

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XX—Number Six

July/August 2010

Marcie the Mechanic

by John Beling

In some ways, the owner of Crossroads Auto Repair in East Montpelier probably has a lot in common with others who have chosen auto repair as a career: an early love of cars and trucks, an influential auto repair teacher in high school, and a first boss who was a mentor and role model. Where this repair shop owner differs markedly from most of her peers is her gender. Marcie Bolduc is one of a small but growing number of female auto mechanics.

Marcie grew up in an ideal situation for a kid who liked cars and trucks: her front yard was an auto salvage yard. "I was always crawling around those junked cars and trucks," she says of her family's business, Bolduc Auto Salvage in Middlesex. The yard was then run by her father, Lionel, and is now run by her brother, Jamie.

Her fascination with vehicles continued into young adulthood. She spent hours working on her first car, a 1980 Chevy Malibu that she rescued from the yard. She decided to receive formal training and enrolled in the Technical Education program at Spaulding High School to study automotive repair. She was the first girl to

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More Than a Century: Grace Cook

by Terry York



I'd like to introduce you to Grace Cook—my friend for the past 60 years. At the age of 102 Grace may very well be the oldest town resident. She presently resides with her 81-year-old daughter, Joyce, in an apartment near Goddard College. Grace came to East Montpelier in 1946. Though she has moved away several times, she has always been able to find her way back.

Grace was born in Island Pond in 1907. Her father was a locomotive engineer when the railroad was a dominant force. His work caused them to move first to Canada and then to St. Albans. It was back in St. Albans where she met her husband-to-be, John Cook. They were married in 1927.

During WWII Grace and John lived in Barre with their three children, Joyce, Jean, and Jack. Grace worked for the Selective Service as secretary of the Draft Board. She later went on to work for Vermont Petroleum until she retired at age 65.

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Ted Allen: Mailing

229-5819 tedallen05602@comcast.net

Terry Allen: Photography

229-0303 tallen@igc.org

Charlie Catlin: Records Editor

229-4273 shcharlie@hotmail.com

Rhoda Chickering: Feature Editor

229-5005 rhoderchick@myfairpoint.net

Rob Chickering: Business Manager

272-7328 rchickering2009@gmail.com

Jennifer Boyer: Webmaster

223-8926 vtpots@gmail.com

Lori Martin: Layout & Design

229-0950 lbuley@comcast.net

Carol McKenna: Copy Editor

229-6001 cmckenna1000@yahoo.com

Edie 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

Printed by *L. Brown and Sons Printing*

802-476-3164

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

We definitely had a few “season twisters” this spring, but with any luck the early, off-the-charts heat and that weird deep-freeze are behind us. Your garden is finally up, and you’ve mowed the grass for the umpteenth time; I say it’s time to take a break. And we have just the place for you. East Montpelier has some of the best scenery and the most beautiful trails in the world. Yes, that’s what visitors say without even being prompted.

So, pack a picnic, a bathing suit or two for the kids, and off you go to the Mallory Brook. This peaceful trail is a good one and crosses a pristine trout and wading brook that few in town have seen. And it’s miraculously close to where you live. Though it’s still in the last year of completion, and signs may not be up till the end of summer, it’s easy to find and a treasure. The handsome stone-work stairs lead to a perfect picnic spot by the sun-dappled brook. A map to get you there and to our other town trail sections is just three clicks away. Go to the *Signpost* home page—emsignpost.com. Click on Organizations (top middle of page), then click on E M Trail Committee (left side of page) and click Map (right side of page). And while you are there, note the trail work days with Greg Western and others throughout the summer. See you out there! Questions? Call 223-7745.

—Nona Estrin is a naturalist, an author, and an active member of the E.M. Trails Committee

Strolling, Hiking, and Biking in East Montpelier: Share Your Secrets

Each September the *Signpost* features a special topic with ideas contributed by townspeople. This year we’d like everyone to share their favorite places for walking, hiking, or biking in East Montpelier.

Please describe briefly—250 words or less—the places(s) where you enjoy these activities and submit them to Barbara Ploof via email at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or by postal mail to Barbara at 255 Barnes Rd. Montpelier, VT, 05602.

Silent Auction in the Works

Rally Day—September 11

Thanks to Joan Witham and Barbara Ploof who have volunteered to coordinate this year’s Rally Day Silent Auction on September 11. Now it’s everyone else’s turn to get involved. Whether you are donating items for inclusion in the auction, willing to work behind the scenes, or anticipating being an active purchaser, now’s the time to be in touch to make sure this year’s auction is the best ever.

- Call to donate products that showcase your business, or baked goods, crafts or other items you make either professionally or for fun, as well as other things that others will find irresistible.
- Call, also, to volunteer before, during, or after the auction by making calls, creating labels, handling finances or writing notes, to mention but a few of the many tasks that make this event successful.

Contact Joan Witham at 223-2881 or jwithampeacham@aol.com or Barb Ploof at 223-6934 or signpostbc@hotmail.com.



Marcie Bolduc

enroll in the automotive program and the first to complete it. "I remember Mr. [Andy] Chouinard as a great teacher," she says of the head of the department at the time.

After graduating, Marcie took a job with Riverside Motors in Montpelier, where she worked for eleven years, and where the owner, Roger Hirt, showed her the ropes of the auto repair business. "I learned a lot from him," Marcie says. After a couple of more stints working for others, Marcie decided in 2007 that it was time to strike out on her own. She opened Crossroads Auto Repair on June 8, 2007. "I wanted to work hard, make a good living, and provide a good service. I didn't want to break my back for someone else anymore."

It was nerve-wracking at first. "It's hard to give up that steady paycheck, but it's worked out well." A combination of personal recommendations and advertising have helped her business to grow. "Mostly word-of-mouth," she says. She now has customers from East Montpelier and many of the surrounding towns, some from as far away as Randolph.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nationwide, as of 2007, only 1.6 % of automotive technicians and mechanics were women. The most recent statistics for Vermont, from 2000, put the number at just over 2% statewide. While the numbers are small, they're growing. The number of women mechanics in the United States has more than doubled in the last twenty years. Still, there are very few automotive repair shops owned and operated by women as is Crossroads Auto Repair.

I asked Marcie her views on being a woman in such a male-dominated area. "At some of my previous jobs, I'd have to work hard just to win people over, earn their trust. Since I started my own business, people seem comfortable with me but sometimes ask me if I'm trying to prove something by doing this. I tell them no, I'm just interested in working hard and making a living. It's a hard job both physically and mentally. You have to really want to do it."

Automotive repair is projected to be a growth industry in our evolving economy. Perhaps the success of Marcie and other women mechanics, particularly those who own and operate their own businesses, will inspire young women who

enjoy cars and trucks to pursue a career that permits them, as Marcie says, to "work hard, make a good living, and provide a good service."

When she isn't working, Marcie enjoys horseback riding and working in stained glass.

Crossroads Auto Repair is located at 145 Codling Road, East Montpelier, Vermont (off Route 2, just south of Towne Hill Road). Phone: 223-3393; all major credit cards accepted.

—John Beling lives in East Montpelier with his wife, Christine, and his sons Jake, Paul, and Henry. He is a customer of Crossroads Auto Repair but was not promised any discounts for writing this article.

Celebrate Pete

Save the date! October 16, 2010, will be the culmination of a community project already six months in the planning. On that autumn day, we will have the opportunity to celebrate the life and music of Pete Seeger—folk singer, song writer, and activist whose work spans seven decades. Seeger believes that "regular" people—all of us—can make positive things happen and that "singing together can change the world." Led by Erica Zimmerman and Amy Torchia, a group of East Montpelierites is planning to demonstrate just that and also to be sure that younger generations are familiar with this iconic musician, his values, and his wonderful songs. Who has not heard of "If I Had a Hammer," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and "Turn, Turn, Turn"?

East Montpelier teachers and artists Janet Walrafen and Ellen Leonard, directors of AllTogetherNow, will organize the intergenerational pageant planned for October 16 which will engage children, seniors, and everyone in between in a grassroots musical production that spans not only generations but also cultures to explore the values of small town life important to us all. See www.alltogethernow.org for information on a July 26–30 day camp focused on Pete.

To be part of this wonderful community effort as a participant, planner, organizer, contributor of funds, or all of the above, please contact Erica at mczim4@comcast.net or 223-6930 or Amy Torchia at atorchia1965@yahoo.com or 249-7633.

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Grace has always been full of energy and has pursued many interests. She enjoys poetry and writing and has been published in several anthologies, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Grace is also a birder, not only in Vermont but also in south-east Arizona. She was a co-founder of the local Audubon chapter and a co-founder of the Central Vermont Humane Society.

One of her primary interests has always been horses. My mother, Mary Ricker, and Grace were good friends, and we always rode together on weekends year round. Grace raised ponies on her farm on Bliss Road; however, her personal mount was a Morgan. She suffered from a bad back, yet she continued to ride for years.

It was 1946 when Grace and John bought a farmhouse, at the site of Earl and Louise Ellingwood's house, and 222 acres on Bliss Road and moved to East Montpelier. Because there had been chimney fires in the house, the Cooks built a new chimney on the outside of the house for safety. Nonetheless, the house did burn to the ground, leaving only the new chimney. After the fire, Grace and John moved to Mr. White's house, now the home of Marty and Edie Miller. They owned a large parcel along both sides of Bliss Road from Kennel Road to Murray Road. My family moved from Towne Hill Road to Murray Road in 1960. After that move, Mom and Grace were next-door neighbors, both involved with Morgan horses and the breeders of these horses.

John Cook died in 1982. The Cooks had planned to relocate to St. Albans near their son, Jack, and Grace did make that move. Jack suffered from heart disease and passed away in 1994. Soon after his death, Grace returned to our area. One of the downsides to longevity is that you may outlive your children. Her oldest child, Jean, died from a fatal heart attack in 2000. Grace remains very close to her grandchildren even though they live in New Mexico and California as well as Vermont.

Her daughter, Joyce, and the grandchildren threw a birthday party on her 100th birthday, November 18, 2007. A total surprise to Grace, it was very well planned with videos from photos taken through the years. One of her most memorable gifts was a motorcycle ride provided by Stan and Claire Pierce, her neighbors on Cherry Tree Hill Road. The ride was covered by the television news. Grace is quite a hot ticket!

What are Grace's secrets to longevity? She has always been very active. She worked outside her home until age 65. All the years that Grace was working, she did not drive. We were amazed that she got her driver's license on her 65th birthday. She took care of her horses and rode much of her adult life. She always had a dog and cat. She got plenty of exercise just performing her daily routines. Also, for the past 35-40 years, Grace has been a vegetarian.

Grace has seen many changes during the 1900s that have impacted our lives: women's suffrage in 1920, the Great Depression of the 1930s, WWII's surge of women into the

work force, air travel, television, and computers to name a few. Locally, Grace served on the school study committee, which resulted in the U-32 School District. Grace has been involved in society's changes throughout her lifetime, 1907 to the present.

Last summer, Grace called me. We got together several times to have lunch and "catch up." At one point she called to tell me that she was moving from Williamstown back to East Montpelier. Although I asked why, I wasn't sure I wanted to hear her answer. Grace told me that Joyce was moving back from California and that they would be renting an apartment near Goddard College together. Grace has recently lost the sight in one eye and her other eye could fail at any time. The news of their plan to return to East Montpelier caused me to burst into tears of happiness for them. Grace and Joyce are quite a team, coordinating the efforts of CVHHH into their daily routines.

Grace today is "sharp as a tack," full of spirit and interested in the lives of her friends and family. What a role model!

—Terry Ricker York is a retired teacher residing on Murray Road with her dogs and horses at Tally Ho Farm. She is thankful for Grace's friendship.

Library Summer Programs

www.kellogghubbard.org, 223-3338

Story time in East Montpelier—books, music, songs for kids of all ages! Join us on Wednesday, July 21, at two East Montpelier locations. At 10:30 a.m., at the new fire house, come hear stories and check out those fire trucks! At 1:30 p.m. the same day, come to EMES for stories, songs, and crafts.

Make a Splash, Read! is KHL's summer reading program for kids during July and early August. Get a punch card and earn a punch for each book read or program attended. Return up to four full cards to the library to be entered into the raffle to win prizes donated by local businesses! See events on back cover.

7th Annual Onion River Century Ride July 31, 2010, to benefit the library. Register at www.onionriver.com. Tickets for the raffle of a Cannondale Quick bike (first prize) AND a Yakima car rack (second prize) from Onion River Sports are available at the library's circulation desk. The drawing will take place on the date of the Onion River Century Ride.

Voices For The Lake, A Digital Storytelling Workshop for teens to adults, July 9th at 2:00. Craft a digital masterpiece from personal photos and videos, and learn how to publish them online. Participants can bring their own laptops or equipment will be provided. Call to register.

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

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

Robert & Carolyn Brown
Mabel Wright
Martin & Simone Fitzgerald

East Montpelier Litter Busters



Saturday, May 1, was a fine, blue-sky day to scout for roadside trash. On this 40th annual rite of spring cleaning, Green Up Day 2010 drew 175 East Montpelier citizens to cover nearly all 71 miles of East Montpelier's roadways. Braving steep embankments, swamps, and plenty of other hard-to-reach locations, volunteers retrieved over 100 illegally dumped tires. That was just the beginning—they also picked up 3,000 pounds of trash from our roadsides. Each roadside volunteer is a hero for making our town beautiful, as are the members of our town highway crew who carted off the trash.

The Jean Cate Community Group comprises another batch of heroes—they brought our Green Up workers together



for a delicious free lunch complete with plentiful cookies! For roadside volunteers who got filthy moving trash, it was delightful to walk into the elementary school, wash up, and then catch up with friends and neighbors over good food.

Special mention of some group Green Up efforts: the U-32 JV lacrosse team and



East Montpelier's Girls on the Run each cleaned miles of our roadways. Also, several classes from our elementary school picked up all the litter from the school yard and ball field. Great work!

Many thanks to the generous businesses that supported East Montpelier Green Up: Casella Waste Management, Shaws, Price Chopper, Hunger Mountain Coop, Manghi Bakery, Dudley's Store, Riverbend Store, and the Montpelier Beverage Center.

Green Up Day 2010 was a feast of community spirit through community service! Let's continue that spirit by keeping our town beautiful throughout the year.

—Paul Erlbaum, 2010 East Montpelier Green Up Coordinator

E Montpelier Business Owners

The Selectboard has contracted with KeVa Co, a Bradford company run by Keith & Vanetta Darby, to create a website for East Montpelier. KeVa Co has created 34 Vermont town websites using a model where site development and hosting is free, with the understanding that KeVa Co will attempt to recoup its costs by selling advertisement space to local businesses. The website will have a banner ad on each page and a scrolling sponsor list. The Darbys will be contacting local businesses to offer advertising opportunities and website development. For further information about KeVa Co, please check out the company's sites: www.kevaco.com and www.mainstreetvermont.com. For questions/concerns about the website, please contact Selectboard member Bruce Johnson (223-0384) or Town Administrator Craig Kleman (223-3313 x204).

Keep on Greening Up

Now that the weather has warmed and more of us are out walking the town roads, it's a good time to think about keeping them looking good for ourselves and visitors. Some people in town have adopted a road or a portion of one. This means they take a bag along on their walks and pick up trash along the way. If many of us do this, we can keep our roads looking like they did the day after Green Up. It also means they would contact the road crew if there is an urgent need for their attention. Maybe a tree has fallen—or a rain storm has washed out a section of the road. This way, the road crew can be on the scene and fix things up so our roads are safer for all of us. This is just another way of "relocalizing" our efforts for the benefit of all of us.

—Dave Grundy, East Montpelier Energy Committee

EM Receives "Green" Grants

The East Montpelier Energy Committee reports that our town has been selected to receive two grants. One will result in free energy audits of the town office building and town garage. The other will provide funds for the replacement of our current street lights with energy-efficient LED bulbs. This will result in energy and dollar savings for years to come.

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 Admin: Dina Bookmyer–Baker
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

Listers: Ross Hazel & Renée Carpenter,
Putnam Clayton
eastmontlstr@comcast.net or 223-3313 x206

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

Rob Chickering, Chair
rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill Don Welch
Seth Gardner Bruce Johnson

Planning Commission

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

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net
Jeff Cueto Clifton King
Mark Lane Stanley Pierce
Gray Ricker Ken Santor
Kim Watson Carol Welch

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
Trevor Lewis
Rubin Bennett

Firehouse Community Garden

by Charlie Hoffert



My mother wondered in mid-May
If I would like to plant a garden
Near the shiny new firehouse
It was an opportunity I couldn't pardon
The design of the firehouse
Allowed space for some vegetables
So I asked Chief John Audy

If I could grow there, best as I was able
Only three short days later
The land was staked and tilled
Courtesy of Toby Talbot and Ty Rolland
Now with seeds and starts, the land is filled
I planted several crops
Eventually all headed to the food shelf
Mainly potatoes, squash and onions
Hopefully to provide better health
Donations of starts came readily forth
Leeks and onions from Charlie Wanzer and Lydia Faesy
More onions from Dave Grundy, potatoes from
Richard Czaplinski
So far, my summer isn't looking lazy
Many people do I have to thank
First Chief John Audy and his firefighters
Gardening advice from Dave Grundy, Richard C. and
Paul Cate
These people make our future brighter
The community garden is still new,
But thanks to support from Seth Gardner and the
Selectboard
There will be produce in the fall
For the food shelf, to be eaten or stored.

—Charlie Hoffert will be a junior at U-32 this fall

Fabulous Rally Day 2009 Winning Recipe

Find Your Favorite Cookie Recipe – Rally Day Is Saturday, September 11!

Nana's Chocolate Mint Brownies from Michele Reed

Brownie Layer:

1/2 c. unsalted butter, cut into pieces
4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 1/4 c. granulated white sugar
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
2 lg. eggs
1/2 c. all purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt

Mint Layer:

2 tbs. unsalted butter, at room temp.
1 c. confectioner's sugar, sifted
1 1/2 tbs. milk
1/2 tsp. peppermint extract
green food coloring (optional)

Chocolate Glaze:

4 oz. Bittersweet Chocolate
4 tbs. unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 325° with rack in the center of the oven. Line a 9 x 9 inch pan with aluminum foil.
Brownies: Melt the butter and chocolate over water. Remove from heat; stir in the sugar and vanilla extract. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating. Stir in flour and salt and beat until the batter is smooth and glossy (about 1 min.). Pour the brownie batter evenly into the prepared pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 min. or until the brownies start to pull away from the sides of the pan. Remove from oven and cool on rack.

Mint Layer: Beat all the ingredients until smooth. Add a few drops of green food coloring. Spread the frosting evenly over the cooled brownie layer. Place in the refrigerator for about 5-10 minutes or until firm.

Chocolate Glaze: Melt the chocolate and butter over simmering water. Spread over the mint filling and refrigerate for about 30 minutes or until the chocolate glaze starts to dull.

To Serve: Remove the brownies from the pan by lifting with the ends of the foil and transfer to a cutting board. With a sharp knife, cut into 30 squares. It is a good idea to wipe your knife between cuts with a damp cloth. These brownies can be stored in the refrigerator for several days or else frozen.

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births:

- Noah Drew Douse, son born on March 12, 2010, to Kimberly Drew Douse & Jason Richard Douse.
- Addison Noelle Cook, daughter born on March 19, 2010, to Whitney Usas Cook & Roger W. Knowlton.
- Lillian Rose Kasulka, daughter born on April 30, 2010, to Laura Ann Rappold & Shawn Larry Kasulka.
- Emma May Powers, daughter born May 5, 2010, to Freesia Lynn Roy & Elmer Richard Powers III.

Marriages

- Andrew John Harper and Michelle Elise Gardner, April 16, 2010.
- Katherine M. Feller and Heather J. Wright, April 22, 2010.
- Stephen Mark Gilbert and Deborah Bonita Rice, May 15, 2010.

Deaths:

- Ralph N. Flanders, died April 6, 2010, spouse of the late Anne C. Flanders, father of Jonathan, Mark, Naomi, Deborah, Elizabeth, Eunice, Lois & James.
- Carl Albin Hendrickson Jr., died April 22, 2010, spouse of Evelyn R. Hendrickson.

Land Transfers:

- Donald Deforge to Donald & Lily Deforge, 0.42 acres & dwelling, Quaker Rd.
- Donald & Lily Deforge to Christopher M. Mertz, Paul M. Mertz, Jeffrey J. and Danielle Deforge, life estate, 0.42 acres & dwelling, Quaker Rd.
- Kendal & Ruth R. Frost to Kendal Frost Trust & Ruth R. Frost Trust, 110 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- Michelle E. Gardner to Seth Gardner, 1/2 interest in 203-acre farm, buildings & dwelling, Snow Hill Rd and Stoney Corners Rd.
- Erick R. & Prudence J. Grinde to Conrad L. & Ann S. Gilbert, 25 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Granthia L. Preston to Brian & Kathryn Hollen, 9 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Celine Edson to Carley Coffey & Justin Sayers, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Stephen P. Jerome & Lois Polento-Jerome to Mark Sargent & Marcia Perry Hall, 5.5 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.

U-32 JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

March 3, 2010

- Voted to Reorganize the Board as follows:
Chair: Ginny Burley, Vice Chair: Mark Berry, Clerk: Emily Goyette, Washington Central Executive Committee: Representative: Ginny Burley, and Alternate: Adrienne Magida; three members to the WCSU full board: Ginny Burley, Adrienne Magida, and Conrad Smith; Representative and Alternate to the Washington Central Policy Committee: Representative: Mike Stridsberg, Alternate: Mark Berry; Washington Central Negotiations Committee: Representative: Mark Berry, Alternate: Ginny Burley; Washington Central Transportation Committee: Representative: Conrad Smith; Truant Officer: Dan Violette; Representative to the Barre Tech Center Regional Advisory Board: Ginny Burley.
- Voted to accept the following slate of committee memberships: Finance: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith, and Emily Goyette; Policy: Mark Berry and Allen Gilbert; Curriculum: Adrienne Magida and Emily Goyette; Personnel: Mark Berry and Ginny Burley; Negotiations: Mark Berry and Ginny Burley; Facilities and Capital Budget: Conrad Smith and Ginny Burley; Co-Curricular: Emily Goyette and Adrienne Magida
- Adopted the following policies: Drugs & Alcohol; Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco; Tobacco, Drugs & Alcohol; Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco; Tobacco
- Approved the Board Orders for the General Budget, Food Services, and Athletic Officials

March 17, 2010

- Motions Passed:
- To encumber \$120,000 from the fund balance to pay anticipated expenses for the VYCC program.
 - To approve the spring athletic coaches as presented.
 - To accept with great regret and appreciation the retirement of Liz Snell, English/Theater Arts Teacher & Performing Arts Director.
 - To adopt the Selection of Instructional Materials Policy G5.
 - To approve the board orders for the General Budget and Athletic Officials.

May 5, 2010

- Motions Passed:
- To approve the 2010 –11 ESP staffing.

- To approve the 2010–11 Non-Bargaining Unit Contracts.
- To approve the spring athletic coaches as presented.
- To accept with regret the end-of-year retirement of Nancy Disenhaus, 1.0 FTE English Teacher & Joanne Greenberg 0.5 FTE English Theater Arts Teacher.
- To approve the following appointments: Michael Law, 0.4 FTE Physical Education Teacher; Jessica McEachern, 1.0 FTE English Teacher; John Ostler, 1.0 FTE English Teacher.
- To approve board orders in the areas of General, Food Services, and Athletic Officials.

Official minutes of town boards are available in the Town Office.

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS

March 8, 2010

- Motions Passed:
- To adopt the "Rules of Transaction for the Selectboard."
 - To fill the following positions on the Selectboard: Rob Chickering: Chair; Peter Hill: Vice Chair.
 - The board will meet on the first and third Mondays.
 - Sandy Conti is the primary Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Elliot Morse is the second ACO.
 - Excess Weight Permits for Lejeunesse, Pouliot and Tomco 3/16/10.

March 22, 2010

- Motions Passed:
- To approve the minutes from 3/8/10.
 - To appoint Josh Schlossberg to the Forest Committee, Paulie Coburn to the Policy Committee, and Martha Israel as the representative to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District.
 - To approve a liquor license for Plainfield Hardware.
 - To go into executive session to discuss the appointment of an employee.
 - To offer the position of Municipal Assistant to Kelly S. Crouse at the rate of \$12.50/hour.

April 5, 2010

- Motions Passed:
- To approve the minutes from 3/16/10.
 - To appoint Gene Troia as Acting Zoning Administrator effective immediately through 5/1/10.
 - To appoint Jamie Laquerre to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Town Weathervane (continued)

- To appoint Bill George to serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for East Montpelier.
- To approve Excess Weight Permits for the following: Feed Commodities, Duane Wells Construction, Rice Lumber Co., Cardinal Logistics Mgmt Corp, Pike Industries, Donald Giroux's Trucking, A. Johnson Co., LLC, Mobil Mini Mart, Small-Time Ent, LLC, Green Mountain Power, LePage Gravel Pit, R.E. Vize Mobile Home Transport, Haskins & Son's Concrete, John Picard, Vermont Siteworks, Hartigan Company.
- To go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 21, 2010

Motions Passed:

- To appoint Kim Watson Acting Chair.
- To approve a waiver for Rob Hall to survey only the parcel to be conveyed for a sketch plan review.
- To accept the minutes of 1/7/10 as amended.

March 18, 2010

Motions Passed:

- To elect Rick Hopkins, Chair; Jean Vissering, Vice Chair; Kim Watson, Corresponding Secretary.
- To retain Kristi Flynn as recording secretary.
- To approve as amended the minutes of 3/4/10.

April 1, 2010

Motions Passed:

- To recommend the acquisition and use of permitting software.
- To recommend Bruce Johnson as Acting Zoning Administrator.

April 15, 2010

Motions Passed:

- To approve as amended minutes from 3/18/10 and 4/1/10.

May 6, 2010

Motions Passed:

- To add motor vehicles sales and service as a permitted use in Zone B- Industrial.
- To nominate Jack Pauly as the alternate to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.
- To approve the minutes of 4/15/10 as amended.
- To waive the 45-day notice requirement for a proposed reconstruction project of the substation on Quaker Hill Road.

With Thanks, Farewell, and Welcome from EMES

It is with great appreciation and respect that the members of the EMES say farewell to Michele Leno, who served on the Board for about a year before personal matters made it necessary for her to step down. Michele strengthened our work as a board by offering a consistent, open-minded approach to the issues before the school and community. Her thoughtful, insightful voice quickly became a compass for the board as we grappled with the many issues before us. Michele will be particularly missed for the leadership role she took on coordinating the facilities committee, which included convening twice monthly meetings and providing a liaison between the facilities work, the board, and community as a whole.

We wish Michele all the best and, on behalf of the school and community, thank her for her service and caring commitment to EMES.

We welcome Rubin Bennett as a new member of the EMES Board. Rubin and fiancée Shaline Kirkpatrick have sons attending EMES and are expecting a new baby in September. Rubin owns rbTechnology on Route 14S in East Montpelier. He volunteers teaching stiltling with Community Connections, is a board member of the Central Vermont Community Action Council, and is on the committee looking into the future of the Crystal Springs Water System.

—Andy Colnes and Jan Aldrich for the EMES Board

Fire District Receives Select Board Approval

At its June 7 public meeting, specially warned to discuss the formation of the Fire District, the Selectboard gave its approval specifying that the official document describing the Fire District boundaries include the exact property lot numbers from East Montpelier town maps.

The newly formed Fire District will hold its first open meeting on Monday, July 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. By law, the Selectboard must preside over this first meeting at which the Fire District will be electing a Prudential Committee to develop by-laws for the new district. To support understanding and full transparency during the entire process, all documents—including meeting minutes and names of committee volunteers—are available on our website (www.emfiredistrict.org).

We sincerely thank all our volunteers for their efforts, as well as the Selectboard for its support of what we hope will ultimately be local control of the Crystal Springs Water System. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of our committee with questions. We welcome all public input.

—Steve Gilman, Chair East Montpelier Fire District Exploratory Committee

Public Forum on Pedestrian Access Grant

The Selectboard seeks public comments on its intention to seek a Transportation Enhancement grant to improve pedestrian access in East Montpelier Village. The meeting will be held at the East Montpelier Municipal Building on July 1, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. If approved, this grant, provided from both federal and local public funds, will be used for a scoping study by an engineering firm for pedestrian improvements along Routes 2 and 14 between the Route 14S bridge replacement project and the Routes 2 and 14 realignment project.

EMES Facility Needs Update From the Board

Have you ever noticed a classic car on the side of the road? The car looks well cared for; the exterior is in good shape, and you've seen it driven around on weekends. On the surface, it looks like a great car, but when you come up behind it, you realize that it's puffing smoke, the rear bumper is almost dragging, and soon you find out the turn signals don't work. The same could be said for the state of our elementary school.

From the outside, it looks fine. Even walking down the halls doesn't send up a cause for alarm. Walk into a classroom or the library. When taking a closer look, you'll find rooms that run from the extremes of "really cold" to "sweltering" heat. You may notice a stuffiness or odor in the air due to lack of proper ventilation. Depending on the particular activity in a classroom, some rooms feel cramped and close. Stand next to the exterior windows and you'll find broken sashes, non-insulated panes, and curtains in various states of disrepair. Doors and windows don't shut properly. There is condensation in the corners, providing a breeding ground for bacteria and mold. The gym is unsafe and far too small too for the educational needs of our kids.

Our kitchen has been "grandfathered" through a number of health department inspections over the years even though it is sorely out of code, too small for the number of children it feeds, and holds equipment that is inoperable or malfunctioning. It is only through the diligence of the kitchen staff that cross-contamination of food and waste doesn't occur.

We've had the recent good fortune to receive a \$50,000 grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to upgrade the controls to our wood chip heating system and tie them into Internet access so that it can be monitored more closely and run more efficiently.

The citizenry of East Montpelier is incredibly supportive of its schools. Please come to an informational or facilities committee meeting over the next couple of months. Learn what the building's many deficiencies are and help us find smart, cost-efficient ways to fix them. The School Board needs your help! What is your vision of the school and its role in the community for the next 20 years and beyond? Let your voice be heard. Come to a meeting or talk to one of the School Board members.

—Rosie Laquerre, EMES Facilities Committee

Lumber

Various species of soft and hardwood, various thicknesses and widths, some air dried for years, some is fresh cut. If you are not in too much of a hurry, I also may be able to mill to your specs.

Richard Czaplinski, 229-4534
messages: 496-3437
rczaplinski@madriver.com

EMES School Expansion Meeting

At two informational meetings in May the EMES School Board and facilities committee presented plans for renovating and expanding the East Montpelier Elementary School. The proposed expansion consists of three main additions: 1) two large classrooms for preschoolers would be added to the primary section; 2) a second story—to include an elevator—would be built over the upper grade wing; and 3) a new gym would be built at the end of the upper grade wing with a separate entrance. The cost of the total project, which would include not only the three additions but also the repair and renovation of the existing building and its systems and a small expansion of the kitchen, was estimated to be approximately \$12 million. The board also outlined how phasing the additions at two-year intervals would add over 30% to the costs. They did not recommend phasing in this way.

In discussing estimated costs, the committee explained the bonding process, which would result in the highest payment (principal and interest) for the long-term bond in FY14. The estimate is that the school tax would increase by 22.3¢ per \$100 of assessed value that year and slowly decrease over the 20-year life of the bond. In discussing the impact on property taxes, it was noted that over 60% of East Montpelier property owners qualify for income sensitivity, which limits their property tax to 2% of family income up to \$90,000. For those with incomes over \$90,000 with property valued at \$250,000, the 22.3¢ increase would amount to an additional \$557 in property taxes in FY14. This amount is over and above the taxes assessed for general school expenses plus those for town expenses.

At the May meetings, the School Board did not have an estimate of the costs of renovating the existing building to put it in good condition and to bring it up to code, but they promised to have such figures developed. As of this printing, School Board Chair Jan Aldrich indicated that the School Board intends to have additional informational meetings seeking community input and has not yet determined whether it will ask for a November vote or whether there will be changes in the proposed project.

Community members asked, also, that the School Board work with the Selectboard and Planning Commission to come up with a consolidated capital plan for all municipal and school needs. In addition to the newly constructed fire station, there are other needs in town. Townspeople should be able to understand the big picture as the individual parts are considered.

EMES has always been a source of great pride for our community. Please follow this project and let the School Board know your opinion. Check the *Signpost* website for the dates of future meetings: emsignpost.com. Drawings of the proposed additions may be found at emontpelierschool.org at the facilities committee link and at eastmontpelierlocal.com.

—Edie Miller attended the May 8 Facilities Meeting

Having it All

by Scott Hess and Amy Willis

This is part of an ongoing series on how technology affects those living and working in East Montpelier. Contact us if you have a story to tell.



Scott Hess and Amy Willis

While we grumble about electronic distractions, we also have to admit that Blackberries, VPNs, and wireless connections have worked in our favor.

Up until we moved to East Montpelier in July 2009, Scott had spent his whole life in the New York metropolitan area. Amy was a Minnesota native who intended to explore New York for a few years before returning to the Midwest ... until she met and married Scott and got stuck in the city for 13 years.

Many people adore the city and can't imagine life anywhere else. This was not the case for either of us. In fact, we got away as much as we could. That meant driving all the way to Vermont if we wanted a weekend of hiking, fresh air, no urban congestion or sprawl, and very few New Yorkers. We found that the places that were closer to New York didn't feel like a true escape. Vermont also felt unique compared to other places we'd been. People here place a very high premium on quality of life.

Over time, we began feeling more and more at home in Vermont. We fell in love with Montpelier in particular: the people, the good restaurants, the abundance of outdoor activities, the fact that it seemed like such a close-knit community. We figured that if we were driving four hours to get out of the city anyway, why not tack on an extra hour and a half to get to a place we loved?

"Wouldn't it be great to just live here?" we'd ask each other. "But what on earth would we do?" Eventually, fate played a hand. Amy landed a job as a consultant for a company that works with the financial officers of Fortune 100 companies. She's also picked up contract work for the UN, a forensic accounting firm, and a law firm. For several years now, she's had the ability to work anywhere with an Internet connection, telephone, and access to an airport.

But that left Scott. Scott was a longtime oil trader at the New York Mercantile Exchange. It was a good living, but not something he loved doing. Yet it was foolhardy to just run away from something he'd done for more than 25 years. We tried to brainstorm other potential vocations: Open a restaurant? Farm pumpkin seeds? Sell hats? But since this was not a time in our lives when we wanted to gamble, the only real choice seemed to be to stay put.

Then, beginning in about 2007, futures trading was an increasingly electronic business. Rather than standing in a pit belting out orders like you may have seen in the movie "Trading Places," orders were being carried out by anonymous people sitting behind computer screens around the world. There was no longer an advantage for Scott to be at the actual Exchange. In fact, it was suddenly very difficult to make a living in commodities. The change was a huge blow. Sure, we wanted to get out of New York, but Scott still didn't have any idea what to do for a living. His prospects were actually better in the city than anywhere else.

Then, as extreme luck would have it, a friend mentioned in passing that he needed someone on the East coast to represent Multiple Organics, a California-based organic wholesale foods company. Scott's experience in commodities and running a business, as well as his interest in good food, made him a strong candidate for the job. Scott was hired there in 2008. Since then, all he's needed to work is a telephone, Internet connection, and access to an airport.

Once we were truly free to move, we began the arduous task of looking at real estate from the distance of New York. It took almost two years before we found our dream house. One very important criterion was that we needed high-speed Internet. Some places we looked at were beautiful, but impossible for us to work from. We were incredibly lucky to find a place we loved that is actually on the DSL line. It's at the end of the line—Netflix streaming can be pretty choppy—but it's more than adequate for day-to-day business purposes.

After almost a year, we still don't miss a thing about New York (with the notable exception of sushi). And given our great situation, we can't even say we mind being forced to check e-mails or sneak a few hours of work in on the weekends!

—Scott Hess and Amy Willis live and work on North Street

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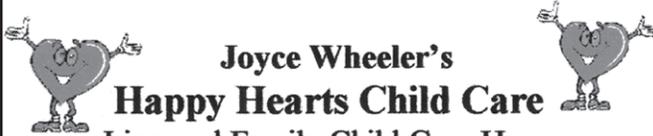
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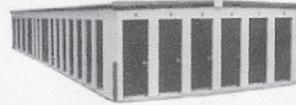
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- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town

Volume XX–Number Six
 July/August 2010

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

NOTICES

- Public Hearing on Transportation Enhancement Grant**, Thurs., July 1, 6:30 p.m., Town Office
- Independance Day Holiday**, Town Office closed, Mon., July 5
- Deadline for Voter Registration for Primary**, Wed., Aug. 18, Town Office
- Fire District Committee Meeting**, Mon., July 12, 6:30 p.m., Town Office.
- Primary Election**, Tues., Aug. 24: polls 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at EMES, Town Office closed
- Deadline** for party-affiliated Justice of the Peace petition filing, Fri., Aug. 27
- Labor Day Holiday**, Town Office Closed, Mon., Sept. 6

Rally Day!

Saturday, September 11, 1–9 p.m.

There’s something for everyone to enjoy at Rally Day, so come spend a few hours with your friends and neighbors. Participate in the parade join in fun games, share a community walk, and community potluck dinner. Stay tuned for surprise events!

Check your tax bill for the full agenda.

Volunteers are needed.

Call coordinator Bill Merrylees to lend a hand or for general information at 223-4951.

EVENTS

Volunteer trail work – Sat., July 3; Sat., Sept. 11; Sat., Oct. 2 – Contact Greg Western at 802-498-0079 ext. 2

Kellogg Hubbard Library Events

- Lawn Party**, Sat., July 3, 11a.m.–1 p.m.
- Pirate Party** (ages 5–7), Wed., July 7, 2 p.m.
- Redwing Puppet Theater**, Wed., July 14, 2 p.m.
- What a Woodhead!** Wed., July 21, 2 p.m.
- Tye-Dye Party**, Thurs., July 29, 12–3 p.m.
- Cooking and Booking “Berries,”** Mon., Aug. 2, 4 p.m.
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover**, Fri., Aug 6
- Sleepover breakfast/slideshow**, Sat., Aug. 7, 9 a.m.

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: www.emsignpost.com
 East Montpelier announcements welcome. To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.

It’s a great way to know what is happening in town.

Deadline for Next Issue: August 1, 2010, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	Templeton Rd. Fire Station
Recreation Board (next mtg Aug 9)	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School