

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XIX—Number Six

July/August 2009

## LAYNE GREGOIRE AND VERMONT COUNTRY CAMPERS

Layne Gregoire is doing what he likes to do. The founder and owner of Vermont Country Campers Sales and Service on Route 2 in East Montpelier says his relationship with his customers is the key to his business success and the reason he enjoys it so much. Starting 13 years ago with \$8,000 in cash and Layne's desire to create his own business, his camper sales and service dealership now sells 300 to 500 campers per year.

Layne grew up in Barre and still lives there with his wife Cindy, also of Barre, and their two children, Logan, 19 and Shelby, 17. Virtually the only activity that has successfully pulled him away from his business in recent years has been coaching soccer and basketball for Barre Youth Sports and coaching his daughter's AAU basketball team.

Layne was introduced to camper sales and service through his college roommate who was part of the family that operates Mekkelsen's RV Sales and Rentals just up the road from Vermont Country Campers. Layne worked at Mekkelsen's before moving on to a job at Pioneer Campers in Montpelier. Several jobs

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Maurice and Barbara Brown

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS Maurice and Barbara Brown

I had no idea that I would get such a great history lesson by just sitting down with Maurice and Barbara Brown. As the lesson started I was surprised to hear that "Brownie," as many may know him, is a third generation East Montpelier resident. Brownie has some wonderful memories of attending the old Center School and also the Village School (currently the Town Office) as a kid. He was employed at the old Delair farm/slaughter house for nearly 17 years. In 1955 it seems Maurice was invited to a Halloween dance at St. Sylvester's Church in Websterville. Little did he know that this event was the disguise for what he calls "a blind date." This is where he met Barbara. They were married in 1959 and have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

After renting in the village for a short time, they bought their current home where they have lived for 45 years. While Maurice delivered fuel oil for the next 25 years, Barbara was a stay-at-home mom raising Michele and Maurice Patrick. As the children got older, Barbara worked 25 years at the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce. She still fills in there when needed. They both reflect on how so much has changed; no one in their right mind would try to play baseball in front of Dudley's today. They both remember those times and mention seeing maybe a car an hour. It is evident that they

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EAST MONTPELIER  
**Signpost**

Published six times a year.  
Mailed free of charge  
to all residents of  
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

In 1986 I was a single mom looking for a good place to raise my son. Once I fine-tuned my search to Vermont, a friend pointed me in the direction of Montpelier. I will always remember the feeling I had that day as I drove into town. I knew that this is where we'd call home. In fact, I found an apartment for us that very same day on Barre Street.

Having grown-up in Detroit, Michigan, my experience with community was not always a positive one. I remember once, shortly after moving here, when a friend from the city came to visit. We went for a walk downtown. After awhile she asked me, "Why is everyone always saying hello to us?" I explained, "It's because people up here are nice."

Since then, I have moved way out here to East Montpelier where there is more space and fewer people; but when you do meet up with someone, whether it's your neighbor or a total stranger, there is most always a cordial exchange of some kind.

I feel so fortunate to now be living and working in this community on this beautiful spot known as Cate Farm that I rarely want to leave, especially not in the summer when the tomatoes are coming in, but when I do I am always so happy to come home.

—Sally Coleman

## RALLY DAY IS COMING!

If you have never attended East Montpelier's annual community celebration or haven't done so in a few years, be sure to come to Rally Day 2009 on September 12. The general structure of the day will be familiar, but many of the activities will be new or newly energized.

The morning will feature local baked goods, Fire Department activities, veggie decorating and Puzzlemania, the Vermont Arts Council community art project featuring painted puzzle panels by professionals, amateurs, local students, and you. The lunchtime Chicken Barbeque will include our own Cookie Contest with a possible appearance by the Cookie Monster! Right after lunch we'll have old fashioned field games for all ages—three-legged races, a seed spitting contest, and other non-olympic sports. Indoors, the *Signpost* Silent Auction will be in full swing, plus acoustic music, crafts, games and presentations will take place in the gym throughout the day. In the evening there will be a supper, and a Variety Show starring our multi-talented townsfolk to cap off the day.

Look for more information on the *Signpost* website, and remember to open your soon-to-arrive tax bill right away to see the Rally Day flyer inside! Do come, and do consider getting involved by contacting any of the following folks: for the Variety Show, Colin McCaffrey at 454-1007; the Silent Auction, Barbara Brown at 223-2842; to volunteer or for general information, Bill Merrylees at 223-4951 or Matt Curtis at 223-7403.

—Bill Merrylees





and some years later, in 1996, he made the leap to having his own business, went into a shared venture with Rudy Martin, and opened R&C RV Sales. They pooled their resources and rented the property by the Winooski River in Berlin presently occupied by the Kubota tractor business.

After several years the business outgrew that site and purchased the former Chadwick-Baross property next to the Green Valley Campground a mile further east on Route 2. A few years after that, his business also bought Green Valley which they still operate as a campground. Now you can buy a camper at Vermont Country Campers and camp right there if you just can't wait to try out your new rig. The business has continued to grow and has a range of 15 to 30 employees over the years. It's a range because the camper business in Vermont is seasonal with a clear peak in the summer and a definite lull in mid-winter.

Not surprisingly, this year the lull started earlier in the fall and got quite a bit deeper when the economy went in the tank, but Layne says that this spring sales are recovering pretty nicely. He is, as the saying goes, "cautiously optimistic." Helping to fuel the recovery for Vermont Country Campers is their newly upgraded Internet presence at [www.vermontcountrycampers.com](http://www.vermontcountrycampers.com). The website has dramatically expanded their horizons. Actual sales this year have come from as far away as Illinois and California.

East Montpelier is definitely a destination for camper shoppers whether virtual or in person. With Vermont Country Campers located as close to Mekkelsen's as they are, and the two being among the largest camper sales outlets in Vermont, the combined pull of the two dealerships draws camper shoppers from all over New England and eastern upstate New York. Since Vermont Country Campers and Mekkelsen's each offer completely different lines of products from different manufac-

turers, a shopper can probably find a larger variety here in East Montpelier than almost anywhere in New England.

Given that his expansion is now happening mostly online, Layne says that he plans to stay in East Montpelier indefinitely. He sees no need to move and finds that East Montpelier is a great place to have a business. Actually, without any prompting from his interviewer, Layne offered that he has found East Montpelier town government "cooperative and easy to deal with...courteous and prompt. The town is a friendly place to do business."

Thinking about all the concentrated work that Layne has put into growing his business, I asked him if he ever went camping himself. He admits that, although he used to enjoy it, he has been too busy with the dealership to spend much time camping in recent years. He says that vacation for him is spending time with his family whenever and wherever he can. He is delighted both his son and daughter have begun working at the business in the last couple of years. "This way I get to see a lot more of them. Logan, in particular, will be here full time until he goes off to school this fall, and that's just great," he said.

Layne says that camping is "building a lifetime of memories" for his customers and his greatest delight is hearing the stories of their camping adventures. As he puts it, "Relationships are the key. Without the ongoing contact with all the people who buy their campers here, this would be just another job." Since I have shared a few of my own camping stories with him, while the camper I bought there eight years ago was being serviced, I know he means it.

*—Ted Allen and his partner, Stephanie Krauss, moved to the County Road about three years ago. He has retired several times, more or less, except that he is currently working part-time at The Uncommon Market, his daughter's store in Montpelier.*

## East Montpelier Churches

### Crossroads Christian Church

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

### Lighthouse Christian Church

Sue Salameh, Pastor  
Worship and Children's Church 10 a.m.  
Phone: 461-6856

### Old Brick Church

Mark McEathon, Pastor  
Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Phone: 223-1232

### Old Meeting House

Rev. Rona Kinsley, Interim Pastor  
Rev. David Connor, Assoc. Pastor  
Worship & Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Phone: 229-9593

are also the proud grandparents of Harold and Fredrick; on the refrigerator are their photos, and on the faces of Maurice and Barbara are huge smiles as they tell you about them. As I come and go on a daily basis, I often see the two of them enjoying time together on the porch or outside mowing and gardening.

Both have served on town committees. Maurice was on the Planning Commission for eight years, and Barbara has been involved in Rally Day for several years. For the last few years she has organized the silent auction held on Rally Day which raises money for the publication of the *Signpost*.

For those who may not know your neighbors, I would say you may not know what you are missing. Like so many others in town the Browns are living testaments of the reason we all moved to East Montpelier. They have become more than neighbors to my family. They have become models and inspirations and are caring and loving family friends.

—John Audy, his wife Kathy, and their children, Madison, Collin, and Ethan, have been the Browns' neighbors for 12 years. John runs Audy Contracting and serves as East Montpelier's Fire Chief.

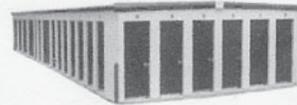
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## REPORT FROM UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME

Hello Everyone,

This 2009 legislative session was the most difficult, intense, fast paced and yes, one of the shortest sessions that I have experienced since I have served in the State House. On June 2 we were called back into session by the governor because of his first-in-history veto of the budget passed by the legislature. The special session finally came to a close late on June 3. By a vote of 100 to 50, the legislature chose to override the governor's veto. This action ensures that the budget will be in place on July 1. The legislature also passed a companion bill to the budget which addresses many of the concerns the governor expressed in his budget veto message. Some of the highlights of this bill include the creation of two one-day sales tax holidays - one this August and the other in March of 2010. We have also protected the sale of farms and timberland from increased capital gains taxation. The bill also begins to address the huge problems with the unemployment insurance funds and creates state employee retirement incentives.

The budget as passed by the legislature is a very painful mix of deep cuts to programs that affect the elderly, the sick, and those Vermonters with the lowest incomes. It includes a modest revenue increase, closes some income and capital gains tax loop holes, uses federal stimulus revenue, and taps a little reserve fund to create a balanced budget. This was not an easy budget to create nor to pass in the legislature. As difficult as this process has been and given the options, I believe that overriding the veto of the budget was the best choice. The legislature and the administration had been negotiating this budget for the past five months. In the past two weeks, negotiations and talks were held every day for hours. It was clear no settlement would be reached. If we had failed to override the veto, I believe that we would have been looking at the possible shut-down of most government services on July 1. I say that because the budget that the legislature initially passed and was then vetoed was already a budget built on compromise. Although I believe that it is responsible and sustainable, it includes huge cuts to services to our most vulnerable and needy citizens. Most members of the majority party agreed that this was as far as we could go. We would not agree to any further reductions, and we were not going to agree with anything that would put more pressure on our local property taxes. With a budget in place, we can go forward and continue to find solutions to the many problems we face. It won't be easy, but I am convinced that we will work together.

The legislature was very productive this session. As the chair of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee, I am very happy to report that the governor has signed or allowed to pass into law three of the four bills that were crafted by my committee and passed by both the House and the Senate. These include a bill requiring all manufacturers of anti-freeze to add an embittering agent to the product so dogs

and young children will no longer be tempted to ingest the coolant. Also the use of deca as a fire retardant will no longer be allowed in mattresses and residential furniture. Our fire fighters have been very concerned about their exposure to this product when entering burning buildings. The most important and productive renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation in recent history, which will have an immediate and positive impact on our economy, is now law. The other major piece of legislation crafted by my committee, the Vermont Yankee decommissioning bill, was vetoed by the governor.

A more complete description of the many other legislative accomplishments this session is available on the East Montpelier *Signpost* website at [www.emsignpost.org](http://www.emsignpost.org). If you would like more information, please contact me by e-mail at [twk@tonyklein.com](mailto:twk@tonyklein.com) or feel free to call me at 802-793-6032.

—Tony Klein, State Representative

## EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

On top of our list is the July 1, 2009 start-up date for the ambulance service. I am proud to report to you that we are ready to start this operation. We have been busy training and working to prepare for this day. I am anticipating that we will have the additional staffing on duty the week of June 22. Making this move from fast squad to ambulance service has been all about transition. We have been doing most of the functions for years; we just needed to identify, assign, and in some cases consolidate them. Other communities around us have also been very receptive to this new service, and EMFD cannot wait for it to get started. I must take a moment to thank all of the members of EMFD, but specifically Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Ty Rolland, Assistant Chief Larry Brown, and Firefighter Toby Talbot for the incredible energy they have put into this. The amount of time these folks have volunteered is staggering. Please join me in saying thank you to them when you get a chance.

As of this writing we continue to move forward working closely with both selectboards. (See *Emergency Services Facility Update* on page 9.) EMFD remains hopeful that we will be breaking ground in the near future.

Lastly, a reminder that the backbone of our organization is its volunteers, and we always need more. EMFD has been very fortunate to have the dedication and availability of members to cover its calls day or night. This is still the fact today. Having said that, we have to be proactive with our efforts in recruitment. We are currently looking for firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and active supporting members. Please join us at the Templeton Road station any Tuesday night 7-9 p.m. or contact me at 233-7899.

—Chief John Audy

## TOWN OFFICES

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651  
Phone: 802-223-3313  
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM  
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

**Town Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti**  
eastmonttct@comcast.net

**Town Administrator: Craig Kleman**  
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

**Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson**  
eastmontza@comcast.net

**Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer**  
karengramer@comcast.net

**Fire Warden: Jon Boucher** 223-7902

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

**2nd Constable: Paul Haynes** 223-1651

**Health Officer: Dave Grundy** 476-4300

**Service Officer:**  
**Rachael Grossman** 223-3177

### Selectboard

Rob Chickering, Chair  
rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill  
Tracy Phillips

Don Welch  
Duane Wells

### Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375  
Seth Gardner                      Mark Lane  
Jack Pauly                         Gene Troia  
Kim Watson                        Carol Welch  
Ken Santor                         Jean Vissering

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair  
Jeff Cueto                         Jane Grinde  
Steve Kappel                      Cliff King  
Mark Lane                         Gray Ricker  
Ken Santor                         Stanley Pierce

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

### U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley  
Emily Goyette

### Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair  
Janice\_Aldrich@hotmail.com  
Andrea Colnes  
Rosie Laquerre  
Michele Leno  
Trevor Lewis

## PLANNING COMMISSION WORKING ON REVISIONS

The East Montpelier Planning Commission (PC) has recently begun the process of revising certain provisions of the town land use and development regulations that were enacted through a town-wide vote in January, 2009. The PC has already agreed on changes to the section concerning adaptive re-use of historic barns and has begun discussing changes to the section concerning certificate of use compliance. The PC anticipates making other minor amendments and technical corrections as part of its effort to mold the new land use regulations into an effective working document for the town.

The planning commission holds its meetings at the municipal office building on the first and third Thursdays every month, starting at 7:30 p.m. Each PC meeting begins with an opportunity for public comment. East Montpelier residents and landowners are encouraged to take advantage of these public comment opportunities as a way to make suggestions for possible revisions to the zoning rules.

Once the PC has assembled the various proposed revisions, it will hold a public hearing, perhaps as soon as September 2009, to take comment and input. Following that meeting, the PC will make appropriate alterations and then forward the proposed changes to the selectboard for its consideration.

In conjunction with this effort to refine the new regulations, the PC will be hosting an evening workshop on July 16, 2009 to learn more about a Development Review Board (DRB) and whether such a body is suitable for the town. In effect, a DRB combines the application review functions now done by the elected Planning Commission and the appointed Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) into one body. If a DRB were to be created, the ZBA would be eliminated and the Planning Commission could focus its time on planning matters affecting the town. The workshop, to be conducted by staff from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, is open to interested townspeople.

Persons having any questions about the regulations, possible revisions to the regulations, or the DRB workshop are encouraged to contact any of the nine members of the Planning Commission or Bruce Johnson, the town's Zoning Administrator (223-3313 ext 205).

*–Rick Hopkins, Chair, East Montpelier Planning Commission*

## TIME TO PUT AWAY THE BIRD FEEDERS

Black bear on Terry Allen's back porch this Spring



## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### MILESTONES

#### Marriages

- John Thomas Considine and Ann Marie Elizabeth Reed, May 2, 2009
- Bobbie Lee Palmer and Harlene Fay Freeman, May 17, 2009

#### Deaths

- Irene May Raymond, died April 8, 2009
- Doris E. Edson, died April 27, 2009, mother of Ronald Edson
- Stanley St. John, died May 16, 2009, spouse of Marjorie St. John
- Linda tarin chaplin, died May 25, 2009, mother of Daniel A. Chaplin, Tamara Chaplin, and Scott Chaplin

#### Property Transfers:

- Citifinancial Inc. to David J. Weisblatt, 2 acres & dwelling, VT214
- Emma L. & Paul Grant, Sr. to Heather M. Holmes, 1.36 acres, Fair Rd.
- Henry F. & Dorothy W. Witzemberger to Henry F. & Dorothy W. Witzemberger & Jennifer Witzemberger, 0.78 acres & dwelling, Maplewood Rd.
- Linda T. Chaplin & Daniel A. Chaplin to Linda T. Chaplin, 0.94 acres & seasonal dwelling, Center Rd.
- Dwight H. & Mary Ellen Kelton to Dwight H. Kelton Revocable Trust, 6 acres, Bliss Rd.
- State of VT/Transportation Board to State of VT, easement/ROW (David Rogers), VT14 for bridge construction.
- State of VT/Transportation Board to State of VT, easement/ROW (Paul Mascitti), VT14 for bridge construction.
- State of VT/Transportation Board to State of VT, 0.03 acres, Factory St.
- Richard L. Thurston, Estate of, to Allison Snyder, Elizabeth Canfield & Peter Thurston, 79 acres & dwelling, Barnes Rd.
- Kirsten Edey to William Alexander P. Craig, 26 acres & dwelling, Doner Rd.
- William Alexander Craig to Riley E. Craig Trust, William A. P. Craig, Trustee, 26 acres & dwelling, Doner Rd

### PLANNING COMMISSION

#### February 5, 2009

Action Taken:

- Motion Approved: as presented the preliminary and final plat review application #08-113 submitted by Gerald and Patricia Balkcom, Ron Koss, and Carley Claghorn to subdivide their property.
- The ZBA gave Seth Gardner permission to build a roof over a cement pad that is 2' into

the ROW on Snow Hill Rd. with the condition he is responsible for snow removal required as a result of the roof.

- The Town Clerk will send a condolence to the family of former ZA Ross Haverstick who passed away.

#### March 19, 2009

- Paul Erlbaum and Caroline Shapiro would like the PC to consider submitting a grant proposal for mapping the town's ground water. The deadline for this proposal is Oct. 2009. Erlbaum and Shapiro will find out what is required for a grant proposal and estimate the number of hours needed for this work.
- The board suggested Bonnie and Jeff Sibley apply to the ZBA for a conditional use permit to re-purpose their barn for a wedding venue.
- The East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI) is looking for a suitable piece of land for a senior living center. The number of units per acre stipulation particularly in Zone E makes this challenging. Most towns have more than five zones. Perhaps East Montpelier needs a new zone which addresses population growth centers.
- The Planning Commission is considering the creation of a Development Review Board (DRB) in order to free up the PC to have more time to plan.

#### May 7, 2009

- The PC determined it will not re-certify a 2006 subdivision plan. The plan must be re-certified through the regular subdivision process.
- The ZA will do a boundary adjustment for the Hawkins family once the conditions of the subdivision are met.
- In order to guide decisions concerning barn adaptive re-use, the PC requested the chair change (D1) in zoning regs as follows: "adequate water, septic and off street parking capacity exists to accommodate the proposed use."
- June 18 is the date of a Development Review Board workshop for the SB, PC, ZBA and the public.

- Rick Hopkins, chair, and Jean Vissering will attend a Planning Commissioners Retreat at Vermont Law School on June 5-6.

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

#### April 21, 2009

- Continuation of VTrans appeal of ZA.
- Approved Motion: to deny the VTrans appeal and uphold the ZA's decision

### U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

#### May 6, 2009

- The Central Office Building project is moving forward with requests for proposals from contractors.
- There was a discussion about fundraising for field trips.
- Keith Gerritt will have until August to review and possibly make revisions to The Washington Central Supervisory Union Evaluation Process for Administrators and Directors for the Executive Committee.
- The Board is asking for clarity of decision-making around curriculum issues. Clarity is needed regarding statutes and roles and responsibilities of the School Board members and the administrators. Questions regarding Advanced Placement classes are forcing the Board to clarify roles and responsibilities.

Motions Passed:

- the ratification of the Negotiated Teachers' Agreement through 2010
- the ratification of the Educational Support Personnel Agreement through 2010
- the authorization of Ginny Burley to sign Negotiated Agreements on behalf of the Board of Directors
- to approve the 2009-10 ESP staffing with the plan to retain current ESP staffing
- to approve the summer Board meeting schedule
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel and student issues

### TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER NEEDS CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

East Montpelier is seeking to fill the following vacancies:

- **Central Vermont Transit Authority Board Representative**
- **Collector of Lease Land Rent**
- **Forest Committee Member**
- **Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Representative**

For information on any of these positions, contact Town Administrator Craig Kleman at the town office, 223-3313 x204 or [eastmontadmin@comcast.net](mailto:eastmontadmin@comcast.net)

## GRANDFATHER'S GLADIOLI

Dahlias and Gladioli a Specialty



### Twin Elm Farm

L. D. Coburn, Prop.

EAST MONTPELIER, VT.

I do not remember my grandfather Lewis D. Coburn. He died when I was only two. What I know comes from family stories and diaries he kept.

The one thing I am certain of is that he did not like farming, but that was what he felt obligated to do most of his life. What he really liked was flowers, in particular, dahlias and gladioli.

He was scheduled to graduate from Tufts College in 1889 and had planned to go on to study law. But life is what happens when you are making other plans—as the saying goes—and his father, Joseph Leander, became very ill with what was probably Crohn's Disease in early April and died. This left my grandfather with a widowed mother, a spinster sister—who was to die two years later—and a farm. Family obligations overrode personal plans, so he came home after graduating in June and took over the farm. The final entry in the diary he kept that year was, "Went skating on North Montpelier Pond with Belle Hollister." He married her in 1891.

To an extent history repeated itself. His father—generally known as J. L. Coburn—had gone to live in Elgin, Illinois, after his marriage in 1859 to Caroline Corliss. They had a good farm and a thriving butter and cheese business. But his father, Larned, became ill so he came back to Vermont to take over the home farm on what is now called "Coburn Road" adjacent to the covered bridge.

J. L. bought the house on Daggett Road in 1870, and this was the farm that Lewis inherited. At one time he rented it to someone else and lived in North Montpelier. But this did not last, and he moved his family back to Daggett Road. (This is where Paulie and I live.) Here he began what was to become a very successful gladioli business. Alternative agriculture is not a new concept.

Lewis raised thousands of bulbs and sold them as cut flowers and as bulbs to other gardeners. Gladioli hybridize very easily, and he created a number of new varieties. He entered flower shows, garnering a box full of medals and ribbons.

Gladioli are a labor-intensive flower to grow. In Vermont they have to be dug every fall and kept indoors. Each bulb will multiply into two or three large bulbs and a half-dozen bulblets. After being dug, these have to dry for awhile; then they need to be cleaned, sorted, and stored in a cool, dry place where the mice cannot get at them. It took Lewis most of his spare time during the winter to take care of the bulbs. Then the ones that were not sold had to be replanted in the spring.

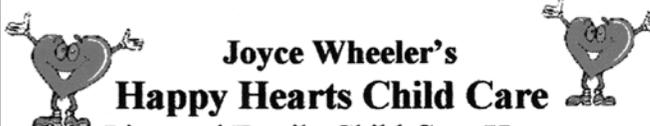
After he died, my father, Carroll, carried on the business for a time. It was not to his liking so he sold it to a man in Barre who ran it for many years. One of my first memories is following my father through the gladioli. They were taller than I, so I

have this image of being in a long, green tunnel trudging along behind my dad in his farmer boots.

Lewis pretty much left the farming to hired men. In addition to his flower business, he served as Assistant Judge (Side Judge, as it is often called) in Washington County Court. Like his father, grandfather, son, and grandson (yours truly), he also served in the State Legislature.

He died of peritonitis in March of 1936, much respected and greatly missed. I hope they found some gladioli to place around his casket.

—David A. Coburn



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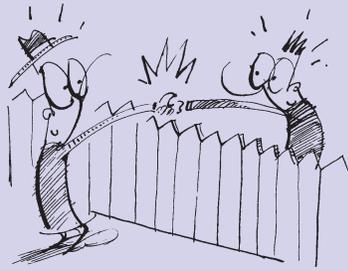


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## GOOD NEIGHBOR STORIES WANTED

Many people describe the pleasures of living in East Montpelier in terms of their relationships with their friends and neighbors. Please share your thoughts on community life in East Montpelier for inclusion in our **Good Neighbors** column.



E-mail to Barbara Ploof at [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com) or mail to 255 Barnes Road, Montpelier, VT 05602. You may call 223-6934 if you have questions.

## EAST MONTPELIER ENERGY COMMITTEE

Thirteen East Montpelier residents volunteered to become energy ambassadors as part of the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project. After a day of training, they visited over 50 East Montpelier homes replacing old light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, insulating electric water heaters, installing hot water pipe insulation, and performing an energy walk-through. It was encouraging to learn that many of our residents had already taken some steps toward reducing their energy bills and the amount of greenhouse gases their homes emit. The state had mandated a rather short time period for the project, and as a result, not everyone who signed up could be visited.

Even though the project is officially ended and our data have been sent in for analysis, the Energy Committee would like to extend the offer to come to your home and perform the energy walk-through. We would not be able to install any energy saving materials or devices, but we could make recommendations that would help you save on your energy bill. Interested residents can contact me at 476-4300 or at [ddgrundy@comcast.net](mailto:ddgrundy@comcast.net).

As a result of the efforts of these volunteers, the town will receive over \$500 to be used toward some energy saving project. We are hoping to apply these funds to making the town office more energy efficient.

As of this writing, we are still waiting to see if our application for funds to help offset the cost of the wood pellet heating system in the new firehouse has been approved.

The results of an energy audit and follow-up at the Four Corner Schoolhouse may be seen in photos as part of the Historical Society window display by Conrad and Anne Ormsbee at the municipal office.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITY UPDATE

The selectboards of East Montpelier and Calais along with the East Montpelier Fire Department, architects, contractors and subcontractors have been working to craft a building that both communities can be proud of. The selectboards have been conducting their due diligence to ensure that the project is kept under budget while at the same time ensuring that the facility meets the standards that are required by modern fire, rescue, and ambulance services.

Two businesses have continued in their roles as the implementation phase of the project gears up. Scott & Partners, with East Montpelier resident Joel Page, has been working with both boards through Building Committee representatives Duane Wells (EM) and Scott Bassage (Calais) to design the complex. Also, on the Building Committee is Connor Contracting, Inc. which will manage the construction. John and Steve Connor both live in East Montpelier, and their company will assist with the budgeting of the project, bid packages, project scheduling, site supervision, and overall project management. Both boards are committed to using as many local tradespeople as possible.

The project has entered the sensitive stage of negotiations for the purchase of the property. Until that phase of the project is completed, mobilization of the other elements of the project must take a backseat. Many of the design portions have been worked on in anticipation of being able to put together bid packages for work to be conducted by various subcontractors. Much more work needs to be done before these bids can be let.

—Craig Kleman, EM Town Administrator

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## WHAT A GREEN UP!

Green Up Day this year brought out a record number of townsfolk: trash picker-uppers, sandwich makers, cookie bakers, tire rollers, and treasure hunters of every generation were among the 192 people involved. The town road foreman reports that 1.3 tons of trash and recyclables plus 72 old tires were recovered. Additionally, the Jean Cate Committee, organizers of the Green Up Lunch, report that 14 bread loaves worth of sandwiches were happily consumed by volunteers along with countless homemade cookies. Thank yous go out to all who participated in this fun and productive day.



While everyone went home with full bellies and smiles, sixth grader Lyra Wanzer of Kelton Road also went home with a \$20 bill she found on the roadside!

--Bill Merrylees, EM Green Up Coordinator



## TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL UPDATE

The town-wide reappraisal of property values is nearing completion. In mid-July all property taxpayers will receive a *Change of Appraisal Notice* in the mail. It will include the old and new values for every taxable parcel in town. We had previously reported that the mailing would arrive sometime in June, but Vermont Appraisal Company (VAC) requested and was granted an extension to the original contracted deadline. We have been working with VAC for almost a year, and we want to thank them for helping to make this reassessment as comprehensive, professional, and accurate as possible.

We've received many questions about the reappraisal, especially as we all wait to see the results. A few residents have expressed concern that when the assessed value of their property increases there will be a proportional increase in taxes; for instance, if values double then taxes double. This is not the case. The town will raise only the municipal funds we voted at Town Meeting. When assessed values rise, the tax rate set by the Selectboard declines. Remember, this is the first town-wide reappraisal since 1995.

If you have any questions or concerns about your Change of Appraisal Notice, we hope you'll bring them to the listers, either by phone or a visit to the office. We will hold extended office hours—currently scheduled for July 13–23. We hope to be able to resolve most questions through informal meetings. If, however, your concerns are not resolved to your satisfaction informally, you have two weeks from the date of postmark on the notice to make an appointment for a grievance hearing to appeal your property value. We'll include more about the grievance and appeals process with your notice of reappraisal.

Most important is that we will satisfy the requirements set by Vermont statutes to have a fair, accurate, and equitable reappraisal for the town of East Montpelier in a timely manner. After the informal discussions and grievance hearings, listers will finalize values and lodge the Grand List. The selectboard will set the municipal tax rate and the state will set the school tax rate, after which tax bills will be printed and mailed. We expect you will receive tax bills toward the end of August, as usual.

Thanks to so many of you (over 97%) who helped to make the reappraisal process easier by making your inspection appointments and showing us around your homes.

--East Montpelier Listers

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## PAULIE'S RECIPE

### Rice Whip – Alice Shields

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup crushed pineapple
- 2 cups cooked rice
- ½ cup sugar

Whip cream until stiff, then add sugar. Mix pineapple and rice carefully. Add the whipped cream and mix well. Serve very cold. A cherry on top of each serving looks very pretty.

FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK OF THE NORTH  
MONTPELIER FRIENDLY CIRCLE. PUBLISHED ABOUT 1940.

### Paulie's comment.

This is a very refreshing dessert. Make it with either canned or fresh pineapple.

## KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card!

Website: [www.kellogghubbard.org](http://www.kellogghubbard.org)

Phone: Main Desk 223-3338; Children's Library 223-4665

### Help Your Children and Teens Fall in Love With Reading This Summer

Vermont's popular Summer Reading Program will be in full swing at the Kellogg-Hubbard, with activities and reading incentives for kids of all ages. This year's theme: "Be Creative@ Your Library" will be highlighting the considerable creative talents of Ben Matchstick and Jane Napier as they offer a dynamic array of reading and craft-related activities to exercise the imaginations of our youngsters. Children and teens can sign up for the reading program throughout the summer. A full list of programs can be picked up at the library and will also be on the children's page of the website.

### Passes to Museums and Parks at Your Library

Vermont State Parks and the Department of Libraries have teamed up to offer day passes to the state parks. Under a new program—dubbed "Check Out the Parks"—the Kellogg-Hubbard offers a pass that can be checked out, like a book, for free admission to a state park.

The passes are good at any of the state's day-use parks and admit up to eight people traveling together in the same vehicle. In addition, museum passes to the Vermont History Center and the Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center can also be borrowed.

### Tap the Hidden Web

There are millions of answers online—but which are the right ones? The Kellogg-Hubbard brings you answers that you can trust, from on-line sources that are safe and authoritative. It puts the best online resources in the world at your fingertips around the clock, from the comfort of your own home, just by going to the library's website at [www.kellogghubbard.org](http://www.kellogghubbard.org).

### Volunteer for the Library's Outreach Program

The library's outreach program has a number of exciting volunteer opportunities that could suit your schedule. For more information, contact Outreach Coordinator, Rachael Grossman, at 223-3338 or [khloutreach@gmail.com](mailto:khloutreach@gmail.com).

### Ride for your Library!

Join the Onion River Century Ride on July 25- the most scenic cycling event in Vermont (it goes through East Montpelier), and raise funds for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. This year's goal is to raise \$7,500! You can choose from three rides, the 112 mile full century, 110k (68 mile) metric century or new 23 mile loop. Register at Onion River Sports on Langdon Street in Montpelier or online at [www.onionriver.com/century](http://www.onionriver.com/century).

## EM MUSICIAN WINS BIG

Congratulations to East Montpelier's Colin McCaffrey who, together with music partner Carol Hausner, won first place in the Bluegrass category in the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest 2009 for the song *Love Gone By*. To hear the song go to:  
<http://www.carolhausner.com/mp3/06-LoveGoneBy.mp3>

## EASTMONTPELIERHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Check out the newly-minted website of the Historical Society. Items of historical interest, a calendar of programs, information on the society and how to become a member, links to similar sites, and a way to buy copies of the town history – you'll find it all here.

### WANTED: YOUR STORIES ON TECHNOLOGY AT WORK IN EAST MONTPELIER

The *Signpost* would like to feature East Montpelier residents whose work lives have been changed significantly by the use of electronic technology and communications. Who lives in EM thanks to the internet? Who's doing business differently? How does it affect the town, our schools? How do artists use technology? How many cows wear transponders that customize their feeding? All stories welcome.

Please contact Edie Miller at [signposteam@comcast.net](mailto:signposteam@comcast.net)



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 • Organizations in town

Volume XIX—Number Six  
 July/August 2009

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink

### EVENTS

**Should EM have a Development Review Board?** July 16, 7:30 pm at the Town Office: Sponsored by EM Planning Commission.

**Onion River Century Ride** July 25, to benefit the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Register at Onion River Sports on Langdon Street in Montpelier or online at [www.onionriver.com/century](http://www.onionriver.com/century).

**Rally Day: September 12**  
 Join your friends and neighbors for a fun day of art activities, acoustic music, family games, and presentations. There will be delicious food throughout the day, including our own Cookie Contest. After dinner, be sure to attend the Variety Show featuring local talent of all ages. Finally, don't forget the annual silent auction to raise money for printing and mailing the *Signpost* newsletter (the labor is volunteer).

Look for more information on the *Signpost* website and grab the Rally Day flyer from your tax bill when it arrives!

**To get involved, contact any of the following:**  
 Variety Show: Colin McCaffrey at 454-1007  
 Silent Auction: Barbara Brown at 223-2842  
 To volunteer or for general information: Bill Merrylees at 223-4951 or Matt Curtis at 223-7403.

### WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

East Montpelier announcements are welcome. To be notified of new announcements, join the email list. Look under "contacts" for Jennifer Boyer and give her your email address.

A great way to know what is happening in town.

Check it out: [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com)

### NOTICES

**July 3, 2009**  
 Town Office will be closed for Independence Day.

**September 7, 2009**  
 Town Office will be closed for Labor Day.

**Deadline for Next Issue: AUGUST 1, 2009, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, [signpostbcp@hotmail.com](mailto:signpostbcp@hotmail.com)**

<b>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b>	Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office Building
	Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
	Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office Building
	Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
	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 Wed	7:15	Elementary School
	Volunteer Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
	Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
	East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office Building
	EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30	Elementary School