



Volume XVII — Number Four

March/April 2007

# Town Meeting Day Issue

## CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE POSITIONS

### Town and School District Moderator

(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**—Town/School Meeting Moderator (one-year term): Last year the town elected me to be the moderator of Town and School Meetings. At the time, I promised to build on our long tradition of able moderators who made it possible for us to consider, debate, learn from each other, and decide things. Since this year's meetings still lie ahead, we haven't had a chance to find out, yet, how good a job I'll do. But, I can promise that I'll be trying to

*Continued on Page 4*

## VOTING DATES

Town and East Montpelier School Warnings, as well as the U-32 District School Warning, are published in the Annual Town/School Report to be mailed out by February 20.

**Voter Registration:** You can register to vote in the upcoming Town/School Meetings at the Town Office during their regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The deadline for registration is Monday, February 26, at noon.

**Early or Absentee Voting:** Town and U-32 ballots will be available by February 15 at the Town Office. Call the Town Office to make a request (223-3313) or you may obtain a ballot at the Town Office. All ballots must be returned by Town Meeting Day, March 6, by 7 p.m. in order to be counted.

**Australian Ballot Voting:** March 6, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the East Montpelier Elementary School (includes U-32 ballot).

## PRE-TOWN MEETING FORUM

**Saturday, February 24, 9:30 a.m. to noon.** Articles on Town Warning will be discussed first, especially those on Australian ballot. This is the only time they will be discussed because Australian ballot articles cannot be discussed on the floor on Town Meeting Day. This meeting will also serve as the legally required informational meeting on the Fire Station bond issue, which will be voted by Australian ballot on Town Meeting day. The articles on School Warning will be discussed after town articles are finished. Candidates for offices will be introduced at the beginning of the Forum. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report!

## TOWN/SCHOOL MEETING DAY

**Tuesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.** 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.

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## EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

*Daylight. Sunshine. Fresh powdery snow. What a combination. Priceless? Yes. For free? No.*

Glorious and idyllic as the Vermont out-of-doors can be, keeping it that way is a challenge. The presence of a known challenge is good because it has and will continue to get our attention and focus. While one cannot be certain about what will be perceived as "invaluable" or "priceless" in our out-of-doors environment, I am certain that whatever is done will not be free, but will be accomplished through some mix of labor and money.

Our Constitutionally mandated system of government and declarations of individual rights are more invaluable or priceless than the rest of our treasured rights. The Constitution recognizes and balances the twin concepts of freedom and order, and the necessity for both. Freedom without order is chaos. Order without freedom is totalitarianism.

Vermonters are perhaps more aware at this time of year of our political process because of the voting we do on Town Meeting day. We should pause, however, as we appreciate our pristine environment on one of these sunny, clear-sky days, to also appreciate our political freedom that makes such moments "as good as it gets." And just as our clean air may have a higher, future cost (that might be in the form of cleaner sources of energy) so our ability to maintain our participatory political process will not be free. A visit to the beaches of Normandy and the American cemetery there will be a sobering experience for those who take for granted our system of governing ourselves or assume its continuation will be without significant cost.

Vote. Vote. Vote. See you on February 24 at the Town/School Forum and on March 6, Town Meeting Day.  
—Marty Miller

*Town/School Meeting Day, continued from Page 1*

### Town/School Meeting Day Amenities and Activities

- Coffee and pastries will be available courtesy of EMES' 5th and 6th graders, who will use the proceeds to fund a spring field trip to Boston.
- Babysitting will also be provided; donations for the service are appreciated and will be used to fund a school-related project.
- EMES 4th graders will be holding a used book sale to benefit the annual 4th grade trip to the Boston Museum of Science.
- **Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to Town Meeting to benefit the Onion River Food Shelf and the Montpelier Food Pantry.** Food collection is organized by the Jean Cate Community Committee.



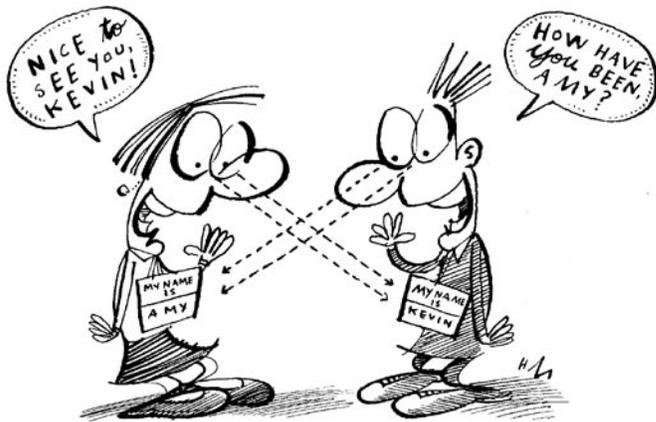
Malcolm and Diana Fielder volunteering at the Onion River Food Shelf in Marshfield.

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## JUST CAN'T REMEMBER THAT NAME...

There are few things more embarrassing than forgetting the name of someone you know well. For those of us getting on in years, it seems to happen more and more frequently. Could be your next-door neighbor, a friend you've known for years, or even a cousin. Your mind goes blank and you fumble for what to say, or you turn away and avoid contact altogether. Later, unbidden, the forgotten name springs to consciousness. Town Meeting is just the sort of event where this awkwardness thrives.

*Signpost* to the rescue! The *Signpost* staff will be providing name-tags at Town Meeting this year. New folks in town will especially appreciate your having one, and a nametag just might help an old friend with a memory lapse. So why not pick one up at the *Signpost* welcome table and wear it for the day?



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## SHADES OF MUD SEASON PAST

The following poem, given to the *Signpost* by Betty Jerome, was written by the late Carroll Badger's mother, Louise Badger, in the early 1940s and is based on a true incident that took place on the Center Road near Marion Palmer's house. Alfred Brazier, the main character in the poem, was Nancy and Tom's grandfather, and "Friend Schaefer" was Marion Palmer's father.

Twas on a Sunday long ago ...  
And in the Springtime too,  
That Mr. Brazier started out  
To put some errands thru.

He had a Ford, 'twas worn and old  
But like most Fords, 'twould go.  
And so he drove in peace and joy  
Although his pace was slow.

He smoked his "weed" and took his ease  
Alas! His joy was brief,  
For just above the Schaefer house  
Poor Alfred came to grief.

A wheel came off and rolled away  
And landed on the bank.  
And in the springtime's softened mud  
The axle quickly sank.

The man climbed out and ambled back  
And sadly looked around.  
And as Friend Schaefer came to aid  
He closely scanned the ground.

"Can't find your wheel?" asked Ernest  
As he came up to the car.  
"The wheel, to Hell!" said Alfred,  
"I've lost my good cigar."

He had a calf tied in a bag  
Which blatted long and loud,  
And summoned from the countryside  
A large and motley crowd.

Of course John went and stood around  
And told them what do.  
But free advice won't put back wheels  
Or get the errands thru.

So John took our old rebuilt Star  
And helped him on his way.  
The calf was sold to Mr. Bush  
And Alfred got his pay.

They filled the car with tools and stuff  
To the rim with gasoline.  
Then hurried back without delay  
To fix up that machine.

So now the wheel is safely on  
And Alfred trundles by,  
With self assurance well restored  
And calm, contented eye.

But when he has a good cigar  
He clamps it tightly down,  
There'll be no more wasted smokes  
When Alfred goes to town.

## KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

In anticipation of Town Meeting Day, the Library has scheduled several meetings to provide voters and patrons with an update on Library funding and to solicit input on Library requests for taxpayer support. If you have questions about Library funding, call Martin Hahn at 223-3338. He wants to hear from you!

- Saturday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 22, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The number of East Montpelier children and adults who have cards at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library totals 1,060, making our town the second largest user of the library after Montpelier. Last year we borrowed 18,359 items including books, magazines, audio books, CDs, DVDs, and videos.

## TOWN MEETING POTLUCK: PULL UP A CHAIR

Town Meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Join us for lunch 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. For example, if two people in your family will be eating lunch, bring a dish that will serve eight people. If you can't bring a dish to share, \$5 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning.

Please note that we encourage everyone who can to bring a dish, as this is truly a potluck. If too many people buy lunch, then it is possible that we will run out of food. Though it hasn't happened yet, the kitchen crew is always a bit tense wondering if there will be enough! Of course, if the only way you can eat with us is to purchase, please do!

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.

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, Loring and I have lived on Powder Horn Glen Road since we came back to Vermont in 1984. I went to Middlebury College (where I met Loring) and to Harvard Law. Then I spent five years in D.C. working for a court of appeals and then on environmental issues. We came back to Vermont in time for Sam and Alice to be born (in '84 and '86). I worked for the Public Service Board from '84 to '95, helped run an engineering firm in Burlington from '95 to '99, and then chaired the Public Service Board for six years. Since '05, I've been at Vermont Law School, teaching "Energy and the Environment" and trying to ease problems that I've cared about most of my life.

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 decisions.

**Selectboard Member**

Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the town and are responsible 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.

**Seth Gardner**—Selectboard Member (three-year term): Hello, my name is Seth Gardner and I am running for Selectman in East Montpelier. I, along with my wife, Michelle, and our daughters, Sophia and Stella, own and operate the McKnight Farm on Snow Hill Road. We are a growing organic dairy farm with 300 cows and heifers and over 600 acres of land.

I am running for the Selectboard because I want to make a contribution of my time to the town. In the 20 years that I have lived in East Montpelier, I have certainly seen the need for people to run for town office. I have not previously taken the time to do so. I think it is important for citizens to give to the town in this way.

The business and management skills that it takes to run our dairy farm are also skills that I can bring to the Selectboard. I am a frugal steward of our dairy farm, surviving and even thriving in a business where many people have left or failed. Our farm has limited resources, but within those limits we continue to prosper.

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- ✓ **Lawns:** Installing New or Rebuilding; Soil Testing & Fertilizing
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Increase Value, Aesthetics and Usability by Tree, Brush and Stump Removal; Contouring Land for Better Drainage; Creating More Lawn or Garden Space; Trail Work Through Woods

This type of management can also benefit the town as it, too, does not have, or should not have, unlimited financial resources.

I can bring to the Selectboard common sense, practicality, and strong and creative problem-solving capabilities. I'm a can-do person with a strong work ethic. I feel that I can make decisions that will benefit the majority of the citizens in this town and that I will do what is necessary to see those decisions through to their conclusion.

Thank you for considering me for Selectboard.

**Tracy M. Phillips**—Selectboard Member (three-year term):

I have been an active participant in East Montpelier's Town Meeting process since the late '80s. Over the years our town has grown both in size and in community. We are blessed to live in a town that values community and town spirit.

I am seeking your support this year for Selectperson. The Selectboard is the legislative body for the town – overseeing the general supervision of the town. The board warns all town meetings, proposes a town budget, supervises the expenditure of the highway fund, has the charge of keeping town highways in repair, and may enact ordinances and rules as appropriate, and various other duties as outlined by state statutes.

I believe my East Montpelier roots, passion for local government, and my previous town service has prepared me for this multifunction task. I would be honored to serve as your selectperson.

*Tracy Phillips was raised on the old Bancroft Farm on Adamant Road in East Montpelier. She currently lives with her husband Brian Phillips on Route 14 near Paul Square. She and her husband both attended EMES and U-32 and have strong ties to the community. Tracy has served the town as Auditor, Planning Commissioner (over 10 years), town representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, and various other committees. Tracy received her Masters in Public Administration from UVM in 2002 and is currently the Director of Women's Health and Preventative Services for the Vermont Department of Health.*

**CHURCH BELLS**



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



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



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

## Lister

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

**Earl Montague**—Lister (three-year term): No statement submitted.

## Auditor

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.

**Deborah Fillion**—Auditor (three-year term): No statement submitted.

## Trustee for Public Funds

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.

**Sylvia Tosi**—Trustee of Public Funds (three-year term): The Trustee of Public Funds is a position that oversees and has the duty and authority to manage public funds held by the town in trust for any purpose. It is a position that has been handed down through the years and is still on our list of elected officers. If necessary, the Trustee can be called upon to oversee particular transactions of sale of land, preparation of deeds and investments, and sale of such. I have been a Trustee for many years while I was Town Clerk and Treasurer.

## Town Law Agent

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.

**Dennis Carver**—Town Law Agent (one-year term): No statement submitted

## Town Grand Juror

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 Candidate** (one-year term)

## First Constable

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 F. Conti**—First Constable (one-year term) No statement submitted.

## Second Constable

Same description as First Constable

**Paul Haynes**—Second Constable (one-year term)

If re-elected, this will be my third year as second constable here in East Montpelier. It has been nice to work with the residents of the town. They have been very understanding and patient to deal with. Being second constable I have met many people I probably would have otherwise never met. This past summer I attended a day class in Newport to learn how to identify and deal with animal neglect and abuse cases. This was a very informative class that has been very helpful. I look forward to another interesting year in this position if re-elected.

*Continued on Page 8*

**Kevin E. Hudson**  
2235 Brazier Road  
Montpelier, VT 05062  
(802) 223-6663 Pager: 826-5313

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## TOWN OFFICE

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651  
Phone: 802-223-3313  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:00,  
Fri 9:00-12:00

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

**Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Sherry Culver**  
eastmontatct@comcast.net

**Asst. Clerk/Treasurer 2: Denise Brown**  
eastmonttct2@comcast.net

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

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

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

**Sewage Officer: Carl Etnier**  
223-2564

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### Selectboard

Eddie Miller, Chair  
Tom Brazier, Stephen Jerome

### Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair  
Lyn Blackwell            Tim Carver  
Mark Lane                Rick Hopkins  
Jack Pauly                Tracy Phillips  
Ken Santor                Carol Welch

### Board of Adjustment

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

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

Ginny Burley, Chair 229-0826  
gburley@u32.org  
Sue Chickering 229-6232  
dragonfly@ezcloud.net

### Elementary School

Bill Kaplan, Chair 229-1851  
cbuni@yahoo.com  
Marlene Betit 223-6028  
mabetit@aol.com  
Julie Roachat 223-1423  
vtseven@yahoo.com  
Matthew Curtis 223-7403  
curtis-mj@msn.com  
Jan Aldrich 229-0406  
Janice\_Aldrich@hotmail.com

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- John Dixon Trollinger, born Oct. 29, 2006, son of Rebecca Amy & John Wayne Trollinger
- Zachary Michael Brown, born Oct. 31, 2006, son of Kimberly Sarah & Michael Anthony Brown
- Paul Ryan Winters, born Nov. 26, 2006, son to Jennifer Mary & Paul Daniel Winters

#### Deaths

- Martin Samuel Rodger, Dec. 29, 2006

#### Land Transfers

- Gregory W. & Ricka J. McNaughton to Mark Gabrielle Soyka, 7 acres & dwelling, Sibley Rd.
- Joan Myers to Cummings Farm LLC, 10.9 acres & dwelling, Cummings Rd.

### SELECTBOARD

#### November 27, 2006

- A Municipal Grant for \$15,000 was received by the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative.
- Voted to continue with the Vermont League of Cities and Town's group insurance that will switch from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to CIGNA.

#### December 4, 2006

- Approved a request from the Jean Cate Committee to have a food drive during Town Meeting.

#### December 11, 2006

- The board discussed the 2007-08 budget. Road Foreman Mike Garand presented a budget staying within the 4% increase for the highway portion of the budget.
- The Ford 550 town vehicle has become an expense to maintain, and Garand would like to research options for replacement.
- The town received an Ancient Roads Grant for \$1,500.

#### December 18, 2006

- Rob Chickering discussed the need to budget more hours for the Zoning Administrator. The Planning Commission recommends 20 hr./week at \$13/hr. The recording secretary's time will also need to be considered.
- Bob Morey and Richard Czaplinski from the E.M. Wastewater Advisory Committee reported on the consultant's study results and that the Committee is hosting a public informational meeting on Feb. 7 at the

Elementary School to discuss its findings and recommendations.

- John Helme gave the results of his investigation of the computer and network issues at the town office. The board will consider the budget implications of the recommendations.
- Voted to reappoint Health Officer, Elliot Morse.

#### January 5, 2007

- Approved a request to have a NEMRC representative assist Terri Conti with the changeover of the new chart of accounts. The estimated cost is \$1,000.
- Hutchins Roofing made a quote of \$13,440 for a metal roof for the Municipal Building.

#### January 12, 2007

- Laurie Emery from CVRPC will administer the grant awarded to the town for the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative.
- Read a draft of the interlocal agreement between Calais and East Montpelier selectboards to share the costs of a proposed firehouse. Calais is requesting that Calais pay one-third, East Montpelier two-thirds, based on population figures.

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

#### October 17, 2006

- Casella Waste Management, Inc., presented required review of current operations. It was a positive review with questions about the increased amount of recycling, the difficulties of disposing of non-hazardous, non-disposable waste, and praise for improving the litter situation along US2 and Muddy Brook Rd.
- Clarified the use of the word "structure" to refer to a building that is intended to be permanent, and it would require a permit for construction.

#### December 5, 2006

- Approved a motion to approve the Friedman/Shapiro Planned Residential Development as presented, with the condition that the land designated as forest and agricultural land be held as such in perpetuity with legal covenants provided at the time of application for building permits.
- Voted to inform Trevor Lewis, attorney for VTrans, that VTrans will have to appear before the ZBA at a warned hearing to show cause as to why an extension is warranted for Permit 05-062.

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## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### December 19, 2006

- Voted the Quattrone Variance & Conditional Use Review Hearing, on an application to construct a residence at 2006 Johnson Rd.
- Subdivision Lot 1 on Sodom Pond Road, to be continued on Jan.16.

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### PLANNING COMMISSION

### November 16, 2006

- Voted to approve, with two provisions, the subdivision site plan submitted by C. Bruce Johnson, to subdivide property located at 894 Sodom Pond Rd.
- Approved the Rolland commercial site plan and change of use plan.
- Passed a motion to allow a one-year extension to the Coburn Rd. Wetland Mitigation site permit.

### December 14, 2006

- Reviewed the Glenn Bailey subdivision plan.
- Reviewed the Cummings Farm LLC boundary adjustment proposal.
- Approved a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that the Zoning Administrator work 20 hr./week at \$13/hr. (\$260/week or \$13,250/year)
- Total FY 08 Planning Commission budget = \$17,415.

### December 21, 2006

- Passed a motion to approve a subdivision plan submitted by Cummings Farm LLC on the condition that the 1.13 acres be merged with parcel 1.
- Reviewed the Garland Sketch Plan. Recommended informally approaching the Selectboard as the next step.
- Passed a motion to subscribe for five memberships to the Vermont Planners Association for 2007 at a cost of \$100.

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### U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

### November 15, 2006

- Reviewed several possible areas for budget reductions.
- Voted to approve both the revised Department Head contracts and the winter coaches roster.

### December 6, 2006

- There are three newly formed committees: Raising U-32 to the Next Level, Scheduling Committee, and Survey Committee.
- Voted to endorse the concept of tennis courts on U-32 grounds and to authorize the

Finance Committee to explore funding and to authorize the Tennis Committee to explore fundraising and grant possibilities.

- Discussed the Vermont Open Meetings Law and how it relates to subcommittees of the board. Ginny Burley suggested subcommittees create and post on the school website an annual schedule of meetings.
- Voted to approve co-curricular contracts and a winter athletics contract.
- Approved the following appointments: Karen Clous, Individual Assistant; Rebecca Goddard, Food Service Worker.
- Approved the following motion: "The board truly regrets that it is not at liberty to discuss specifics of personnel issues. If we were, the board could have cleared up misperceptions that were suggested by the questions and statements made at tonight's meeting."

### December 20, 2006

- Discussed the need to present "reasonable" budget requests in order to keep community support and to pass budgets. Agreed by consensus to ask for two budget proposals: one with a 4.1% increase based on the Consumer Price Index and one with a 5.5% increase based on the amount the state block grant is going up.
- Voted to set a budget information meeting for March 5 at 6 p.m. at U-32.
- Voted to open a new checking account for a student project using eBay.
- Approved a list of winter athletics volunteers.

### January 3, 2007

- Voted to a second reading the three Policy Documents: Limited English Proficiency Students, Integration of Home Study Students in Programs and Activities, and Local Action Plan Policy.
- Moved to a third reading and adoption at the next board meeting: Nutrition & Fitness Policy.
- Voted to table the issue of the grading system in driver's education brought to the board by Andrew Huckins-Noss, the Student Representative to the board.

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### EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### November 14, 2006

- Discussed the food service program and heard from Reid Asaro, the new chef. Will consider funding a 20 hr./week position for food service.

- Voted to approve the Substitute Policy and the Audit Report pending changes and clarification, and to accept the Title 1 Sub Grant.
- Heard reports to the Board from the PTNO, Community Connections, EMES Technology Committee, WCSU Policy Committee, Students Who Exceed the Standards, and Facilities Committee.

### December 12, 2006

- U-32 Principal Keith Gerritt explained the initiative "Raising U-32 to the Next Level" and invited participation from board members, parents, and community members. Meetings are held once a month. The U-32 web site has more information about this committee.
- Update of the FY07-08 budget. Discussed half-time position for math instruction, class size, food service position, possible line item reductions. December budget workshop planned.
- Discussed the preschool program and the possibility of two sessions per day.
- Voted to approve the amended Local Action Plan Policy and a 25-hour kitchen position.
- Reports to the board from the Technology Committee, the Executive Committee, and Facilities.

14th Annual

## Family Fun Day

**Beat Cabin Fever on Saturday,  
March 10th at Union Elementary  
School, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**See circus star, Troy Wunderle;  
storytellers & puppeteers, the  
Annies; African drumming & dancing  
with Shiida, and more.**

**Live music, arts & crafts, face  
painting, playgroup.**

**Free admission, with food for sale.**

**Silent Auction**  
Bid on-line at [www.fcwcvt.org](http://www.fcwcvt.org)

**Sponsored by the Family Center of  
Washington County.**

**Planning Commissioner**

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, and historic, wetland, and scenic preservation. (vote for not more than three)

**Tim Carver**—Planning Commissioner (three-year term): I am a candidate for re-election to the Planning Commission. I have lived in East Montpelier for over 30 years with my wife, Ann Marie, and our three children, Colleen, Barbara, and Emily, who attended East Montpelier Elementary and U-32. For years I have been an active supporter and participant in the Town Meeting process and active in discussions about town and school budgets. I have served as a member of the Planning Commission (for over 13 years) and am also currently serving as the town's representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Our family has opened our land for hunting and recreational use by participating in the East Montpelier trail system. For more than 30 years my family has run the Carver Family Tree Farm off County Road. I believe my business experience, years of town service, family ties to the community, and my practical hands-on approaches provide an important balance to the commission. I hope to be given an opportunity to finish our work on the re-write of the zoning regulations and town plan.

Ann Marie and I love East Montpelier, as does our family. We want our children and our grandchildren to be able to live here and enjoy the special place that East Montpelier is. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving as one of your nine planning commissioners.  
—Tim Carver, 223-3392

**Rob Chickering**—Planning Commissioner (three-year term): I ran for Planning Commissioner in 2001 because I thought I could contribute to the writing of a new Town Plan that could get regional planning commission approval. This approval is desirable because it makes a town eligible to receive state planning grants. Our commission resolved to write an approvable plan.

I served on a subcommittee of our Planning Commission that, with contributions from many other townspeople, created our current Town Plan, a substantial task. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission approved it. During meetings we commission members often encountered challenges in implementing our existing zoning and subdivision regulations. The Commission, the Zoning Administrator, and applicants for zon-

We would like to thank Todd and Beth Parker, Bruce and Janet Chapell and sons, Adamant Sugarhouse (the Barstow family), William and Valerie Smith, and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks for donating maple syrup and maple kettle corn to the Bravo Troop, 1-89 Cavalry 10th Mountain Division in Iraq.  
—John and Kathleen Audy, Jr. and the Bravo Troop, 1-89 Cavalry 10th Mountain Division

ing permits frequently found our regulations vague, incomplete, and sometimes contradictory.

We needed to rewrite and update our old zoning and subdivision regulations, and I wrote the draft application for state grant funding to hire a consultant to help us with that task. We won the grant in late 2003 and have been working on this project since then. I have served as Chairperson of the Commission since 2004. I am running for re-election in order to see this important update of our regulations through to completion.

**Real Ouimet**—Planning Commissioner (three-year term): No statement submitted

**Kim B. Watson**—Planning Commissioner (three-year term): A fellow community member asked me last week whether I would be interested in serving my community. After some thought, I realized it was time to give some of my time and management skills back to my community, so I am running for Planning Commission. My name is Kim B. Watson and I have lived the last 21 years on North Street in East Montpelier. I have a strong interest in zoning and planning in our community. I believe that people have a right to do what they want with their property while ensuring that land and property values in East Montpelier are preserved. I hope to support the work of past members. I grew up in a small community where two-acre zoning was established in the late '50s, and I saw the value associated with a strong town plan. I have worked for the last 25 years in the environmental chemistry field and project management. I currently work as a Quality Assurance Manager for Stone Environmental in Montpelier. I also work with my husband, Bob, with management and ownership of Capitol Grounds Café and Roastery in Montpelier.

**Carol Welch**—Planning Commissioner (three-year term): I am running for a position as a member of the Planning Commission of East Montpelier. I live on Bliss Road and have lived in town for 37 years. I have been on the Planning Commission for the past nine years. For the past three years the Planning Commission has been working on a rewrite of the zoning regulations and is making good progress. I would like to continue to work on this project as well as continue to work on planning issues in the town.

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## Cemetery Commissioner

The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries.

**Pauline Coburn**—Cemetery Commissioner (five-year term): I am running for another term as Cemetery Commissioner and ask for your continued support.

The Commissioners have tried to keep the cemeteries looking as good as possible. This has involved repairing and painting the existing fences and putting up a new fence at the Doty Cemetery. Gravestones and markers have been cleaned and repaired. The Quaker and Peck Cemeteries are now under town care, and all cemeteries are tended on a regular basis.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for the improvement of the care or the cemeteries, please let me know. Call me at 223-6886 or send me an email at paulie.coburn@comcast.net. Also, if you know of a veteran who does not have a marker and flag in his or her honor, let one of the cemetery commissioners know and one will be placed on the grave. Thank you for your consideration.

## Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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. (vote for not more than one)

**Karen (McCarthy) Gramer**—Collector of Delinquent Taxes (one-year term): Why should you consider me for the position of Collector of Delinquent Taxes? ...Because, there are a variety of reasons homeowners become delinquent with their taxes, and I am qualified, committed, and eager to work with the individual needs of taxpayers of East Montpelier to obtain a fair resolution.

My ties to the East Montpelier community started over 22 years ago when my family moved to Center Road. As a parent of three grown children, Lisa, Kelly, and Michael McCarthy, I have been involved with the schools and local happenings of our wonderful community. My work experience with real property and municipal tax matters extends over a period of 20 years. As a real estate paralegal at the law firm of Zalinger, Cameron & Lambek, I work directly with tax officials regarding delinquent property and tax sale matters. I graduated from Vermont College and Woodbury College, and for over a decade, I have been on the adjunct faculty at Woodbury College teaching Real Estate and Property Law.

My appointed position as Treasurer and Commissioner of the Vermont Municipal Land Records Commission puts me in direct touch with town officials to improve the quality of land records and to educate them in the use of emerging technology.

Now that my children are grown, I am ready to fulfill my long-time desire to serve the community. Combining my experience, education, and commitment to work with the homeowners in East Montpelier, I believe I am well qualified for the position of Collector of Delinquent Taxes. I would appreciate your vote at Town Meeting!

**Robyn Hall**—Collector of Delinquent Taxes (one-year term): Currently, I am the appointed Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the Town of East Montpelier. In the three months that I have been in this position, I believe I have served the taxpayers of East Montpelier well. I collected 46 percent of the 2006 property taxes warranted for collection on November 16, 2006. In addition, I have written a collection policy, become proficient in the collection process, researched the Vermont tax abatement policies and how they relate to the Town of East Montpelier, and worked with the Town Treasurer to set up a mutually favorable reporting system.

I come to this position with over 20 years of experience in financial bookkeeping, account reconciliation, budgeting, collections, and customer service. I possess an understanding of the necessity to balance the taxpayers' ability to pay with the town's need for revenue. I am able to work closely with the Town Treasurer as I have two and a half days available during a traditional workweek. In addition, my schedule is flexible and taxpayers may contact me on Saturdays.

I enjoy this work and the opportunity to become acquainted with more folks in East Montpelier. Norma Raymond, your former tax collector, has taught me well. I thank Norma for her invaluable knowledge and hope to continue her tradition of good service to our town.

*Continued on Page 10*

### Thank you to these Signpost Supporters

*Contributions are always welcome.*

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## REMINDER

Property Tax installment #2 (2007)  
is due on by 5 p.m. on March 15, 2007  
at the Town Office.

**School Director**

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.

**Andrea (Andi) Colnes**—EMES School Director (three-year term): Hello fellow East Montpelier-ites. I'm writing to let you know that I've decided to run for the EMES School Board. This is a new endeavor for me, stemming from my desire to support our community and "give back" where I can. Our schools are so important to our future – our kids, our community, our state. In EMES, we are lucky to have a wonderful school with dedicated and talented staff and I'd like to help continue to build and support this vital part of our community.

I've lived in Vermont for the past 17 years and in my home on Jacobs Road since 2001 with my daughter Jesse, who has now started kindergarten at EMES. I've spent much of my career working on natural resource public policy, and I hold a master's degree from the University of Maine and a bachelor's from Williams College. I currently work with the Carsey Institute on strengthening rural communities and families throughout New England and across the country.

Through my work, I have gained extensive experience managing organizations and working with boards, volunteers, and community members. It is my hope to offer this experience to EMES in an effort to support a dynamic, creative, and exciting school for our children and our community as a whole.

It would be an honor to contribute to the future of East Montpelier by serving on the School Board. Please feel free to give me a call with any ideas or questions as we approach Town Meeting day.  
—Andi Colnes, 223-8474

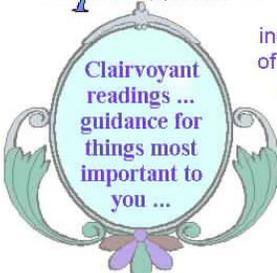
**John Audy**—EMES School Director (two-year term): I graduated from Montpelier High School in 1990 and worked in the central Vermont area for different contractors, before starting Audy Contracting, LLC, in 2001. In 1995 I met my now wife, Kathleen, and we were married in 1998. We bought the Codling house on Route 2 in 1997. We moved to East Montpelier because of the great services and school system that are here. I jokingly tell my wife that I liked our new house because of its proximity to the East Montpelier firehouse on Route 14. I joined EMFD immediately after moving here and I am much honored to serve as Fire Chief.

Kathy and I have three children: Madison, 5, Collin, 2, and Ethan, 1. Madison currently attends kindergarten at EMES. Collin visits Joanne Velanders and Ethan stays home with Kathy.

I am in hopes of getting on the East Montpelier School Board for several reasons. We as community members need to be part of the inner working of our schools. I see the School Board as one of three levels within our school (School Board, administration, and staff). All three play very important roles and need to work together to prepare our children and our facility for the future. I believe that I can bring a common-sense approach that will bring accountability to all levels within our school. I also feel very strongly that we need to evaluate our facility, its daily use, its daily needs, and put in place a proactive plan that meets the demands that the community is putting on it. I look forward to the challenges and welcome input from all of you within our community.

**Virginia (Ginny) Burley**—U-32 School Director (three-year term): Thank you to the voters of East Montpelier for electing me to the U-32 Board of Directors for the past 12 years. During that time the school has seen many changes. The renovation project brought us a facility that is second to none, and the building is well maintained. The middle school has seen considerable reform. Student achievement is high. Athletics, music, and drama thrive. The website, newsletter, and parent groups have improved communication. Every year, we have presented very responsible budgets while maintaining the quality programs the community expects. We have seen five principals during my tenure at U-32. The new principal, Keith Gerritt, has announced his key goals: holding people accountable and taking U-32 to the next level. With an outstanding facility, talented faculty, and excellent programs, U-32 is a good school, and its students do very well in their post-secondary activities; but there is always more to do to make it better. I believe that the stability, consistency, experience, and leadership I bring to this position will help make U-32 better than ever, and I would like to keep working to bring good value to the townspeople I represent. I appreciate your support.

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## Mudseason Carnival

Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at EMES

Games, entertainment, and fair food for the whole community.  
Benefits PTNO and the Playground Fund.

All families and community members are invited! Bring children OR bring your talents to share! Do you like clowning around? Doing a few magic tricks? Leading some classic games, such as marbles? Painting faces? Cooking fair treats? Or playing music to get a crowd going? We hope you'll be part of the fun! Call or email Erica Zimmerman and we'll get you onto our midway!  
223-6930 or mczim@adelphia.net.

We're also seeking raffle items (\$10 minimum value) to benefit the new playground projects. Tickets are just \$10 for 10 chances, with 100 prizes to win!

## THE 4-C SCHOOLHOUSE: ROOM FOR MORE

Pianist Joe Davidian led a small but enthusiastic group at the annual Carol Sing and Cookie Swap on December 17, 2006. After an hour of joyful song, participants traded and ate cookies. Jon Vachon, a *Times-Argus* photographer, captured the event for posterity. Board members were pleased with the turnout and look forward to doing it again in 2007.

Currently, the Gully Jumpers, the Strong Living Program, and the East Montpelier Senior Initiative use the schoolhouse regularly. The floors are newly refinished and the indoor geranium garden is flourishing. The space is available for rent at an extraordinarily reasonable price for musical events, family parties, and the like. Please contact Elaine Manghi (229-5811) for details and fees.



Joe Davidian Accompanies the Carol Sing

## CALLING ALL WRITERS!

Do you write poems or stories or music? Do you compose stories with drawings? Do you teach writing? If you do, then we are looking for you. This year the students at East Montpelier Elementary School are participating in an all-school focus on writing. We would like to have an All-School Author's Visit on March 21 from 2:30 – 3:30. During this time authors will talk to the students in their classroom about the craft of writing and share samples of their writings. If you are interested in coming in and sharing your expertise with the students at EMES, or you would like more information, please call Ellen Knoedler in the school library at 223-7936, ext. 327, or at home at 223-6931. Thank you for your help!

## EMES: READY FOR TOWN MEETING

It is with great excitement that I am looking forward to Town Meeting. It is a wonderful experience to see the community gather to make decisions on its future. It truly is democracy in action. Of course, the big-ticket item for the school is the vote on its budget. I know the discussion will be thoughtful and many insightful perspectives will be shared. It has been my experience that everyone cares about our children and supports our school. The many different opinions share the common threads of caring about our community, our school, and our students and finding the balance to do this responsibly.

March brings changes, too, since that is when the School Board welcomes new members. This year we will welcome two new members while at the same time bidding adieu (and thanks) to Bill Kaplan and Matt Curtis. The two new members will join returning Board members Jan Aldrich, Marlene Betit, and Julie Rochat. I would like to thank all of our Board members (past and present) for their time and dedication to our school, our community, and our children. Except for Town Meeting Day, they usually fly under the radar. But it is with great pleasure and respect that I express my appreciation for all they do for our school all year long. I invite everyone to attend a School Board meeting; they are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at the EMES.

For our school to be the special place that I believe it needs to be, and is, to meet the needs of all of our wonderful and deserving children, it takes a community working together. Thank you for your support.

—Mitch Golub, Proud Principal of EMES

## GEMPOG PICKS UP PARTNER

The Greater East Montpelier Peak Oil Group (GEMPOG) is merging its activities with the Central Vermont Sustainable Living Network and is moving to meeting on the first and second Wednesday of each month, starting in March. Both groups believe the merger will lead to more energy in the group and better programs.

On the first Wednesday, the meeting will be organized by GEMPOG, directed to the public, and usually relating directly to the consequences of declining oil production. The meeting will be in the community room of the Montpelier Police Station. The second Wednesday will be planned by both organizations, and will consist of a potluck and program for members, with a business meeting following. The second Wednesday meeting is in the Vestry of the Unitarian Church in Montpelier. Each program is announced in advance, and those interested are invited to add their names to the email notification list by contacting Carl Etnier at 223-2564 or carl@etnier.com.

Anyone interested in learning more about what peak oil is and how it might affect you, can call Carl Etnier at 223-2564 or Dave Grundy at 476-4300.

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## COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

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

## NOTICES

- Feb. 15: Absentee/early voter ballots available.
- Feb. 24, 9:30 a.m.: Pre-Town & School Meeting Forum
- Feb. 26, 12 noon: Deadline for Voter Registration for Town & School Meeting
- Mar. 6: TOWN & SCHOOL MEETING DAY  
Voting on fiscal year July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 for both town & school. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Australian Ballot voting.
- March 15 by 5 p.m.: Second installment property taxes due at the Town Office
- April 1: Deadline for dog registration, valid rabies vaccination certificate needed

## EVENTS

- An **East Montpelier Fire Department informational open house** will be held at EMES at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22.
- **U-32 Budget Information Meeting** on March 5 at 6 p.m. at U-32.
- **Used Book Sale** at Town Meeting on March 6 (EMES) to benefit the EMES 4th grade Boston Science Museum trip
- Second **Creative Economy Forum**. Wed., March 14, 7-8:30 p.m. Come to the Plainfield Town Hall to help select priority projects to strengthen the area's creative economy. Contact Helen Labun Jordan with questions (223-3793).
- **Rabies clinic**: Thursday, March 15, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Route 14. The Town Clerk will be there to register dogs.
- **Sarah Blair, Irish fiddler, with Pen Power & Colin McCaffrey** in concert, Saturday, March 17 at 7:30 at the Old Meeting House. Tickets at Bear Pond Books, \$12 before 3/17 and \$15 on 3/17. An Irish dinner will precede the show. Dinner ticket info at 223-6934.
- **Mudseason Carnival** at EMES: Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Games, entertainment, and fair food for the whole community. Volunteers welcome!
- The **Twin Valley Senior Center serves meals** at noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Schoolhouse Common Dining Room in Marshfield. Call 426-3447 for details.

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

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