

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XII, No. 4

March/April 2002

PARTNERS IN LIFE

Dick Saudek

Twenty-five years ago this reporter backed too quickly out of his East Montpelier driveway. Crunch! Luckily it wasn't too bad - a few pieces of cheap plastic from around the right tail-light of the passing middle-aged car. Slowly, deliberately, Bruce Bjornlund walked back and surveyed the damage. I was quick to apologize. Bjornlund scratched his chin. "They don't make 'em like that anymore." The tension relieved, Bjornlund drove off to his Waterbury law office to apply his fertile mind and dry humor to another day addressing the legal problems brought to a small-town lawyer.

Bruce arrived in Vermont for good 33 years ago, having been a camp counselor in South Hero and graduated from Middlebury College and Boston University Law School. After law school, he worked briefly for General Electric, then in the field of equal opportunity at a manufacturing company in Worcester, Mass., near the town of Holden, where he was raised. This qualified him for a job in the Administration of Governor Dean Davis, ultimately as Deputy Commissioner of Personnel.

In the summer of 1972, he hung out his shingle in Waterbury. "I figured in five years the town would develop nicely. It took 20, but we got there." Every day he rides to work with his black dog, Duffy, whom he adopted as a stray 17 years ago. Bruce relates that Duffy has an uncanny instinct for the merits of a potential client's case, and serves as a valued advisor on strategy.

Each spring Georgiana Miranda marks the end of the Montpelier mud season by donning a stylish hat. Since she arrived here 31 years ago, she has been a reassuring sight to people who emerge for the first really warm rays.

A native of Queens, NY, "George" is one of Vermont's preeminent specialists in education law. She worked her way through St. John's Law School in Brooklyn, after graduating from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore. In the late 1960's,

she served in the Queens County, NY, prosecutor's office and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Then, in 1969, she made the jump to Vermont, landing a job as the Assistant Attorney General specializing in education matters. From there, she joined the Montpelier firm of McKee, Giuliani and Cleveland, where she advises and represents schools and school boards on matters from special education to employment issues to harassment in school.

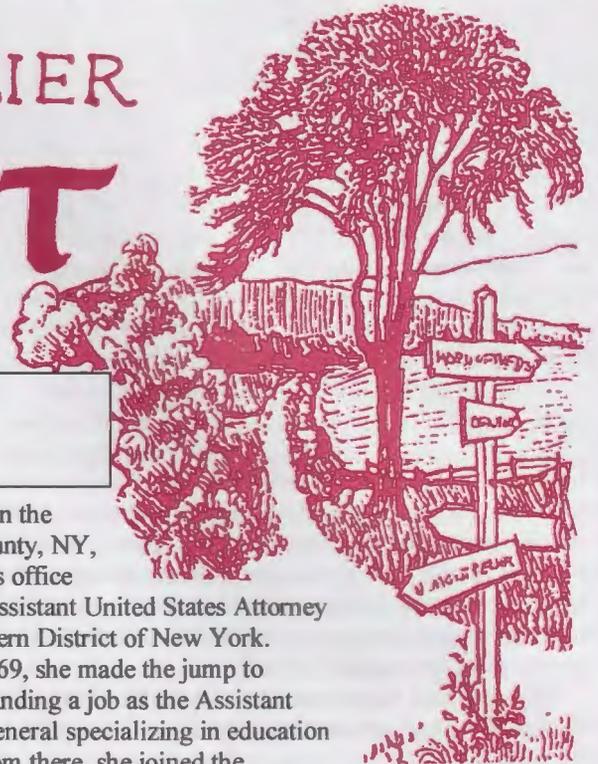
Bruce and Georgiana were married 30 years ago on a 25-below day in Stowe. They had been introduced the year before, appropriately, in the State law library by George's future law partner, Fred Cleveland. They have two sons, Niall, 27, and Kyle, 24. When asked about hobbies, they point to pictures of Niall's children, Cellia, six, and Ivan, four.

But grandparenting is hardly the whole story. As with many lawyers, Georgiana's travels mix business with pleasure. In recent years, she has attended a Symposium on Public Education Law at Oxford University in England for education leaders around the world which she found to be a fascinating glimpse into the problems and opportunities of educational systems in emerging nations. She regularly attends conferences of the

National Association of School Boards and will serve on a special national committee to study the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act ("IDEA"), which was originally sponsored by Vermont Senator Robert Stafford and has been the subject of controversy in recent Senate debates.

At the Bjornlund home on Dodge Road, George tends impressive perennial gardens that grace the rock outcroppings

(Continued on page 2)



Top of the Signpost

There's no time in the year when we are as focused on our town as during this month before Town Meeting. The Town Office is a-buzz, petitions are circulating and our town officers are boning up on the issues which will be discussed on March 5. It's the best show in town. I hope each of you plans to take part.

As we reflect on what makes our town a great place to live, it's fun to come at it from a different angle. How much do our villages provide services that make our lives easier? Almost within the lifetimes of our older citizens, East and North Montpelier were the vital sources of food, clothing, tools and a variety of other needs. Gradually we have all switched to Montpelier and Barre for those needs. All because of our cars!

It is unlikely that we will ever return to that local dependency, but it's interesting to see what rich resources are still available to us today. Besides the Post Offices, each of our

and lawns. However, one of her most prized plants is indoors -- a night-blooming cereus whose blossoms, each of which lasts only one night, unfold in a spectacular and fragrant array just a few days each summer. Until recently, her year-round activities included regular rides on spirited horses, including one appropriately named Red Pepper.

Bruce, whose father came as a boy to the United States from Sweden, flies the Swedish flag under Old Glory and is a world and Vermont history buff with shelves crammed with biographies and accounts of historical figures and events. He is an active trustee of the Vermont Children's Aid Society, which provides adoption help and a range of other services to Vermont children. He has also been on the Board of the Center for Northern Studies, a Vermont-based program that conducts research projects in northern parts of the world, such as Alaska and Northern Mongolia.

Of particular interest to East Montpelier residents is Bruce's service as Town Attorney, a function he has performed since 1985. Here, he sees a constant diet of zoning and development questions, mixed in with a broad spectrum of other work. He remarks that attention seems to be shifting to off-road development, so questions affecting matters like rights-of-way and curb cuts have become more common. He recalls particularly having ushered the Town through one lawsuit that stretched from 1992 to 1997 and involved an East Montpelier landowner who sued virtually all the Town's officers. One satisfaction was that the court ordered the party who brought the suit to pay the Town's attorney's fees.

Dick Saudek lives with his family on Dodge Road. He practices law with the Montpelier firm of Cheney, Brock & Saudek.

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.

Richard and Alice Agney
Fairmont Farms
The Nist Family

Frederick and Nancy Strong

Gail England
Barbara Fitch
Mabel Wright

villages has a thriving general store. A home building center has saved many trips to town. We can fuel our cars locally. There is a wide variety of local services such as the one featured in this issue that provide expertise without long distances. Sadly, we've just lost the local garage which many of us depended on. Any chance someone would move in to replace it? And wouldn't it be nice to have a small local restaurant or cafe we could enjoy when we feel like eating out?

What is the bottom line? Every time we use local services, we enrich our town's economy and hence its vitality. Every local purchase saves time and gas. Maybe we would even walk more, especially if the villages provided sidewalks. Sounds like win-win, doesn't it?

Jean Cate

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Recreation Board is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March, 30, on the school grounds and at the Rec Field. Hot chocolate, cider and treats for all will be provided. Two age groups for the Easter Egg hunt: up to 2nd graders, 3-5th grade. Come celebrate this with us and hopefully the beginning of spring too! More details available through the school as the date approaches.

GOOD NEWS!

The staff of your *Signpost* is happy to report that Janet MacLeod is now at home and progressing nicely. She is well enough to take up her duties with the *Signpost*, and we all wish her continued recovery.

YOU THINK WINTERS ARE TOUGH THESE DAYS...

check out the display window in the Town Office.

Conrad & Anne Ormsbee have set up a display of what winters used to be in Town. It shows pictures of a horse drawn snow roller, old snowplows, and other snow equipment such as a shovel and mittens from yesteryears.



CHURCH BELLS



OLD BRICK CHURCH

Interim Pastor, Angelo Tillas
Sunday Services at 10:00 am

OLD MEETING HOUSE

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

Worship, Sunday School and Child Care 9:30 am

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Bob Walton

Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 am



THINGS ARE HAPPENING



KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY *Hilari Farrington, Director*

East Montpelier Historical Society Tours Library

We were delighted to host the January meeting of the East Montpelier Historical Society, scheduled appropriately in the East Montpelier room of the library. It was daunting to be faced with such a knowledgeable group of historians, but I did my best to offer a brief history of the library and the building. As we toured the expanded and restored 1896 Italian-style granite structure, it was interesting to hear a number of people recount their own memories of the changes that have taken place at the library over the years.

The new Marion Gray Vermont Room naturally generated some interest, and we hope to get a number of suggestions from our historians on how to develop the library's collection of Vermont history materials. We are also hoping that the society might be willing to help us locate copies of old East Montpelier photos which can be framed and hung in the East Montpelier Room. Thanks to all who turned out on a snowy evening, and to Elaine Manghi who helped me with refreshments

Education Doesn't Have to Cost a Bundle

You don't have to register for a college course to continue your education. The library is now offering free educational programs throughout the year with the help of a Library Incentive Grant from the Freeman Foundation. All of these programs are open to the public and everyone is welcome. For information, call Ali White at the library, 223-3338.

Tax Forms at the Library

It's tax time again, and if you have ever found yourself lost in the IRS phone system while trying to order the tax forms you need, look no further. The Kellogg-Hubbard Library has a large collection of IRS forms and tax publications available to the public in the display area of the Frances Holmes Room. There's a photocopy machine nearby and even some study tables where you can work on your taxes away from home!

Regular Library Hours

- Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- (Children's Library closes at 5:30 daily except on Thursdays).

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

HISTORY EXPO 2002

The Historical Society will present the story of Medal of Honor winner William Noyes in the Town's display at the Expo in Tunbridge this June. They would appreciate the participation of anyone interested in local history and the Civil War. Assistance is needed on the design and production of the display and staffing the booth. Artifacts from the period are being sought.

If you would like to join in this interesting endeavor, contact Elliott Morse, 223-6279 or David Coburn, 223-6886. The Society will be discussing this project at its regular meetings over the next four months. It meets at 7:00 pm in the Four Corners Schoolhouse on the third Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome.

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC CO-OP

RECEIVES GRANT FOR WIND ENERGY PROJECT

In November, Congressman Bernie Sanders announced that he had secured funding which will allow Washington Electric Co-op to develop a wind generation site in the Central Vermont area. The \$1 million grant will enable WEC to meet its three objectives for new energy supply: being renewable, affordable and, when possible, close to home.

Over the next several months, Washington Electric Co-op will be in the planning stages of the project. Later in 2002, work will begin with wind measurement experts to screen sites, including some already being considered by private wind energy developers. Hopefully, within a year, they will have selected a site and some development partners. Vermonters in general want to support the development of renewable energy.

A larger article about this project will appear in a later issue of the *Signpost*.

How Good Are East Montpelier Roads?

Thanks to a recent study, funded by a grant from the Vermont Better Backroads program, consultants Robert Merchant and Joe Landry, working with Road Foreman Mike Garand, made a computerized study of 89 roadway sections on the town's 59 miles of Class 2 and 3 highways. They checked the roads on eight different categories, from surface roughness to potholes, from dust conditions to asphalt cracking.

The assessment showed our roads to be in good condition and identified areas where capital improvements can be made. All this computerized information will be useful to Garand in planning and estimating costs of maintenance and future road projects.

Meanwhile, though this has been far from a traditional winter season, the need to keep our roads open despite almost daily snow showers has meant that, as of January 25, road crews had worked for 39 days without a day off!

Wes Cate

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

Rachel Senechal, President

- >Plans for change of location of ramp has been approved by Zoning Board of Adjustment. Plan to move the ramp in April.
- >For use of building, please call Elaine Manghi between 6 and 8 pm at 229-5811.

The Riverbend Country Store

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MILESTONES

Births

>Bree-Anna Nichole Day, born October 29, 2001, daughter to Mary Ellen and Christopher C. Day.

Deaths

>Charles Ralph Towne, died November 2, 2001, spouse of Anna Towne.
>Ronald J. Woodward, died November 27, 2001, spouse of Geneva Woodward.

Land Transfers

>Arthur F. Heitman, Estate of, to Peter Heitmann, 16.61 acres & dwelling, Gallison Hill Rd.
>Robert J.Kerr Jr. and Susan B. Kerr to Gloria J. Walker, mobile home, Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park.
>Robert & Jolinda LaClair to David & Elizabeth Swenson, 21.35 acres, VT 14.
>Robert & Jolinda LaClair to David & Elizabeth Swenson, 1.96 acres & dwelling, VT 14.

SELECTBOARD

Tom Brazier, Chair
Tim Meehan, Edie Miller

November 26, 2001

>Moved to place Kellogg-Hubbard Library request for \$6,290 on warning.

December 3, 2001

>Mike Garand presented budget for 2002.
>Mike Garand and Robert Merchant of Guertin, Elkerton & Associates, Inc. discussed roadways needing improvement. Muddy Brook Road is in poor condition.

December 19, 2001

>Determined salary adjustments.
>Discussed proposed Porter Subdivision. Will inform PC of concerns.

January 7, 2002

>Fire Department President John Audy presented Fire Department Budget. Five new members joined Dept. in 2001, a Junior League was added, a tanker purchased and the Dept. is using more space at Washington Electric property.
>Reviewed draft budget.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Claudia Bristow, Chair

December 10, 2001

>Granted variance to Four Corner Schoolhouse for a dimensional variance to relocate and expand the handicap ramp.

January 14, 2002

>Hearing on Casella Waste Management Conditional Use Permit. This would allow Casella to increase their current 26,000 tons per year to 40,000 tons. Would not affect current limit of 120 tons holding limit. **Approved** with conditions of reviewing application every other year.
>Steven and Janet Noyes seeking conditional use permit to replace a former well house with a 22 x 58 foot storage shed on their property, the Home Center. Site visit planned.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Welch, Chair

November 15, 2001

>Approved sketch plan of Grace Mekkel-sen to divide 50.3 acres from her 113.75 acre property on Cherry Tree Hill Road. She has applied for a building permit.
>Reviewed Act 250 application of John Southgate of Southgate Steeplejacks to build a 3,500 sq. ft. commercial building on Richard Casavant's property. Will encourage this use for the site. Will send a letter to the Act 250 District Commission to express concern about adequate parking and request that septic plan be adequate.

December 6, 2001

>Public Hearing for Amended Setbacks Regulations. Voted to submit amended regulations to Selectboard.
>Approved Final Plat Review for two-lot subdivision on Cherry Tree Hill Road by Grace Mekkel-sen.

December 20, 2001

>Approved sign permit application of Stephen Jerome.
>Approved preliminary plan of Hodgeman subdivision.
>Will call a public hearing on January 17. Concerns over proposed road near Quaker and Tinkham Cemeteries.

January 3, 2002

>Approved Southgate application with conditions.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

October 29, 2001

>FY03 budget and program presentations were made by several staff members.
>Adopted Transportation Policy and Bus Discipline Policy.

November 1, 2001

>Heard more presentations regarding FY03 Budget.
>Sarah Kinter requested partial funding for ELF program.
>Jamie O'Hare and Michael Berry presented information on a full day kindergarten program.
>Agreed to submit application to State for partial funding of woodchip storage building.
>John Connor gave report of Capital Improvement Committee. There is a possibility of federal grant money available for health and safety improvements to schools.

November 15, 2001

>Discussed several possible budgets and the percentage of increase in tax rate for each.

December 6, 2001

>Reviewed Draft #3 of budget.
>Discussed paraprofessional issues.
>Classrooms are conducting annual food shelf collection.

HELP WANTED

The Recreation Board is looking for a person to do field maintenance two to three times a year. Duties include brush hogging and fence line trimming. There will be some other jobs to do at various times of year.

Interested persons please contact Ginger Hopkins at 229-4375 or send letter of interest c/o Town Office, PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

Update on www.schoolpop.com

You may remember this great fund raising idea. When you shop on line at certain sites (JC Penney, eBay, The Gap, LLBean and others) a portion of the purchase price is donated to EMES. So far we have earned \$47.03. If you haven't tried it yet, why not give it a go?





U-32 JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
*Tony Klein, Chair &
Ginny Burley, East Montpelier members*

November 7, 2001

- >Heard from Jon Winston on progress of construction.
- >Approved bid for kitchen and service line work using building fund money and some from food service surplus.

November 20, 2001

- >Initial discussion of FY 2003 budget. Will be first budget to reflect use of new facility.
- >David Bazis presented the carved birdseye and walnut Gahagan Plaque, featuring a carved hummingbird motif.
- >Heard comprehensive explanation of U-32's assessment results. U-32 scores are higher than state and national averages.

December 5, 2001

- >Social Studies and Foreign Language Departments have moved to new classrooms upstairs.
- >Approved Tobacco and Medications Policies.

December 19, 2001

- >Jon Winston reported construction going as scheduled and overall budget looks good. Food service re-work will be done during holiday break. Anticipated move in date for inside of building is third trimester. Outside landscaping will occur in spring and summer.
- >Approved purchase of up to 50 desktop computers at \$499 each.
- >Approved coaches for Middle School Intramural Basketball Program.

Report of EMES Capital Improvement Committee
by Michelle McFadden

The Capital Improvement Committee of the East Montpelier Elementary School has recommended that the EMES directors seek funding for two construction projects. The committee, charged last year with evaluating the school building's needs, has completed a community-wide survey and compiled a list of required improvements. Health and safety improvements have been narrowed down to five urgent items. This list includes adding hot water feeds and faucets to the bathrooms outside the gymnasium, replacing the original motors in eleven heating units (one of which caught fire last year), additional emergency lighting as required by the Fire Marshall, exterior lighting over the main entry doors and new sheet vinyl flooring to replace some of the carpet.

The estimated cost for these improvements is \$77,958. The Vermont State Department of Education has approved construction aid for this project of 30%, or \$23,327, pending completion of the required paper work. A one-time, federal grant for health and safety improvements is available this year for an additional 35%. If awarded, the federal grant will provide an additional \$27,285, bringing the town's share to 35% of the construction project, or approximately \$27,285.

Although state law requires the bond warning for the entire construction project, we are planning on this federal and state aid to greatly reduce the community's cost of these health and safety improvements.

A second construction project has been proposed by the Wood Chip Committee from the elementary school. The school has been unable to use its dual-

fuel furnace because we do not have the capacity to store more than one-half a truck load of wood chips at one time. Wood chips are available in only full truck loads; the school relies solely on oil heat. The committee recommends constructing a building, with a ten foot deep concrete foundation, to house the full truckloads of wood chips, and the mechanical system to move the wood chips to the furnace. The cost of the project is estimated at \$143,050. The Vermont State Department of Education has approved construction aid for this project at 50%, pending proper completion of the required paperwork. This "renewable energy" construction aid will reduce the cost of the project to \$71,525. A proposed gift of \$20,000 from the Town Forest Committee would further reduce the cost of construction to \$51,525. With this federal and town assistance, and, assuming a cost of \$32 per ton for wood chips and a cost of \$1.03 per gallon of oil, it would take approximately nine and one-half years to break even on the investment. Again, state law requires the bond warning for the entire cost of the project. However, we are planning on state aid and the town gift to significantly reduce the cost of this construction project.

The Capital Improvement Committee urges a favorable vote for these two important projects. State and federal funding may not be available next year. If you have any questions regarding the health and safety construction project, please contact Michelle McFadden at 476-7682. Please call John Connor at 229-1416 with any questions regarding the proposed wood chip facility.

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TOWN MEETING DOINGS



TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER TOWN MEETING

March 5, 2002

East Montpelier Elementary School on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 9:30 am.
New this year-The School Meeting will be held before the Town Meeting
Australian Ballot voting 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

The following articles will be presented and voted upon:

1. To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year. (To be voted by Australian Ballot). [See Box]
2. To hear the reports of several Town Officers and to act thereon.
3. To have all taxes paid to the Treasurer, without discount, on real estate, as provided by law, received at the East Montpelier Municipal Building, on or before 5:00 pm, Friday, November 15, 2002.
4. To authorize the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of taxes.
5. To raise the sum of \$741,688.84 as proposed by the Selectboard, for laying out and repairing highways and for other necessary Town expenses. (To be voted by Australian Ballot).
6. To appropriate \$95,000.00 for the Capital Reserve Fund. (To be voted by Australian Ballot).
7. To authorize the Selectboard to expend \$30,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund to build a Salt Shed adjacent to the Town Garage. (To be voted by Australian Ballot).
8. To appropriate \$6,290.00 for Kellogg-Hubbard Library for General Operating expenses during 2002.
9. To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$5,000.00 to the East Montpelier Cemetery Commission for the support and maintenance of town cemeteries during 2002.
10. To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$4,830.00 for the Four Corner Schoolhouse Association 2002 operating expenses.
11. To appropriate the amounts listed below as recommended by the Town's Funding Request Study Committee, or what other amounts, for the following organizations:

a	Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice Agency	\$2,600
b	Central Vermont Community Action Council	400
c	Vermont Center for Independent Living	200
d	Washington County Youth Services Bureau.	400
e	Central Vermont Council on Aging	1,100
f	Retired Senior Volunteer Program	275
g	Battered Women's Services & Shelter	675
h	CVTA Wheels	400
i	Green Up Vermont	100
j	U-32 Project Graduation	200
k	People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Inc	500
l	Washington County Court Diversion Program	150
m	Vt. Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	100
n	Woman Centered	250
o	Twin Valley Senior Center .	400
p	Onion River Arts Council	200
	Total.	\$7,950
12. To expend funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the East Montpelier Elementary School woodchip storage facility. Dollar source -Town Forest. (To be voted by Australian Ballot).
13. To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$9,999.00 to add to the existing Conservation Fund.
14. To appropriate the sum of \$4,050.00 in a one time allocation to provide Hepatitis B inoculations for all members of the East Montpelier Fire Department.
15. To appropriate the sum of \$5,400.00 in a one time appropriation to provide physical exams and respiratory exams for all members of the East Montpelier Fire Department to comply with National Fire Protection Association requirements.
16. To exempt from taxation the so-called former railroad station property on Route 14 now owned by East Montpelier Trails, Inc. and East Montpelier Gully Jumpers Inc.
17. To authorize the Selectboard to expend funds from the Town Forest Fund for other purposes than Town Forest maintenance and expenses.
18. To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

See the Town Report for articles to be voted on at the School Meeting

NAMES TO BE PRINTED ON THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

School—Town Meeting - Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Australian Ballot Voting 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

U-32 Australian Ballot voting will also take place at the same times.

OFFICE FILED FOR:

MODERATOR for 1 year
 SELECTMAN for 3 years.
 LISTER for 3 years.
 AUDITOR for 2 years.
 AUDITOR for 3 years.
 TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS for 3 years
 TOWN LAW AGENT for 1 year
 TOWN GRAND JUROR for 1 year
 FIRST CONSTABLE for 1 year
 SECOND CONSTABLE for 1 year
 PLANNING COMMISSIONER for 3 years
 (Vote for not more three)

MARTY MILLER
 TOM BRAZIER
 ROSENDO CUETO
 DEBORAH FILLION
 TRACY M. PHILLIPS
 VIRGINIA HOPKINS
 DENNIS CARVER
 TIM CARVER
 DENNIS CARVER
 TIMOTHY MEEHAN
 "LYN" BLACKWELL
 TIM CARVER
 RICHMOND "RICK" HOPKINS
 REAL OUMET
 KENNETH SANTOR
 PAULINE COBURN
 JANICE ALDRICH
 STUART FRIEDMAN
 NANCY THOMAS
 TONY KLEIN

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER for 5 years
 SCHOOL DIRECTOR for 3 years.
 (Vote for not more than one)
 SCHOOL DIRECTOR for 2 years
 U-32 SCHOOL DIRECTOR for 3 years

Ed. note: This is for information only. Consult the Town Warning as posted and in the Town Report for the official language.

Note: Justices of the Peace will be elected in the November election. Each party may nominate candidates. The town voted at the last town meeting to elect ten justices instead of seven as in the past.

A FEW LOGISTICS

- ◆ The Fire Dept Auxiliary will have coffee and donuts available in the morning.
- ◆ The 8th graders are going to provide babysitting as part of their efforts to raise money for a trip to Washington, D.C.
- ◆ There will be a pot-luck lunch at noon (or there about). If you want to take advantage of this always wonderful social and culinary experience, bring a dish sufficient to feed four times the number in your party. Contact Rachel Grossman 223-3177.

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN/SCHOOL FORUM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2002

9:30 am at the East Montpelier Elementary School

- ◆ The Citizens of East Montpelier are invited to attend a Public Hearing and Informational Meeting concerning Australian Ballot Articles and other Warned Articles for the March 5, 2002, Town and School Meeting.
- ◆ Candidates for Town and School Offices will be introduced.
- ◆ This will be the only opportunity to discuss the Town Budget as this is voted on by Australian Ballot.
- ◆ The School District items will be discussed first followed by the Warned Articles and Town issues.

A TURN-KEY OPERATION THE BIGELOW GARAGE DOOR SALES AND SERVICE

NORMA RAYMOND

I called it my lucky day when I found the Bigelow Garage Doors ad in our local paper. I had needed the services of an expert for several months, but had no idea there was a professional right here in our midst in East Montpelier. When I called that evening, Matt Bigelow said he would be there in the morning. He showed up, and I proceeded to tell him that I expected any day to push the remote and the door would not move. That would be acceptable if the car were on the outside, but what a dilemma I would be in if the service had to come from many miles away and I had an appointment that day.



Matt took his ladder and tools out of the truck, climbed up, and began to scrutinize every part. I explained that when I drove up to the garage the door would not open until the bumper was almost touching it, and one day the handle caught the number plate and folded it as slick as if it were a piece of paper. He found that the antenna was tucked up into the box that runs the whole operation.

Next time you read your evening paper look for the ad that says, "Bigelow Garage Doors, The Common Sense Company, Sales Installation, Service, Any brand repaired. Residential - Commercial - Industrial."

Matt Bigelow has been servicing the industry since 1974. He owns the business doing servicing, which he calls his specialty, in the local area but also sells and retrofits doors and electric operators. He refers to it as a "turn-key" operation. He has been called by the Central Vermont Hospital, Rock-of-Ages, International Stone, City of Montpelier, State of Vermont, Town of East Montpelier and fire departments.

Matt and his wife, Janet, make a great team. She handles all the bookwork, incoming calls and much of the scheduling and job quotes, while Matt is on the road installing or servicing garage doors and electric operators. She even installed doors with Matt from 1980 until late in 1993, when she was too pregnant with her twins to do it any longer. Janet worked at L. Brown & Sons Printing from 1993 until June 2001.

As I sat down to write a check, I asked Matt about his personal background. He and Janet are from Vermont. Matt grew up in Sherburne and Janet in Leicester. He started

working with a door company at age seventeen in Rutland. Soon after their marriage, Matt and Janet started their own garage door sales and service. By 1983, they had two daughters: Tina who lives and works in Rutland with Randy and two children, Randall (8) and Ashley (2) and Stacie who lives and works in Plattburgh with Ryan. Very soon they were expecting a third child. Just twenty minutes before delivery on 12/1/83, the doctor found out through x-rays that there would be twins. Heidi and Kristen were born a month early, and Janet found herself surrounded by four little girls. The twins are now seniors at U-32. Krissy and Heidi will finish their senior year this March and graduate in June. They currently work at Minuteman Press and plan to attend college this fall.

The family moved to East Montpelier in 1993 and settled in on VT 14 across from the Bragg farm. In fact, they have a "little" farm where one can watch the antics of newborn lambs each spring. Along with six ewes, three dogs, five cats and two rabbits, Janet takes much joy in the labor and fruits of two gardens. She works out of their nicely furnished office in the home. When you call, you most likely will talk to Janet.

On April 1, 1997, Matt and Janet decided to start sugaring in their back woods. They started out with 11 buckets, a blue tarp strung between trees, two chairs, a big pot and a small outdoor fire to boil down the sap. It was a lot of work but a lot more fun. Over the summer the idea of a two-sided, dirt floor shack came up. They built a 12 x 16, 4-sided, wood floor camp with a barrel stove that is used for sugaring. The beams, rafters and framework are from trees they cut with bark peeled off and hand hewn to fit. It's a year round get-away where the five cats follow them up the trail through the woods to camp. They love watching the deer and turkeys. The camp now has a bedroom added on and a living room and deck. Its name is "Sweet Retreat". They now tap about 60 trees.

Since my garage door was serviced, I now push the remote from 50 feet away and the door goes up. I told a friend about Matt Bigelow and he answered, "We use him all the time. He is good and knows his business." I doubt that Matt would answer a call to service an old-fashioned barn door that the wind has taken off its hinges but I'm sure you would be happy with his service on any later model. Try him.

Norma Raymond has been Collector of Delinquent Taxes for East Montpelier since 1986. She has lived for 53 years on Town Hill Road.

BIGELOW GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE

The Common Sense Company

Experience since 1974

Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Matt & Janet Bigelow

East Montpelier, VT

e-mail Bigelowjam@aol.com

PHONE 802-229-5489

PAGER 802-826-2273

MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Wed.	7:00 pm Town Office
Planning Commission	1st & 3rd Thr.	7:00 pm Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Mon.	7:30 pm Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thr.	7:30 pm Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tue.	7:00pm Fire Station, Templeton Rd
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed.	6:30pm U-32 High School
Elementary School Board	1st Thr.	6:30 pm Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon.	7:00 pm Town Office
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assn.	2nd Wed.	7:00 pm Four Corners Schoolhouse

Meeting times are subject to change

EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

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 Office Hours: M-Th 9-5, F 9-12 noon
 Phone: 223-3313
 Email: eastmont1@adelphia.net



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 Asst. Clerk-Treasurer - Pauline Coburn
 Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins
 Administrative Assistant - Marlene Betit
 W & Th 9-5, Tu 1-5
 Lister—Rosie Cueto
 M-F 9-11:30
 Zoning Administrator—Gene Troia
 Tu & Th 3:30-5

EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb. 23	Last day to register to vote for Town Meeting	10 am to 12 noon	Town Clerk's Office
Feb 23	School—Town Forum	9:30 am	Elementary School
March 5	School—Town Meeting Day	9:30 am Voting 7 am to 7 pm	Elementary School
March 18	East Montpelier Historical Society	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
March 21	Rabies Clinic—\$7.00 per animal	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Fire Station in East Village (454-7147)
April 1	Last day to license dogs	by 5:00 pm	Town Clerk's Office
April 15	East Montpelier Historical Society	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

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Bigelow Doors

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