

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Volume XII, No. 1

September/October 2001

## Rally Day 2001 — September 8

Mark your calendars and clear your schedule! Rally Day is almost here, and you'll have no reason to leave East Montpelier on Saturday September 8th. The fun will all be happening here. East Montpelier is brimming with activity, and the Rally Day Committee has put together a fun filled day for all ages at the Elementary School and other locations.

The Farmer's Market/Craft Show has turned into a Rally Day mainstay, and we invite East Montpelier makers and growers of all ages to participate. There's still time to sign up for a booth. Last year, the front lawn of the school was brimming with baskets, jewelry, sno-cones, pottery, vegetables, honey, maple syrup and much more, all made and grown in our town. You can rent a space for \$10.00, and it's only \$5.00 for those high school-age and under. We'd love to see our talented East Montpelier kids show off and sell their creations. Call **Jennifer Boyer** at 223-8926.

Get out your photo albums (and boxes!) because the Photo Contest has some great categories, and there will be a popular vote for each one. The categories are East Montpelier Barns and

Farms; Close-ups; Scenics; Friends, Family and Neighbors; Pets; and Gardens. You can bring your entries to the school gym from 8:30 until 10:00. Popular vote winners will be posted at 4:00, so remember to vote for your favorites!

The Home Grown East Montpelier Parade will start at the Four Corners School and end at the EMES. Call your neighbors and make a float!



There will be a bike decorating area where kids can get their bikes parade-ready. Call **Hobie Guion** at 223-1808 with any questions.

There's a new aspect to the ever popular Vegetable Decorating Contest. Folks will be able to decorate vegetables on-site this year, as well as bring in decorated veggies from home. We need donated vegetables for this event, so bring in those monster zucchinis! — and hopefully a few other varieties as well! Call **Janet Allen** at 454-1293 if you have vegetables that want to become high art.

The Mountain Bike Ride will start at 8:00. Walkers are invited to participate in the road races this year. The running/walking races will go as follows: kids registration at 8:30 with the race at 9:00. Adults registration at 9:00 with the race at 9:30. Call **Mark and Sue Stephen** at 223-6256 for any race particulars. The basketball Hoop Shoot will start at 10:00, and the Family Soccer games will start at 1:30. **Paul Cate** will lead a nature walk at 4:00.

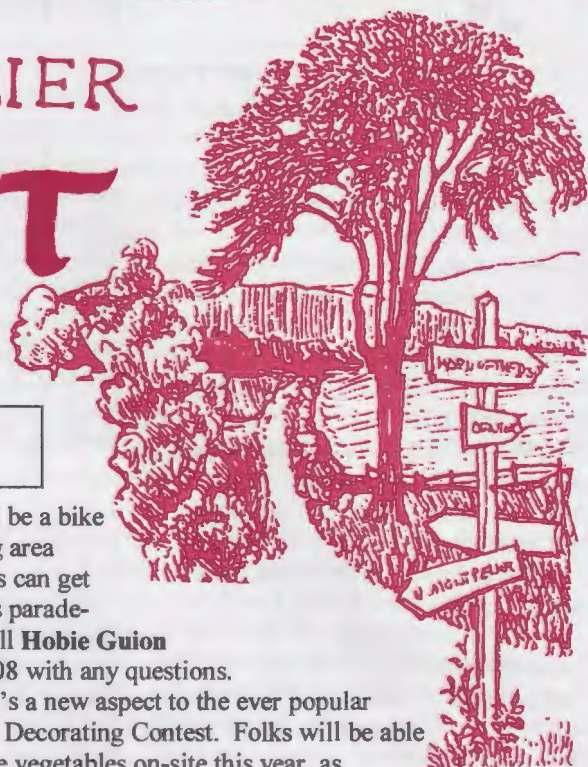
The *Signpost* Auction will offer diverse items to bid on for a good cause: the printing and mailing of the *Signpost*. This year we're adding a children's area, so kids can bid on affordable items. There's still time to donate by calling **Deborah Fillion** at 229-1320. Everyone bid early and often!

Other activities are kite making, a bubble pool, lawn games, a photo exhibit of historic East Montpelier farms, paintings by **Wendy Soliday** and lots of home grown live music after lunch. The Fire Department is going all out again this year with a jumping gym and a demonstration. Breakfast and lunch will be available at the school.

Don't miss East Montpelier's grand finale. First there is a ham supper at the Old Brick Church. Then everyone can enjoy a great evening of dancing with DJ **Dana Barber**, complete with ice cream and drinks and all topped off with fireworks by Northstar at 9:00. Thanks **Dave and DeeDee Swenson**!

The Rally Day schedule comes in the mail with your tax bills so join the fun!

Photo by Rick Mastelli





# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



## MILESTONES

### Births

- >Gabriel Ruth Dunkling, born May 1, 2001, daughter to Jill Marie Tanner and Mark Todd Dunkling.
- >Kylie Jade Martin, born June 22, 2001, daughter to Karin Ann and Patrick Steven Martin.

### Marriages

- >Raymond J. Ertle to Darlene F. Willey, married June 23, 2001.
- >Paul Wesley Haynes to Julia Elizabeth Longhi, married July 7, 2001.
- >James Clement Bellino to Carol Lyn Rose, married July 7, 2001.
- >Joshua Scribner to Tracy Cano, married August 4, 2001.

### Deaths

- >Raymond R. Tellier, died June 18, 2001.
- >Samuel S. Starr, died June 25, 2001, husband of Barbara Starr, father of Loring Starr.
- >Reginald Laundry, died July 1, 2001.
- >Bernard Kiser, died July 27, 2001, husband of Mildred Kiser.
- >Harold Bean, died August 4, 2001, husband of Joyce Bean.

### Land Transfers

- >Irma Butler, Estate of, 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.
- >Robert L. Thomas to Karen S. Blosser, 0.55 acres and dwelling, Center Rd.
- >Peter R. Hill to Jeffrey R. and Robin D. Biron, 0.22 acres and garage, East Village.
- >George E. Hull Jr. and Barbara C. Hull to Douglas R. and Mary T. Hull, 14.2 acres, Horn of the Moon Road.
- >Gloria A. Biron Living Trust to East

- Montpelier Gully Jumpers, Inc. and East Montpelier Trails, Inc., 0.68 acres, VT 14S.
- >Ann Funk Carr to Jay Carr, 3.49 acres, Center Rd.
- >Kenric C. Edwards to Holly A. Edwards, 2.00 acres and dwelling, Putnam Rd.
- >Roger and Kelly Mink to Michael Thiemann and Carol McKenna, 16.55 acres and dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- >Ronald L. Metevier to Ronald L. Metevier and Mary J. King, 5.5 acres and dwelling, VT 14N.

### SELECTBOARD

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

May 21, 2001

- >Discussed Telecommunications Towers regulations drafted by the Planning Commission.
- >Marlene Betit presented information from Bill Merrylees, Green-up Coordinator. Over 70 people volunteered and collected over one ton of trash and 40 tires. Green-Up came in under budget on disposal costs.
- >Authorized Norma Raymond, Collector of Delinquent Taxes, to hire an attorney to process three delinquent tax sales.

June 6, 2001

- >Approved mowing bid from Douglas Grout.
- >Approved sand bid from McCullough Gravel at \$6.00 per ton delivered washed sand.
- >Accepted bid of Pike industries for Gallison Hill Road reclamation and paving.
- >Accepted bid of Dubois Construction to furnish and install Center Road box culvert.
- >Have received approval of grant

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU TO THESE LOYAL SUPPORTERS!

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be welcomed - \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50. Send your donation to Anne Sherman, The *Signpost*, 315 Putnam Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651-4119.

- Thomas Benton
- Marion Codling
- Charles and Claudia Bristow
- Richard and Esther Hill
- Maurice and Barbara Brown
- The Nist Family
- Paul and Sandal Cate

application from Better Backroads. This will assist with an inventory of roads by the Road Foreman, purchase of Vermont Local Roads software and preparation of a Capital Budget for Roads.

June 18, 2001

- >Town Attorney Bruce Bjornlund reviewed Tax Abatement Agreement (Farm Contract) and found language satisfactory.
- >Discussed Telecommunications Interim Bylaw. Public hearing July 12.

July 2, 2001

- >Discussed ways of setting tax rate. Error last year in the state school tax figure. Would like more information from State.
- >Approved access permit for Nancy Thomas on Putnam Road as authorized by Road Foreman Michael Garand.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

*Carol Welch, Chair*

May 17, 2001

- >Heard plans of North Country Federal Credit Union to lease right to establish additional parking spaces on land owned by Dave Swenson. Approved.
- >Reviewed revised subdivision plan for Paul Dayton.
- >Tracy Phillips reported that Town Plan Committee continues to meet.

June 7, 2001

- >Reviewed, line by line, draft for East Montpelier Interim Bylaw on Wireless Telecommunications.
- >Fillion will attend conference on wireless telecommunications conducted by Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

June 21, 2001

- >Paul Dayton presented a survey showing the transfer of a narrow strip of land from

### 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)



### CHURCH BELLS



#### OLD BRICK CHURCH

*There is no regular minister*

For information on times and events call Marion Codling at 223-2058

#### OLD MEETING HOUSE

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

Worship and Child Care 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School begins again September 9.

#### CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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



his 55+ acres to the adjacent 10+ acres owned by his mother on Cummings Road. Approved subdivision.  
>Discussed permanent version of Wireless Communications Bylaw which will eventually be incorporated into the Town Zoning Regulations.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

*Claudia Bristow, Chair*

**June 11, 2001**

>Hearing on request of Dody Gallison to install a 14 foot x 71 foot mobile home on County Road. Continuance to June 25.

**June 25, 2001**

>Gallison hearing postponed until July 23.  
>Patricia Renzello hearing regarding request to build house at 1325 VT 14S postponed until August 13.

**July 9, 2001**

>Approved setback variance for addition on Center Road by Alison Underhill.  
>Approved setback variance for addition on Center Road requested by Clifton and Susan Matthews.  
>Approved request for conditional use permit to build a house on US 2 by Ellery and Jenifer Packard.

**EMES**

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

**May 3, 2001**

>Kathy Christy showed plaque she received for National Board Certification.  
>Heidemarie Heiss-Holmes presented the

ARTT on-line visual arts mentoring program for students.  
>Regretfully accepted letters of resignation from Barbara Pelkey, Lindy Johnson, Patty LaPerle, Bobbi Huoppi, and Claire Pierce.  
>Math Action Plan will be updated for implementation next school year.  
>East Montpelier Forest Department has offered EMES \$20,000 toward a larger woodchip storage facility. Paul Cate and Burr Morse will look into other funding.

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

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

**May 16, 2001**

>Approved request of Class of 2000 to purchase memorial bench to be placed in an appropriate spot in community space.  
>Approved student representation on the Board.  
>Approved the resignations of Kathryn Spence, Cathy McDermott, Jessica Noyes and Linda Callnan with regret.  
>Appointed Michael Reardon as English teacher and Eric Buchovecky as Science teacher.

**June 6, 2001**

>Jon Winston gave building update. It is making good progress.  
>Accepted resignations of Neal Camp and Jeffrey McDonald with regret.  
>Approved appointments of Destiny Kangas, Christopher Grantz, Paul Angell and Amy Budliger.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION**

*Steve Jerome, East Montpelier  
Representative, CVSWM*

The District's household hazardous waste collection season is well underway, but there's still time to rid your home of toxic products and wastes before winter. Fluorescent light bulbs and mercury thermometers, lawn and garden chemicals, oil paints and many household cleaning products need to be handled carefully and disposed of as hazardous waste.

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's seasonal hazardous waste collections are held the second Saturday of each month, May through October. The remaining dates are September 8 and October 13 from 10 am to 1 pm at the CV Transfer Station on US 2 in East Montpelier.

Disposal costs will be \$.65 per pound of oil-based paint and paint products (no latex paint) and \$1.25 per pound of other hazardous waste. Please note: Pesticides are accepted free of charge.

Call the District office at 229-9383 for more information.



**Sixth Grade Graduates of EMES**

- Emilee Anderson
- Ryan Blouin
- Cassie Burley
- Miranda Bushey
- Gabrielle Chaloux
- Gabriel Chickering-Ayers
- William Churchin
- Richard Curtis
- Koby Dunkling
- Robert Fitch
- Marcus Hass
- Logan Hutchins
- Brennan Jewett
- Chester Larrow
- Kyle Martel
- Francis Mayforth
- Nicholas Mayforth

- Sarah McKern
- Suzannah Mullikin
- Anders Ostrum
- Mary Papineau
- Lucas Paulger
- Chelsea Phillips
- Nicki Pickel
- Bryant Roberts
- Melynda Sawyer
- Patrick Sikora
- Jada Slayton
- Makenzie Wark
- Suzanne Waterman
- Julia Watson
- Christopher Wong
- Kimberly Wong
- Karia Young-Eagle

**Graduates of U-32 Junior Senior High School**

- Sarah Beatty
- Thomas Boardman
- James Cook
- Sara Dodge
- Eamon Duane
- Steven Durgin
- Philip England
- Jessica Goodine
- Jaime Guilmette
- Melissa Guilmette
- Kaitlin Harvie
- Jared Hatch
- Gabe Koss
- Shaun Langevin
- Luke MacDonald

- Brice McIntosh
- Richard Nicholson
- Kristen Nolan
- Nakima Ollin
- Rosemary Pearson
- Sara Pearson
- Chris Pickel
- Justin Pickel
- Jason Riley
- Darby Thomas
- Brett Wardle
- Sarah Waterman
- Gail Wiese
- Ashley Wood

## Top of the Signpost

Some 250 years ago, when our independence from England was far from assured, Benjamin Franklin developed his personal vision of the kind of country he wanted ours to be. He conceived of three simple steps to forming an orderly democratic republic: creating "virtuous" citizens, forming small groups with a common purpose to work toward a common goal and creating networks which might grow out of these groups.

The history books are full of examples of how Franklin carried out these principles in his city of Philadelphia: helping establish a hospital, an insurance company, libraries, a college, sanitation programs and police departments. Perhaps best known is the image of Franklin passing the leather bucket in the fire brigade which he realized could fight one of the biggest terrors of 18th century life - FIRE.

Fast forward to the 21st century. Disastrous fires are as fearsome today as they were in the eighteenth century. Only the equipment has changed. Thankfully, Franklin's vision of a community banding together to fight fires is alive and well today. Local fire departments are perhaps the best example in our modern world of how communities work together with a common purpose and a common goal. As in Ben Franklin's time, there is no compensation, no reward beyond the satisfaction of service given.

It is with pride and appreciation that the *Signpost* salutes our East Montpelier Fire Department, as we cover their story in this issue.

Jean Cate

### OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT — A SHORT HISTORY

*Elliott Morse*

To write the history of the East Montpelier Fire Department, we must go back and see why a local department was needed. The towns of East Montpelier and Calais in 1960 were principally agricultural. Their farms had large barns, many of them attached to the house and sometimes to several outbuildings. If one of these structures was engulfed in flames, fire might spread to the rest, leaving nothing but the cellarhole. The threat of spontaneous combustion of hay, lightning or sparks from farm equipment was a constant threat.

At this time, the Montpelier Fire Department was the closest organization to call. ~~But the distance they travelled and the fact that they were a city department, set up to acquire water from hydrants, left East Montpelier with little sense of security.~~ Rural settings had no hydrants. Both Calais and East Montpelier had contracts with the city for fire protection. The contracts allowed the city to send out one pumper truck and a couple of men.

In 1964, Montpelier raised its per hour rate to \$500, more than double what it had been!

One morning in the early spring of 1964 Bob Simon, a full time Montpelier firefighter, stopped at our barn on the County Road. He knew I had an interest in forming a fire department, and, with the outrageous price hike, now seemed like the time. On May 18, a meeting was held with 17 townspeople attending. Harry Morse made the motion to organize an East Montpelier Fire Department. Of these 17 first members, some served for years, while others helped organize and gradually withdrew. The group included Jim Hudson, Carroll Badger, Austin Cleaves, Marshall Hodgeman, Henry Brazier, Bob Webster, Curt Campbell, Percy Davis, Steve Hale, Elliott Morse, Bob Simon, Gordon Sevens, Dave Palmer, Harry Morse, Bob Parker, Bernard Corliss and Bernard Morse.

The new department held meeting after meeting. Bob Simon became our Chief and held that position for the next 16 years. We acquired some basic equipment. Seguin's Heating Oils donated an aged fuel tanker, which was painted bright red and hand lettered by Joe Tofani of Honest John's auto emporium. Indeed, the first fire to which our tanker responded was somewhat accelerated by fuel oil still in the hose! We were befriended by Dave Dean, a fire equipment dealer from Springfield, Mass. He offered us what we needed and declared that we could pay him when we had the money. He located a 1938 Ford pumper for us in North Springfield, VT, which some members proceeded to drive back on trial. That very night, Jim Goodall's house caught on fire. The little pumper ran all night, and the next day we became the proud owners.

We were asked by Calais if we could provide protection for them. In the resulting contract, Calais would pay us \$150 per hour for one pumper, one tanker, and manpower. Since that time the arrangement between towns has shifted, with Calais now paying a share based on the department's call volume and receiving unlimited service. From the beginning, many of our firefighters were from Calais, and two of our past Chiefs, Lester Toby and Mike Garand, are Calais men.

Capital Mutual Aid was soon organized, and we became a member. This meant that we could call upon several other towns for assistance at emergency situations. In return, we offered assistance to our neighbors. Twenty eight towns are now members.

Every fire department needs a permanent heated home. After a couple of uncertain years in donated space, we built a station. Alice Chapell donated land on Templeton Road, and the town gave us \$5000 for materials. The summer of 1967 was a busy one as we put up our own station. In 1988, Station One was expanded, and now we have Station Two in East Village, thanks to space donated by Washington Electric Coop.

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

Prior to 1978, we were strictly a Fire Department, but we saw the need for medical and rescue services. Several people took Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. Others became Emergency Care Attendants (ECAs). These "first responders" made up our Fast Squad. We added a used rescue truck and later equipped it with the Jaws of Life, a hydraulic extrication tool. Today the Department has three times as many rescue calls as fire calls.

East Montpelier Fire and Rescue has, thanks to town support, become a well trained, well equipped organization. We average 30 members, with ongoing recruitment. We have a new pumper truck, a new rescue truck, two older pumpers, two tankers, and a brush truck.

Every fire department has triumphs and tribulations. We've saved many homes, but sometimes it is too late and causes us heartache. Our biggest loss was the early morning fire that claimed the life of our Assistant Chief, Bob Parker. But other emergencies end happily. In an earlier fire, a house on Chickering Road was engulfed in flame. Firefighter Gus Seelig entered the building only to disappear through the floor. Assistant Chief Parker reached down and with incredible strength hoisted Gus out, thus saving his life.

As East Montpelier and Calais grow, we see greater need for emergency services. We continue to meet changes in technology, equipment and skills. And - we even have our own web page: [www.sovernet.net/~emfd/](http://www.sovernet.net/~emfd/). Look us up!

### FIRE!! by Elliott Morse

The alarm goes off. You hurry to the fire station, jump into a truck, and speed to the site. As you drive, you are formulating a plan in your head. Now you're there, and smoke is already showing from the building, but your first job is to check for trapped occupants. You're remembering the terrible days before firefighters had self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs). Now with the outside personnel and fire lines ready, you can enter the building — never one person alone, but from two to four men wearing SCBAs. Inside there is a constant crackling and every little while the bang of something falling. Smoke is choking thick, and in the distance you can see a faint glow. The hose is advanced, a small fire is put out, and all the while you search for trapped victims. Thankfully there are none. Now the men can assess the situation and attack the fire.

Years ago, we responded to a Mutual Aid fire at the Capitol Apartments in Montpelier. This building had a very long corridor, and the far end apartment was burning. With no SCBAs, our general rule was to crawl on the floor beneath the smoke and use the hose lines for escape. Unfortunately this time a fireman from another department put water through a hole in the roof into the fire, forcing fire and smoke onto our men. Suddenly our world was black with choking smoke. Rule One — drop down, follow the hose line, and please, oh please, don't let go. Slowly, oh so slowly we made it to the outside fresh air. In this instance, the men had gotten so much smoke that they became physically sick. This is what fighting a fire is like.



Early photo of EMFD

### What does it cost to operate a small town Fire Department?

The East Montpelier Fire Department, unlike in many towns in Vermont, is private and must create its own budget. It receives town funds for its operating expenses (divided one quarter Calais, three quarters East Montpelier) but raises money itself for some of its equipment. Thus it depends on a number of fund raising projects conducted by the firefighters and its auxiliary.

Here are a few sample expenses:

- Insurance (over 2 million liability) - \$26,500/year
- Pagers for each member - \$400 each
- SCBAs - (they own 8) - \$3100 each
- Coat/boots/helmet for each - \$1800
- Dispatch service (Capital West) - \$6800/year (when you dial 911, it rings into the Montpelier F.D.)

- EMFD Chiefs - 1964-2001**
- Bob Simon
  - Elliott Morse
  - Lester Toby
  - Mike Garand
  - Jon Winston
  - Tom Brazier



## A FEW GOOD MEN - some of the leaders past and present

**Bob Simon**—It was at Bob's suggestion that the Department was formed in 1964. He was elected Chief at the organizational meeting and served for 16 years. Bob started with the Montpelier Fire Department in 1953, when he was still in high school, and stayed with that department until 1966. It was the organization of the Department and building the first station that gave Bob the greatest sense of accomplishment. He is very proud that, although the early days were difficult, the results were most rewarding.

**Tom Brazier** has been Chief of the Department since last year. He joined as a Junior Firefighter in 1973, having grown up close to the scene. His dad, Henry, has been a fireman since the early days. Tom's big plan for the F.D. is pre-planning for possible emergencies in the town's larger buildings, to know their layouts, observe likely hazards, figure escape routes, etc.

**Mike Garand** is Deputy Chief, a veteran of more than 29 years and has been Chief as well as almost every other job in the F.D. He notes that F.D.'s work includes structure fires, heavy rescue, vehicle accidents, search and rescue in the woods, EMS, water rescue, and "wild land fire suppression" (grass fires to us). Mike is from Calais and is also our town Road Foreman.

**Elliott Morse** was a charter member, along with Bob Parker, Henry Brazier, Bernard Corliss, (perhaps others; he wasn't sure, after 37 years). He became the second Chief, after Bob Parker's early years, is currently Assistant Chief, and has done most of the jobs. (Right now he provides the *Signpost's* link with F.D. archives.)

**Bill George** has been a firefighter for 32 years, about 24 of them in East Montpelier. Bill began as a "firefighter" and has moved up in the organization to Captain. He is also an instructor in fire science and teaches all over the state. He notes his other specialty as "paper work".

**Jon Winston** joined the F.D. in 1980 and filled many offices including Chief before Tom Brazier. He was for 10 years chair of the district EMT service. He feels that his specialty was to help bring a strong Emergency Medical component to the F.D. through the CVMC and also to research firefighting equipment and training.

## MORE GOOD MEN & WOMEN

### ROSTER 2001

Bill Amell  
John Audy Jr.  
Rick Barstow  
Michael Bliss  
Henry Brazier  
Tom Brazier  
Diana Chace  
Steve Chase  
Jay Copping  
Robin Copping  
Bernard Corliss  
Forest Davis  
Jerry Dodge  
Scott Doner  
Mike Garand  
Bill George  
Mitchell Graves  
Ron Holmquest  
Kevin Hudson

Karl Huoppi  
John Knudsen  
Elliott Morse  
Todd Parker  
Greg Pelchuck  
Kelley Pickel  
Kurt Poulin  
Ty Rolland  
Charles Sawyer  
Bill Schick  
Deborah Schick  
Earl Smith  
Toby Talbot  
Chris Tuller  
Jon Winston

Cole Bliss (Junior Firefighter)  
Cory Bliss (Junior Firefighter)

### AUXILLIARY 2001

Kathy Audy  
Betsy Barstow  
Rachel Bliss  
Lena Brazier  
Ann Brazier  
Edna Corliss  
Betty Davis  
Becky Dodge  
Laura Garand  
Julie George  
Debi Graves  
Bonnie Holmquest

June Knudsen  
Florence Morse  
Beth Parker  
Rose Pelchuck  
Helen Pickel  
Nancy Audette  
Robin Sawyer  
Kristi Smith  
Dale Schaft  
Debbie Tuller  
Suzanne Winston

EMFD—2001  
Photo by Toby Talbot



## ALL ABOUT TOWN

### VERMONT EARTH INSTITUTE PRESENTATION

Last March, Richard Czaplinski met with a group of interested people to discuss starting the Earth Institute's courses: "Voluntary Simplicity" and "Choices for Sustainable Living". A group did form and has met through the spring and early summer. They chose the second course, and plan to continue this fall with a course called "The Sense of Place".

On Wednesday, September 26 at 7 p.m., Richard will again be presenting an overview of Earth Institute discussion courses at the Four Corners School. Groups are self-directed and may choose when and where they will meet. The only cost is the \$15 for the course book which contains readings and questions for the eight sessions.

No matter how we live, there always seems to be more to learn about how to live more lightly on the earth. Please come, bring friends, and enjoy an evening of discussion. Richard may be reached at 229-4534 or email at [rczaplinski@madriver.com](mailto:rczaplinski@madriver.com).

### THE BELLS WERE RINGING

Every Town Clerk in the State received a copy of a resolution from the Secretary of State's Office declaring that on the 4th of July at 2:00 p.m. all bell ringers in Vermont should patriotically and enthusiastically sound their chimes or bells. On the 4th of July, Girl Scouts Hannah and Cassie Burley and Girl Scout Leader Ginny Burley came to the Town Office. They met with the Town Clerk, Sylvia Tosi, and the old school bell on top of entrance was rung. Mike Garand, our Road Foreman, had restrung a rope to the bell so it would ring.

The bell at the Old Brick Church was rung by Marion Codling and her sister, Doris Washburn. Doris was able to do a count of her clanging, 63 times — one for each of the original 13 states and 50 for each of the now existing states.

This resolution had been proposed by Junior Girl Scout Troop 161 of Hartland which presented it to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

### AND THE NEEDLES WERE CLICKING

Also, in the display case in the lobby of the town office building, Anne and Conrad Ormsbee have put in a display of old sewing equipment, sewing basket table as well as a display of a dress made many years ago. In addition, old laces, irons that you had to heat on the stove to be able to iron, as well as a darning egg and old threads are on display.

### TRAILS COMMITTEE

**Jamie Shanley, chair**

East Montpelier Trails recently opened the Esther Salmi Trail, a short spur connecting the Town Forest Trail (Fire Station to Haggett Rd.) with County Road. The trail runs east-west just south of Haggett Rd. and follows the VAST trail. It joins the Town Forest Trail at the new Esther Salmi memorial.

Together with the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers snowmobile club and with support from VAST, we also recently acquired a parcel of land at the trailhead on the railroad bed leading east from VT 14 south of East Montpelier village. This acquisition permanently protects access to this section of the Cross Vermont Trail. We are working closely with Cross Vermont on plans to extend the trail to join with the Montpelier section.

If you've been on the Sparrow Farm Trail lately, you know we have not been keeping up with the mowing. Yes, we need help, and equipment. If anyone has a walk-behind rotary brush hog or sickle-bar mower to donate or sell to the Trails group, we are interested. And/or- if someone could donate services to do the job with his/her equipment at least one time this summer, we'd appreciate it. We have about a half-mile section to mow. Some narrow passages make a walk-behind preferable to a tractor. Please contact Jamie Shanley, 223-4856.



### FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

*Rachel Senechal, President*

There were many rentals of the schoolhouse during the summer by various groups: for theater practice, a weavers group and a wedding. Town organizations have also met at the schoolhouse.

The Washington Central Supervisory Union will hold its Preschool and Playgroup program at the schoolhouse again this year from September 2001 to June 2002.

Elaine Manghi is scheduler. Please phone her at 229-5811 between 6 and 8 pm.

Next planned date for a Whist party is Saturday, Sept. 29th at 7 pm. Please phone Stanley Christiansen for details.

**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

Open Everyday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm  
1 mile north of E. Montpelier Village on Rt. 14 (follow signs)

We ship  
Anywhere

"A Quality  
Family  
Farm  
Shop"

802-223-5757

**BRAGG FARM**  
SUGARHOUSE  
& GIFT SHOP

Vermont  
Handicrafts  
Gifts  
Vermont  
Cheese  
Mail Order  
Maple Products

Enjoy our chocolate and maple creemees daily

## 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

**Meeting times are subject to change without notice**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

August 28	Start of school		EMES
August 28	Start of School		U-32
September 8	Rally Day	All day	All over town
September 8	Hazardous waste collection	10:00 am—1:00 pm	CV Transfer Station
September 26	Vt. Earth Institute presentation	7:00 pm	Four Corners School
September 29	Whist Party	7:00 pm	Four Corners School
October 13	Hazardous waste collection	10:00 am—1:00 pm	CV Transfer Station

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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

**Jean Cate, Publisher**  
223-2951 — {jwcate@sover.net}

**David Coburn, Layout/Design**  
223-6886 — {dcoburn@together.net}

**Anne Sherman, Business Mgr.**  
223-2693

**Dave/Darlene Grundy, Copy Editors**  
476-4300 — {ddgrundy@aol.com}

**Margaret Richey, News Editor**  
454-7862 — {margaret@richey.com}

**Sylvia Tosi, Town Records**  
223-3313 — {eastmont@together.net}

**Dawn Anderson, Mailing**  
229-0606 — {muhmza@cs.com}

**Brett Coburn, Photographer**  
223-6886 — {dcoburn@together.net}

**Janet MacLeod, Artist**  
223-2296 — {jmac9373s@aol.com}

**Janice Waterman, Features**  
223-5826 {gwnawaterman@cs.com}

Deadline for next issue: September 26 to M. Richey, 225 Butterfield Road, Plainfield, VT 05667

Printed on recycled paper with soybased ink

*East Montpelier Signpost*  
**315 Putnam Road**  
*East Montpelier, Vermont 05651*

*Return Service Requested*

Volume XII, No. 1  
September/October 2001

**INSIDE**

**FIRE!!**

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