the East Montpelier Fast Squad—and two years as softball and basketball coach at the elementary school in Calais where he resides.

Please take a moment to congratulate Mike and thank him for his dedication and hard work.

Marlene Betit

Open Everyday 8:30am to 6:00pm

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Anywhere*

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Quality
Family
Farm
Shop"*

802-223-5757



Vermont
Handicrafts

Gifts

Vermont
Cheese

Mail Order

Maple
Products

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

THANK YOU TO OUR 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.

Augustine and Alberta Pacini
Fred and Joyce Jacek

Roy and Joanne Bair
Elizabeth Pulsifer

James Hanna



MILESTONES

Births

- >Ashlyn Taylor Liimatainen, born May 22, 2001, daughter to Karen Sue & Derik Joseph Liimatainen.
- >Shaymus Joel Johnson, born July 12, 2001, son to Kimberly Anne Flint and Nicholas Joel Johnson.
- >Camden Tate Ritchie, born August 13, 2001, son to Julie & Alan Joseph Ritchie Jr.
- >Kolby Michael Tanner, born August 29, 2001, son to Linda Santiago and Michael Lawrence Tanner.
- >Dane Rowan Osborne Liebermann, born August 31, 2001, son to Karen Marie Lieberman and Thomas Robert Osborne.
- >Logan Richardson Carbo, born September 2, 2001, son to Kelly Sue & Trevor James Carbo.

Marriages

- >Clifford J. Hickman to Abigail M. Wilson, married August 25, 2001.
- >Carlton Marshall Etnier to Diana Fletcher Chace, married September 2, 2001.

Civil Union

- >Coralie Gay Collins to Veronica Dickinson, established Sept. 15, 2001.

Deaths

None

Land Transfers

- >Ramon L. & Marion J. Spooner to Richard Rowell and Nancy K. Hallock, 0.74 acre & dwelling, US 2 village.
- >Gerald C Jourdan Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Charles B. Winters II and Lynn M. Winters, 7 acres, Country Club Estates, off Clark Rd.
- >Paul J. & Erika G. Dayton to Catherine M. Buni, 55.6 acres and dwelling, Cummings Road.
- >James Hillier and Sharon Carlson to Sean Downey and Abigail Bruce, 13 acres and dwelling, VT 14S.
- >Paul J. & Erika G. Dayton to Thomas P. & Joan A. Myers, 10.2 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd.(corrective deed).
- >Ivan Rus to Tom Rus, 20 acres & dwelling, VT 14N.
- >Charles B. Johnson to Paul J. & Erika G. Dayton, 2.7 acres & dwelling, Upper North St.
- >Estate of Edwin C. Sibley, Patricia L. Anair, Executrix, to Patricia L. Anair, 1/2 interest, 144 acres, Sodom Pond Rd.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

Phone: 223-3313
 Email: eastmont@adelphia.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi
 Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn
 Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins
 Town Administrator - Marlene Betit
 (W & Th 9-5, T 1-5)
 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)

- >L.B.S.N., Inc. f/k/a Northlight Studio Press Inc. to Robert Simmons and Kathy Helen Warner, 1.34 acres & building, VT 14S.
- >Paul J. & Erika G. Dayton to Thomas P. & Joan A. Myers, 0.723 acre, Cummings Rd.
- >Gerald C. Jourdan Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Christopher Goodrich and Arlene Shorten, 10.11 acres, Country Club Estates, off Clark Rd.
- >Lawrence J. Perry to Coreen A. Fluet, 0.27 acre & dwelling, County Rd.
- >Richard G. Casavant to Isabelle F. Plummer, 1.25 acres, Fair Rd. (corrective deed).
- >Estate of Sandra I. Joy, to Matthew L. Joy and Matthew L. Joy, Trustee of the Sandra I. Joy Trust, 2.9 acres & dwelling, Jacobs Rd.
- >Gerald C. Jourdan Jr. and Jill E. Jourdan to Steven A. & Joanne L. Chadwick, 11 acres, Country Club Estates, off Clark Rd.
- >David & Elizabeth Swenson to North Country Federal Credit Union, 0.15 acre easement for parking, VT 14S.
- >Ross S. Gardner to John Pandolfo and Deborah Fleischman, 51 acres & dwelling, Templeton Rd.
- >Gary Beardsworth to Rhonda E. Beardsworth, 1.2 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- >Kevin Bailey and Brian J. Bailey to Layne A. & Cindy L. Gregoire, 11.94 acres, US 2W.
- >Timothy S. Joslyn to Timothy S. Joslyn & Rhoda Carroll, 3.01 acres and dwelling, Quaker Rd.

- >Ramon L. & Marion J. Spooner to Washington County Mental Health Services Inc., 3 acres and dwelling, VT 14S.
- >Camilla L. Hill to Amy E. Hill and Steven J. Glendinning, 0.61 acre and dwelling, Cummings Rd.
- >VT Land Trust Inc. & Central VT Community Land Trust Inc. to Sarah Ringlee, 23.2 acres, Taylor Farm Rd.
- >Sarah Ringlee to Vermont Land Trust Inc.. & VT Housing & Conservation Board, Easement/Conservation Restrictions, 23.2 acres, Taylor Farm Rd.



Town Tax Notice

East Montpelier Property Taxes due on or before 5:00 pm on November 15 at the Town Clerk's Office.

Payments received by mail after 11/15 deadline will be late regardless of postmark as per vote at Town Meeting 3/6/01.

If you have any questions about the payment of taxes, please call Sylvia Tosi at the town offices at 223-3313.

THE LISTERS ARE COMING! THE LISTERS ARE COMING!

It's that time of the year. To keep the Grand List current, the Listers are beginning their annual visits to all properties that were issued building permits after April 1, 2001.

Because of the number of properties, they cannot make appointments, unless necessary to inspect the inside of the dwelling. When they access outside construction, they will leave a notice that they have been there.

This year, they are taking photos of all properties. The last time this was done was 1985 and many changes and new construction have taken place.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The East Montpelier Listers



THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



SELECTBOARD

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

July 12, 2001

- >Planning Commission members and Board of Adjustment members present.
- >Hearing on Sign Ordinance and Setback amendments. Approved with minor language changes.
- >Hearing on telecommunications bylaw. Changes made. Will be placed on agenda at future Selectboard Meeting.

July 18, 2001

- >Approved excess weight permit for Casella Construction, Inc.
- >Voted to increase East Montpelier tax rate to \$2.56.
- >Agreed to retain current health coverage and benefits for town employees for one year.

August 27, 2001

- >Adopted Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Interim Bylaw.
- >Fire Department Chief Tom Brazier signed \$20,000 promissory note to Town of East Montpelier for 1994 dump truck.
- >Heard petition for crosswalk on US 2 in vicinity of Post Office.
- >Approved placement of road sign directing traffic to Barre Country Club at intersection of East Hill and Clark Roads. Country Club will pay for sign and Town will install it.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

July 18, 2001

- >Voted final approval of Rosendo and Armonia Cueto subdivision.
- >Reviewed recent permits.

August 1, 2001

- >Allen Freund present for a preliminary review to explore subdividing his 43 acres of land on VT 14. Freund plans to create two one acre house lots with a shared 4 acre common area.

Sept. 6, 2001

- >Accepted sketch plan of Steve Omasta for 1.38 acres on Center Rd. 0.63 acres will be transferred from neighbor Elaine Ryan to Omasta.
- >Reviewed proposal of Casella Waste Management to increase tonnage from 26,000 tons a year granted in 1994 to 40,000 tons a year. Voted to have no objection to proposal going forward.
- >Discussed proposed amendment

regarding setbacks. Voted to propose to the Selectboard that they adopt the agreed upon language as a permanent bylaw subject to vote of the town.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

July 23, 2001

>Heard and approved request by Dodie Gallison for setback variance to install a house on 0.94 acre lot on County Road.

August 13, 2001

>Heard request for permit to build a second dwelling on Rt 14 property in Zone B. The first dwelling would become an in-law apartment, and the new dwelling would be occupied by Steve Deyo and Luellen McDonagh. Conditional Use approved subject to terms.

>Granted a setback variance to Elliott and Florence Morse to enlarge and enclose rear porch at house on County Road.

>Reopened Edward H. Johnson hearing. Mr. Johnson is seeking permit to expand and enclose a porch on the rear side of his house and to use an old foundation on the south side of his house to build an addition. Hearing postponed to August 27 to allow Mr. Johnson time to file copies of his plan and application to the VT Dept. of Water Resources for review.

August 27, 2001

>Determined the board needed more information about the request of Edward Johnson. The existing porch is in the floodway, so any addition to porch would be more in floodway. Continued hearing to next meeting.

EAST MONTPELIER

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

August 1, 2001

>Deb Wolf reported that Washington Central Supervisory Union and Montpelier Public Schools have received a 21st Century Learning

Centers grant. There will be a Learning Center at each of the ten schools, including middle and high schools, with a half-time site coordinator and two half time site

staff. This program will provide quality after-school programs and adult learning opportunities.

- >Adopted several policies: Integration of Home Study Students in Program and Activities, Weapons, and Harassment.
- >Approved Special Education contract.
- >Approved a partition to be built in Conference Room to provide space for a problem solving area and guidance office.

U-32 JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

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

July 18, 2001

- >Approved CSU Special Education Contract.
- >Approved Integration of Home Study Students in Programs and Activities policy.
- >Approved Parking Policy.

August 1, 2001

- >Jon Winston gave brief building update.
- >Approved Weapons Policy.
- >Authorized Principal to sign lease with Woodbury College for Alternative Program.
- >Approved bus routes for 2001-2002.
- >Approved MS and HS fall coaches.

August 15, 2001

- >Jon Winston discussed fire safety system. There are 28,000 gallons in the cistern which will run sprinkler system for 60 minutes non-stop. Could be used by fire fighting personnel to supply their hoses.
- >Approved Attendance Policy.
- >Approved tuition waver for a foreign exchange student.

September 5, 2001

- >Jon Winston reported Certificate of Occupancy was received in time to open school.
- >Authorized Robbe Brook and Dot Blake to draft proposal for School Choice with Montpelier for 2002-2003.
- >Approved increased cafeteria hours from 7:30 am - 3:00 pm.

EMES BUDGET PLANNING

Community members are encouraged to participate in the East Montpelier School District's FY03 budget development process during board meetings and forums. The School Community Potluck Dinner and Planning Forum will be held on November 7, 2001, starting at 5:30 pm in the EMES gym. Join us in celebrating our progress and planning our future improvements!

ALL ABOUT TOWN

EAST MONTPELIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Elliot Morse, President

Our town has a tremendous historical heritage, stretching back to the 1700's and, of course, earlier in unrecorded history. Our Historical Society in its monthly meetings has explored our cemeteries, old barns, churches and the mill in North Montpelier. We have townspeople who are great historians, telling us what they remember from way back when. For two years now, we have participated in the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge and plan to again next year.

If you are interested in exploring our town's history, please join us at our meetings. They are held in the Four Corners Schoolhouse the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Officers are Elliott Morse, President; Anne Ormsbee, Vice President and Treasurer; Florence Morse, Secretary. Dues are only \$2.00. Call any of us for more information.

HELP NEEDED

Do you have any old photos showing equipment used to maintain roads in winter such as snow rollers, wooden plows, and early steel plows? Also wanted are photos of men shoveling snow from roads. These will be used at the Nov. 19 meeting of the East Montpelier Historical Society. If you have any photos you would be willing to lend, please call Conrad Ormsbee at 223-5372.



RECREATION BOARD

Ginger Hopkins—Teresa Conti, Co-Chair

As many of you may have noticed, several changes have occurred lately at the Recreation Field. New soccer goals have been installed and the field laid out and marked. A new bike rack is now available for use, too. The biggest change is the one-way in and out of the driveway. Please follow the signs instructing the proper flow of traffic into and out of the field. Be considerate of others while at the field. Put all garbage into the trash cans and pick up your belongings. Under no circumstance are children to be hanging or playing on the goals. Serious injury can result.

The fields are for everyone's enjoyment - please help us maintain them. If you are interested in recreation potential in our town, please feel free to join us. We usually meet the third Monday of most months. Call Ginger Hopkins at 229-4375 for more details. Thank you!

The Recreation Board also wants to thank Capitol Grounds for their generous donation of coffee for the evening sale of ice cream and coffee on Rally Day. We hope it was a nice addition in the evening prior to the fantastic fireworks.

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

Hilari Farrington, Librarian

HOURS

>The Library is now open every day at 10 am!

>Adult Library: Monday through Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm, Friday and Saturday: 10 am - 5:30 pm.

>Children's Library: Monday through Wednesday, 10 am - 5:30 pm, Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm, Friday and Saturday: 10 am - 5:30 pm.

>All residents of Washington County are entitled to a library card. Just show proof of residence. For more information, call 223-3338.

LISTEN WHILE YOU WORK (OR DRIVE)

If you have a long commute to work, like to be entertained while you're cleaning the house or washing the car or just feel that you don't have enough hours in your day to sit down with a book, you'll want to know that the Kellogg-Hubbard Library has well over 2000 books on tape for both adults and children. In addition, we have recently begun a new collection of books on CD in response to your requests. A list of our audio books is available in the Library.

EAST MONTPELIER ROOM

There are a number of meeting rooms in the Library available free to any non-profit group. This includes, of course, the East Montpelier Room, one of the Library's largest meeting rooms. Many thanks to the East Montpelier Historical Society for loaning the Library its display on barns in East Montpelier for the Library's Grand Opening. It was enjoyed by many people over the last few months.

FOUR-CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rachel Senechal, President

>Meeting held August 8. Repair of furnace venting has been completed.

>Discussion on moving handicap ramp for better access.

>Decided to have all windows washed.

>Meeting held on September 12. Piano has been tuned.

>Voted the use of FCSH by Preschool for two year period, Sept. 2002 to June 2004.

>To schedule use of the Schoolhouse, please call Elaine Manghi between 6 - 8 pm at 229-5811.

The Riverbend Country Store

A Convenience Store & Gift Shop

Grocery - Videos - Gifts - Crafts

Maurice and Sue Cerutti - Owners

(802) 454-7101

2040 VT Route 214 - N. Montpelier, VT 05666

BIRDS R US PLUS

by Lizzie Reynolds



If you're ever looking for a really good place to buy a pet, I know just where you should go. "Birds R Us Plus", which is owned by Emma Grant and Paul Grant Sr. of East Montpelier. These people know their pets. Emma has her own pets, which include an African Grey bird and a Shar-Pei which is a wrinkly dog. Shar-Pei roughly translates from Chinese to mean

"sand paper coat". Her daughter also has two Chihuahuas, Fred and Lily.

Emma's store has everything from brightly colored birds to adorable kittens. Emma says it all started when her husband bought her a pet Parakeet about ten years ago. It quickly turned from a hobby into a wonderful, blooming full-time pet shop. The shop started in her house, then moved into the garage where it expanded as they remodeled and her business grew. But it's still a home, family run business.

As I entered the store, I saw many birds of all different colors and breeds. There were very loud chirping sounds coming from every direction of her store. I felt like I had just walked off a plane into the tropics of South America. When I asked Emma to name a few of the birds she had, she listed off every single kind of bird in there, Parakeets, Amazons, Lovebirds, Cockatiels, Finches, Macaws, Quaker Parrots and Cockatoos. It was amazing the different breeds she has there! And so many of them!

Most people want a bird they can hold, so Emma and her daughter, Heather, hand feed the baby birds starting at every two hours so they don't bite and make better pets. It takes them about three to four hours to feed all the birds. Emma's daughter feeds the birds in the store while Emma feeds the babies upstairs. They are usually done feeding and cleaning by ten o'clock, just in time to open the store. You may not realize it, but birds in other pet stores are not always hand fed. Emma does not buy her birds, she breeds her own. The top two floors of her shop are where the babies are born and kept until they are large enough to go into the baby tank in the shop to be sold. When I was there, she had a baby Cockatiel in her baby tank,

where she keeps the older baby birds. It was four weeks old and still being hand fed.

Emma has a cat room where she keeps her young kittens until she sells them. Emma also breeds her own cats. She keeps the males and females separated by buildings to control the amount of little ones. She will also take kittens, as long as they are at least eight weeks old. She brings them to the vet's for shots, then finds homes for them. Right now, Emma has a list of twelve people waiting for a kitten. If you are interested I'm very sure she would be happy to help you with one. So call her up and get on the list!

The shop is also full of other popular house pets such as Hamsters and Reptiles. Emma bought hamsters last year, and hasn't bought any more since they just keep reproducing. She occasionally has special offers on hamsters like "buy one get one free", or buy the cage and set up and get a free hamster. Her reptile corner has a bunch of Iguanas who were all basking in their heated cages. She also has fish tanks full of all different kinds of fish. The store includes supplies such as fish tanks, bird cages (some large enough for a person to stand up in), cat and dog toys and supplies, hamster and gerbil cages and toys, plus food for all different kinds of pets.

As I was taking the tour, I noticed two large birds sitting in their cages, which were as tall as I am! They were Amazons and were green with blue heads. These are called Blue Front Amazons. Blueberry had more blue than the other bird, who doesn't have a name yet. Blueberry was more talkative than the other bird, too. I was told they said things like "Hello" and "Hey guys", which they later proved right.

As you can tell, this is a fun place and is just what you're looking for in a pet store. "Birds R Us Plus" is located just off VT 14 on Fair Rd. in East Montpelier. The store is open Monday through Saturday, 10 am through 5 pm and is closed Sundays. So, drop by and look around, or you can call Emma yourself at 476-5904.

Lizzie Reynolds is thirteen years old and in the eighth grade at U-32. She lives with her parents and younger sister, Katie, on Cherry Tree Hill Road.



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 27	6:00-9:30 pm	2nd Annual Halloween Monster Mash Family Fun Night	EMES
November 7	5:30 pm	School community potluck dinner/planning forum	EMES
November 15	before 5:00 pm	Taxes Due (not just postmarked!)	Town Office
November 19	7:00 pm	East Montpelier Historical Society	Four Corners School
November 22	All day	Thanksgiving	Grandmother's House
December 10	All day	Chanukah	With your family
December 25	All day	Christmas	With your family

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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