

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XIX—Number Four

March/April 2009

## TOWN MEETING DAY ISSUE

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR VOTING DATES AND PLACES

**Voter Registration:** You may register to vote in the upcoming Town/School Meeting at the Town Office during regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. **Voter registration closes Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 5 p.m.**

**Town Forum: Saturday, February 28, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to noon, EMES.** This will be your only opportunity to discuss all school district and town warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted on by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report. The Town articles will be discussed first, followed by the School articles.

**School/Town Meeting Day: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 9:30 a.m. at EMES.** The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The School Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the Town Meeting. Babysitting will be available starting at 9:30 a.m. in the kindergarten room.

**Australian Ballot: Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at EMES, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Early or Absentee Voting: Wednesday, February 11 through Monday, March 2, 2009.** Call or visit the Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313 to obtain ballots and vote. Ballots must be returned by 7p.m. March 3 to be counted.

### CHOOSING SERVICE TO THE TOWN

*Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual*

**Town and School District Moderator:** (one-year term: elected separately; may be one or two individuals) *The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.*

**Michael Dworkin:** For the last few years, I've been honored to be elected Moderator for our Town and School Meetings. I have enjoyed doing this, and I hope I've been doing a fair job. If you think so, I'd appreciate your vote in this year's election. I have tried to follow up on the good examples I saw in past decades—able moderators who helped us consider, debate, learn from each other, and decide things. I'll keep trying to listen for "the sense of the meeting," to apply the rules with fairness, efficiency, and common sense, and to help us all move to clear resolutions of the issues before us.

As to my background, I and my wife, Loring Starr, have lived on Powder Horn Glen Road since we came back to Vermont in 1984. At various times over those 25 years, I have tried to be helpful in town affairs, ranging from serving on the Conservation Advisory Committee, to helping with some *Signpost* silent auctions, to scooping ice cream and judging baked goods on some Rally Day weekends. Also, for decades I've walked, driven, and snowshoed across enough of East Montpelier to know how much we owe to those who have built and sustained a wonderful community for us to live in.

If you elect me again this year, I'll try to run next year's meetings and forum in ways that help us all listen to each other on the path to good decisions.

**Town Clerk** (three-year term, voters will elect one) *The town clerk's statutory duties range from recording, preserving, and certifying public documents to administering oaths*

*Continued on Page 3*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

2—Town Meeting Day Lunch

6—Town Weathervane

7—Save Energy & Grow Food

10—In the Midst of History

11—Updated Zoning Regulations

## Signpost Volunteers

**Terry Allen: Photography**  
229-0303 tallen@igc.org

**Katherine Blow: Mailing**  
476-6021 bluequartz@aol.com

**Charlie Catlin: Records Editor**  
229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

**Rhoda Chickering: Feature Editor**  
229-5005 rhoderchick@verizon.net

**Rob Chickering: Business Manager**  
229-5005 peacemaker8@verizon.net

**Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster**  
223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

**Kristie Ferguson: U-32 Reporter**  
454-7140 kferguson@u32.org

**Lori Martin: Design**  
223-7970 lorianne.m@comcast.net

**Carol McKenna: Copy Editor**  
229-6001 cmckenna1000@yahoo.com

**Eddie Miller: Organizations Editor**  
229-0677 signposteam@comcast.net

**Carolyn Pastore: EMES Reporter**  
223-7463 cwpas44@yahoo.com

**Barbara Ploof: Copy Editor**  
223-6934 signpostbcp@hotmail.com

**Cherie Staples: Copy Editor**  
476-2541 skyearth1@aol.com

**Wendy Soliday: Artist**  
229-9594 wsoliday@aol.com

**Sylvia Tosi: Town Records**  
223-3240 dontsyl@comcast.net

## 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

Today, a flock of pine grosbeaks feeds in our front-yard crabapple tree. Last week it was turkeys, dark and massive, that flew into the tree to pick through last fall's crabapple crop.

Just four miles from downtown, our corner of East Montpelier is hardly a wilderness. Yet the wildlife here is a wonder. Around town meeting time, our neighborhood barred owls begin pairing up and calling through the night. Before long, red-winged blackbirds will return, their unmistakable twang a sign of warmer days to come. Then phoebes will arrive, and winter's quiet will vanish with the honking of Canada geese overhead and the noisy chorus of spring peepers and wood frogs in nearby ponds. They guarantee that there's no turning back. In summer, painted turtles bury their eggs in our driveway, garter snakes claim our stone walls, and American toads dig burrows in our garden. The extended list for our home place includes moose and deer, otters and raccoons. Add foxes, fishers, porcupines, and bear. For much of the year, we can track the nighttime wandering of coyotes by ear. Where else can one live amidst so much of nature, only a stone's throw from a vibrant capital city? Stop for a moment, and consider just how lucky we are.

—Bob Klein, Upper North Street

### Find the Sweet Spots

Photos of East Montpelier sugar houses by  
Gary Ann Lewis.

Can you identify the sugar houses scattered  
throughout this issue?  
*Answers on the back cover.*



## JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON TOWN MEETING DAY

Town Meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Join us and catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors. Here's how it works: Bring a dish to share—salad, main dish, bread, or dessert. Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. This is a true potluck. If you can't possibly bring a dish to share, \$5.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! (we hope we don't run out of food). Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning.

Being part of the kitchen crew is a great way to meet your neighbors or catch up with old friends. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177.

## THINK ABOUT THIS

There are three articles that groups have petitioned the town to consider on Town Meeting Day. The issues are summarized below—check the Town Report for full wording. We will vote on:

- 1) whether the term of Collector of Delinquent Taxes should be three years rather than the current one year
- 2) whether to waive property taxes for the Central Vermont Humane Society
- 3) whether to ask the legislature to ensure that VT Yankee ceases operation in 2012

## TOWN OFFICES AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

of office, complying with public information requests, posting notices on the town's bulletin board, running local elections, maintaining the grand list, selling fish and game licenses, issuing marriage licenses and licensing animals.

**Teresa "Terri" Conti:** I have been the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer for three years and still find the positions as enjoyable today as when I began my reign. The previous three years of being the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer for my predecessor, Sylvia Tosi, began the preparation for what was to come. Over the last three years, all the experience and knowledge that I have acquired prior to becoming a town officer have enabled me to accommodate to the ever-changing duties and responsibilities that are constantly changing on all levels of the governing entities. I would appreciate your vote to continue on with carrying out the duties of the East Montpelier Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.

**Katina (Touchette) Johnson:** I have been a resident of East Montpelier for a total of 17 years. I came home in 2004 when I decided that a close community with strong traditions and values was where I wanted to raise my daughter Grace. As Grace has grown, I have realized the best way to be a member of the community is to be active in town. In the last couple of years I have been involved with the elementary school. As I considered other ways to serve, I realized that the jobs of town clerk and treasurer is an area where I can give my best.

I will be able to apply my eighteen years of diversified business experience, degree in accounting, and ability to work effectively with multiple departments, as well as offering my dedication, my cooperation, and my respect. In my past and current experiences, I have proven to be a detail-oriented, flexible, fast learner. I have also shown that I can work successfully under multiple deadlines independently and as a part of a team. These are all skills needed for an effective town clerk and treasurer's office in a world that is always changing. East Montpelier is a wonderful town, and together we can keep it a town to come home to.

**Town Treasurer:** (three-year term, voters will elect one) *The town treasurer is responsible for keeping the town's accounts, investing money received by the town (with the approval of the legislative body), keeping a record of the taxes voted and paying orders by officials authorized by law to draw orders on town accounts. The treasurer must work with the auditors to settle town accounts prior to the annual meeting, and he or she is often called upon to provide the selectboard with information about town finances. The treasurer can also perform the function of collector of current and/or delinquent taxes, and acts as the school treasurer unless a separate school treasurer is elected by the school district voters.*



**Teresa "Terri" Conti:** see previous page

**Katina (Touchette) Johnson:** see previous page

**Selectboard Members:** (voters will elect two) *Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the town and for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The selectboard convenes Town Meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances as examples.*

**Peter Hill (three-year term):** I am very interested in East Montpelier town affairs. I was a two-term selectman in the 1980s, I have been on the Planning Commission, and I have

*continued on page 4*

*Spiritual Intuitive Readings*

Reading by mail - \$45, include 5 questions and recent photo of self and those included in your questions. Photos returned with reading. Individual or group readings are also available.

Shaw-nee'  
PO Box 187  
East Montpelier, VT 05651  
Phone: 802-229-6035  
ReadingByShawnee@aol.com

**Casey J. Northrup**  
Owner, ASE Master Certified

**KC's Performance Auto Care**

- Auto Repair
- Used Cars
- Performance Parts
- Accessories

4423 US Route 2  
E Montpelier, VT 05651

Phone/Fax  
802-224-7170  
kcsautovt@yahoo.com

## TOWN OFFICES AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

been a Justice of the Peace. I have been on the road crew for East Montpelier and Barre City and for over 20 years I ran Hill's Repair in East Montpelier village. Currently, I am responsible for fixing the equipment for Barre City Street Department. I have lived in this town for over 62 years, and my wife, MaryEllen, and I have three grown children. I would appreciate your support.

**Don Welch (two-year term):** As many of you know, the Selectboard was increased from three to five members at last year's Town Meeting. I was elected to one of the new positions with a one-year term. The two new members will serve staggered two-year terms.

I have lived in East Montpelier with my family since 1969. East Montpelier is a wonderful town in which to live with many friends and neighbors putting in untold hours to keep the town



running. I retired from National Life as an Actuary. I served the town for many years on the Financial Advisory Committee and served two years as Town Auditor, resigning to take my Selectboard position. It has been a very busy year. I have learned a lot this past year and look forward to serving the town by putting this knowledge to work for another two years.

**Listers:** (voters will elect two) *Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the selectboard or the town will use to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate the town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property*

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

 **MORSE FARM**  
MAPLE SUGARWORKS

Thanks a lot for your continued support!

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

### Thank you to these *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to  
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Richard & Alice Angney

Marion Codling

Larry & Joan Fitch

Kendall & Ruth Frost

Carl & Evelyn Hendrickson

Albert & Elizabeth Jerome

Alban & Margaret Richey

Bob & Lois Webster

Mabel Wright

*wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.*

**Renée Carpenter (two-year term):** I was appointed Lister last summer to assist with East Montpelier's reappraisal process and various other listing tasks. I've found the work to be enjoyable and, with my background in non-profit administration, a natural fit for my abilities.

With encouragement from Ross, Terri, Denise, Jeanne, and other town officials, I am formally seeking to be elected for the position I've been filling since last summer.

**Ross Hazel (three-year term):** After working with Rosie Cueto in the Listers' office for four and a half years, I've continued on as lister for a total of six years. I'm running again for a three-year term for the office of Lister. I've found it to be an enjoyably challenging job, and hope to continue for another three years.

**Auditor:** (three-year term) *Town auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all town and town school district officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the town.*

**Marlene Betit:** no statement provided

**Trustee for Public Funds:** (voters will elect two) *The Trustee is given responsibility for managing public funds. In actuality, this is an inactive position in East Montpelier and other towns. In East Montpelier the position has been commonly held by the Town Treasurer who exercises this responsibility as Treasurer.*

**Teresa "Terri" Conti (three-year term):** see page 3

**Denise M. Brown (two-year term):** no statement provided

## TOWN OFFICES AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Town Law Agent:** (one-year term) *As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier. Although statute provides that an agent to prosecute and defend suits shall be elected, no statute provides the agent with any independent authority to act.*

**No candidates**

**Town Grand Juror:** (one-year term) *As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier whose duties have been taken over by the State's Attorney. The grand juror is responsible for inquiring into and providing information to the proper authorities of criminal offenses that may occur in the town in which he or she has been elected.*

**No candidates**



**First Constable:** (one-year term) *East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. The constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary.*

**Sandy Conti:** I have been the First Constable for the last two years and have found it interesting and challenging. I enjoy the variety of calls and situations that I have been summoned to. And being appointed also to the position of Animal Control Officer, my calls have been interesting. I would appreciate your vote to continue serving as First Constable.

**Second Constable:** (one-year term) *Same as First Constable*

**Paul Haynes:** no statement submitted



**Collector of Delinquent Taxes:** (one-year term) *The CDT is authorized to work with delinquent tax payers to arrange payment due to the Town and is authorized to collect penalty and interest and sell property at auction if necessary to assure settlement of the Town's claim.*

**Karen Gramer:** Since being elected last March as your Collector of Delinquent Taxes, I believe I have served the taxpayers of East Montpelier well. I successfully collected 88% of all delinquent taxes due the Town of East Montpelier and have conducted one tax sale. My unique work experience as a real estate paralegal for over 20 years, interacting with the public and working in many of the town clerks' offices in the State of Vermont has given me the knowledge to thoroughly understand the complex tax collection process.

After the Treasurer submits the Warrant to me for collection, I notify taxpayers monthly via US mail of their delinquent accounts. I also speak with them frequently in order to work on timely payment arrangements, balancing the taxpayers' ability to pay with the town's need for revenue. I have written a collection policy which is distributed to delinquent taxpayers. My detailed Collection Reports are submitted bi-weekly to the town, and frequent meetings with the Treasurer ensure accurate financial calculation and recording of delinquent taxes.

There will be an article on the Town Meeting Warning to change the term of CDT from one-year to three-year term. I believe this change will be beneficial in order to provide ongoing continuity within the Town. My first year as Collector of Delinquent Taxes has been a mutually successful experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve the taxpayers of East Montpelier.

*continued on page 8*

**Kevin E. Hudson**  
2235 Brazier Road  
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663 Pager: 826-5313

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

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

\*Free Estimates      \*Fully Insured      \*Quality Work

# K & A LEASING

**44 Storage Units**  
**Assorted Sizes**  
**5 x 5 to 10 x 30**

Call us for your storage needs

## 802-224-7170

Locally owned & operated on Rt. 2 in E. Montpelier

## 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

**Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Denise Brown**  
eastmontatct@comcast.net

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

**Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson**  
(Contact Bruce for sewage questions.)  
Tues–Thurs, 1–4 PM  
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**

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

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

**Town Officer: Robyn Hall 223-3308**

### Selectboard

Steve Jerome, Chair  
Tracy Phillips Rob Chickering  
Don Welch Duane Wells

### Planning Commission

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

### Board of Adjustment

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

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

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

Ginny Burley, Chair, 229-0826  
gburley@u32.org

Emily Goyette 223-1867  
egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Janice 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

- Payton Anthony Farnsworth, son born on Dec.14, 2008 to Jessyca Rae Manning & Thomas Mark Farnsworth.

#### Marriages

- Cresswell Steven Codling to Xochitl LaGourgue on Dec. 22, 2008.
- Timothy Jennings to Leanne Ponder on Jan. 11, 2009.

#### Deaths

- Dustin Bartlett LaBelle, died Dec.16, 2008.

#### Property Transfers

- Hugh M. Hawkins, Dennis R. Hawkins & Susan W. Hawkins to Burton W. Spooner III, 3 acres & mobile home, Towne Hill Rd.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

#### December 4, 2008

Motions approved:

- to accept the Byers change of use application (#08-105)
- to accept the Hall change of use application (#08-106)

Ms. Vissering reported the village center designation has been officially approved. Area property owners may apply for grant money for improvements and may receive tax benefits. The town may also apply for grants to build sidewalks. The area approved includes Mekkelsen's house, over the VT14 bridge to the apartment house, down US2 to the antique store, the fire station on VT14, and one lot up on Quaker Hill Rd.

#### December 18, 2008

Motions approved:

- to accept Application #08-111, submitted by Emma & Paul Grant, to subdivide their property located on Fair Road presented, with the condition that the existing trailer be moved to conform with the setbacks or removed by October 1, 2009.
- to accept Sign Application #08-112 submitted by applicants Donald & Judith



Chase for a 5-foot by 3-foot sign panel on an already-permitted sign platform on property located at 4423 US2

### EMES SCHOOL BOARD

#### October 27, 2008

Motions approved:

- to request a program draft from D. Lesure by November's meeting, for Board approval in December, for program implementation in January.
- to authorize the purchase of the "X" Wave for \$4000 with the suggestion to offer \$3500.
- to accept amendment to Policy D1 addressing personnel background checks.
- to approve revised polices concerning teachers retaining control of classroom practices.

#### November 19, 2008

Continued discussion from the previous meeting of Students Who Exceed the Standards. Asked questions about personnel for the program and how it will be administered. Parental permission would be needed if students were to miss classes to participate in the program. J. Aldrich gave verbal "go ahead" with consensus from other board members.

Motions approved:

- to appoint three Board Members with voting privileges to serve on WCSU Board.
- to hire Sandra Cormier - Long-Term Guidance Counselor.
- to hire Dave Willard – 5/6 grade teacher.
- to hire Susan Barnes - paraeducator.



### DRAGONS, ORANGUTANS & HEADHUNTERS

Four Corners Schoolhouse  
Armchair Traveler Series  
presents photographer/  
adventurer Jane Walker  
Richmond's trek through  
Indonesia.  
Sunday April 19, 3–4 pm  
at the 4-C Schoolhouse.

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

#### December 3, 2008

- The Board congratulated teachers Mark Chaplin, Kathy Topping-Weise, and Adam French for attaining National Board Certification.
- Motion approved to accept the winter coaches as presented.

#### December 17, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to accept with deep regret the retirement of Eleanor Woodfield, 0.8 FTE.
- to accept the resignation of Robert Blakinship, 1 FTE.
- to accept the appointment of Sandra Bettis, Individual Assistant.
- to accept board orders.
- to accept the winter coaches as presented.

#### January 13, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to accept the FY 2010 Budget for \$12,996,263 as presented.
- to accept the U32 District Warning as presented.
- to accept participation in Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative for FY 2009-10.
- to accept Steve Colangeli as Greenhouse Advisor.
- to accept the following resignations: Annika DeVries – 0.70 FTE Science Teacher, Kelly Carpenter – Food Service.
- to accept the Administration's recommendation regarding the student issue discussed in Executive Session.
- to deny a request for a tuition waiver.



## WE WELCOME CRAIG KLEMAN, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

East Montpelier welcomes our new Town Administrator, Craig J. Kleman from Newport, VT. He comes to us with a wealth of knowledge as a Town Administrator from areas such as Lyndonville, VT, Epping, NH, and Merrimac, MA. He has expertise in water and wastewater treatment facilities, parks and highway maintenance, and other municipal facilities, as well grant administration. He has developed budgets for a variety of municipal projects.

## TWO OPPORTUNITIES: SAVE ENERGY—GROW FOOD

Your Energy Committee was a successful applicant for participation in the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project. Volunteers have been trained and are now conducting home visits to residents who want to learn how they can make their homes more energy efficient.

This is a free service, and those who sign up will receive free energy-efficient devices, which include compact fluorescent light bulbs, pipe insulation, low flow shower heads and programmable thermostats. This is a great opportunity to make your home more energy efficient, and you can't beat the price. If you are interested in having a home visit and consultation, contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or [ddgrundy@comcast.net](mailto:ddgrundy@comcast.net).

We have seen a steady increase in the cost of food. Gardeners have long recognized the opportunities for lowering costs and increasing food quality. The Energy Committee is sponsoring a series of gardening workshops for new and experienced gardeners. Topics might include preparing a garden plot, selecting and starting seeds, selecting plants, the process of planting, controlling weeds and insects, making and using compost, harvesting, preserving, and food preparation. Those interested in sharing their knowledge and those wanting to learn more about gardening may contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or at [ddgrundy@comcast.net](mailto:ddgrundy@comcast.net).

**Open Everyday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

*Maple creemees-just gotta have one!*

We ship  
anywhere

"A quality  
family farm  
shop"

802-223-  
5757



Vermont  
handicrafts

Gifts

Vermont  
cheese

Mail-order  
maple products

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

**AUDY CONTRACTING**

*"Quality Work, at Reasonable Prices"*

Interior  
Remodeling  
Sheetrocking  
Taping  
Painting



Exterior  
Roofing  
Siding  
Windows  
Decks

**Renovations/Additions**

P.O. Box 136  
East Montpelier, VT 05651  
(802) 223-7899

*Fully Insured*

## TOWN OFFICES AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

continued from page 5

**Planning Commissioners:** (voters will elect four) *The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current Town Plan and Zoning regulations. It reviews significant developments and makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, historic, wetland, and scenic preservation.*



**Mark Lane (three-year term):** I live near the top of Gould Hill with my wife Connie and our children, Hunter and Haylie. I am a lifelong resident of East Montpelier. In fact, I still live on the Lane family homestead where I grew up. This corner of East Montpelier has been in my family for seven generations.

I am running for my second three-year term on the EM Planning Commission. During my first term, we worked very hard to write the new Land Use and Development Regulations. The vote was very close, but I feel strongly that the town made the right decision in approving the new regulations. They clarify the many issues that were far too vague in the former zoning plan, and this will make it much easier for the Planning Commission to deliver fair and even-handed decisions.

I am asking for your support for a second term. I look forward to another three years helping guide East Montpelier development in directions that both honor our past and embrace our future. I also want to see for myself how well the new regulations will work in practice.

**John "Jack" Pauly (three-year term):** I would like to be elected to another term to keep East Montpelier the wonderful town it already is.

### RALLY DAY PLANNING FEB 17TH

The 21st Rally Day will be held on September 12, 2009 at EMES. The planning process has begun in earnest for this year's event, and the Rally Day committee is seeking new ideas and interested volunteers. The first Rally Day planning session will be held on Tuesday, February 17th, 7:00 pm at the town office. All are invited to attend. Please consider getting involved in this fun multigenerational event! For more information, call Bill Merrylees at 223-4951.

**Ken Santor (one-year term):** I am running for a one-year term on the Planning Commission. This will be my eleventh year of serving on the board. I can bring to the Planning Commission common sense and strong and creative problem solving capabilities. I feel that I have made decisions that benefited the majority of the citizens in this town. I will do what is necessary to see those decisions through to their conclusion. Thanks for voting for me in the past.

**Jean Vissering (three-year term):** In March I will have finished a one-year term as Planning Commissioner and hope to serve for another three years. As a private consultant in landscape architecture, community design and planning, as well as a resident of East Montpelier for over 23 years, the issues that the Commission addresses are of particular interest to me.

Now that we have an updated Town Plan and Land Use Regulations, the Commission will have an opportunity to examine a range of issues facing the town. Opportunities for potential growth and improvements in East Village and in other town villages and our growth center are of particular interest to me. I worked with residents, business owners, the select board, and other interested citizens to designate East Village as an official Village Center, so that it is now eligible for a range of grants and tax incentives. East Montpelier has generally done a good job in managing both growth and conservation, but there is always room for improvement, especially as we try to reduce energy consumption and protect resources that contribute to our town and its citizens.

802-223-2433  
Fax 223-1158  
GofC@comcast.net



*Gallery of Cabinets, Inc*  
Your Cabinet & Counter Solution Since 1979  
[www.chris.morrison.net](http://www.chris.morrison.net)

Chris Morrison  
Owner Designer

1678 US Route 2  
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

Free Estimates  
Fully Insured  
Quality Work



**Patrick McCoy**  
**249-3003**

**P.W. McCoy Corp**  
964 Bliss Road  
E. Montpelier, VT 05651

**Celebrating 10 Years in Business!**

- ✓ **Driveways:** Installing New or Resurfacing (Slate and Gravel); Ditching and Culvert Work; Plowing
- ✓ **Lawns:** Grading, Seeding and Mulching for New or Existing Sites
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

## TOWN OFFICES AND CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Cemetery Commissioner:** (five-year term) *The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries.*

**Gary E. Hudson:** no statement submitted

**School Directors:** *School Directors are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening school district meetings.*

**East Montpelier Elementary School Director:** (voters will elect one director for a two-year term and one for a three-year term)

**Phillip Heinz (two-year term):** Hello Fellow EMES Parents and Neighbors, I welcome this opportunity to give to our community. Many of you may know me as Coach Phillip or Coach Heinz on the soccer fields. I have two young girls, Sophia (grade 1) and Ivy (pre-K) attending EMES. I have enjoyed working with kids for the past 13 years: as a coach, as a substitute teacher, and as your District Athletic Coordinator a few years ago. I am currently working on my Masters of Education and teaching license at Union Institute in Montpelier.

My wife Jessica, an elementary school counselor, and I chose this community to raise our family partially because of the positive reputation EMES offered. We are concerned with some of the recent instabilities. My desires to serve as your School Board representative come from a hope that I can bring a fresh perspective to the table and help move our school forward in the best possible direction for our children. The old adage says, "It takes a village to raise a child." We now have 270 children attending EMES and they all need our best efforts to ensure they have the best possible start in their young lives.

Thank you for your vote for School Board representative on March 3.

**Michele Leno (two-year term):** I grew up in East Montpelier, attending EMES and graduating from U-32 in 1986, so some may remember me as Michele Boyd. Nowadays, I live on Sanders Circle, adjacent to Horn of the Moon Road, with my

daughter Tia and my partner, Mark Richards. I work at Norwich University, in Strategic Partnerships. Previously, I worked for Central Vermont Medical Center as manager of Community Education and Outreach, a position which kept me busy with boards and committees and lots of community involvement. In the year since my job with CVMC was cut, I've sorely missed the connections and contributions I had made in the community.

I've been told I have "good energy," that I'm thoughtful, well spoken, and an effective consensus builder. I have a B.S. in English/Secondary Education from Lyndon State and an M. Ed. in Teaching and Curriculum from Boston College. I feel so fortunate to have the education that I do, and I credit EMES with providing me an excellent start. I'm running for school board in hopes of giving a little bit back, reconnecting with the community, and helping to ensure the quality of education offered here continues to give our children the best possible start.

**Rosie Laquerre (three-year term):** I was born and raised in Central Vermont, and was very excited to have the opportunity to buy a home in East Montpelier almost three years ago.

Although I've been the Operations Manager at a local plumbing and heating company for the last couple of years, for nine years prior to that, I worked within the Washington Central Supervisory Union, first at U-32, then at the Central Office. I enjoyed learning about the many aspects of education and working with the students, staff, and administrators at all of the schools. I also served as recording secretary for the U-32 and Calais boards as well as the WCSU Executive Committee over the years.

My knowledge of how the district and its schools work, as well as the relationships I've developed, will help me through the learning curve so that I can become a board member who is responsible, reasonable, and attentive to the needs of our children and taxpayers. I will be an active listener who employs common sense in a time when educational needs and budgeting become increasingly more complex. I look forward to this opportunity to serve the community at the local level, and appreciate your support on Town Meeting Day.

**U-32 School Director:** (three-year term)

No candidates

TEL. (802) 223-7191  
NIGHTS (802) 229-2728

1960 **48<sup>th</sup>** ANNIVERSARY 2008

**BLAKE – LOSO**  
Finest in North Carolina Used Cars  
And Trucks  
RT. 14, EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05651  
DEDICATED SALES & SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE  
OWNER

TRUE SOUTHERN CARS  
A SPECIALTY

**Alco** Energy Products

PROpane DELIVERY, SALES & SERVICE

Locally Owned & Operated  
Call us for your Propane Needs

Route 14, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651  
Ph: 802-223-0126 \* Cell: 802-793-4013

Propane Delivery \* Air Conditioning \* Installation \* Service

## LEARNING TOGETHER AT EMES

What do you call it when children from kindergarten through sixth grade work in mixed-age groups to learn about a country and culture? It's mini-course time. The staff at East Montpelier Elementary School brainstormed to come up with a list of countries to study; then each child had the opportunity to choose four possibilities. Next Librarian Ellen Knoedler took the lists and created mixed-age groups for each country. Then the fun began! On January 28 groups met for an hour and a half to start learning about countries from Australia to Egypt. Over the course of three weeks and seven meeting times, each group learned about their country's location, its people, and the culture. Wednesday, February 11, the community was invited to a "Celebration of Learning" showcasing each country. The variety of activities the children shared was great. This provided a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to learn together and to broaden our understanding of other people and places around the world.

—Carolyn Pastore, First Grade Teacher at EMES

## KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

### East Montpelier and the Library

As of the beginning of 2009, 1,288 East Montpelier residents have Kellogg-Hubbard Library cards. After the City of Montpelier, we use the library more than any other town in the library's service area. Library staff members from East Montpelier include Rachael Grossman, Outreach; Rachel Senechal, Programs and Development; and Hilari Farrington, Library Director. East Montpelier library trustees, Charlie Catlin and Jim Clemons, will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

In this difficult economy, the library is making every effort to keep costs down while keeping library service available to those who rely on it. The Library Board of Trustees has kept the pledge it made last year to keep future funding requests at or below the cost of inflation for the next four years.

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

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



**WHEELER HOMESTEAD SUPPLY**

Hanging Baskets  
Annuals  
Perennials  
Shrubs

**Proven Winners**  
A Better Garden Starts With A Better Plant.

*Wheeler Homestead Garden & Supply*

2075 Vermont Route 14 South  
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651

MasterCard VISA

## IN THE MIDST OF HISTORY

I stand, shivering in the cold, desperately trying to extract some warmth from the strangers sandwiched against my every side. Yelps and hoots of delight erupt from the surrounding crowd. This would have seemed out of place on any other Tuesday morning at nine o'clock in the middle of the street lined with blocks of bland bureaucratic offices, but today is no ordinary day. I am one of the lucky quarter million people who were able to secure a ticket to see Barack Obama become our 44th president. We are all waiting on the south side of the Capitol Building at the east end of the Mall in Washington, D.C. for the blue gate to open and let us in. Today will be history.

The morning passes by slowly as the crowd almost imperceptibly inches along toward the security gate. Around me people from all over the world chat and wonder at the enormity of this event. A white Republican couple from Louisiana confides that they had voted for McCain. However, rising above partisan politics, this couple has come to celebrate their new President. A marine dressed in full khaki attire also stands nearby—I assume for security purposes—until he pulls out his blue ticket to show the inspectors. He is here to support his new Commander-in-Chief. A young black woman from England yells to me over the buzz, "I'm so proud of the United States now! This is history right here, you know?"

Finally free, past the endless airport-type weapon search teams, my father and I run toward the Capitol lawn. Once there, I find that no matter where I stand in my vast ticketed section, I am unable to actually see the podium where the inauguration will take place. I soon realize, however, that being able to see is not of the greatest importance. I instead feed off the crowd's excitement and newfound hope. Large video monitors have been set up on either side of the podium, allowing us to see the heads of our government slowly file in. George Bush looks quiet, perhaps defeated at this great turning point. The crowd greets him respectfully. The ceremonies prior to Obama's entrance are brief while everyone waits in nervous excitement. There is a prayer and Aretha Franklin sings "My Country 'Tis of Thee" with a soulfulness rarely felt at such august proceedings.

When Obama comes out, a great cheer spreads through the crowd as we see the man who we hope will bring our country out of its depression. As he vows to "faithfully execute the office of President of the United States," and to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," a great hush spreads throughout the Mall. Within the silence our emotions join together and we all focus our attention on one man. We silently pray for this man, godlike in our minds, 'to deliver us from evil,' even though he is only human. We all have latched on to his being and, somehow, every person in our great melting pot has joined together as one force to faithfully support their President. On this day, black, white, yellow, red, young, old, rich, poor, Democrat, Republican, civilian, and soldier can all shake hands and say what a day it has been in our new America.

—Alice Curchin is a junior at U-32 and lives on Snow Hill Road. She is the daughter of Sarah Kinter and Tom Curchin.

## EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS NEWS

*Thanks to Jennifer Boyer for New Trails Map*

The East Montpelier Town Trails have gotten much easier to find and use. If you have not seen the new trail map, ask for one the next time you are at the Town Office or get it online at [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com). The new map is accurate and easy to read, and further changes or additions can be incorporated. It was designed and created through the generous donation of time by Jennifer Boyer. Jennifer offers website design, basic logo design, brochures, and photography, as well as photo preparation and scanning through her business—Jennifer Boyer Web Design ([www.jboyerdesign.com](http://www.jboyerdesign.com)).



### New Parking Signs at Trailheads

When you are using the trails be sure to notice the signs at trailheads noting established parking areas. Mary Stone undertook the design and procurement, and Sandy Woodbeck installed them. These make locating the trailheads a breeze!

### Temporary Closing of the Sparrow Farm Trail

We have had to close this trail to through traffic to the Montpelier Recreation Field due to the late fall construction of a rerouted snowmobile trail. A section of approximately one mile was severely damaged and will require a major rehabilitation effort in the spring and summer of 2009. Any bike or foot traffic on the non-frozen state of this trail will cause erosion problems, so please respect the trail closing. We are working with the Washington County Forester on a trail recovery plan and will be looking for volunteers to help, especially in sensitive areas requiring hand labor.

*—Nona Estrin, Sue Riggen, East Montpelier Trails, Inc.*

## UPDATED ZONING REGULATIONS

On Tuesday, January 6, 2009 East Montpelier voters went to the polls and voted “yes” (240-225) to enact the revised and updated set of land use regulations for the town. The Planning Commission engaged in countless hours of discussion, consensus building, and hard work over many years to shape the regulations in a way to help implement the town plan and meet state law. With its vote, the town and its residents took an important step in setting aside the former very much out-of-date regulations and replacing them with the revised regulations affecting zoning, subdivision, flood hazard area, and telecommunication facilities.

The newly effective regulations do not create any new regulations that the town did not previously have. However, they do several things: they allow the town to remain eligible to participate in the flood insurance program, enabling landowners in low-lying or flood prone areas of town to continue to be able to purchase flood insurance; they streamline the boundary adjustment process between adjoining property owners who may seek to adjust their mutually shared parcel boundaries; they create a minor subdivision review process depending on whether new subdivisions result in three or fewer lots (four or more is considered a major subdivision).

In addition, the new regulations effectively reduce the front, side, and rear setbacks in a few of the five zones and, by using the road center line as the point of reference, the regulations facilitate the determination or measurement of front set backs in all five zoning district zones. They also expand the number of permitted as well as conditional uses in most of the five zones and they contain provisions to help protect the town’s surface and groundwater resources. In addition, the new regulations provide density increases (i.e. a development bonus) in cases where applicants wish to employ or be considered as a planned residential development. The new regulations contain an extensive set of defined terms and have been written to minimize or avoid ambiguity.

These are just a few of the notable examples showing how the newly enacted regulations will help applicants, abutters, and other interested parties understand the process of the town’s land use and development review. The same collection of regulations will also help the two municipal boards (Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment) and the town zoning administrator to consider applications that come before them in an even, fair, and consistent manner.

The Planning Commission conducts its business in the municipal building at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month. Townspeople are welcome to attend any of these meetings. The first item on our agenda customarily includes an opportunity for public comment, and visitors are encouraged to ask questions or provide comments about the new regulations.

*—Rick Hopkins, Chair EM Planning Commission*



**BRUCE FITCH  
EXCAVATION  
223-2813**

**CELLAR HOLES, DRIVEWAYS, TRUCKING  
LAND CLEARING, ALL TYPES OF EARTH WORK**

**SPECIALIZING IN SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
INSTALLATION — REPAIR — REPLACE  
ALL TYPES  
CERTIFIED PRESBY INSTALLER  
FULLY INSURED. FREE ESTIMATES.**

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

**EVENTS**

**Town & School Pre-Meeting Forum:** Sat, Feb. 28, 9:30 AM at the EMES gym

**Town & School Meeting:** Tues, Mar. 3, 9:30 AM at the EMES gym

**Voting for Town & School Australian ballot items:** Tues, Mar. 3, 7 AM–7 PM

**Armchair Traveler Series:** Sun, Apr. 19, 3–4 PM at 4C Schoolhouse

**Kellogg-Hubbard Library Events**

*John Milton, Marriage and Friendship:* Wed, Mar. 4, 7 PM with Dartmouth College Professor, Tom Luxon

*Aspects of Vermont: The Commercial History Along the Winooski River:* Wednesday, Mar. 18, 7 PM with Manuel Garcia

*Dreaming of Ireland in Words and Music:* Wednesday, Mar. 25, 7 PM with Lerna

*If Stone Could Speak* Documentary film on the Barre granite industry: Apr. 14, 2009 at 7 PM

**Orchard Valley Waldorf School Events**

Opportunities to visit Orchard Valley Waldorf School and its nursery-kindergarten, the Child's Garden: Mar. 14, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26. Contact Dawn McConnell at 802-456-7400 or dawn.m@ovws.org.

Exploration and Observation: A Picture of the Science Curriculum in a Waldorf Grade School: Wed, Mar. 25, 6:30 PM. Presented by Kate Winslow and Judy Tharinger.

1: Hudson  
2: Jerome  
3: Barstow  
4: Bragg  
5: Angney  
6: Cate  
7: Morse  
8: Chapel

**KEY TO SUGARHOUSES**

**NOTICES**

**March Rabies Clinic:** Village Fire Station-VT 14 N, across from Town Office. Call Town Office at 223-3313 for date.

**Last day to license your dog** without penalty at Town Clerk's Office: April 1. License fees will be increased by 50% after April 1.

**Deadline for Next Issue: APRIL 1, 2009, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com**

East Montpelier *Signpost*  
PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, Vermont 05651  
Return Service Requested

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

**www.emsignpost.com**

- Up-to-date calendar listings
- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town