

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Volume XIII, No. 1

September/October 2002

## RALLY DAY — SEPTEMBER 14

It's that time of year again! The Rally Day Committee has put together an action-packed day for all ages at the East Montpelier Elementary School and several other locations around town. The fun happens on Saturday, September 14th.

### New Activities plus Old Favorites!

Start your day off right with **breakfast** offered by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department. Then join a group of **bicyclists** for a leisurely ride. This year's running/walking races will be **relays** and **obstacle courses** at the rec field. Call Mark and Sue Stephen at 223-6256 with questions.

Looking for something less strenuous? East Montpelier makers and growers will be selling homemade and homegrown wares in the **Farmers Market/Craft Show**. Call Jennifer Boyer at 223-8926 for more information and to rent a space for \$10.00 (only \$5.00 for high school or younger).

Shutterbugs, display your work in the **Photo Contest**. New category this year: Rally Day photos! Other categories include Close-ups; Scenics; Friends, Family and Neighbors; Pets; and Gardens. Bring your entries to the school gym from 8:30 to 10:00, and remember to cast votes for your favorites. Winners will be posted at 2:00.

March, ride, or drive in the annual **Home Grown Parade** from the Four Corners Schoolhouse to the Elementary School. Call your neighbors and make a float! See who will be Citizen of the Year! Kids bring your bikes to the decorating area to make them parade-ready. Call Hobie Guion at 223-1808 with any questions.

Decorate veggies on-site, or bring your best-dressed spuds from home. Express yourself and enter the **Vegetable Decorating Contest**. We need surplus vegetables for this event, so call Janet Allen at 223-0931 to donate those giant zucchinis.

In addition to the popular inflated jumping gym, the Fire Department will conduct tours of the "**House of Hazards**." Learn how to survive a smoky fire and other important tips in this educational fire safety exhibit for all ages.

**Lunch** will be cooked on-site by members of the Crossroads Christian Church. While you eat, listen to home-grown **Live Music** featuring Colin McCaffrey, and more. Then work off that meal in one of the **Family Soccer** games that start

at 1:30. Or meet over at the Four Corners Schoolhouse for a **Memory Hour** devoted to local Civil War connections. Other fun activities include preschool and elementary age **lawn games** and a bubble pool. And everyone is invited to help out with the **Community Art Project**, part of a permanent "Kids First" sculpture to be erected in front of the school.

Green thumbs may want to join the **Daylily Planting** and tea party at the Town Offices. To donate plants, call Ruth Frost at 223-6892. Ready for another adventure? Head over to **Morse Farm** where Burr will be showing off the new ski touring trails (on foot, of course!) at 3:30.

For those of us who want to relax and share some quiet activities with our neighbors, there will be a new **Cozy**

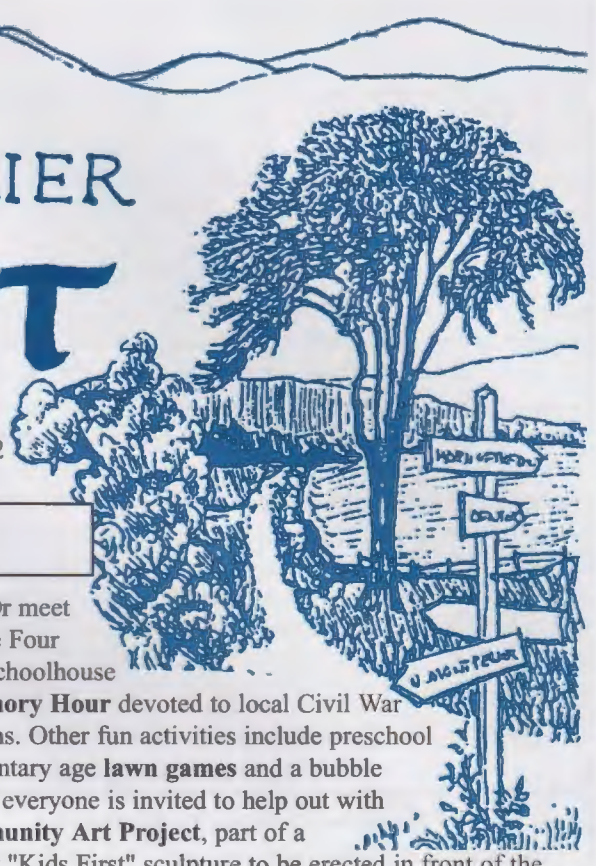
**Corner Cafe** in the gym featuring puzzles, Scrabble, card games, and live music by Hilari Farrington and Benedict Koehler. Throughout the day, remember to stop in and bid on items at the **Signpost Auction**. It's for a good cause: the printing and mailing of the *Signpost*. There's a special section for bidders aged 12 and under.

To donate goods or services, please call Deborah Fillion at 229-1320.

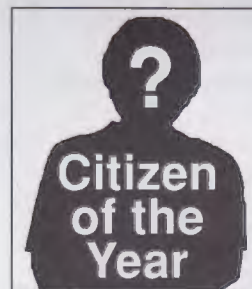
Getting hungry? The Old Brick Church will again offer their **Ham Supper**. Call 223-5705 to make reservations. Then, back by popular demand, everyone can enjoy the talent **Variety Show** in the gym at 6:30, followed by ice cream and drinks. Please call Shawn Davidian at 223-7011 or Rachael Grossman at 223-3177 if you want to take the stage and shine.

All this is topped off with **Fireworks** by Northstar at 9:00. Thanks to Dave and DeeDee Swenson! Look for your Rally Day Schedule with your tax bills in the mail, and join the fun!

For more on Rally Day - see Page 3



Clever  
Veggies!



## TOP OF THE *SIGNPOST*

It always gives me a bit of a buzz to complete one volume of the *Signpost* and launch a new one. Nothing, however, in the past twelve years has compared with the excitement our team feels in sending this Number One of Volume XIII to your mailboxes.

I think you may have already sensed the difference - this issue is larger. We have expanded the *Signpost* by four pages, which allows us to include such new features as writing by and about the young people in our two schools. We hope to cover some of the organizations whose requests for financial backing appear at Town Meeting each year, focusing on their particular services to East Montpelier. We can use more pictures, both photographs and Janet's clever drawings. And there are other items of history and interest to our townspeople which will appear from time to time.

Of course all these additions aren't in this Number One of Volume XIII - it takes time and a few additional people to develop them. But do watch for them.

What moved us to enlarge the *Signpost*? We've published an eight page paper for twelve years, and you have told us that you are using it as a link to town activities. People are now checking on our deadlines, so they may include scheduled information. Some folks even comment on a particular feature and tell us they liked it, though you'd be surprised how little feedback we receive.

The looks of the *Signpost* may change, but everything we are doing is still directed at the same goal: keeping us all in touch with what's going on. The day that we cease to serve that mission, we will go out of business. But believe me, changing our size and layout is something of an adventure for us. As we launch into this new venture, we can only know whether it pleases you, our readers, if you let us know. Would you please call, e-mail or write any one of the folks whose names are in the box at the bottom of this page and say "Go for it" or "Forget it" or "Here is an idea which you might like to use". We would SO much appreciate hearing from you.

Jean Cate

"Thank you" to these loyal supporters

The *Signpost* welcomes contributions. Any amount would be gratefully received, \$5, \$10, \$25, even \$50.

Geneva Woodward

Marion Codling

Augustine and Alberta Pacini

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do you have a son or daughter going to college, a mom or dad who are now living in Florida? Would they like to stay in touch with what's happening in East Montpelier? Send the *Signpost*! Or maybe it's you who are headed elsewhere. Subscribe for yourself. New and renewal subscriptions are \$15.00 per year.

Send payment with recipient's name and address to:

Anne Sherman

*The Signpost*, 315 Putnam Road

East Montpelier, VT 05651

Contributions go to the same address. And we thank you.

### BUSINESS CARD ADS

The size is 3.664 by 2 inches. (The size of this box)

A pre-printed business card can be used as long as any image and text are clear and distinct.

We will set your ad at no additional charge if you provide the text and some indication on how it should be presented. If you want a graphic, it must be clear, distinct and accompanied with a diagram of how it is to be used and the desired size and location.

### BUSINESS CARD ADS

New and renewal ads are \$20/issue or \$100 year. See the box above for general information. Call (223-6886) or email ([dacoburn@adelphia.net](mailto:dacoburn@adelphia.net)) David Coburn for more details. He will send you a form with full instructions on how to order.

## EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Published six times a year; mail free of charge to all residents of East Montpelier

**Jean Cate, Publisher**

223-2951 - {[jwcate@sover.net](mailto:jwcate@sover.net)}

**Dave/Darlene Grundy, Copy Editors**

476-4300 {[ddgrundy@aol.com](mailto:ddgrundy@aol.com)}

**Dawn Anderson, Mailing**

229-0606 {[muhmza@cs.com](mailto:muhmza@cs.com)}

**Rob/Rhoda Chickering, Special Items**

229-5005 {[rhcic@sover.net](mailto:rhcic@sover.net)}

**David Coburn, Layout/Design**

223-6886 - {[dacoburn@adelphia.net](mailto:dacoburn@adelphia.net)}

**Margaret Richey, News Editor**

454-7862 {[margaret@richey.com](mailto:margaret@richey.com)}

**Elaine Manghi, Photographer**

229-5811 {[maplenutbread@hotmail.com](mailto:maplenutbread@hotmail.com)}

**Janice Waterman, Features**

223-5826 {[gmnawaterman@cs.com](mailto:gmnawaterman@cs.com)}

**Anne Sherman, Business Manager**

223-2693

**Sylvia Tosi, Town Records**

223-3313 {[eastmont1@adelphia.net](mailto:eastmont1@adelphia.net)}

**Janet MacLeod, Artist**

223-2296 {[janetmac@sover.net](mailto:janetmac@sover.net)}

**Ellen Knoedler, EMES Contact**

223-6931 {[eknoedler@u32.org](mailto:eknoedler@u32.org)}

## THINGS SIGNPOSTIAN

### GOING DIGITAL

Our faithful and patient printer — L. Brown & Sons — has changed to a new way of doing things. No longer can we deliver the finished copy as a camera-ready paper document. It has to be in digital form.

This presented several options: stop production (unacceptable), change printers (unthinkable) or buy and learn new software so we can produce the finished copy in the format that works with Larry's equipment. We chose the latter. It was not an inexpensive alternative. The program we bought was *Quark XPress* and it cost \$836. And it has a rather long learning curve so be patient with us.

The mechanics of the program are similar enough to other programs I have used so that part was pretty simple. But, there are the issues of font and color management that are all new. Also, the graphics we have been using have to be changed to a different format. As do the photos. So, we'll see how it goes. (Some change from the days of rubber cement and yellow pads!)

*Dave Coburn*

### NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We've told you that this enlarged *Signpost* will need a few new volunteers. We're pleased to announce that Ellen Knoedler has agreed to coordinate student writing from the Elementary School, and we are looking for someone willing to do the same at U-32. Also the team of Rob and Rhoda Chickering will be connecting with some of our organizations in town as well as the services we support with our dollars at Town Meeting, getting their stories for our columns. We really look forward to the contributions these people will provide us to make our enlarged *Signpost* possible.

While we're talking *Signpost* team members, we will shortly be looking for someone to take over the business end of the venture. Anne Sherman has been our Treasurer since the day we started and after thirteen years is looking for a change of pace. The bookkeeping is pretty simple - bills to pay six times a year, plus keeping track of the money for advertising, subscription and contributions. Call Anne or Jean if you are interested. See the box at the bottom of page 2 for the phone numbers.

## MORE RALLY DAY

### WHATS NEW IN 2002?



- First of all, the date. You'll note that we're a week later than past years.

- New T-shirts celebrate Rally Day fireworks, in a rainbow of colors this year.

- Races are moving off the road and will feature relays and an obstacle course.

- The Fire Department is bringing us "The House of Hazards", a house on wheels full of lessons about safety in the home, complete with simulated smoke.

- Kids (Big Kids too) Art Project which will create a permanent display for the EMES lawn.

- Cozy Corner Cafe, a quiet place inside where one can play cards and board games or just sit with a cup of tea.

- Lilies and Tea, a gathering to enhance our Town Office and share gardening lore.

- A hike on the Morse Farm property to introduce us to the trails for their new Ski Touring Center.

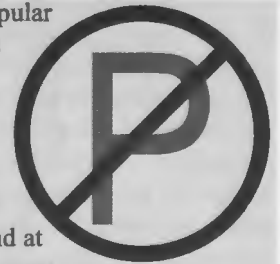
- The *Signpost* Auction will close bidding earlier this year: kids' tables at 2, adults at 5.

- The Variety Show is back! A favorite event from earlier Rally Days will feature local talent young and old.

- Plus many of the old favorite activities.

**Please save your programs delivered with your tax bills!**

As Rally Day has become more popular each year, parking problems increase as well. With help from the Fire Department, we're trying to make the area safer for everyone. Please respect the NO PARKING signs and tapes, use only the EMES side of the road and the designated areas beside Kings' house and at the Rec Field, and be patient when too many people want to exit all at once. We're grateful to the Kings for providing extra parking space and need to respect their privacy. Thank you!



✓ Quality Work ✓ Reasonable Rates ✓ Fully Insured

**PLOWING • BUSH HOGGING  
GRAVEL DRIVEWAY RESTORATION**

**P.W. McCOY CORP.**

Patrick McCoy

802/223-5878 or 793-8585 (truck)

964 Bliss Road, E. Montpelier, VT 05651-4167



**Open Everyday 8:30am to 8:00pm**

**Maple Creemees Served Daily "Just gotta have one"**

We ship  
Anywhere

"A  
Quality  
Family  
Farm  
Shop"

802-223-5757

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



Vermont  
Handicrafts

Gifts

Vermont  
Cheese

Mail Order

Maple  
Products

## EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The East Montpelier Fire Department has been extremely active. From January 1, 2002, through July we have responded to over 150 fire, medical/trauma and mutual aid calls.

The department has three Junior Firefighters: Cole and Cory Bliss, and Jason Wong. They attended fire training at the State Fire Training Academy in Pittsford the week of July 21. This is an intense program of fire fundamentals for young upcoming firefighters. It was a memorable and challenging week for them.

We are in the process and planning stages of replacing our 1972 Maxum Frontline Pumper with a new Class A Pumper. We hope to purchase it this fall. The approximate cost is \$200,000 and an additional \$40,000 - \$60,000 to fully equip it. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. We would like to thank all those community members who have so graciously donated money to the department this past year.

The department meets and trains every Tuesday night at 7 pm at the Templeton Station. In addition to our Tuesday night trainings, the Department continues to be involved in several community functions. We attend the Dabble Days held each year at U-32 High School, a health related event for our young community members. It is a day long event with several different activities taking place. We also provide full emergency coverage at the Washington County Field Days and always have some type of fire prevention exhibit as well as pictures of fires and other emergency calls we have been to on display. Also, our Rescue Truck and Fire Engine 4 are parked there for the community to get a hands-on look at the types of vehicles and equipment we carry.

In September, there is the East Montpelier Rally Day held at the elementary school, in which we also participate. In October, during fire prevention week, we do lectures, demonstrations and hand out fire prevention and safety information to the elementary students at East Montpelier and Calais schools. This year during that week, we hope to also host an open house at the Fire Station for the community. We are also planning on starting a yearly newsletter for community members of both East Montpelier and Calais. So look for yours!

Four of our members became basic EMT certified this past year, and two others have completed the initial stages of the first responder course. This brings the total of medically trained fire-

fighters to seven basic EMT's, two first responders, and six intermediate EMT's .

At our May annual meeting, the following were elected: Tom Brazier, Chief; Ty Rolland, President; Greg Pelchuck, Vice-President; Robin Copping, Chaplain; Toby Talbot, Treasurer; Bill George, Administrative Assistant; and Forest Davis, Secretary. The Board of Directors consists of: Ty Rolland, Toby Talbot, Robin Copping, Todd Parker, Diana Chace and Greg Pelchuck.

Many of our members attended the annual EMS conference in April at the Sheraton Conference Center in Burlington. This is a three-to-four-day all-day conference covering all types of fire and emergency medical issues. It is a very educational and fun-packed weekend taught by keynote speakers from around the United States.

The EMFD also has two certified American Heart CPR instructors, Robin and Jay Copping. If anyone is interested in learning CPR, please call Robin at 223-7026. A minimum of six and a maximum of 12 per class is ideal. There is a fee for the CPR book and cards.

As we approach the first anniversary of September 11, 2001, and we look back on the horrific events on that tragic day, may we all hold dear those we love and those we have lost, and shall the memories of our fallen brothers and sisters forever remain in our hearts and minds, for the ultimate sacrifice they gave, and for all their loved ones left behind.

### ALL OUR FALLEN HEROES

So many fallen heroes, our hearts still cry,  
The ultimate sacrifice, we all know why.  
You gave your lives so that many others wouldn't die,  
And now you are watching over us from on high.

The eagle soared and carried you on its wings,  
For all that you gave to try and save everything.  
Your spirits are together, you are all standing tall,  
We will never forget what you did for us all.  
GOD BLESS AMERICA

*by Robin Copping*

**BIGELOW Garage Doors**  
"The Common Sense Company"  
Sales·Installation·Service  
Any Brand Repaired  
Prompt Professional Service  
Residential Commercial Industrial  
Serving the industry since 1974  
802-229-5489  
Email:Bigelowjam@aol.com

## 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

## WORKING TO GET YOU THERE

JESSIE TAYLOR



Question: How many men does it take to maintain East Montpelier's roads: ten, seven or three? The answer is three. Mike Garand, Road Commissioner, Tony Williams and Frank Campbell II are solely responsible for the upkeep of our roads!

All roads need constant attention regardless of the time of year. Each season brings its own work load. When we caught up with the road crew at the end of June, they were just finishing work with an excavator. The excavator was rented for one month in order to expand ditching, smooth grades and otherwise improve the road conditions. As Mike Garand put it, there are three general rules to road maintenance, drainage, drainage and drainage! He was enthusiastic about the amount of progress they had made with the excavator, as it was "the perfect machine for the job." The town of East Montpelier doesn't own an excavator. Perhaps some day it will. The town does own a grader, a loader, a back hoe, a wood chipper, a ten-wheel dump truck, two six-wheel dump trucks and a one-ton Ford. Major engine work is hired out, but the general upkeep of all these machines is provided by the crew.

**Summer is repair time.** There are sixty miles of roads in town, 11.3 of blacktop and the rest gravel.



Each year there are roads that need new culverts, deeper ditching, extra gravel, pavement sealing

and road widening, not to mention the general upkeep of grading. I was walking with my two small boys one day when we came upon Tony in the grader. He was creeping his way up to a culvert and we stopped to watch. The blade of his grader was so close to the end of the culvert that I was about to shout a warning. Then as we watched, he nosed that blade just an inch away from the mouth of the culvert and very gently pulled back the gravel that had accumulated there. It was as if a teaspoon were at work, not a grader blade! These men know their machines and they know their roads.

Four years ago all of the black top roads in East Montpelier were taken down to dirt and completely repaved. This was possible due to a one million dollar bond from the town to be used over a ten year period. Instead of allocating a certain dollar amount per year, this bond enabled the road work to be done as a single project. Mike affirms that repaving the roads has made all the difference. Proper road surface eliminated the ever increasing maintenance as well as decreased the amount of salt needed by almost half.

When talking about summer road work, all three men were emphatic about the caution to slow down. Construction areas are hazardous to begin with. The machine operators have to watch for many obstacles such as power lines and personal property, let alone traffic. Drivers of large vehicles need to be able to see approaching cars. Remember that if you can't see their mirrors, then they can't see you. Courtesy as well as caution helps immensely. So, go slowly, be patient, find an alternate route - for

all this summer road work enables us to enjoy the quality of roads that we do in East Montpelier.

The slow down caution was extended not only for the obvious encounter of road work, but all driving in general. Slower speeds save wear and tear on the roads. Tony explained that washboards are created primarily when cars all of a sudden accelerate to go up a hill or start across an intersection, causing the tires to reach for extra traction. Even this situation can be

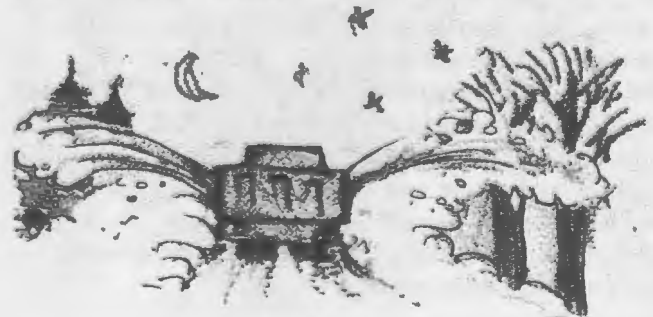


lessened by a slow, consistent speed, especially when the road is freshly graded. With the extensive mileage of gravel roads in this town there are also numerous recreational activities taking place as well, walking, jogging, biking, horseback riding etc. Perhaps we all could make a concerted effort to make sure our roads are safe for those who are enjoying them.

The road crew itself is constantly updating their knowledge of safety on the job. They each have their Commercial Driving License and take classes and attend workshops regularly to keep informed and updated. Mike is a VT Local Roads Scholar and has completed the Equipment Scholar Program from Saint Michaels. Even after completing a program, there are periodic refresher courses that he encourages them all to attend. The courses and workshops aid the crew in safety on the job, proper use of the various machines and management at the shed. They also cover such topics as "smart salting", preventative machine maintenance, new drainage techniques and so on. As valuable as these courses and workshops are, it was generally agreed that there is no substitute for on-the-job training.

**The end of the summer brings preparation for winter.**

The equipment needs to be ready and the sheds filled with salt and sand. My last visit to the town garage, which is located on Templeton Road, was in mid-July. Even then, on one of the hottest days of the summer the guys were in the process of



## GETTING THERE — CONTINUED

greasing and painting the plows, and truck loads of sand were arriving one after another. It takes over three hundred loads of sand to prepare for the upcoming winter season. I asked if there was an agenda for the fall season and the answer was, have things ready by late summer because you never know!

**Winter, of course, is a time of action for the road crews.** Each of the three members has a specific area to plow. During a moderate storm it takes each man approximately six and a half



hours to cover his own section of roads. Plowing generally starts around 1:00 am in order to have the roads clear for morning travel. If there is any significant accumulation, the crew will continue plowing throughout the day and evening right up to 10:00, taking a short break to resume in the wee hours again. Remember, this is only three men that we are talking about! There is a joke among the crew that no one is allowed to be sick in the winter. Summer, OK, but not during the winter.

East Montpelier uses 5,500-6,000 tons of sand and 400-500 tons of salt over the winter. With the moderation of winter temperatures, even a small amount of snow must be plowed and sand and salt applied to keep the roads from icing with night time freezing. The majority of salt is used only on the blacktop roads. Very little is used on the gravel roads as salt causes melting and when slush occurs on the dirt roads it can often add to the icing problems, rather than alleviate them.

Mike mentioned that each town has its own unique challenges for winter road care. East Montpelier's largest challenge is U-32. It is a busy school generating large amounts of traffic from early morning for school attendance to late evening with athletic events and evening performances. The road crew is dedicated to making sure that the area surrounding the school in particular is clear and safe for travel.

**So, what does spring entail for the road crew?** Why picking up all the sand that was spread during the winter, of course! As winter melts away into spring, the large amounts of sand that were spread on the roads wash to the sides and accumulate in the drainage areas. To prevent clogging and enable proper run off all this sand is carefully scraped back up onto the roads. Hence Tony's meticulous grader skills.

**Mud season**, our fifth season, has eased considerably over the years. I have lived in Vermont all my life and I can remember when mud season meant pea-soup roads, mud up over the hubs, stranded vehicles and road closures. The care that our dirt roads receive during the summer months has relieved these situations. Most of the roads now have deep ditching, added gravel and proper grading. While mud season does mean splattered cars and some veering around in tire ruts, travel is almost always possible.

So, let us travel away! Travel using caution and thought, regardless of the season.

We all need to extend a warm thank you to Mike, Tony and Frank. They not only maintain our roads with dedication and skill, but they do so with enthusiasm and a smile. Thanks guys!

**Mike Garand** - Mike has almost twenty years with the town and has been Road Commissioner for the past eleven. He also has been with the fire department for 30 years. Mike lives on Lightning Ridge Road in Calais with his wife Laura and their three children. Mike particularly wanted to give credit to Laura, whom he says has been unwavering in her support of his job and its long and unpredictable hours. On his time off, Mike enjoys camping and boating. The family has a seasonal place in Littleton, NH, where they go pretty much every weekend during the summer. Mike is especially proud of being named "Public Works Employee of the Year" in the category of communities of 1000 to 4000 in 2001, an award given by the Vermont Municipal Highway Association.

**Tony Williams** - Tony has nine years with the road crew and is the primary grader operator. He comes to the job with eight years of experience with the Army Engineers. He and his wife Margaret live in Riverton. They have six children between them, all grown. Tony too enjoys camping and boating and has a camp on Isle La Mott.

**Frank Campbell II** - Frank has been with the crew for two years. He came to the job with five years experience with L & D Safety Marking, working in NH and VT, painting and installing signs, including large interstate signs. Mike appreciates his knowledge of sign regulations and requirements. When asked how he came to the road crew, Frank said that he grew up just down the road from the shed and then he grinned. That was it!



## ONE OF THE NEW FEATURES

Frank and his girlfriend Amanda and her three kids live in East Montpelier. Frank enjoys being home and working around the place.

**Mike's advice: "Slow down and enjoy East Montpelier."**



*Jessie Taylor has lived on Chickering Road for 8 years. Over that time, she has been joined by her sons Zack 4 ½ and Rob 2 ½ and their horse, pony, cat, chickens, and dog.*

### ROAD FACTS

Number of miles of roads in East Montpelier: 60

Portion of these that are blacktop: 11.3

Vote to repave ALL paved roads in town: March 4, 1997

Cost of 10 year bond: \$1 million

Salt used annually for winter roads: 400-500 tons

Sand: 5,500-6,000 tons

Beavers chased out of culverts: untold numbers

Do we love our new roads? YES! YES!

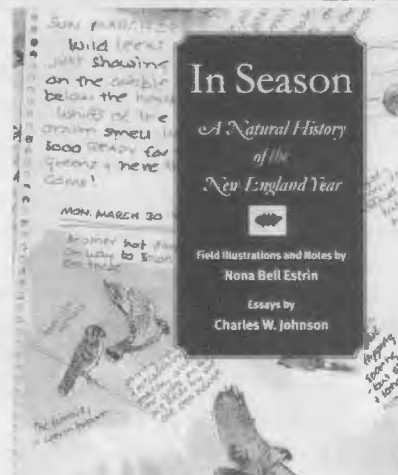
### A NEW OPPORTUNITY AT U-32

There's a new opportunity which some of our townspeople may wish to take advantage of. The Guidance Dept. will be available in the evenings — and not just for U-32 students. Parents, former students and community members may come in during the scheduled hours to discuss career changes, schooling — whatever folks think might be helpful. John Mercer and/or Kathy Pelletier will be available from 7 to 9 by appointment Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Every Wednesday will be walk-in night when no appointment is necessary. Call 229-0322.

### IN SEASON

Charles Johnson and Nona Estrin's new book, which we told about in the last issue of the *Signpost*, is now in hand. *IN SEASON: A Natural History of the New England Year* is so local in its text and art work that East Montpelier people will want to browse through it to find the neighbors and neighborhoods that they recognize. Then we discover that this handsome book creeps up on us, instructing us to see what is all around us with new eyes. The sketches and watercolors are so spontaneous and natural that you could feel like a fellow explorer with Nona.

Then Charles' text provides a solid background for understanding how all our surroundings are interconnected. Here - almost next door - are two explorers who have much to teach us. Get acquainted with their book. You may look over the book on Rally Day, or bring your own for the authors to autograph.



*In Season: A Natural History of the New England Year* by: Nona Bell Estrin and Charles W. Johnson. Published by: University Press of New England- \$35.

### TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

Each year at Town Meeting we are asked to support several groups which are not familiar to us, and there is no time to learn the details. The *Signpost* will focus on some of these, starting with the Twin Valley Senior Center.

Have you seen the Wheels vehicles driving through East Montpelier around lunchtime? Most likely they were on a mission: delivering hot meals to housebound seniors (about 100 meals a week), or taking the group meal to the new meal site at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield (about 67 participants each week). Almost a third of these meals are served to East Montpelier people - we are an important part of this program. Where do the meals come from? The Culinary Institute contracts to provide them from their Vermont College kitchens, so you can rely on the food being good and healthy. There is always fresh fruit and salad, as well as hot dishes, beverages and dessert. Is this all free? Certainly not, according to Marcy Morse who has been director of the program for five years. Dinner at the Commons costs \$3.00, and home delivered meals are paid for by donation. Where can you get a better bargain? There is always room for more seniors to be served, says Marcy, and she emphasizes that "people who have social interaction with others are healthier, happier, and live longer lives". And the gatherings are fun! Just ask Marion Codling or Stanley Christiansen.

But what if you have no transportation? Did you know that Wheels will take you to lunch and home again? Another good deal. And there's more. Seniors are offered more than a meal at the meal site - regular programs include musicians, speakers, yoga training, poetry workshops, and field trips. Or those who prefer can just sit and visit or play cards. Also, a surprising 250 hats for Afghani children were knitted by Calais Elementary students under the instruction of seniors from the center.

This most excellent program for seniors serves the towns of Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, and Woodbury. Meals are served at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11 to 2. For more information, call 223-5872.



# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



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

## May 11, 2002

> Public Hearings: Speed Limits and Brazier and Pratt Conservation Project. Statements made on each by many citizens.

## May 20, 2002

- > Will utilize Doug Grout for mowing of roadsides as recommended by Road Foreman Mike Garand.
- > Approved access permit for Nicole Noury and Marc Sancibrion off Clark Road with conditions as stipulated by Garand.
- > Discussed use of Muddy Brook Road by Casella. Road is no longer posted for mud season.
- > Garand discussed grader repair and current replacement schedule. Will have a machine evaluation performed, and get a trade-in value now and expected value two years from now.

## June 3, 2002

- > Voted to issue the Public Notice to Owners of Unlicensed Dogs and Wolf Hybrids.
- > Appointed Tim Carver to Board of Adjustment to 2005.
- > Appointed Jennifer Boyer and Rachel Senechal Co-Chairs of Rally Day, Deborah Fillion, Secretary, and Hobie Guion, Jean Cate, Sylvia Tosi, Sue Stephen, Mark Stephen, Ginger Hopkins, Janet Allen and Rhoda Chickering members of the committee.
- > Approved a note with Chittenden Bank for grader repairs.
- > Set pay rate of \$11 per hour for new Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer Terri Conti.
- > Dog Ordinance will be placed on the September 29 Selectboard agenda.
- > Approved placement of a "dead end" sign at the intersection of Daggett Road and VT14.

## June 17, 2002

- > Selectboard member Tim Meehan will meet with Casella representatives about the use of Muddy Brook Road.

## July 1, 2002

- > Approved Terri Conti as the new recording secretary of the Board of Adjustment at \$10 per hour.
- > Tom Brazier presented road report in absence of Mike Garand. Garand recommended that Brazier Road be upgraded from a class 4 to a class 3 road. Approved.

## July 15, 2002

- > Set tax rate at \$2.59. Taxes are due in the Town Office by Friday, November 15. The office will be open from 9 am-5 pm. Postmarks are not accepted.

Planning Commission  
*Carol Welch, Chair*

## May 16, 2002

- > Commercial change of use site plan review. Presentation by Burr Morse (landowner applicant) and Nat Winthrop (co-applicant) for a snowshoe and cross country ski touring center on land owned by Burr and Betsy Morse, Jim and Chris Abrams and Chip Stone located between County Rd. and Center Rd. Deferred vote to next meeting.
- > Approved commercial change of use as per amended application by David Gauthier (land owner) and Greg Blake (applicant) for two apartments at the 0.97 acre property on VT14S.

## June 6, 2002

- > Approved Morse Farm Ski Touring Center.

## June 20, 2002

- > Approved application of Lyn Hedges. Now operates a Registered Day Care center at her single-family residence on Fair Rd. Has applied to State for a change of status to Licensed Day Care, has passed state inspection and needs a local zoning permit. Will be a total of 12 children with one employee.

## July 11, 2002

- > Hearing on Preliminary and Final Plat Review of a two-lot subdivision on VT14N by Irma Hodgeman. To subdivide 4.5 acre lot on the south side of VT14N in order to transfer 1.05 acres to abutting Guyette's 0.8 acre property.

Approved pending receipt of a final survey map showing boundaries of both parcels created by the subdivision of Hodgeman's 4.5 acre parcel.

Board of Adjustment  
*Claudia Bristow, Chair*

## May 13, 2002

- > Voted to write a letter to the Planning Commission regarding request of Greg Blake and David Gauthier to have two apartments in building on VT14S. There is a non-enforceable violation due to the expiration of the statute of limitations so title is clear. Issue is not under ZBA and should be acted on by Planning Commission.

- > Discussed ATC and Devon Mobile Communications and General Dynamics application for a cell tower. Voted to hire Mark Hutchins in Brattleboro as consultant.

## May 27, 2002

- > Discussed application for conditional use permit by Devon Mobile Communications (FCC licensee) and General Dynamics (developer) to erect a 60-foot cellular phone tower on property owned by Howard and Phyllis Stone of North Street. Already a 45-foot communications structure on property. Will do a site visit.

## June 10, 2002

- > Continued discussion of cell tower. Had letter from Mark Hutchins outlining information needed. Hearing recessed.

## June 17, 2002

- > Hearing on application by Harold and Anne Chamberlin for a dimensional variance to build an 8' x 22' porch on the front of their house on Clark Road. Would have a 50' setback from the centerline of Clark Road. Property in Agricultural Zone D, which requires 75' setback. Approved.

## June 24, 2002

- > Application for Devon Mobile Communications and General Dynamics communications tower withdrawn.
- > Voted to request Selectboard require security deposit from communications





# THE TOWN WEATHERVANE



towers applicants, the amount to be estimated by a review expert and based on the amount of application fee.

>Granted dimensional variance to Durwood and Linda Lamb for construction of a 10' x 12' shed on US2.

### July 8, 2002

>Will reschedule hearing on ATC application to August 26.

>Hearing on application of Donny and Jody Yates to build a 92' x 57' house and garage with living quarters on a 10.98 acre lot at 1689 VT14S. Property is located in Industrial Zone B. Permit granted with condition septic system upgraded to carry four bedrooms.

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

### May 9, 2002

>Voted to hire Ellen Shedd and Gary Quackenbush for the two fifth/sixth grade positions.

>Becky Crandell and Laura Giammusso presented information about the Second Step Program. This is a pilot year for EMES and the curriculum focuses on empathy, anger management and impulse control. The program is great for the diversity at EMES and concepts in with the school's vision and mission statements.

>Lee Sease gave a brief history of the preschool program. Was developed to address children with disabilities and those at risk. Others may enroll and pay tuition. Enrollment is capped at 15 because of space and bathroom limitations.

>Hired Maureen McDermet as 0.8 FTE guidance counselor.

U-32 High School  
*Tony Klein, Chair*  
*Ginny Burley, Vice Chair*  
*East Montpelier Members*

### May 15, 2002

>Dot Blake reported New England Assoc. of Schools & Colleges pleased about preparations for Nov. 2003 visit. At

completion of building project, U-32 will be removed from warning status.

>Elaine Watson explained scheduling information given to 7th and 8th grade parents. Allows planning time for core teachers to integrate curriculum.

>Approved appointment of Sarah Volinsky as Spanish teacher.

### June 5, 2002

>Jon Winston reported ing up work. Landsc work remain.

>Eric Zencey reviewed plan: improve profes ment; improve stud database system for performance; devel for students; improv solving across curri school climate. App

>Appointed Spencer and Support Admin

>Approved appointm Crossett, School Nu French, Spanish 1.0 Newcomb, Physical Benjamin Heintz, E

>Approved superinte tion for non-bargain 2002-2003.

### June 19, 2002

>Dot Blake reported went well. Several

>Amy Molina preser and Recreation Pro

>Set graduation date 20, 2003.

>Approved Conti O and WSI for dispo

>Approved students fee of \$25 for stud

>Appointed Jon G.

Students; Ben Heintz English teacher (Extended Learning) 0.5 FTE (for total of 1.0 FTE); Ellen Dorsey Lillis math - 1.0 FTE; Susan Scribner, Academic Coordinator/Planning Room.



Milestones

Births



Valerie L. Stark to Valerie L. Stark and John E. Ghiringhelli, 11 acres & mobile home, Gould Hill Rd.

- Valerie L. Stark to Valerie L. Stark and John E. Ghiringhelli, 11 acres & mobile home, Gould Hill Rd.

- Jon H. Jones to Mark L. Moore and Marie B. Grause, 3.4 acres & dwelling, North St.

- Kevin Stewart Wood to Betty Jean Wood, 0.99 acre & dwelling, Taylor Rd.

- Angela Houde to Marc D. Fontaine, 18.1 acres & dwelling, VT14N.

## TOWN DOINGS

### FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE

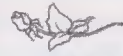
*Rachel Senechal, President*

#### June 12, 2002

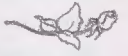
- > Voted to elect Donna Hall as member for one-year term.
- > Discussed maintenance and cleaning projects.

#### July 10, 2002

- > Discussed program for Memory Hour on Rally Day, Sept. 14.  
Elliott Morse will speak about the Civil War.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2002 GRADUATES FROM EAST MONTPELIER



#### U-32

Kyle Adams	Hannah Edwards	Aleisa Nutbrown
Hayley Bagwell	Jamaica Goodrich	Jon Palmer
Alan Baker	Ian Goyette	Alex Pollock
Leah Baribeau	Casandra Hudson	Crystal Riportella-Crose
Heidi Bigelow	Jordan Kane	Jesse Rufenacht
Kristen Bigelow	Andrea Kelley	Natalie Scott
Hannah Burley	Tim Klein	Megan Somers
Nathan Butterfield	Lilian Kline	Richard Swenson
Laura Carpenter	Harmony Liff	Emily Trono
Seth Chapell	Brian Lusignan	Dana West
Cresswell Codling	Anna Martin	
Nora Connor	Michael McCarthy	
Michael Crossman	Emily North	

#### Elementary School - Sixth Grade

Julie Bigelow	Ricky Hall	Katie Reynolds
Bradley Biron	Julie Halpert	Amanda Rice
Jenna Brazier	Ashley Hedges	Meghan Rice
Cody Cacicio	Katie Joly	Michael-John Rus
Skyler Christmann	Ally Kane	Charles Sawyer
Sarah Connor	Steven Kreis	Elizabeth Sinclair
Keith Copeland	Griffin Labbance	Sophia Smith
Evan Crandell	Sarah Lesser	Lily Stone
Joshua Doe	Jeffrey Lusignan	Zachary Troia
Aaron Estivill	Hannah Mullins	Brian Watson
Mathew Fassett	Ben Pearl	Elizabeth Watson
Abby Fusco	Lauren Pettinato	Victoria Webster
Reese Green	Eric Pollock	Danny Welsh
Philip Hall	Tyler Pratt	Stephen Zarriello



#### CHURCH BELLS



**Old Brick Church**  
*Angelo Tillas, Interim Pastor*  
Sunday Services at 10:00 am



**Old Meeting House**  
*Rev. David W. Connor*  
*Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge*  
Co-Pastors  
Worship, Church School  
and Child Care - 9:30 am



**Crossroads Christian Church**  
*Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor*  
Worship and Sunday School - 9:30 am

Maple Syrup • Vermont Products • Country Store  
Corporate Gifts • Woodshed Theatre • Folk Art



## MORSE FARM MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Congratulations to the staff of the *Signpost*  
on their continued success!

1168 COUNTY ROAD, MONTPELIER, VT 05602  
1-800-242-2740 • WWW.MORSEFARM.COM

## THINGS HISTORICAL



### INDIAN PUDDING

Mary Papineau

Put 1 quart milk on stove and let heat until almost boiling, then mix [in] small cup of Indian meal and 2 tablespoons molasses. Set back on stove.

Beat 2 eggs, 1 cup sugar

½ teaspoon salt

Butter size of an egg

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon nutmeg

Let bake for one hour. Serve with whipped cream

*Mary was married to William Papineau and was mother of the late Robert Papineau. They lived on Factory Street in North Village in the house where Jessica Moseley now lives.*

### RECIPES FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

“Taste-Tested” with hints and up-date as needed  
by *Paulie Coburn*

The milk can be heated in a microwave; heat on high for three minutes, test, repeat as needed until it is almost at a boil.

“Small cup” = 6 tablespoons - Use yellow corn meal.

For a stronger taste, adjust the sugar and molasses proportions.

“Size of an egg” = 3 tablespoons.

Preheat the oven to 350° - put the pudding in a 1.5 (at least) quart baking dish and cook for 1 hour or until done.

For a smoother pudding, cook the corn meal in the milk, either in a double boiler or microwave, until the meal becomes smooth and thick. For the latter, heat for 45 seconds, stir, repeat as many times as necessary. Add the other ingredients and bake.

Whipped Cream - Use whipping cream, beat until stiff (it helps if the bowl has been cooled). For a ½ pint of cream, add about ¼± cup of sugar and 1 tsp. of pure vanilla extract.

The *Community Cook Book* was “sponsored” in the early 1940’s by The Friendly Circle.

It also featured some helpful hints. For instance:

- \* A stiff brush dipped in furniture polish is good for cleaning reed and rattan furniture.
- \* Dip the knife in boiling water before cutting cake or pie.

## HISTORY EXPO 2002

The East Montpelier Historical Society sponsored a booth at the History Expo held on June 22-23 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. The display paid homage to East Montpelierite William Wallace Noyes who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for action at the “Battle of the Bloody Angle” during the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in 1864.

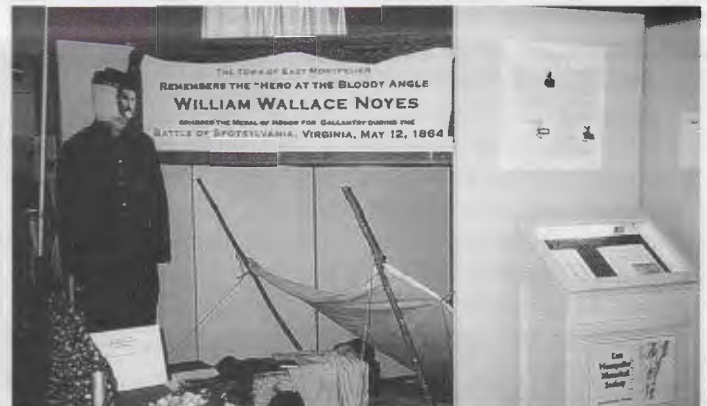
We were very fortunate to be given the loan of the medal by Richard Campbell, from Chelsea, a direct descendant.

The display also featured a “typical field encampment” showing how Noyes and the members of the First Vermont Regiment may have lived during the many days of the Civil War. This equipment and the uniform were generously provided by Tom Jordan, the husband of Conrad Ormsbee’s niece Deborah.

Deborah and Tom also made samples of hardtack, the staple food of the soldiers and sailors in both armies. This was offered to anyone who wanted a taste of history. It met with mixed reaction but several people came back for seconds.

Thanks go to everyone who worked on the display and served as hosts and hostesses during the Expo. Special thanks to Conrad and Anne Ormsbee and Dave Coburn for construction of the display, to Elliott Morse for taking it down, and Fred Strong for providing a storage place for the bits and pieces.

**Historical Factoid** - In 1860, there were 1509 cows on 169 farms in East Montpelier (U.S. Census)



The face on the mannikin is of William Noyes in later life.

*Photo by David A. Coburn*

### SEARCHING FOR THE OLD TIMERS

We got to wondering who among us were the folks who had lived in East Montpelier the longest. Of course we wouldn't be bold enough to ask you your age but would love to discover residents who had lived in town for 70 years - or 80 - or even 90. Wouldn't it be great to honor those whose East Montpelier memories go back the farthest. Let's hear from you if you are one of our elders. You may call me at 223-2951, email me at [jwcate@sover.net](mailto:jwcate@sover.net) or write me: Jean Cate, 4080 County Road, Montpelier VT 05602.

## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	2nd & 4th Monday	7:30 pm	Town Office
Conservation Fund Advisory Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:30 pm	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6:30 pm	U-32 High School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	1st Thursday	6:30 pm	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office
Revolving Loan Committee	2nd Wednesday	6:30 pm	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tuesday	7:00 pm	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners School House Assoc.	2nd Wednesday	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse

## EAST MONTPELIER TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, Vt 05651  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00-5:00 F 9:00-Noon  
Phone: 802-223-3313  
email: eastmont1@adelphia.net

Clerk-Treasurer - Sylvia Tosi  
Ass. Clerk-Treasurer - Terry Conti  
Asst. Clerk - Ginger Hopkins

Town Administrator - Marlene Betit  
(Tu 1:00-5:00, W-Th 9:00-5:00)

Chief Lister - Rosie Cueto  
(M-F 9:00-11:30)

Zoning Administrator - Gene Troia  
(Tu & Th 3:30-5:00)

## EVENTS CALENDAR

August 28	First day of school - all grades		EMES
August 28	First day of school - grades 10-12		U-32 High School
August 29	First day of school - grades 7-9		U-32 High School
August 31	Last day to register to vote	10:00 am - noon	Town Clerk's Office
September 9	Primary Election Day	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	EMES Gynasium
September 14	Rally Day	All day	All over town
September 14	Household hazardous waste collection	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	CVSWD transfer station
September 16	Historical Society Meeting - Annual meeting and Lyceum	7:00 pm	Four Corners Schoolhouse
October 12	Household hazardous waste collection	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	CVSWD transfer station
October 23	Deadline for next issue of the <i>Signpost</i>		Margaret Richey

Early Voter or Absentee Ballots available after August 12  
You can vote at the Town Clerk's Office or take your ballot home to vote and then either bring it back or return it by mail. Absentee Ballots also can be obtained by calling the office (223-3313) and one will be sent in the mail. Full instructions on the voting procedures are included with the ballot.

Last day to register to vote in Primary Election - Aug. 31  
Town Clerk's Office will to be open from 10 am to 12 noon on that date to receive new applications for adding names to the checklist. This also includes people who are not eligible to register to vote by this date, but who will be by election day. They may file with the Town Clerk a written notice of intent to apply.

Deadline for next issue by October 23, 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 XIII, No. 1  
September/October 2002

Inside:  
**ROADS TO RALLY DAY**

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