

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XVIII—Number Five

May/June 2008

RENEE AND DOUG KIEVIT-KYLAR: IN THE SPIRIT OF THOREAU

Renee and Doug Kievit-Kylar lived in a tent on a corner of their property for several months before breaking ground in 1985 for the driveway and foundation. At the end of that first summer, friends and neighbors gathered to raise and connect the bents that form the skeleton of their timber-framed house. Not many of us had been to a house-raising before. In classic Doug and Renee style, Doug began the activity with a short reading from *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, providing context and heart to what we hoped to accomplish. A few more words of how-to and the raising of the structure began. And, before the sun set that day, the frame of their house was vertical and ready for the stress skin walls. That was just the beginning of the Kievit-Kylar's house building—and their community building.

Creating neighborhood community is just one of Doug and Renee's many contributions to our town, state and beyond. Both Doug and Renee started their work careers as teachers. In 1976 they drove a mobile environmental classroom through the streets of Kalamazoo, Mich., bringing fun and information about wildlife

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FAIRMONT FARM: A DAIRY OF DISTINCTION

"Cows love consistency," Fairmont Farm's General Manager Richard Hall will tell you. "We work for the cows, there's no doubt about that. Our barns are temperature-controlled and have equipment like vent-openers, fans and spray hoses. The optimum temperature is around forty degrees. When you see cows in the field in the summer, they're either in the shade or thinking about being in it."

Fairmont Farm, headquartered on Lyle Young Road, milks 650 Holsteins three times a day. The main facility was built from the ground up in 1993, after Richard's parents, John and Donna Hall, and Austin Cleaves merged their respective farms. Richard, his wife, Bonnie, and their nephew, Tucker Purchase, are the present owners.



Bonnie and Richard Hall

"The plan was to build a business that would benefit from farming on a larger scale, and by being more efficient, be profitable enough to buy out Austin and my parents when they chose to go," Richard said. "In 2007, when my mother and dad stepped aside, Tucker bought shares and came aboard. It's been a real plus to have him involved."

Purchase, a U-32 alumnus, graduated from Cornell in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. After graduation, he gained valuable experience man-

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

These are thoughts about one small stretch of landscape, which I've loved for the last 60 years. I grew up on Center Road, partway down the hill that opens out of the woods and winds down through East Montpelier Center. As children, we played in the fields and the brook, which seemed miles from adult awareness, but I now realize that it was all so open that our parents could easily see our little figures mucking about in drainage ditches, trekking across the meadow, disappearing into the woods.

Over the years, the views have disappeared as trees have grown in, and there was no useful reason to keep a wet meadow open, a field available for tillage. They have disappeared as people planted trees to give themselves windbreaks for privacy. Years ago there were not so many cars coming, going, passing through and, because the road was not paved, the cars went slower. Peoples' lives seemed less hectic and in need of solitude. But now people returning from work may feel the need for smaller, more private spaces, so it makes sense to put up hedges and trees.

Last summer, as I watched a young man walk up the road outside my studio window, I was very taken by something. For a long time, I couldn't identify the feeling. And then I realized, as I watched him meander and stop to taste fallen apples from roadside trees and then pitch them into the landscape, that I was seeing our lives 50 years ago, as children in no particular hurry on a summer's day.

I accept that there will be changes and appreciate how much open space we've preserved in East Montpelier, and hope I can remember to always go down the roads of my community slowly and be in no particular hurry.

—Janet MacLeod, a painter, lives on Templeton Road

RALLY TO REPRINT EAST MONTPELIER'S HISTORY ACROSS THE ONION

Copies of our town history, *Across the Onion*, are no longer available, so the Historical Society is planning to reprint a limited number. This outstanding history was compiled and published by Ellen Hill and Lyn Blackwell in 1983. To print 300 paperback and 200 hardcover books will cost about \$8,000. The Society has over \$5,000 in its book account, and voters at Town Meeting agreed to lend up to \$3,000 to cover the remainder of the cost.

So, in an effort to avoid borrowing any more than necessary, the Society has planned several ways to raise some additional funds.

Anne Ormsbee has made a beautiful quilt, which will be raffled off at the History Expo this summer. Tickets for this are \$3 each and going fast. Call Anne at 223-5372 if you'd like tickets. Several members have offered contributions toward the reprint and more are always welcome. Contributions of at least \$50 will get you a hardcover edition and our thanks.

On May 4, at 3 p.m. in the Four Corners Schoolhouse, Dave and Paulie Coburn will also hold a fundraiser. They will present a video travelogue of their 6,400-mile road trip through the northwestern United States and southern Canada in 2006. Refreshments will be served.

—Dave Coburn



aging a California dairy farm that milked 2,400 cows and raised 1,200 heifers. He oversees the herd at both Fairmont Farm and at Fairmont Dairy LLC, a satellite operation in East Craftsbury with approximately 350 head.

The two businesses sell their milk to Agri-Mark, a dairy cooperative that owns and operates Cabot Creamery, a cheddar cheese production facility in Middlebury, and a large processing plant and laboratory complex in West Springfield, Mass. Agri-Mark is the largest supplier of farm fresh milk in New England, marketing more than 300 million gallons each year for more than 1,300 of the region's dairy farms.

Fairmont Farm is paid in accordance with a federal formula that factors in regional demand for four classes of milk, from fluid in containers as seen on supermarket shelves to dry milk powder. "Milk pricing is very complex," Richard explains. "Sometimes, Agri-Mark pays a premium for butterfat or protein content, based on its own production needs, which can be beneficial to us."

Much of the 1,200 acres Fairmont Farm uses for forage crops and pasture is permanently shielded from development by conservation easements. The Cleaves' property was the first parcel to receive East Montpelier Conservation Fund support.

Timing and attention to detail are all-important for a successful dairy farm, from the daily routines of milking and feeding to weekly and monthly planning of planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing feed and forage crops, close monitoring of each cow's breeding cycle and individualized care for calves and heifers.

Fairmont Farm's herd is divided into six or more groups, according to how many days each cow has been milking, its age, its production, and health factors. Each group receives its own specific feed blend. Production, breeding cycles, genetics, and healthcare records are computerized. Many of the cows are bedded in deep sand, a premium offering for a dairy herd. They are free to move about to eat, drink and stretch within a confined, but spacious area.

"The maintenance and genetics of our herd are key to the success of the farm," Richard asserts. "We breed and raise our own cows and haven't bought any (average cost: \$2,500) for the past five years. Our cows are artificially inseminated. If they're not bred, they don't lactate. They will typically have their first calf at 22-23 months."

Fairmont Farm has its own maternity ward and its own nursery. Shelby Purchase, Tucker's sister, is in charge of calf care. The first eight weeks of a newborn's life are particularly critical. Assistant herdsman George Allen monitors, transports, and attends to new and expectant mothers. January 2008 was a particularly busy month for George and Shelby as there were 88 births. That followed three arrivals on Christmas Day — no holidays on a dairy farm.

"We have 15 full-time employees and many part-time employees," Bonnie Hall notes. "They're all great to have on the farm and they're an integral part of it. Will Hull, our herdsman, has been with us for eight years. Jake Simpson does a lot of the mechanic work. He's self-employed and has his own welding business. Mike Brown, our crop manager, is a full-timer who lives on the farm and runs his own trucking company." Adds Richard, "We couldn't do what we're doing without the help we get from all of our employees."

"I like to think we're making a contribution to the area by keeping the landscape open and being an economic engine of sorts," Richard says. "We buy our grains, bedding and diesel oil locally. We use local plumbers and electricians. We supply manure to the Vermont Compost Company."

Richard and Bonnie's oldest daughter, Clara, an Ag school undergraduate at Cornell, is currently studying abroad in New Zealand. Son Ricky is a senior at U-32 and is headed to Cornell in the fall. Their youngest daughter, Isabel, 7, is still undecided about her college plans.

Fairmont Farm has been designated a "Dairy of Distinction" for the past five years by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. The commendation is earned by ranking highly on a checklist of good neighbor and aesthetic factors such as cleanliness of animals and grounds, physical plant condition, well-maintained roads and fences, and approved location and function of manure storage facilities.

Many a visiting class from East Montpelier Elementary School has been spellbound by the sights, sounds and yes, smells, at Fairmont Farm. More information and history is available at the Fairmont Farm website: www.fairmontfarminc.com.

—Tom Herzog is a freelance writer and an East Montpelier resident since 1994.

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Renee and Doug Kievit-Kylar

and the environment to hundreds of urban children. In Vermont, they taught at Orange Center School, each for a three-year period. Renee went on to direct the Washington County Diversion Program, providing an opportunity for first-time offenders to avoid a criminal record by making restitution to their communities. Following that ten-year stint, Renee began working for state government. The common thread in all of her positions has been a commitment to youth at risk. Today she works for Vocational Rehabilitation focusing on youth with disabilities who are transitioning from high school to adulthood. Doug taught science at U-32 for a year, went to graduate school, and then began working for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources as a pollution prevention planner, a position he holds to this day.

In 1987, son Brent was born. Brent is now studying cognitive science, including artificial intelligence, at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. This academic year, Brent is pursuing his studies as a foreign exchange student at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Brent is the reigning computer whiz of Brazier Road. He comes to his international travels naturally—with his parents, he has traveled to Costa Rica, Mexico, and Europe, as well as embarking on periodic adventures to Montreal and Quebec City.

Doug and Renee both have the volunteer spirit. As soon as they become aware of an opportunity to assist a neighbor, friend or stranger, they are ready to serve. For example, they are actively engaged with a local teenager through a mentoring program. They get their hands dirty every Green Up Day. Both can be found in the kitchen helping out with the Town Meeting Day lunch. Doug has served on our town Planning Commission. There are a great many other examples, but the best ones often happen without pre-planning. We witnessed a recent example in Montpelier. As Doug drove to work, he observed a man unsuccessfully chasing after a commuter bus. Doug pulled up to the man, a stranger. A moment later, the man hopped into the car and was on his way to his destination. Doug and Renee do this sort of thing all the time.

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The Kievit-Kylars see the coming challenges of climate change and peak oil as a “wonderful opportunity to pool our talents, learn how to live more locally, and truly respect our agricultural land and forests.” Says Doug, “There are a lot of wonderful opportunities in the challenges that we will soon face. And what ultimately will come out of this is a realization that we need to come together as a community.”

Both Doug and Renee practice what they preach. They ride to work together most days and often carpool with their neighbors down the road. At least six months out of the year, Doug rides his bicycle to his office in Waterbury. Their house uses a minimum of energy, incorporating passive solar heat into the design. A couple of years ago, Doug and Renee built a beautiful solar wood dryer.

Doug and Renee love living in East Montpelier. They are proud to live on the road that the town’s road crew has deemed “the worst road in East Montpelier.” Both have fond memories of parking at the bottom of the hill during mud season and winter and walking the 0.8 mile to their home stopping to chat with neighbors along the way. One of the best parts of living in East Montpelier, says Renee, is, “We can walk out of our house and be on trails, into a mix of wooded and open land. This is what brings people to Vermont on vacation. And we live here. It doesn’t get much better than that!”



Some of our neighbors in this photograph of the Kievit-Kylar house—raising 23 years ago are no longer with us today. But the spirit of community and cooperation lives on at 860 Brazier Road.

—Paul Earlbbaum and Rachael Grossman have lived at the foot of Brazier Road since 1982. They have two children, Ari and Leah, and currently share a dog, Tippy, with the Kievit-Kylars.

ELECTION DAY RESULTS IN

Congratulations to those town officials who won the elections on Town Meeting Day. They are Michael Dworkin for Town and School Moderator; Rob Chickering (3 years), Duane Wells (2 years), and Don Welch (1 year) for Selectboard; Putnam Clayton for Auditor; Dennis Carver for Town Law Agent; Sandy Conti for First Constable; Paul Haynes for Second Constable; Seth Gardner (3 years), Rick Hopkins (3 years), Gene Troia (3 years), and Jean Vissering (1 year) for Planning Commission; Frederick Strong (5 years) for Cemetery Commissioner; Karen Gramer (1 year) for Collector of Delinquent Taxes; Janice Aldrich (3 years) and Trevor Lewis (2 years) for Elementary School Director; Emily Goyette (3 years) for U-32 School Director; and Charlie Catlin (1 year) for Clerk of the U-32 District.

Many thanks to all the candidates for placing your names on the ballot, thereby signifying your willingness to serve our town. For a list of Town staff and board members, see page 6.

There were, as of Town Meeting Day, 1,909 registered voters. A total of 1,145 ballots were cast in the town vote. The following results were obtained by Australian ballot.

	YES	NO
Article 3: Town Budget \$929,953.63	878	162
Article 4: Capital Reserve Fund \$130,000	749	155
Article 5: Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures:		
1. \$65,000 for 2 trucks	764	251
2. \$35,000 for Towne Hill Rd. paving project	749	230
Article 6: \$31,054 for Kellogg-Hubbard Library	724	327

- Article 13 under Section K, regarding the Onion River Food Shelf, was amended to increase from \$250 to \$500.
- Article 15, regarding withdrawing water in excess of 10,000 gallons per day, was amended to direct the Selectboard and Planning Commission to carry out the intent of the resolution to ban such withdrawals in East Montpelier for just over three years. The amended article was approved.
- All other articles passed on the floor as warned.
- All School District articles were approved as warned.

You can find more information on Town Meeting in the Town Meeting Minutes for 2008, available at the Town Office.

Presidential Primary results were as follows: Barack Obama, 622 votes; Hillary Clinton, 276 votes; and John McCain, 158 votes.

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TOWN APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The following positions have been filled by appointment by the Selectboard. Pound Keeper: Sandy Conti; Animal Control Officer: Sandy Conti; Assistant Animal Control Officer: Elliott Morse; Fence Viewer: Mark Lane; Weigher of Coal: Stuart Hall; and Inspector of Lumber, Shingles, and Wood: Austin Cleaves. The Selectboard must immediately fill the following positions:

- Lister (elective office vacancy)
- Auditor (elective office vacancy)
- Trustee of Public Funds (elective office vacancy)
- Town Grand Juror (elective office vacancy)
- Planning Commissioner (elective office vacancy)

There are additional appointments to be made. To indicate your interest, contact Town Administrator Robyn Hall at 223-3313, ext. 204, or eastmontadmin@comcast.net. For information about other appointed positions, contact Hall or emsignpost.com.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Like so many of you, we are looking forward to spring, and with spring comes the grass fire season. Please be aware that you need a permit from our local wardens to burn on your property. They watch current weather trends and issue permits when conditions are safe to do so. Several times each year we are called and find that the homeowner never obtained a permit before starting their fire. Local fire wardens are Jon Boucher 223-7902, Bill George 223-7741, and Chris Reed 223-7707.

EMFD has had a great response to the surveys. We are processing the information and will be sharing it in the near future. In June, EMFD will start to hold public meetings geared toward educating you about what we do and why we are in need of a new facility: ideas include a pancake breakfast along with regular evening meetings. .

I encourage you to take the time to say thank you, and/or acknowledge your neighbors who are part of EMFD. In 2007, EMFD logged over 3,000 hours for calls, training, and work nights. I am proud to be Fire Chief, but even more proud to stand alongside of some of the most dedicated, well-trained volunteer firefighters and EMTs around! Please look for our upcoming *Go for the Green* fundraiser, which will kick off our fundraising efforts for a new facility.

—John Audy, Fire Chief, EMFD

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TOWN OFFICE

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fri, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Robyn Hall
Mon-Thurs, 12-3 p.m.
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
Tues-Thurs, 1-4 p.m.
eastmontza@comcast.net
For sewage questions, call the Zoning
Administrator.

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Denise Brown
eastmontatct@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

Steve Jerome, Chair

Tracy Phillips	Rob Chickering
Don Welch	Duane Wells

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins (acting chair)

Seth Gardner	Mark Lane
Jack Pauly	Gene Troia
Kim Watson	Carol Welch
Jean Vissering	

Board of Adjustment

Jeff Cueto	Richard Curtis
Jane Grinde	Steve Kappel
Cliff King	Mark Lane
Gray Ricker	

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair, 229-0826
gburley@u32.org
Emily Goyette 223-1867
egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Jan Aldrich, Chair, 229-0406
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com
Julie Roachat 223-1423
vtseven@yahoo.com
John Audy 223-7899
vtfiredog@comcast.net
Andrea Colnes 223-8474
alc@sover.net
Trevor Lewis 229-2569
kd1yt@pshift.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Maxwell Wendon LaPerle, born Feb. 14, 2008, son to Kelsey Louise & Philip James LaPerle
- Nicholas Andrew Ibey, born Feb. 15, 2008, son to Heather Marie Ross-Ibey & Andrew Chris Ibey

Marriages

- Daniel James Bair and Leila Jon Gray, Feb. 23, 2008.

Deaths

- Robert D. Hill, died Feb. 27, 2008, brother to JoAnne Bair and Ronald B. Hill.

Land Transfers

- Loretta M. Chaples to Loretta M. Chaples Trust, 0.47 acres, US2.
- Douglas J. Hill to John K. & Sharon C. Astle, right of way (Boulder Ridge Rd.) Towne Hill Rd.
- Frank B. Carriveau & Michael A. Carriveau to Frank & Patricia R. Carriveau, 1.78 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- Frank & Patricia R. Carriveau to Stanley & Claire J. Pierce, 1.78 acres, Cherry Tree Hill Rd.
- Clayton R. & Joyce G. Copping to Robin J. Copping, Jay R. Copping, Lori M. Fuller & Heather R. Copping, 2.0 acres & dwelling, VT14 N.
- Morse, Dorothy A., Estate of, to Susan M. Shattuck, Harry I. Morse Jr., Sherwood H. Morse & Elliot A. Morse, 255 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Regina M. Effrick to Aldo Gray, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Clark, Edwin A., Estate of, to Christina L. Gay & Dain M. Gosbee, 7.42 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Nancy T. Couch to Nancy T. Couch, Trustee of the Couch Family Trust, 1/2 interest in 13.6 acres, Dodge Rd.
- Nancy T. Couch to Nancy T. Couch, Trustee of the Couch Family Trust, 2 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd.
- Nancy T. Couch to Nancy T. Couch, Trustee of the Couch Family Trust, 17.8 acres, Dodge Rd.
- Montropolis Collaborative LLC to Christina Karl, 0.63 acre & dwelling, VT14.
- Alfred C. & Brenda J. Prive to Robyn Spencer, 10.6 acres & mobile home, County Rd.
- Stanley L. Christiansen to Stanley L. Christiansen, Trustee, 240 acres & dwelling, Hammet Hill Rd.
- Venlig Farm LLC (Stanley L. Christiansen) to Stanley P. Christiansen, mobile home only, Hammet Hill Rd.
- Kenneth Hale to David Hale, 0.75 acre & dwelling, Carleton Blvd.
- White Pine Co-Housing to Shapiro, et al., 41 acres & 6 condo units, Dillon Rd.
- Lindy Biggs to Lindy Biggs & Stephen F. Knowlton, condo unit & 16.66% interest in 41 acres, Dillon Rd.
- Andrew M. & Carolyn D. Shapiro to Christopher David Ellingwood, condo unit & 16.66% interest in 41 acres, Dillon Rd.
- Aldo R. Gray to Joy L. Madrona, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Anne D. Chamberlin to Constance A. Deuso, 1.3 acres & mobile home, Clark Rd.
- Robert S. Bevan, Trustee, to Tregeda L. Bevan, 10.6 acres & dwelling, Guyette Rd.
- Real Ouimet to Real Ouimet & Tracy M. Phillips, 1 acre & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- Richard Linton Brock, Trustee, to Kenneth Trask & Karen A. Kane, 1 acre & dwelling, Hammet Hill Rd.
- David A. & Pauline E. Coburn & Thomas B. Coburn to William Cyrus Royce II & Wendi Lee Coburn, 3.01 acres, Daggett Rd.
- Susan Morse Shattuck, Harry I. Morse Jr., Sherwood H. Morse & Elliot A. Morse to Peter D. Shattuck & Kathleen D. Westbrook, 3 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Thomas L. & Heather M. Herzig to John D. & Christine S. Beling, 1 acre & dwelling, Cummings Rd.
- Robert T. McLaughlin & Carley Stevens-McLaughlin to Wayne A. Fisher & Lynn M. Talamini, 7.12 acres, North St.
- Zita Boardman & Michael Boardman to Thomas D. & Lucinda Webster, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Michael F. Machno & Tina M. Manning to Michael F. Machno, 0.18 acres & dwelling, VT14 S.
- Lloyd B. Hulbert to Steven K. & Marie E. Stoufer, 4 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- Steven Noyes to Steven W. & Janet A. Noyes, 3.8 acres & commercial buildings, VT14 S.
- Francis R. Valenti & Catherine Larned, Trustees, to Catherine Larned, 7.6 acres & dwelling, Barnes Rd.
- Robert W. Duncan to Robert W. Duncan & Tracy A. Loysen, 10.13 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Joshua & Kate Larose to Ronald & Elizabeth Gingold, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Jeffrey M. Laquerre to Barbara H. & James P. Eniti, 10.8 acres & dwelling, Old Farm Rd.
- William K. Porter & Thomas J. Stuwe to David E. Rogers, 0.25 acre, Factory St.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

SELECTBOARD

February 11, 2008

- Eric Schamberg informed the board about the Cross Vermont Trail Association Inc. He is looking for town support in securing the Thomas Benton Estate property for part of the 8-foot-wide shared-use path.
- Town Clerk Terri Conti gave her report concerning Town Meeting ballots and the Budget Status Report. Conti was asked to get costs for the vault reconfiguration.
- Excess Weight Permits were granted to McCullough and denied to Allen Lumber due to lack of proper insurance coverage.
- Town Administrator Robyn Hall asked for a policy on overpayment of taxes. Subject to review by the town attorney, overpayments of less than \$10 will be held for and credited to the next bill; over \$10 the taxpayer will be notified in writing of the choice of a refund or a credit.
- The Agency of Natural Resources submitted a General Permit for Captain Kidd LLC on East Hill Rd. for Authorization to Discharge.

February 20, 2008, Emergency Meeting

- The meeting consisted of questions and responses relating to the verified complaint by Conti requesting restoration of her duties as Treasurer. No action was taken. Attorney Dan Richardson represented Town Clerk and Treasurer Terri Conti, and Attorney Bruce Bjornlund represented the Town of East Montpelier.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

January 16, 2008

- Ginny Burley reported the Vermont School Boards Assoc. does not support the statewide calendar.
- Lisa LaPlante said the '08-'09 course recommendation process was successfully completed online for the first time. She thanked Jeff Arey for his help and the staff for their patience while working together through this new system.
- There was a discussion about internet safety for students who may not understand the risks they take when they're online. Teacher in-service time, community forums, and student discussions will be used to educate teachers, parents, and students about the risks involved in using the internet.
- Motion passed to approve an extended leave of absence for an ESP employee according to the terms in the ESP Negotiated Agreement.

February 20, 2008

- Motion passed to approve the administration's recommendation on a student disciplinary matter discussed in executive session.
- Lisa La Plante reported the guidance counselors and staff are working with VSAC to take a comprehensive look at the U-32 guidance program.
- The WCSU Executive Board and the U-32 Board discussed the WCSU School Start Time and Busing Proposal. Questions were asked about long bus rides, monitoring bus behavior, and what is educationally best for the students. Further discussion of these issues is required. The Transportation Committee should seek new members after Town Meeting.
- In an upcoming board meeting, the topic of moving the Central Office Facility to the U-32 property will be discussed.
- Motion passed: to award the roofing project note to TD Banknorth for the time period of Feb. 21, 2008–Feb. 20, 2014 at a guaranteed interest rate of 4%.
- Motion passed, with one vote against, to replace the current telephone system with one costing no more than \$85,000 from the Capital Fund.
- Motion passed to approve Building and Grounds equipment purchases of approximately \$16,000 from the Capital Fund.
- Motion passed to set the tuition rate for FY08–09 at \$11,400.
- Motion passed to accept with regret the retirement of Larry Beebe.
- Motion passed to accept the board orders.
- The board thanked Sue Chickering and Tom Williams for their service to the board.
- Motion passed to offer two-year extensions of administrative contracts to Amy Molina, Mark Mooney, and Keith Gerritt and, by his request, a one-year extension to Tom McKone.

GROUNDWATER STUDY GROUP TAKES SHAPE

A community groundwater study group is beginning to gather information about East Montpelier's water resources.

If you would like to learn more or to participate in the study group, contact Carolyn Shapiro at 229-5676, or carolyn@energybalance.us.

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 17, 2008

- Motion passed to hire Albert Petrella, Lead Maintenance/Head Custodian, through June 30, 2008.
- Motion passed to hire a part-time custodian, four hours a day, for the remainder of the '07-'08 school year.
- Motion passed to hire a part-time Assistant Principal.

February 12, 2008

- The board appointed the following to the Principal Search Committee: Jan Aldrich, Andi Colnes, Kristin Dickerson, Patti Taffel, Jamie O'Hare, Ruth Farnham, Gary Quackenbush, Bruce Mekkelson, John Pandolfo.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 17, 2008

- Joint Hearing of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment to consider granting an extension for the wetland mitigation site permit that was granted two years ago and was given a one-year extension in Jan. 2007.
- Motion passed (by two separate votes) to extend, with conditions, the wetland mitigation site permit for one year, to expire three years from the date of issuance.

February 7, 2008

- Motion passed to approve the Carver Subdivision.
- Motion passed to approve the amended permit #07-111 submitted by Greg Blake to construct a 60-ft. single-story building at 1920 VT14 S.
- Reviewed Vt. Dept. of Transportation Sketch Plan
- Reviewed Messier Sketch Plan
- Reviewed the Town Plan Renewal. Decided to make an action plan for the renewal of the Town Plan for the next five years.

March 6, 2008

- Welcomed new members Seth Gardner and Jean Vissering.
- Motion passed to approve the preliminary and final plat review submitted by Norman & Carla Messier to subdivide property on East Hill Rd.
- Continued work on renewal of the Town Plan.
- Recognized Ken Santor for his long service to the town.

PROPOSED NEW ZONING REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED

The Planning Commission presented its proposed updated zoning and subdivision regulations to the Selectboard in November. The Selectboard has been studying the regulations and has had them reviewed by the town attorney for consistency with state laws. This review has found no legal conflicts. The Selectboard hopes to complete its review, ask the Planning Commission for minor changes if necessary, and schedule at least one public hearing in the near future.

Depending on public feedback at the Selectboard's hearing, the board will either decide to hold a second public hearing or make its decision to accept or reject the proposed regulations. For towns with our population, the Selectboard makes this decision rather than town voters. To read the proposed regulations go to the *Signpost* website home page at www.emsignpost.com.

—Rob Chickering, Selectboard

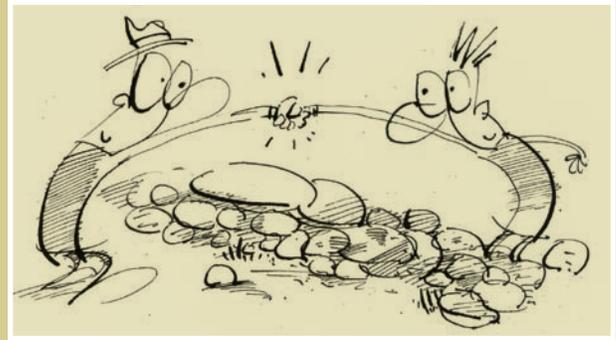
TOWN PLAN REVISION UNDERWAY

East Montpelier's Town Plan, approved in 2003 after a lengthy and inclusive process, will expire on June 16, 2008. Because the current plan represents a major, thoroughly studied rewrite, the East Montpelier Planning Commission (PC) is reviewing and updating it by focusing on relatively minor revisions, especially in the areas of future housing and child care (as recommended by the Central VT Regional Planning Commission: CVRPC).

The PC expects to complete its revisions and turn the amended plan over to the Selectboard by May 1. It is expected that the Selectboard will soon schedule the required two public hearings. Based on public comment, the Selectboard will determine whether to approve the document or request further changes. Persons with questions or interest in the Town Plan and its revision may contact any member of the Planning Commission.

—Rick Hopkins, Chair, Planning Commission

OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS



I saw your note in our local newsletter about using the *Signpost* to thank those who deserve it. There is something that I have wanted to thank someone for, but didn't know whom. Because I live right on Route 2, I have no place to go walking near my home. About two years ago, a friend told me about the network of trails in East Montpelier that go through the woods and fields. I was amazed! I thought it was so wonderful that total strangers were letting me walk on their property, and it's such beautiful land, too! The health benefit I get from these walks is the biggest asset. I can hardly express how much it helps me physically and mentally to go on these walks. So, I would love to take this opportunity to thank all of those in East Montpelier who allow people to use their property in this way.

—Barbara Watson

Do you have a good neighbor? We're guessing you do. "Our Good Neighbors" is a regular Signpost column. Send your story, about 250 words or so, to P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier 05651, or email to signpostbcp@hotmail.com.

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TIME TO GREEN UP AND CLEAN UP

In 1970, Vermont became the first state to designate a day to clean up. Unusual items recovered on that first Green Up Day included \$150 in cash, a dozen dead deer, one dead cow, a stolen purse belonging to a Boston, Mass., woman, a refrigerator, one revolver, two safes, a sleeping bag, a fishing pole, a bathtub, and a bed!

You are cordially invited to join your East Montpelier neighbors on this year's Green Up Day, May 3, when we'll clean up our roadsides and public lands throughout town. Plan a little extra time afterward, because once again this year the Jean Cate Community fund group will serve a sumptuous free lunch in the school cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You can pick up Green Up disposal bags at EMES, the East Montpelier Town Office, Dudley's Store, or the Riverbend Store, starting Saturday, April 26. Bags will also be available at the drop-off site at school beginning at 9 a.m. on May 3, although any garbage bag can be used.

Green Up Day will happen rain or shine. As you're Greening Up, try to separate out recyclable containers if possible after emptying any liquids. If you find dumped items too big for you to transport, drag them—if possible—to a visible place on the roadside for later pickup. Bring your collected trash to the Elementary School between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday. Town trucks will be there during those times only for drop-off. Depositing trash in the school parking lot at any other time is considered dumping and is illegal. For further Green Up information, contact Bill Merrylees or Lucy Patti at 223-4951, e-mail bmerry4@verizon.net. Information is also available at the Town Office.

Come join in on the hunt this Green Up Day. Hopefully you'll find the cash and not the cow!

In the meantime, for those who have paint, pesticides, cleaning products, spent fluorescent bulbs, or other hazardous waste to clean out of your home, bring it all to a Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Household Hazardous Waste Collection. All events are held on Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

- June 14: Bradford Town Garage
- July 12: Tunbridge Transfer Station
- September 6: Hardwick Town Garage
- September 20: Bradford Town Garage
- September 27: Montpelier (Dept. of Labor parking lot, off Memorial Drive)

Disposal fees are \$10 per car for most residential loads. For more details, see the District's website at www.cvswwmd.org/resident_services/hhw1.html.

It's also worth noting that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District helps its 22 member communities to work toward Zero Waste. For information about all of its programs and services, go to www.cvswwmd.org.

Happy Spring Cleaning!

FOOD SCRAPS BELONG IN THE BACKYARD, NOT THE LANDFILL

Keeping food scraps out of the trash is a critical step toward reducing global warming right at home. For every ton of food scraps kept out of the landfill, the equivalent of six tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is kept out of the atmosphere. That's the same amount of CO₂ produced by driving 15,000 miles in a car that gets 25 mpg!

There are two ways to manage food scraps at home—in compost bins and piles, and in Green Cones. Many Vermonters are familiar with composting, and gardeners usually love it for the nutrient-rich soil amendment it produces. But for those who don't garden, don't want to manage a compost pile, or who would like to be able to manage all food scraps on site, Green Cones offer another option.

Green Cones are in-ground food digesters, akin to a laundry basket buried in the ground with a green cone on top. The cones digest all kitchen scraps—even meat, bones, small amounts of oil, dairy products, and fish. With heat from the sun and microbes and organisms in the soil, food scraps fairly quickly decompose and the nutrients are released into the soil around the cone. A sunny location and good or modified drainage are also critical to the process. One cone is often sufficient for most households, but large families or those living in cold climates may find it works best to have two cones to allow for year-round use.

Zero Waste Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping eliminate waste, will hold sales events on the second Saturday of each month, May through November, at the CVSWMD Barre Town Recycling Depot. Additional events will be held in other locations this summer. See www.cvswwmd.org for details and schedule. See www.zwinc.org for more information about Green Cones.

—Cathy Donohue, CVSWMD

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church
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

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

Pick up a newsletter or check the library's website for a full schedule of upcoming events.

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 1st). Closed Sundays.

Website: www.kellogghubbard.org.

Library blog: www.kellogghubbard.blogspot.com

The Kellogg-Hubbard Adamant Annex

The Kellogg-Hubbard Adamant Annex is getting more popular each week. If you don't want to drive into Montpelier for a book or an audio book, stop by the Adamant Co-op. You can also request that books be delivered to the Co-op for you! Call Rachael Grossman at 223-3338.

New! Audio Books For Downloading

If you have a library card, you can now download audio books to your computer or your MP3 player from the comfort of your own home. Just go to the library's home page and click on "Listen Up! Vermont." There are directions for getting started and for downloading the software you will need.

Thank you to these Signpost supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to
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SUPPORTING YOUR SCHOOL HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY

EMES is enrolled in several programs that provide supplies or money to our school. Save the following items and bring them to EMES or C.P. Dudley's Store and the school will enjoy the rewards: General Mills box tops, money for the playground; Campbell's points, art, music and library; Hannaford's points, money for the playground; Price Chopper Receipts, gym equipment; Shaw's receipts, money for classroom enrichment program.

Any questions? Please contact Katina at 229-6284.

THANK YOU FROM THE ONION RIVER FOOD SHELF...

...Not only was our request approved, but it was approved as amended for \$500—double the request. Many, many thanks, not only for this generosity, but also for the caring and support given to our 30 plus East Montpelier neighbors served by the Onion River Food Shelf monthly.

—Diana Fielder for the Board of Directors and Volunteer Staff

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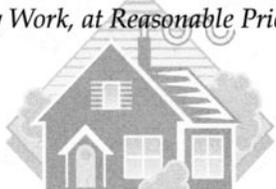


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FROM THE EMES PRINCIPAL

Dear *Signpost* Readers, East Montpelier clearly values and supports its children. On Town Meeting Day, you acknowledged and supported the School Board's hard work by approving their recommended budget. In addition, there are many everyday acts of generosity evidenced by our committed volunteers who make possible such programs as the Odyssey of the Mind (our two teams did very well at the state tournament), the Four Winds nature program, mentoring for individual students, school fundraising, and Recreation Department activities to name just a few. The quality of life in the East Montpelier Elementary School and the East Montpelier community is enriched by the generous spirit of the people who live here.

Students and teachers are working hard to make the last trimester a vigorous and productive learning experience. The annual March POPS Concert showcased the talent of 26 small ensembles and individuals who gathered up their courage and performed a musical number. Another opportunity to see and hear EMES student talent will be May 22. At 6 p.m. the Fine Arts Night display will open and at 7 p.m. the Spring Concert begins. All community members are welcome, and I encourage you to attend.

Even though all the late snow makes June seem far off, the last day of school for students will be Friday, June 20, and it will be here before we know it.

—Respectfully submitted, Alice Angney, Principal, EMES

FROM THE EMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The East Montpelier Elementary School Board of Directors wants to thank the citizens of our town who generously adopted our school's proposed budget of \$2,899,717 at Town Meeting. In a separate article, our community also approved the expenditure of \$38,000 to purchase a new computer and phone system for the school. We appreciated the wonderful attendance, thoughtful questions, and enjoyed the opportunity to update people on issues regarding school facilities, new policies, and after-school opportunities through the Community Connections programming. We wish our retiring board chair Marlene Betit all the best, and heartily welcome newly elected Trevor Lewis to our number.

We have some news regarding the EMES principal search. Over the past month, a search committee consisting of ten community members, board members, faculty and staff, and the superintendent worked diligently to present our board with two candidates for consideration. The school board would like to publicly thank this committee for their thorough and thoughtful process.

Last week, an offer of employment was made to candidate Charles Shupe Jr. of Pennsylvania. Mr. Shupe declined our offer, and in a split decision, the board has decided to look for an interim principal for the upcoming school year.

—Julie Rochat, EMES Board

U-32 NEWS

Thank you to the voters of our towns for a record-setting approval of our budget! You also chose two new board members: Emily Goyette from East Montpelier and Mike Stridsberg from Berlin. We welcome them aboard! What else is new?

U-32 board members, teachers and community members have been working on a strategic plan to guide us toward where we want to be in 2013. Five teams worked on the following goals: Collaborative Systems; Green and Wired; Engaged Citizens; Innovative Programming; and Early Intervention.

Teams have shared their goals and strategies. Now we need to pull it all together and work on implementation. If you want to get involved, we hope you'll talk to a board member (listed on page 6) and find out the next steps

—Ginny Burley, Chair, U-32 School Board

THE FOUR CORNER SCHOOLHOUSE

The Four Corner Schoolhouse has been greatly enjoyed by lots of groups this winter, including birthday celebrations, a day care holiday party, retirement parties, the Strong Living strength-training group, the Gully Jumpers, potlucks, the Historical Society, school committee meetings, a holiday sing-a-long with Colin McCaffrey, and a tai-chi workshop. Contact Elaine Manghi at 229-5811 to schedule an event.

The annual meeting of the 4 Corners Schoolhouse Board of Directors will be at 7:00 p.m. Wed. June 11. Visitors welcome.



Tillie Quattrone rides her unicycle in the EMES gym during a recent after-school session.



Parade Preparation—Avery Pashe and Jordan Moore practice unicycle in a recent Community Connections group. It's only a few months until Rally Day, September 6, and there are bound to be one wheelers in the parade again this year!

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

May 3: Green Up Day

May 15: Second installment of property taxes due. After this date, penalty and interest will be charged.

June 13: 6:30 p.m. U-32 Graduation

Sept. 3: Last date to register to vote for state Primary Election on Sept. 9.

June 20: Last day of school for students, EMES.

EVENTS

Community Lunch for Green Uppers, May 3, 11a.m.–1p.m., EMES

Video Travelogue by Dave & Paulie Coburn, May 4, 3 p.m., at the Four Corners School (fundraiser for reprinting *Across the Onion*).

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert, May 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Old Meeting House,
www.oldmeetinghouse.org/omham_events.htm. 229-9593

Fiddle Workshop by Alasdair Fraser, May 10, 9:30 a.m. at the Parish House of the Old Meeting House, (see website above).

Cello Workshop by Natalie Haas, May 10, 9:30 a.m. at the Old Meeting House. (see website above).

Pat Donohue Concert, May 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Old Meeting House, www.oldmeetinghouse.org/omham_events.htm, 229-9593

Fine Arts Night at EMES, May 22, exhibits at 6 p.m., Spring Concert at 7 p.m.

Lilac Workshop with Jeff Young (A Master Gardener Program), May 28, 6 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Foraging Wild Edibles Safely with Annie McCleary, June 3, 7 p.m., Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Invasive Plant Species, talk and slide show, June 8, 3:30 p.m., at the Four Corners School.

East Montpelier Historical Society Exhibit featuring the North Montpelier mill at the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge, June 21 & 22.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 1, 2008, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

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