

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XVIII — Number Two

November/December 2007

DAVE AND DARLENE GRUNDY STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

The day I visited Dave and Darlene Grundy was a perfect New England autumn day. The Grundys were looking forward to a harvest that would see them through the long winter months ahead. From the front yard of this small family farm, I could see a neighbor's rolling fields dotted with round bales of hay and beyond that a spectacular view of Camel's Hump.

Darlene Grundy is no stranger to farming. Born in her parent's farmhouse in Kansas, Darlene separated cream, baled alfalfa, and canned beef and chicken on their small subsistence farm. There was no electricity, no running water, and only an outhouse. She went to a one-room schoolhouse and later attended Emporia Kansas State Teacher's College. Darlene got her Master's degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Dave grew up in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and earned a degree in forestry at the University of Maine. Upon graduation, he volunteered for the Air Force Pilot Training Program with the Air National

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BLACK ROCK COAL ROCKS



Rose and Greg Pelchuck

of sizes, piles of wall stone, and coal. Yes, it was definitely coal! I didn't find anyone to talk with so I circled the lot and left.

That was last year, and my questions remained unanswered. When the *Signpost* decided to feature Black Rock Coal and Landscape Stones of Vermont (BRC), I jumped at the chance to do the interview.

Twenty three years ago, Rose and Greg Pelchuck married, forging a union that today finds them partners in every sense of the word. They moved to the outskirts of Adamant where they raised two children, Brian and Shannon, who are both now in college, and they became co-owners of BRC. Eleven years ago they moved their growing family business to its present location. Even Brian has been able to arrange his college class schedule so he can work on Fridays.

It turns out coal is still used for heating, and what's more, it can be cheaper and more efficient than either oil or propane. BRC trucks travel to Pennsylvania each week to buy the five different sizes they sell. BRC has become the largest coal dealer in Vermont with a delivery area ranging from the Canadian border to Middlebury and east into neighboring New Hampshire. Rose and Greg are our local coal experts, so if you're interested in learning more about the benefits of heating with coal, give them a call or talk with one of their

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Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

You're reading the *Signpost*. That says something about who you are and what you want from life. Many of us are lucky enough to have chosen where we live. We picked East Montpelier, and not just because of the *Signpost*. There are many reasons that people have chosen to live here, and I think it's important to keep them in mind.

Living in a small town makes it more likely you will know and be known by your neighbors. We are all looking for a different balance of social interaction and privacy, and our town allows us to achieve that balance. Not everybody knows everybody (except perhaps Sylvia Tosi), but in East Montpelier we have the opportunity to know and have daily contact with a variety of people.

Interacting with people we know promotes "better" behavior. It's harder for me to act like a jerk if I know the person I'm standing next to at Dudley's or at the field hockey game. The person might be the parent of my child's friend, or perhaps it's someone who could support me when I'm running for a town office. Or I might need to seek that person's vote on the new fire station or on the Kellogg Hubbard Library budget.

Being known encourages the sharing of our best selves. It creates an atmosphere in which we can take risks and step out of our comfort zone to help and be nice to each other. We can call the family down the road to tell them their dog/cow/horse/goat/etc. is loose. We know each other well enough to drop off a meal, flowers, or produce from our gardens. We smile and greet each other when our paths cross on the trails, roads, or in the store. Initiating and being the recipient of these kinds of behaviors promote a feeling of belonging and well-being.

In East Montpelier, we have the opportunity to know each other well enough to be good neighbors and, for many of us, that's what we're doing here. —Charlie Catlin



Recognizing Kindness in Our Community

The *Signpost* would like to offer our readers a place to recognize some of the acts of kindness that regularly take place in East Montpelier. We are initiating a new feature on page 8 under the title of *Good Neighbors*. We encourage you to tell us about how your life has been enriched by your East Montpelier neighbors.

Send contributions to Barbara Ploof at theploofs@hotmail.com or call 223-6934.



Dave and Darlene Grundy

Guard. When he began teaching high school chemistry, he continued to fly part time for the New Jersey National Guard. He received certification in Science Education in the summer of 1961 and applied for the National Science Foundation Grant to spend a summer at the University of Colorado.

Dave and Darlene met at Frontier Days, the nation's biggest rodeo, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. They spent every day that summer together. On a couple of dates, Dave took Darlene rock collecting in the mining area of Colorado. But she liked him a lot in spite of this. They were married on August 26th, 1962.

The Grundys lived and worked as teachers in New Jersey for several years. When their son Matt was five years old and their second son Jim was three, they decided to move to a less crowded environment. When Bill Grady, whom both Dave and Darlene had worked with in New Jersey, became the first principal of U-32, he invited Dave to help him develop the new school as Chair of the Science Department. After careful study of area schools and the various towns, the Grundys chose East Montpelier as the town in which they wanted to live and raise their children. In 1971, they built their home on Clark Road.

When Jim went to first grade, Darlene began teaching kindergarten, then located at the Morse Schoolhouse on County

Road. She continued to teach at EMES for twenty-two years before retirement. Dave taught at U-32 until 1980 and then flew a Cessna 210 single engine plane for ScanAmerican. Later he taught chemistry and physics at Hazen Union High School and then worked at Vermont Technical College as headmaster of the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology. He taught at VTC and Vermont Community College until retiring in 1997.

Dave is Chair of the Board of Civil Authority and serves on the Board of Tax Abatement. He is also a Justice of the Peace and as such, has performed sixty weddings. He has served on the Planning Commission. Dave is President of the Washington County Retired Teachers' Association and also presides over the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Vermont. This organization seeks "to provide education to insure that people can have a reasonably priced and dignified end of life experience." To this end, he answers the Alliance hotline (476-9659) from his home. He is Vice President of COVE, the Committee of Vermont Elders, which advocates for the rights of seniors. He is a member of the Peak Oil Group whose goal it is to inform people about the impending peak in oil production and the subsequent rise in prices of all petroleum products. Darlene serves on the Board of State Retired Teachers. Dave and Darlene served on the *Signpost* staff for eight years. Both have been active in almost every volunteer position at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier for over a quarter of a century as well as singing in the choir. Not surprisingly, they tell me that retirement is exhausting!

Best of all, they spend many hours with their beloved grandchildren, teenaged twins, Jaye and Sara. Darlene teaches them how to sew and cook, takes them to music lessons and sports activities, and helps care for them when they are sick.

Dave and Darlene are committed to leaving the smallest carbon footprint possible. They heat their home mostly with wood and have a solar hot water heating system, installed by their son, Jim, who, with his wife Nancy Bruce owns Elemental Energy, a solar energy design and installation company. Dave tells me that the water heater works well even on dark winter days.

They have worked hard to become self sufficient in their food supply with 10,000 square feet of garden space in production. One portion of their organic produce is set aside for Jim and Nancy, a portion for themselves, and the rest for their son, Matt. Matt owns Builder Specialties and lives in Montpelier with his daughters, Jaye and Sara, and Lindy Hatcher and her children, JJ. and Ashley. Once every other week or so, the entire family gets together to share a meal harvested at home.

Dave uses crop rotation and garlic spray for pests like potato beetles. For the most part, he says there are not many insects. But he concedes that some things simply get eaten by bugs. Seedlings get planted in March in the greenhouse attached to the Grundy home. The greenhouse, with sun streaming through its double pane windows, can actually help to heat the home.

Dave walks me to the garden and points out rows of butternut squash, potatoes, a small corn field, pumpkins sprouting

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from the compost bin, fall-bearing and summer-bearing raspberries, shell beans, carrots, broccoli, Savoy cabbage (a favorite of deer) and perpetual spinach (it doesn't bolt). He shows me one of his experiments: tomatoes growing upside down from pots. They hang in the air, don't touch the ground, safe from slugs and late blight. He shows me "lasagna" beds made of layered leaves. "It makes incredibly wonderful soil" says Dave. He grew a one-pound-nine-ounce potato in one of these beds. In the garage, tables full of tomatoes await Darlene's skill at canning. On the floor there's a large sack of black walnuts collected on a recent trip to Kansas to celebrate Darlene's father's ninety-ninth birthday.

On this day, I leave feeling the wisdom and security of a commitment to self sufficiency, to gathering energy from the sun, and to leaving as small a footprint behind us as possible when we go. Watching Dave bend into his garden with pleasure and pride, I get a sense of how much physical work that takes. When I say good-bye, Darlene has already gone off to a meeting. Dave tells me that he is headed to Barre to collect bags of raked leaves that the town truck picks up. As I pull out of the driveway, I look over at a bumper sticker on the family car. It reads, "Locally Grown Food—Good for You, Good for the Community." All during the winter months, I will savor this harvest of wisdom and friendship.

[A longer version of this article may be read on the *Signpost* website at www.emsignpost.com]

—Maggie Rebmann lives with her husband, Rick, their daughter, East Montpelier Elementary School third-grader, Araceli, two beloved goats, two black cats, and a border collie on County Road. She has lived in East Montpelier for twenty-five years and serves as minister to the Unitarian Church of Montpelier.

longtime employees: Ian Voyer, Dan Fletcher, or Elton Brown.

A second facet of BRC's business lies in landscape stones. These stones come in several sizes and 10 different colors and can be used for walkways, driveways, patios, or general ground cover. The demand for landscape stone has been on the rise as more of us look for maintenance-free landscaping. The Pelchucks own a quarry in Calais which provides them with plenty of patio and wall stone, and this year they have added pavers and retaining wall blocks to their inventory.

The third part of BRC's business involves their tri-axle dump trucks. You've probably seen them around town. I noticed them delivering stone to the Muddy Brook Road paving project and since have learned that in addition to general construction hauling, BRC hauls compost all over the northeast for the Vermont Compost Company—another local business. The Vermont Compost Company sells organic compost and requires that anyone hauling their material must have contaminant-free trucks, and that's just what BRC has made a commitment to provide. You can be sure not many big dump trucks can make this claim! Any ideas as to whom the Town has awarded this year's contract to provide sand for our winter roads? Yes, you guessed it.

Greg and Rose are convinced that moving their business to East Montpelier all those years ago was a great decision. They love being connected to this wonderful community and expect to be here for years to come. And connected they are. Greg has taken on the presidency of the East Montpelier Fire Department, and Rose is often found taking on secretarial responsibilities for the organization. Rose is the Calais Selectboard secretary, and both Rose and Greg have been active in the Adamant Community Club.

When Black Rock Coal and Landscape Stones of Vermont moved to East Montpelier, we got an environmentally friendly business and a whole lot more. Rose and Greg have never hesitated to give of themselves to their family, the business, or their town. Aren't we the lucky ones to have them call East Montpelier their business home!

—Rhoda Chickering lives on Boulder Ridge Road with her husband, Rob.

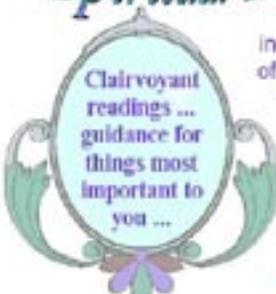
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RALLY DAY 2007 WRAP-UP



Rosie Cueto

At September's Rally Day celebration, Rosie Cueto was honored as East Montpelier's Citizen of the Year. Rosie is East Montpelier's chief lister, a position he has held for many years. Previously he served as a selectboard member, participated on the original planning board for U-32 and was its first board chair.

In the Thank You Department

Congratulations and many thanks to Matt Curtis and the Rally Day Committee consisting of Barb Brown, Deb Fillion, Bill Jordan, Bill Merrylees, Peter Burroughs, Erica Zimmerman, Collin McCaffrey, and C.J. Flynn for another successful Rally Day. They, along with the East Montpelier Fire Department and the many other volunteers, created the variety of activities which, once again, demonstrated the fun of this community-wide, multigenerational event. From the well-attended morning parade to the newly organized chicken barbeque dinner, three meals were served, neighbors caught up with neighbors, and good causes were supported. Enormous gratitude is due the many volunteers without whose work this community event could not happen.



Bill Merrylees giving Lyra Wanzer a hand



Quilt Squares at Rally Day



Rally Day Lunch Prep

Thank you to these Signpost Supporters

Contributions always welcome.

Please mail them to:

*PO Box 184, East Montpelier,
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Town Meeting Potluck Lunch
Cathi Buni & Bill Kaplan
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Louise Ellingwood
Malcolm & Diana Fielder
Raylene Leblanc
Howard & Alice Walbridge

Best Cookies in Town

New at Rally Day this year was the cookie contest where folks were invited to bake their favorite recipe and bring them for everyone to sample and vote on. It was billed as the most tasteful election we would ever experience, and the outcome should make us all feel proud of our democratic system!

In all, 17 varieties of scrumptious cookies were in the race. At lunchtime, eager voters of all ages purchased cookies, each delivered with a ballot. This was a case where it was quite appropriate to vote early and often, with nearly 800 cookies sampled and scored! Some of the standouts included the Richardsons' oatmeal cranberry-raisin, Christine Oliver's dark chocolate mint, Barbara Ploof's version of the Cates' ginger cookies, Joyce Copping's crabapple jelly shortbreads, and Linda Russell's Br'er Rabbit Molasses Cookies.

When all of the votes were tallied, Pauline Coburn's Lemon Sugar Cookies were the favorite. Write-in comments included "the lemonish stuff on top is cool," "well-blended," and "nice and large." Look for Pauline's recipe on page 10.

Many thanks to our wonderful cookie bakers, ballot counters, and to everyone in our Electoral Cookie-College who did their civic duty by tasting and voting!

—Bill Merrylees

TOWN OFFICE

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Fri 9:00-12:00

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Lynn Commo
eastmontatct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Lisa Rice
Mon-Fri 9:00-2:00
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Chief Lister: Rosie Cueto
Mon-Fri 9:00-11:30

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
Tues & Thurs 11:00-2:00
eastmontza@comcast.net

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

Health Officer/2nd Animal Control Officer: Elliot Morse
223-6279

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes
223-1651

Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair
Stephen Jerome, Tracy Phillips

Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Mark Lane	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Kim Watson
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

Sandy Conti	Jeff Cueto
Steve Kappel	Cliff King
Mark Lane	Gray Ricker
Jane Grinde	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

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Sue Chickering 229-6232
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Elementary School

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John Audy 223-7899
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Andrea Colnes 223-8474
alc@sover.net

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Preston Edward Scribner, born June 29, 2007, son of Tracy Alyn Cano-Scribner & Joshua Richard Scribner
- Logan Joseph Kimball, born May 29, 2007, son of Christina Rita Sandvil & Joshua Jay Kimball

Marriages

- Dan Lyn Cheney & Shannon Elaine Simpson, July 21, 2007
- Michael Joseph Robert Lamery & Chandra Michelle Ryan, July 28, 2007
- Matthew John Melnyk & Elizabeth Killorin Pritchett, July 28, 2007
- Kevin James McCarthy & Catherine R. Suskin, August 4, 2007
- Hannah Elisabeth Bowles & Robert Joseph Conner, August 18, 2007
- Frederick A. Pallas Jr. & Karen K. Ryan, August 18, 2007
- Eric Alan Duprey & Kimberly Ann Smith, August 18, 2007
- Jason Michael Natelle & Alisha June Choquette, September 1, 2007
- Andrew Wayne Krissansen & Jennifer Lynne Rice, September 2, 2007
- Marc William Young & Michelle Patricia Robinson, September 8, 2007
- Christopher Eliot Pratt & Camilla Welhaven, September 8, 2007
- Jamie Stephen Yaehrling & Michelle Marie Madison, September 9, 2007

Deaths

- George William Sanders Jr., August 25, 2007, spouse of Carol Sanders

Land Transfers:

- Mark & Gabriele Soyka to Robert & Tyler Squire, 7 acres & dwelling, Sibley Rd.
- Marilyn Morey & Sharon Martin to Peter Lincoln, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Janet Hough Peduzzi & Masi Joy to Janet Hough Peduzzi, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Lena P. Brazier to James C. Blouin, 4.62 acres, Brazier Rd.
- Lena P. Brazier to Lena P. Brazier, Thomas H. & Ann M. Brazier, 100 acres & farm, Brazier Rd.
- Janet H. Peduzzi to Wayne T. Foran, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Ellen Seeger to Lindy Biggs, 16.66% interest in 41 acres, Dillon Rd.
- Stuart Friedman & Ellen David Friedman to Jennifer & Pavel Cherkason, 16.66% interest in 41 acres, Dillon Rd.

- Stuart Friedman & Ellen David Friedman to Amy Lynn LePage-Hansen & Jon Christian Hansen, 16.66% interest in 41 acres, Dillon Rd
- Christopher D. Hedges to Lynn E. Hedges, 1.6 acres & dwelling, Fair Rd.
- Hugh M. & Susan W. Hawkins & Dennis R. Hawkins to Joshua & Karin Hess, 3.6 acres, Towne Hill Rd.
- Ralf & Renee M. Schaarschmidt to Ralf H. & Mari Schaarschmidt, 8.7 acres & dwelling, Boulder Ridge Rd.
- Barbara S. Starr to Richard Comi, .053 acre, Center Rd.
- Lennie Ann Dickson to Devota Pilar Shay, Marc Christopher & Margaret Alicia Doten, Devon James & Robert Bruce Dickson, Courtney Cathleen & Eden Elizabeth Welch, 2.163 acres, US2
- Douglas J. Hill to Christopher H. & Janice J. DuBose, 3.6 acres, Boulder Ridge Rd.
- Leslie L. Silberberg, Trustee, to Jonathan D. & Suzanne Rexford Winston, 45 acres & dwelling, US2
- Dana N. Barber & Janet B. Matzelle to Eleanor N. Barber, 7.2 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Eleanor N. Barber to Dana N. Barber & Janet B. Matzelle, 7.2 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Daniel K. & Linda A. Murray to Re/Max Relocation Inc., 8.5 acres & dwelling, Wheeler Rd.
- Fecteau Homes to Jason Giroux & Rachel Metayer, mobile Home, Fair Rd.
- Clair George Lane, David Ireland Lane & Stanley Holmes Lane to Eben & Lana Bodach-Turner, 1.7 acres & dwelling, Morse Rd.
- Re/Max Relocation Inc. to Vincent G. Mace, Trustee, 8.5 acres & dwelling, Wheeler Rd.
- Valarie Roberts to Justin & Erin Guarriello, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Everett L. Jones to Crystal Beach, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.

SELECTBOARD

July 23, 2007

- Accepted a bid of \$7,200.00 from NICOM for sealing cracks for the following areas: Gallison Hill Road, County Road, Montpelier line to Morse Farm, and Hooper Hollow.
- Voted to approve an access permit for Dan Cheney for logging purposes.
- Contacted the State Police about patrolling the Village area more frequently to combat speeding and to place a speeding cart in various areas of the town to be moved and maintained by the Town.
- Rosie Cueto wanted to raise awareness of the fact that land acquired by the Town through

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

the Land Trust results in decreasing the Grand List and tax revenue. He also noted the Land Use Program will have \$25,000 more than budgeted due to more landowners signing up for the program.

- Voted to accept the 2007–08 tax rate.
- Jean Vissering explained the focus of the East Village Committee is to help the Village look attractive in conjunction with the Agency of Transportation and their plans for the traffic light intersection being proposed at the US2 & VT14 intersection.

September 10, 2007

- On recommendations from Road Management Team, voted to approve an access permit to Robert McLaughlin, 2905 North St., to install a 15' x 40' long culvert.
- An Access permit and Right of Way permit were granted for the Guilmette property on Center Road to cut and remove tree branches off ash and maple trees for sight distance based on the recommendations from Road Management Team.
- Tom Brazier and Lisa Rice will meet with a representative from FEMA on Sept. 19 to see what funding the Town can receive for damage incurred due to the July rainstorms.
- Terri Conti noted that the first round of Prebate and Rebate downloads have gone well. She indicated that Representative Tony Klein has been assisting with Prebate/Rebate issues.
- Voted to name Forcier and Aldrich as the engineers to continue the wastewater hookups study.
- Voted to go into Executive Session to discuss Zoning Administrator hours and Road Management Team Personnel.
- Voted to approve a stipend to Frank Campbell of \$40/month to cover cell phone expenditures.

PLANNING COMMISSION

June 7, 2007

- The East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative received 150 responses from a survey of 311 households and decided there is a need and a market for 20-40 rental units for elderly residents. The PC had some issues for the housing committee to think about: what the impact of a 40-unit building would be in any one of the zoning districts, how it fits into the Town Plan, how it fits into the new zoning regulations and any places that would be off-limits.

July 19, 2007

- Voted to approve the application of John Lawrence to open an antique sales shop in the center portion and an antique restoration shop for refinishing and restoring antiques in the right side of the old Video Box Office building now owned by Jason Lawrence, located at 3070 US2.
- Voted to give conceptual endorsement to the landscaping plan presented by the Beautification Committee for landscaping, sidewalks, lights, and crosswalks for the VTrans road project at the northern intersection of US2 and VT14.
- Zoning Administrator presented a Public Service Board net metering application by Paul Cate. Mr. Cate already has obtained a building permit for a 12' x 60' solar array.
- Zoning Administrator described a clear cut of woods belonging to the Cheney family on Upper North Street. The project has caused significant concern among neighbors and the East Montpelier road crew due to the stripping of growth up to the road, well within the Town's right-of-way.

August 2, 2007

- As a result of discussions about the senior housing project, the limitations of the Town Plan to address the issue of multi-family dwellings has surfaced. Some proposals to address this situation will be considered at future meetings.
- The Chair noted the Town Plan must be renewed with the Regional Planning Commission by summer 2008. The commission members agreed to focus on getting the new regulations finished and then start on the Town Plan, which needs to include a plan for growth and future building.

September 6, 2007

- Approved the application submitted by David & JoAnne Guilmette to subdivide their 15.57 acre property located at 85 Barnes Road, with the condition that the applicants receive access and right-of-way approval from the Selectboard.
- Voted to approve the application of Robert & Carlie McLaughlin to subdivide their 26.7 acre property located at 2905 North Street, with the condition that the applicants receive approval from the Selectboard for a change of access.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 7, 2007 Special Meeting

- Jennifer Myka-Smith, attorney, discussed the process of going into executive session as it was used for the "What's For Dinner" decision. Statutes should be available to articulate what is allowed to take place in executive session. Scott Cameron and Robbe Brook answered some of her questions. The board, administrators, and Mr. Cameron went into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

June 21, 2007

- The details of the inception of the "What's for Dinner" program were shared. Marlene Betit confirmed a policy specifically relating to the use of the school building will be drafted and updated over the summer and early fall. A subcommittee will be formed to develop a policy related to this issue.
- Accepted the resignation of Kathleen Mason.
- Voted to approve the Action Plan as presented, with the strong recommendation that the board be included in the future planning and drafting of the EMES Action Plan.
- Approved an increase in the position of special educator from 0.6 to 1.0 FTE.
- Approved hiring a 1.0 FTE Special Educator.
- Approved the \$37,500 bid from Burrell Roofing Co., Inc. for the roof project.
- Voted to prebuy oil from Irving at \$2.419/ gal
- Voted to accept the resignation of school cook, Reid Asaro.
- Voted to offer Principal Mitch Golub a contract for 2007-08, as discussed.

August 16, 2007

- Voted to approve the Financial Monthly Statement.
- Approved the charge to create a committee for development of a policy pertaining to building use. Committee members were appointed as follows: Nancy Thomas, Julie Rochat, Carolyn Pastore, Lucy Ferrada, Joe Buley, Wes Cate, Austin Cleaves, Lisa Rice, and a Rally Day Representative (to be named).
- The board is asked to be actively involved in the drafting of the WCSU Roles and Responsibilities and Strategic Plan by reviewing the documents throughout the writing process. The following dates have been chosen for full board gatherings to report on progress of the WCSU Strategic Plan: 8/29/07, 12/12/07, and 3/26/08. The

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

hope is that the Strategic Plan will be adopted by the Executive Committee in April 2008.

- Mitch Golub gave a transportation update. The group discussed the future possibility of combining routes between high school and elementary school with the possibility of hiring an additional adult to ride along for supervision.
- The Facilities Committee would like to create a project list and perhaps utilize volunteers.
- The board asked Golub about the Health Education Curriculum. Golub suggested a meeting between the Guidance Counselor, the classroom teachers, administrators and Health Teacher to work out roles and responsibilities in administering a comprehensive health curriculum.
- Approved hiring of Special Educator, Brett Acebo, as recommended by administration. Approved hiring of Daniel Whitney as paraeducator.
- Approved recall of Sandy Badge as paraeducator.
- Approved hiring of Cook/Food Agent, Lisa Clark.
- Approved Bus Routes FY 07-08 as proposed.
- Approved proposed unpaid leave of absence for Laura Giammusso.
- Golub offered to elaborate on his written Principal Goals 2007-08 School Year. Ms. Betit asked that measurable goals be listed which would result in written documentation, and to also include measurable, written documentation of various trainings and staff collaboration. This information should be included in Golub's monthly Principal's Report.



U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

August 22, 2007

- Voted to increase the pay for substitute teachers.
- Accepted the resignation of H. Herbert Durgin, Jr.
- Approved the appointments of Kristie Ferguson and Tammy Hoerman.
- Approved a tuition waiver.

September 5, 2007

- Adopted the F7 Drugs and Alcohol Policy and the F1 Student Conduct and Discipline Policy.

Kevin E. Hudson

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Trucking:	Slate	Gravel	Topsoil	Firewood
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Ditching	Culverts	Water Lines	Septic Lines	
Septic Tank Risers	Landscaping	Rototilling		
Brush Hogging	Snowplowing/Sanding	Fences		

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GOOD NEIGHBORS BETTER THAN A CREDIT CARD

Generator: \$1,000

Load of crushed ledge: \$30.00

Seeds: \$2.00

Neighbors: Priceless

This past winter, we developed an uncanny ability to be out of town during inclement weather. In December, while on a trip to Chicago, we asked our neighbor, Carol Delaney, to pick up our mail, feed the birds, and keep an eye on things. Torrential rains fell and washed out our driveway. She pumped the water out of the basement and called to give us a heads up before we returned home. With a truckload of crushed ledge and hours of labor, we fixed the driveway.

We went to Florida in February and left instructions on starting our generator and prepared kindling for our wood furnace. We asked Carol to look after things and engaged Mike Adams, another neighbor, to plow our driveway just in case. The Valentine's Day storm hit, and through phone calls, we determined the neighbors were taking good care of our homestead. Mike had plowed the driveway, and Carol diligently checked to confirm the power remained on and shoveled the snow from our garage and a pathway to our door.

In April, thinking the bulk of winter weather over, we gladly accepted an invitation to stay with our two sweet granddaughters in Illinois for two weeks. Since this was an extended period, we asked our neighbor Pam Adams to check our house the first week, and Carol agreed to cover the second week. This time, we casually pointed out the generator instructions and never gave kindling a thought but added the task of watering seedlings. Four days into babysitting, we checked the Weather Channel and watched the nor'easter pummeling toward East Montpelier. We learned the power was out, and Mike Adams started a furnace fire without kindling. Pam deftly fired up our generator to pump the accumulating water out of our basement. After the power came on, Pam continued checking the basement and running the pump when necessary. Our seedlings turned out to be the best ever.

Thank you Carol, Pam, and Mike for keeping our house on Horn of the Moon safe this winter and spring.

—Jan and Dave Burrus

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KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card!

For Children at the Library

- For more information, call 223-4665.
- EMES kindergartners will be visiting the library on Monday, November 5th, at 10 a.m. to join the children's librarians for stories and crafts and to get their first library cards!
 - Preschool story time takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:30 a.m.. Introduce your children to the joy of books and reading with stories, songs, and crafts presented by the children's librarians.
 - Weekly jam session for teens interested in writing and drawing comic books where young people can meet authors and artists and can practice their art are held every Tuesday from 3:30–5 p.m. in the East Montpelier Room.
 - "Crafternoons" are held every fourth Saturday of the month from 1–2 p.m. Our creative program librarian, Ben T. Matchstick, has wonderful projects up his sleeve to delight your family.

Inuit Series

This fall the library will be highlighting the Arctic culture, with exciting new books and programs. For a complete listing of events, pick up flyers, check the Web site, or call 223-3338.

Second Wednesdays Series: "Why I Love..."

On the second Wednesday of each month, Vermont writers will share their passions. From Eric Zencey on *Why I Love the Second Law of Thermodynamics* to political writer David Goodman on *Why I Love Dick Cheney*, this new series is sure to delight!



More Events at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library

- Through November, Children's Library, exhibit of EMES Fourth Graders interpretations of Georgia O'Keefe flowers
- November 8, 7 p.m. "Soap Bubble Circus" hosted by Rob Merman. Bring the whole family.
- December 1, An Evening at the Library, a fundraising event honoring author Reeve Lindbergh and hosted by Lola Aiken
- December 5, 7 p.m. How the Romans Influenced the Founding Fathers by Dr. Edward M. Bradley
- December 11, 7 p.m. "The Big Read" Reading and discussion of *The Maltese Falcon* with Francette Cerulli. Copies available at the library in advance of the program.

Library Information

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Children's Library closes at 5:30); Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Labor Day through June 1). Closed Sun. Web site: www.kellogghubbard.org. Phone: 223-3338

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✓ **Land Improvement:** Increase Value, Aesthetics and Usability by Tree, Brush and Stump Removal; Contouring Land for Better Drainage; Creating More Lawn or Garden Space; Trail Work Through Woods

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church
Angelo Tillas, Pastor
Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.
Phone: 223-1232



Old Meeting House
Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Pastor
Rev. David W. Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Nursery care is available
Phone: 229-9593



Crossroads Christian Church
Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

OUR SCHOOLS THEN AND NOW

Recent media articles reflect concerns about whether the legislature might consider alternatives to the current system of school administration and funding while preserving local control and the tradition of small, neighborhood schools.

The 1873 Beers Atlas map of East Montpelier shows the boundaries for 10 school districts: #1 Cummings, #2 Cutler, #3 East Hill, #4 North Montpelier, #5 Templeton or Four Corners, #6 The Center, #8 Horn of the Moon, #9 East Montpelier village, #10 Peck (Center Road), and #11 Morse (County Road). These were essentially the same districts established January 1, 1849, after East Montpelier was "set off" from Montpelier in 1848.

Each school district was governed by a prudential committee, which was charged with keeping the school building in good repair, providing furniture and fuel, hiring and firing teachers, property tax collection for the support of the school, and determining the length of each school term (usually a winter term and summer term). If there were too few scholars in a district, that school might be closed temporarily and students sent to a neighboring district.

An 1876 tax report from District # 6 (The Center) shows a "tax rate of 25 cents on the dollar of the Grand List of the inhabitants ... raised for ... defraying the expenses of the District School," signed by Elisha Gove of the prudential committee and Stephen Arms, tax collector. Almost \$100 was raised toward the expenses of that year. Taxes paid ranged from 21 cents from the estate of David Gray to \$8.12 from William Templeton.

In 1845, the position of an elected town superintendent was created; he or she took over the certification of teachers (via a qualifying exam) from the prudential committee and was required to visit each school district once a term.

In 1884, towns were given the option of abolishing the district system and changing to a town system. East Montpelier retained the district system until, in 1893, the state mandated that towns become one district with one board of school directors. This led to greater uniformity among the schools but a decrease in local control. These threads from the past are familiar themes today.

—Ann Ormsbee, Historical Society

LEMON SUGAR COOKIES

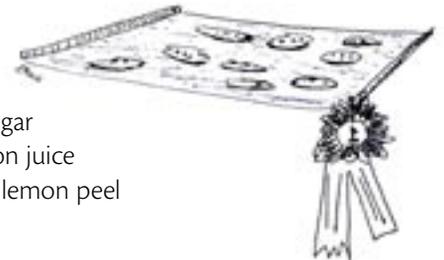
Super-soft and buttery, these classic cookies get a boost from brown sugar. It not only adds to the softness of the cookie, but it provides a little extra color and depth of flavor. A double dose of grated lemon peel provides a wonderful lemon taste. Makes 18 (4 inch) cookies.

Cookies

- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted, cooled
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon peel
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt

Glaze

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon grated lemon peel



Instructions

1. Heat oven to 375°. Line 2 to 3 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In medium bowl, whisk together melted butter, sugar and brown sugar. Whisk in eggs, vanilla, and 1 tablespoon lemon peel until well-blended. In another medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Stir into butter mixture.
3. In small bowl, whisk together all glaze ingredients.
4. Use #16 cookie scoop or ¼ cup measure to scoop dough; place on baking sheets, leaving at least 3 inches between cookies. Flatten gently into 3-inch rounds.
5. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until just golden brown around edges but still pale in center and slightly soft. Remove from oven; immediately slide parchment paper onto wire racks. Cool 5 to 10 minutes.
6. Brush glaze over cookies; cool completely.

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PLAYGROUND RENEWAL FUNDRAISING UNDER WAY



It has been said before and it will be said again: the playground at East Montpelier Elementary School is in great need of updating. Some of the equipment was installed over 40 years ago, and while the wooden structure was built in 1992, it too is aging. This is why a committee comprised of parents and teachers from the East Montpelier community is working to raise \$100,000 to renew the existing playground by August, 2008.

We all know the importance of play. It is a chance for our children to be physically active, and just as important, it is a time for learning social skills and problem-solving. These interactions carry over into the structured part of our kids' lives. The current playground has provided years of enjoyment, but in its current condition it is no longer that fun, safe place to play that we would want for our children and grandchildren.

Our renewed playground will feature two separate areas for playing to accommodate different age groups who share recess time. In addition to new equipment, a portion of the money raised will go towards ground surfacing to protect children when they fall—something our current playground is lacking. Although no designs have been finalized, we envision that the new playground will include more places to swing, spin, balance, teeter, slide, and climb. We envision places to sit, draw, or dig. We envision places to imagine.

Our school and the surrounding recreation fields are a gathering place for our community. It is one of the few common community spaces we have to share, and we need your help in making it a place that is exciting, safe, and a space in which both children and adults can connect.

None of this can become a reality without funding and in-kind donations. We currently have over \$11,000 toward our goal and while this is a great start, it is not enough to make the renewal a reality. The playground committee is committed to raising the funds necessary to provide an asset the entire community can enjoy. Won't you please consider what you can do to help?

Send in your tax deductible contribution today to EMES Playground Fund, 665 Vincent Flats Road, East Montpelier, VT 05651. All donations greater than \$500 will be recognized on a plaque (with donor's permission) at the new playground. If you would like more information, please contact Kathy Richardson at 223-2889 or kfrichardsoncpa@comcast.net. No donation is too large or small.

—The Playground Committee

GREETINGS FROM EMES

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back the students from summer vacation. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the EMES Open House in September. The teachers let the parents know what their children will be learning and experiencing in their classrooms this year. I had the pleasure of telling the parents about our two new initiatives this school year: to implement the Investigations math program and for us as a staff to learn more about differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction will help us to develop better strategies for meeting the individual needs of each student as a learner in the classroom.

The October 4 all-school hike was a great team-building activity and an opportunity to expose our students to the natural beauty of where we live. Is there any place better to be than Vermont in the fall? I think not. October also brought the New England Common Assessment Program, the standardized tests that we administer in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. When used properly, they allow us to identify areas for both school-wide and individual instructional focus. We do not evaluate a student solely on test scores as learning is a multifaceted endeavor and each student is unique as an individual and as a learner.

Each school year gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to give each and every child a high quality and meaningful educational experience; one where we recognize their individual gifts and endeavor to instill a life-long love of learning. We hope to help students find answers to their questions and aid them in asking new questions. It has been, and I expect it to continue to be, a great school year.

—Mitch Golub EMES Principal

Want to Be A Selectboard Member?

Have you ever muttered to yourself, "If I were on the selectboard, I'd ...?" Have you always wanted a chance to have a more direct say in how things are done in East Montpelier? A good opportunity is approaching.

Last Town Meeting Day the citizens of East Montpelier voted to expand the selectboard from its current three members to five as allowed by state law (17 V.S.A. §2650). This March the Town will vote for three selectboard members: one for a one-year term, one for a two-year term, and one for a three-year term. Starting in 2009 and each year thereafter, the Town will fill one two-year term and one three-year term. It works like this: The three current selectboard members hold three-year terms. The two new members will, eventually, hold two-year terms. So that both two-year terms don't expire at the same time year after year, this year only, one new member will be elected for a one-year term, and one new member will be elected for a two-year term. After the initial one-year term, anyone elected to that slot will thereafter be elected to a two-year term.

Here's your chance to get in on the action and serve your Town. Think about it for yourself, for your neighbor, for any resident you think would like to contribute to East Montpelier. It's well worth it. —Edie Miller, former Selectboard Member

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Thurs	6:30	Elementary School
Recreation Board	3rd Mon	6:30	Town Office
Volunteer Fire Department	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Assoc.	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
East Mont. Senior Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org.	1st Wed	6:30	Elementary School

NOTICES

November 12, 2007 – Town Office closed for Veteran's Day observance

November 15, 2007 – first installment of property taxes due at the Town Treasurers office by 5:00 pm

November 22 & 23, 2007 – Town Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24, 2007 – Town Office closed at 12:00 pm

December 25, 2007 – Town Office closed for Christmas Holiday

December 31, 2007 – Town Office closed at 12:00 pm

January 1, 2008 – Town Office closed for New Year's Day

EVENTS

At the Orchard Valley School: 2290 VT Route 14, East Montpelier. Please call 802-456-7400 for more information.

November 10, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. *Fall Into Winter Fair*, fun for the whole family with local artisans, puppet shows, activities for children, breakfast and lunch buffet, kids-only shopping, live music and more. All are invited and very welcome!

November 15, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. *Windows on Waldorf*, Come tour the Orchard Valley School and "take a walk" through the grade school curriculum. Faculty will lead a guided tour showcasing student work across the grades. Please call to register .

November 29, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. *Eugene Schwarz*, renowned Waldorf educator, will share his knowledge and experience of Waldorf education.

December 5, Wednesday, 8:30–11:00 a.m. *Observation Day for Grades*, We welcome parents to Orchard Valley School to observe our grades 1–5 classrooms, meet the class teacher(s), and get an overview of the Waldorf curriculum.

December 31, location and time TBA. *Apple Blossom Puppeteers at 1st Night Montpelier!* Don't miss Orchard Valley School's family puppet troupe at 1st Night. They will present a special silk marionette performance – entertainment for the whole family!

For events at the Kellogg Hubbard Library, see page 9.

December 1, 7:30 p.m. Lewis Franco and Friends at the Old Meeting House. Two weeks prior to the show, tickets will be sold at www.oldmeetinghouse.org and at Bear Pond Books in Montpelier.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 1, 2007, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, theploofs@hotmail.com

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