

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XVIII — Number Three

January/February 2008

A FAMILY TRADITION THRIVES ON COUNTY ROAD

On County Road, just about five miles north of Montpelier, sits a large white clapboard house on the east side. In the front yard are two signs. One says Green Mountain Hooked Rugs and the other advertises that classes are offered. In early November, I stopped in to talk with Stephanie Krauss who runs her business out of this house.

Entering the shop, I was surrounded by bolts of colored wool fabrics, cubbyholes filled with rug hooking supplies and beginner kits. The walls displayed beautiful rugs. Stephanie stepped out of a small kitchen to greet me. She was busy boiling fabric in three large pots—each with a different colored dye.

Before coming to East Montpelier, Stephanie lived in Montpelier for about 25 years. Her family dates back to the early 1800s in Vermont. Her mother taught her to hook when she was five. She also learned how to dye to match the colors. When Stephanie was a stay-at-home mom she began repairing hooked rugs. Stephanie

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GINNY CALLAN AND CORT RICHARDSON: FRIENDS TO THEIR COMMUNITY, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

As we travel across our little dale to our neighbors' home for this interview, we pause to wonder who would have imagined that when we first met Ginny Callan and Cort Richardson, 30 years ago, that we would all end up settling down and raising our families on the same ridgetop in East Montpelier.

We met Ginny and Cort at about the same time and in the same circumstances that they had met each other. In 1978, concerned citizens of Vermont, western New Hampshire, and northwestern Massachusetts came together to organize and act on mutual concerns regarding the environmental and economic consequences of using nuclear power to create electricity. It was at one of these gatherings that Ginny and Cort first met each other, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Cort grew up in Peterborough, N.H., the descendant of an early New England family that landed there in 1630. During the late 1970s, Cort worked for the Southwestern New Hampshire Services and the University of New Hampshire on the early research for renewable and safe energy projects. At the same time, Ginny, who hailed from Queens, N.Y., was living in central Vermont following her 1974 graduation from Goddard College. By 1977 she had opened a small vegetarian and health food restaurant on East State Street in Montpelier called Horn of the Moon Café. In 1979, Ginny moved the restaurant to Langdon Street where Horn of the Moon grew to one of the premier vegetarian and health food restaurants in northern New England, as well as the local gathering place for members of the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance, which they helped found.



Cort Richardson & Ginny Callan

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

For many of us a significant part of the holidays is sharing with family and friends. We warm up and light up this darkest time of the year with special events and the renewal of connections with others. The season sometimes reminds us of the value of friends and neighbors when we need a little push out of a snow bank or a jump-start on a frigid morning. Though it's not found everywhere, this kind of rural neighborliness is typical in Vermont, at least in East Montpelier.

The community we share as a town is important, and I believe, will become even more so as transportation costs increase and local goods and services become more cost competitive with those produced in faraway places. The community we appreciate has its costs as well. We're all keenly aware of the property taxes most of us pay to support the excellent education our children receive and the road maintenance we count on. In addition to these and other monetary needs, our community also counts on the volunteer time and energy of many citizens to get important work done.

If you can spare some of your time and energy, please consider running for elective office in 2008 or volunteering for an appointed position. It's a great opportunity to give back to the local community, learn more about the workings of the town, and maybe make some new friends. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to get involved!

—Rob Chickering

RUNNING FOR TOWN OFFICE – GIVE IT A TRY

Running for office in East Montpelier is important every year, but this year offers more opportunities—and thereby more challenges to find good candidates—than usual. In addition to the +/- 20 positions we elect annually, we have additional openings on both our Selectboard and Planning Commission this year. You can find the specifics of all the positions we will elect at this year's Town Meeting—on Tuesday, March 4, 2008—at the Town Office.

To fill out the expanded five-person Selectboard that we voted at the 2007 Town Meeting, we will elect three Selectboard members this year rather than one. The position now filled by Tom Brazier will be up for election (a three-year term); two other positions will be elected for one- and two-year terms.

Also this year, we will elect four members to the Planning Commission rather than the usual three. One member resigned during the past year and that slot was filled by Selectboard appointment. Now that position is up for election.

And this is how you do it:

Eligibility for public office in East Montpelier is defined by state law and is pretty simple: You must be a legally qualified voter in our town. Other important, though not legally mandated, requirements include interest in town government, the ability to work as part of a team of citizens, and the ability to listen and communicate well.

Because East Montpelier elects its officers by Australian ballot (that is, using a pre-printed ballot in a voting booth), nominations must be made by petition. Petitions are available at the Town Office and must be signed by at least 30 individual East Montpelier voters. It's a good idea to get several additional signatures in case some turn out to be invalid or illegible.

Petitions are due at the Town Office on the 6th Monday before the day of the vote which, this year, is January 28, 2008.

For more information on running for public office—including which offices are "incompatible" and reporting requirements if you spend more than \$500 on your campaign—see the website of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns at <http://www.vlct.org/vermontlocalgovernment/howtorunforlocaloffice/>.

—Eddie Miller

showed me a rug of an oriental design. Her sister designed the pattern, she told me; her mother color planned it, and she hooked it. It was clear that Stephanie has been surrounded by creative people all her life.

For her hooked rugs, Stephanie uses only 100 percent wool, which she gets from England, N.H. and the Woolrich Co. She buys her commercial dyes from the W. Cushing Co. in Maine, the same company that supplied her mother. They offer 92 different colors in powder form in two-ounce packages. She explained, "I measure out the quantity I need, dissolve it in boiling water and then my dye is ready to go into the pot. I use a mordant of white vinegar or citric acid to fix the dye."

Two part-time employees work for Stephanie. In the shop that day was Deb, who has her own design business. She collaborates with Stephanie and shares her original designs for a new line of rug hooking beginner kits they are developing together. Stephanie also has a full line of supplies needed for rug hooking.

I asked Stephanie why she decided to set up shop in East Montpelier. In her very warm and personable way she explained her decision. "My partner Ted (Allen) and I were both widowed and each owned houses in Montpelier. When we decided we would like to live together, neither of us wanted to live in the other's house. I also was thinking about moving because of the high rent cost of my shop in Montpelier. We were out driving on a sunny Sunday afternoon and came upon this place. We loved it instantly, called about it, and then got our contractor to see if turning the garage part of the house into a business area was doable. It was, and we moved in July 2006. We love it here, and now we're East Montpelierites."

I asked how long it might take to do a rug. She replied, "I can do a rug that's 2' by 3', if it's not too intricate, in about 40 hours of hooking. I hook first thing in the morning for about an hour and in the evening. If Ted is watching sports shows, I sit and hook. We had a great time when the Red Sox were playing. I got a lot of hooking in then!"

I noticed a striking rug on the wall and asked if it was one she had hooked. Stephanie proceeded to tell me its history: "Most of my rugs have stories—kind of emotional things that have happened to me. Nine years ago my husband, Clint, died of cancer and I did this very special rug that helped our family work through the process of that. The name of the rug is Bottom Star Big Dipper. This depicts the house we lived in where we raised our three daughters. When he was diagnosed in February of '98 our whole family was in shock. He was told he only had four to six months to live. We had a hard time processing that. The girls stopped all their sports, I stopped hooking, my husband stopped collecting books, and the phone stopped ringing. One day I was crying and he said, 'Don't worry, I'll always be with you. I'll be on the bottom star of the big dipper.' That night I knew I needed to make a rug to help me remember that. The next morning I got a big piece of paper and started sketching the big dipper in the sky over our house. When the kids came home from school,



Stephanie Krauss

my daughter, who was taking an art class at the time, helped me with my perspective on the house. My middle daughter said, 'Mom you gotta have mountains and snow cause that's Vermont,' and my youngest daughter said that the bushes I had drawn weren't right because it was winter and pine trees would be better. Then my husband said, 'You gotta have a moon.' " The finished piece, a beautiful rug with a beautiful story, is 38" x 24", and Clint lived to see it finished.

Toward the end of the interview, we went into the private part of the house where Stephanie showed me how she hooks a rug. She sat down at a rug she had already started and demonstrated her technique. She explained: "The base fabric is a linen product placed on a frame which holds the fabric taut. I use a tool that looks like crochet hook with a wooden handle. Hooks come in different sizes and shapes. I take a narrow strip of wool fabric and while my left hand goes underneath the backing, my right hand holds the hook. I start by just pulling up an end. I skip a hole or two in the base fabric and start pulling loops, and that creates the pile. The end is pulled all the way to the top, and I clip it to the height of the other loops. The stress and tension of the loops pressing together keeps it in. When I'm all done hooking, I use a hot iron and damp cloth and steam the rug so it makes it almost like felting. It is then even more secure in the base linen." Like anyone who is really good at what they do, Stephanie makes it look easy. A fine example of her work is on exhibit at the Shelburne Museum.

Stephanie periodically offers classes in rug hooking. When I met her, she was just finishing a series of Wednesday evening classes with five students. She also offers private lessons. New classes will start in February. She also sells rugs on consignment and repairs rugs. For more information, visit www.GreenMountainHookedRugs.com, or stop by Stephanie's house and see it all for yourself.

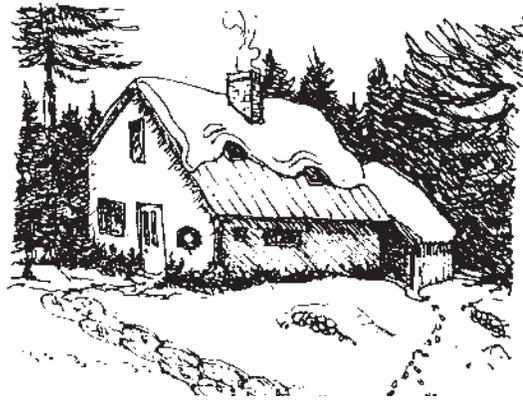
—Gary Ann Lewis lives on Haggett Road with her husband David

Their courtship, which was fostered by their deep personal convictions for environmental protection and safe energy sources, eventually led to their marriage in 1981. In 1983, they bought land on Guyette Road at the top of Snow Hill in East Montpelier where they built the home in which they still live today. Their home has commanding views to the east, and although we and Cort have suggested to Ginny that the view could be improved by cutting down some of the trees, Ginny won't hear of it. Their home has well-tended gardens and berry patches in which they grow a bounty of food as well as a woodlot to care for and hay fields which are used by the Gardners for their organic dairy farm.

Their daughter Callie was born in 1988, and their son Carter in 1991. Owning and managing the Horn of the Moon restaurant at times took nearly 80 hours a week of work on Ginny's part and, desiring to spend more precious time with Callie and Carter while they were young, she sold the restaurant in 1990. Callie is now a sophomore at the University of Vermont and is an accomplished artist and horsewoman. Carter, a junior at U-32, enjoys Stage-32 theater productions as well as guitar and aikido. In keeping with her interest in wholesome food, Ginny also published two terrific cookbooks from her Horn of the Moon recipes: the first in 1987, the second in 1996. Both are still in print.

Cort has, likewise, continued with his work on environmental and energy issues. In the late 1980s, he worked for the Vermont Public Service Department and for the Vermont Public Interest Research Group. In 1990, Cort began a 15-year tenure as an energy conservation consultant, first representing the Conservation Law Foundation, working collaboratively with New England Electric Systems (NEES), and later with various state agencies, non-profit groups, and public utilities in the northeast region. At the time, NEES was developing energy conservation measures to help its customers reduce their electricity use and lower their electric bills while at the same time helping the company avoid having to build new costly and polluting power plants. Most recently, Cort has come full circle and now works in the Montpelier office of the Council of State Governments on projects dealing with the storage of high-level radioactive wastes.

As Callie and Carter advanced in their schooling, Ginny took the opportunity to resume working outside of the home. From 1998 to 2000, she directed grassroots advocacy for the American Cancer Society in their public health anti-smoking campaigns.



For the last seven years, she has worked in Montpelier for the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. The fund distributes grants to small groups of citizens throughout New England who need financial assistance and advice to organize around particular environmental concerns.

Despite their busy family life and careers in matters of public interest, Ginny and Cort still find time to volunteer for their community. Cort served six years as a trustee of our Washington Electric Co-op and was instrumental in helping the Co-op become a national leader in energy efficiency. He currently serves on the Board of the Washington County Friends of Education, which supports activities at our district schools, and serves on the state panel that advises the award winning Efficiency-VT electrical conservation program. Ginny was East Montpelier's alternate to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, and for the past two years has served as the Town's representative to our solid waste district.

Living in the beauty of the working farm landscape of Snow Hill, Ginny and Cort enjoy long walks. They snowshoe and ski through our part of town stopping to say hi to neighbors and observing the rich wildlife in our surrounding woods and fields. They also keep active by biking and kayaking and, when time permits, paying visits to their campsite on Lake Umbagog in northern New Hampshire where their tent platform site allows them to sleep out with the bears!

As the short days descend upon us, it is comforting to look out across our little valley to see the lights of the warm and welcoming home that our friends of 30 years have made up on the ridge.

—Michael Duane and Ellen Knoedler live on Markham Road. They have lived in East Montpelier since 1982.

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THANK YOU RALLY DAY AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

The *Signpost* is most grateful to everyone who helped raise over \$3,100 from the silent auction at September's Rally Day. Many people were involved, including chairwoman Barbara Brown's hard-working committee: Sally Longhi, Kate Rader, Nancy Bisson, Rhoda Chickering, Lori Martin, Claire Pierce, Cliff & Shirley King, and Moe Brown. Thanks also to all the following donors:

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Sandy Conti 479-3169

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

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes
223-1651

Selectboard

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Ken Santor Carol Welch

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TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Alexandria Elizabeth Pickel, born Aug. 23, 2007, daughter to Marlana Jean Charron & Christopher Volney Pickel
- Mallory Jane Metevier Meiggs, born Sept. 28, 2007, daughter to Jessie Ann Metevier & Anthony John Meiggs

Marriages

- Richard Edward Thibodeau & Lise Sheila Kowalski, Oct. 3, 2007
- Bernard Joseph Desindes & Donnalynn LaPointe, Nov. 2, 2007

Deaths

- Charles Allan Bristow, Oct. 16, 2007, spouse of Claudia Bristow
- Therese Thomas Ferland, Nov. 6, 2007, spouse of Ronald Ferland

Land Transfers

- Catherine W. Herlihy to David K. Herlihy, 10.1 acres & dwelling, Partridge Run Rd.
- Brian J. Estivill & Michelle B. Estivill to Michelle B. Estivill, 1.29 acres & mobile home, Fair Rd.
- Edward Noel & Lynn L. Gravel to Michael & Denise Sullivan, 5.59 acres & dwelling, VT14S.
- Liane M. Bennett to Rubin B. Bennett, 1.1 acres & dwelling, Carleton Blvd.
- Milton, Bernice, & Kenneth Persin to Milton, Bernice, Kenneth & Justin Persin, 63 acres, Quaker Hill Rd.
- John Pecue to Liane Bennett, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Ann C. Shper to Paul A. Shper, 1 acre & commercial building, US2
- Paul A. Shper to Jason E. Lawrence, 1 acre & commercial building, US2
- Dorothy A. Coldling, McDuff, Trustee, Codling Revocable Living Trust to Kenneth M. Smith, 7 acres & dwelling, US2
- Marion W. Searles Meiggs to Dennis C. & Evelyn K. Searles, life estate, 1.1 acre & mobile home, Clark Rd.
- Lawrence C. & Diane C. Brown to Donald E. & Janet M. Coffey, 4.97 acres, VT14N.
- Anthony C. & Jean Cassani to Zachary A. Sances, 2.5 acres & dwelling, US2
- Daniel & Laura Sudhoff to Michael Sevigny, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Maurice A. & Lucille M. Laperle, Alan, Gary & Mark LaPerle, Jodi-Lynn Brown, to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 1.5 acres & dwelling, US2
- Timothy & Stefanie Shea to Alan S. & Gale C. Rome, 1 acre & dwelling, Clark Rd.

- Paul A. Mascitti to Mikeljon Mascitti, life estate, 0.04 acre & dwelling, VT14N.
- Philip R. & Donna Leno to Veronica Eldred, life estate, 1.48 acres & dwelling, Powder Horn Glenn Rd.
- Ricky H. Thomas to Stephen Looke & Mary Ellen Simmons, 10.4 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- Lawrence C. & Diane C. Brown to Leo J. & Joyce A. Dutil, 3.8 acres, VT 14N.
- Earl J. Montague to Ford Marden, III & Diana Montague, 0.54 acres & dwelling, Quaker Hill Rd.
- Christine A. Wood to Bruce A. & Johan Thomas Richardson, acres & dwelling, Bragg Hill Rd.
- Kami J. & Eric P. Moshinskie to Gerald F. Memmo, Sr., Trustee under Memmo Realty Trust, .29 acre & dwelling, VT14S.
- Douglas J. Hill to Robert H. & Rhoda B. Chickering, Common R.O.W., Boulder Ridge Rd.
- Douglas J. Hill to Shane M. & Martha T. Oakes, Common R.O.W., Boulder Ridge Rd.
- Lawrence & Priscilla LaPerle to Richard & Ruth Sanborn, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Jane C. Bartrum to Abigail Bruce & Sean Downy, 20 acres & dwelling, Hammett Hill Rd.
- Betasite, LLC to Erin Clark, 11 acres, County Rd.
- David K. Herlihy to Richard J. Harvie, 10.1 acres & dwelling, Partridge Run Rd.
- C. Bruce & Malinda J. Johnson to A. John Quattrone & Amy A. Torchia, 10 acres, Sodom Pond Rd.

SELECTBOARD

September 24, 2007

- Addressed a situation where an unregistered dog bit a human. The owner will be requested to register the dog.
- Josh Schultz, the traffic design project manager for the US2 & VT14 intersection project, has submitted the application to the Agency of Natural Resources and expects finalization of the permit in late October or early November.
- Passed a motion to invite landowners and business owners along the US2 & VT14 corridor to join Village Designation Committee to help delineate the boundaries of East Montpelier Village.
- Selectboard members want to discuss with the Planning Commission the fact that CVRPC has selected a portion of US2 to be evaluated for future planning.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- Passed a motion to allow snowmobile use over the former Baird Property, pending Tim Carver's permission.
- Voted to use the reappraisal fund to purchase a desk top computer setup in preparation for the 2008 reappraisal.
- Requesting information from VTrans concerning the plan for Bridge #68. The plans must include the dry hydrant as previously discussed.

October 8, 2007

- Resident Margaret Loftus presented a petition requesting a lower speed limit on VT214. The town will submit a request for the required traffic study by the State.
- Signed a contract with Forcier, Aldrich & Associates for a Wastewater Study after clarifying issues, and questions were answered concerning the study completion date, mandatory connection, and payment.
- Town Clerk & Treasurer Terri Conti clarified that property tax payments do not become delinquent until the due date of the final installment.
- Reviewed a draft of a letter to be used following all reported aggressive dog incidents.
- The town will receive \$14,000 in disaster relief from the July 11 flooding within the next month.

October 22, 2007

- Voted to approve the following permit requests: R.O.W. from Washington Electric on Sodom Pond Rd., Clark & Vanderply access on County Rd., and Coburn access on Daggett Rd.
- Selectboard members will attend a joint meeting with the Calais Selectboard to consider the facility needs of the EMFD.
- The board members requested a report on the findings of the Ancient Road Committee in order to determine if any of the lost roads would be of interest to the town and would require future action.
- Frank Pratt from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission said VTrans might designate a house near Bridge #68 (Village Bridge) as having historical significance and that there could be consideration of relocating the house.
- Steve Jerome will research illegal dumping laws and there will be a letter drafted to the party who is dumping trash on East Hill Rd.
- Voted a retroactive pay increase for Gordon Blow for his clerical duties on the Road Management team.

EAST MONTPELIER PLANNING COMMISSION

October 4, 2007

- The board discussed the application and considered the preliminary and final plat review submitted by David, Pauline & Thomas Coburn, to subdivide their 82.5-acre property located at 139 Daggett Rd.
- Voted to approve the application as submitted and amended with the condition that the applicants receive an access approval permit from the Selectboard and the map shall include the entire lot, using tax maps, not including abutters.
- Reviewed and commented on the plan of John Pandolfo who has 51 acres at the corner of Templeton Rd. and County Rd. He would like to split off 7 acres in the NE corner.
- Reviewed the plan submitted by David Pickel who owns property along VT214 in Zone C. Pickel would like to split off a 1.89-acre lot to transfer to his son.
- Discussed preparations for the public hearing on the zoning rewrites.
- Discussed the Good Karma Rescue Service which wants to continue their non-profit business at the former Breneman Farm. They keep 6–8 animals at a time and try to find homes for the animals. It is classified as a home occupation.

October 18, 2007

- The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Zoning Regulations. They listed the most important changes to the document, reviewed the next steps in the process, and took questions and comments from the audience.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

August 28, 2007

- Voted to uphold the denial by the ZA of Rick Mastelli's zoning permit.

September 18, 2007

- Considered an application submitted by Donald Tofani to construct an addition to a garage on his property located at 1347 Coburn Rd. The property is located in the Commercial District – Zone A. The addition is less than 50% of the value of the garage and is therefore not considered a substantial improvement.
- Approved a permit for a garage addition to be built at or above the existing slab elevation.
- Conditional use review submitted by Crossroads Christian Church to construct a storage

- building on its property. Committee chair Rich Curtis represented the applicant, so the hearing was chaired by Jeff Cueto. Granted the request due to the minor nature of the accessory structure and the lack of a material effect on the conditional use standards.
- Voted to commend the Planning Commission for the extensive and fine work on the proposed zoning regulations.

U-32 JR. & SR. HIGH SCHOOL

September 19, 2007

- Jim Segar made a presentation to the board concerning the Physical Education program and asked the board to consider adding elective PE for 11/12 graders, PE for 8th graders 5 days a week versus the current 3 days, explained scheduling issues and the need for a PE classroom.
- Continued the discussion of moving the Central Office to the U-32 campus.
- Approved the 2007- 08 Equity Coordinators and Co-Curricular Advisors as presented.
- Passed a motion from the administration regarding a tuition waiver for an upper class student and a pro-rated tuition for an underclass student. There were two board members voting against the motion.
- Allen Gilbert requested a discussion about bullying/harassment on a future agenda.

October 3, 2007

- Keith Gerritt explained the process for considering proposed changes to the school schedule.
- Mark Mooney reported on safety and security in and around the school.
- Voted to cancel the regularly scheduled board meeting on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

October 17, 2007

- Continued the discussion of changing the school schedule following a presentation from Tim Flynn. Stressed the importance of keeping the administration and the public informed throughout the process.
- Voted to approve the funding of bleacher repairs as presented by Allen Gilbert. These repairs are a precautionary measure.
- Accepted resignations from Jessica Hannigan, Custodian; Roy Cahill, Maintenance and Mechanic; William McNaulty, Custodian.
- Appointed Roy Cahill, Custodian; William McNaulty, Maintenance and Mechanic.

Continued on Page 8

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 20, 2007

- Jamie O'Hare and Beth Parker presented the kindergartens' need for a paraeducator. A complete look at the current budget and all over budget costs will be required to determine how this request could be funded.
- Passed a motion to advertise this position as an anticipated opening.
- Marlene Betit noted the need for a capital plan and she intends to work on a draft of this document.
- Voted to accept the resignation of a paraeducator and to hire Morina Gorton and Trina Cookson for recess duty.
- Erica Zimmerman reported that Katina Johnson is the new chair of the PTNO. Thanked Erica for her fine work in this capacity.

October 17, 2007

- Carole Freeman presented the work that is being done on curriculum within the district for better coordination among the schools.
- Discussed the implications of universal preschool and will work toward a long-term strategic approach to the idea.
- Considered the need for additional adults working in a first-grade classroom and the kindergarten classes.
- Passed a motion, with one abstention, to hire one full-time paraeducator for the kindergartens and one half-time paraeducator for Ellen Shed's first-grade class.
- Approved the hiring of Leah Sophrin as a special education paraeducator to replace Betty Jaworski.
- Amanda Powers Campbell was hired as the kindergarten paraeducator for the remainder of the school year. There was one abstention.
- Michelle Gardner was approved as a long-term substitute.

November 5, 2007: Special Board Meeting

- The purpose of the meeting was to approve the annual audit. David Angolano, CPA, noted there was a "significant deficiency in the internal control of the organization: contrary to the written policies and procedures that are in place." The state of Vermont will require a corrective action plan specific to the deficiencies and weaknesses uncovered in the audit. When the FY 08 auditing is done, implementation of the corrective action will be expected. Questions and comments were taken from the audience.
- Passed a motion to approve the audit report.
- Passed a motion to authorize Marlene Betit to work with Mr. Angolano to finalize the two pages that were held out of the audit findings for this meeting.

NEW ZONING REGULATIONS: AN UPDATE

The East Montpelier Planning Commission has formally presented its proposed new zoning regulations to the Selectboard. Our current zoning regulations were adopted in 1982 and the subdivision regulations were last amended in 1974. The Planning Commission has been working for over three years to update them. The Commission held a public forum in September and a public hearing in October to hear citizen concerns and suggestions and answer questions about its latest draft.

Approximately 30 people attended each of these public meetings to ask questions and offer suggestions. The Planning Commission also had written feedback from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Zoning Administrator. The Commission then reviewed all the concerns and suggestions and modified the proposed regulations before submitting them to the Selectboard.

State law requires the Selectboard to hold at least one public hearing before acting on the proposed regulations. The date of this hearing has not been set at this time. It will be posted on the *Signpost* website and elsewhere in town when the date is determined. For towns with our population, a selectboard may approve or reject proposed new regulations itself or submit them for a town vote.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be picked up at the town office from Bruce Johnson, Zoning Administrator.

—Rob Chickering, PC Chairman

Signpost Sweet-On-Sugaring Stories Send Yours In

Have you ever tapped a beech tree? Coated your kitchen stove with flaming syrup? Had a bear visit your sugarhouse or a squirrel take swimming lessons in your sap bucket? We are gathering local sugaring stories for our next *Signpost*. If you are a backyard syrup maker or a professional, please share some of your more exciting or humorous moments with us.

Contact Wendy Soliday, 229-9594, or wsoliday@aol.com, for more information.

Kevin E. Hudson

2235 Brazier Road
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

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SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CURATOR'S HELPER...

In September 2005, a former long-time East Montpelier resident, Phyllis Dudley Duso, called the East Montpelier Historical Society curator, Joanne Bair, to say she was cleaning out her closets and wondered if the Society would like any of the items for its collection. At the arranged time, boxes and bags were turned over to the curator with many thanks.

A brief perusal of the boxes indicated these were indeed items about the history of the town and its people: Rally Day flyers, pictures, posters, playbills from the turn of the century, sheet music, music convention music, and a ledger. The donor said she couldn't identify all the items, such as the photos, but that the family had collected them over time.

The curator put the items in a safe place until they could be processed or accessioned. The posters were large, brittle, and long-folded, so they would need to be encased in mylar at some point for safe-keeping. On an accession form, each item in the collection was listed and given a number indicating the year and in what order it was received.

But this is where the curator's helper got side-tracked. It was the ledger. On a catalog form, the ledger's specific number had been recorded, as well as its size, color, and condition, who had donated it, and where it was to be located. Then information about the ledger had been added to a card in the Historical Society's file box.

The helper opened the pages of the 9 ¼" x 13" hardcover bound ledger. Written on the fly-leaf were the initials "SMW 1843." Inside were several loose papers, some with numbers and sums, two post office box rental receipts dated 1870, and a note reading, "I was 21 years old Aug. 26, 1857." The helper could not turn back; there was more inside. A hand-written table of contents of names and page numbers listed folks who lived in the Center, the County Road, and the surrounding area, among them one Orlando W. Harvey. Each page showed work done for a specific person and payment given. Was this the personal account book, circa 1864–1871, of a young man who worked for his father and neighbors, plowing, drawing manure and stones, haying, delivering to and fro, making cider, sowing and harvesting wheat, chopping wood, hoeing, and repairing equipment? In return he seemed to have been paid in butter, hay, new boots by the local shoemaker Robert Gove, as well as some cash.

The curator's helper closed the ledger reluctantly. This brief glimpse into life in 1860s East Montpelier invited further research and interpretation.

P.S. The East Montpelier Cemetery Book lists a Del L. Harvey born Aug. 26, 1836. A property belonging to Orlando Harvey is shown in the 1858 Walling Map—perhaps father Orlando W. Harvey—on the County Road across from the former Tracy farm. Orlando W. Harvey's property is at the same location in the 1875 Beers Atlas. Hmmm...

—Anne Ormsbee (a.k.a "the curator's helper")
East Montpelier Historical Society

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

Board Of Trustees Appoints Second E. Montpelier Member

The Board of Trustees recently appointed Jim Clemons of Guyette Road to the library board, where he will join Charlie Catlin in representing East Montpelier. Jim, who was born and raised in Montpelier, has joined the Library's endowment committee. Welcome, Jim!

The Kellogg-Hubbard Adamant Annex

If you live near the Adamant Co-op, check out the new Kellogg-Hubbard Library Adamant Annex. You'll find a choice selection of books, both on tape and in print. You can also place requests for specific books and volunteers will deliver them to the Annex for you.

Lunch in a Foreign Language Begins January 8

Want to brush up on your foreign language skills? Come to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library with a bag lunch. There will be no teachers—just like-minded people who would like to spend a lunch hour (noon–1 p.m.) trying out their conversational skills in a foreign language. Thus far, the schedule is: Tuesdays-Italian; Wednesdays-Spanish; Thursdays-French; and Fridays-German. Monday is still open to any group wanting to practice a language other than these. While you're at the Library, check out the audio and book collection on language learning.

Library Information

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Children's Library closes at 5:30); Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. (Labor Day through June 1). Closed Sundays. www.kellogg-hubbard.org; 223-3338

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

GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE GREEN PASTURES

I don't know how people survive without neighbors. When we first moved to East Montpelier, we realized pretty quickly that we had lucked out when our neighbors "down below" called to ask if we would mind if they spread manure on our fields and gardens. We had always paid for manure prior to this and were somewhat shocked someone might want to give it to us, do the shoveling and spreading, and then tell us that for allowing them to spread their manure, they would mow our field. I mean, these were really good neighbors. They have exceeded our expectations many times, including being there to deliver nine puppies while we were away on vacation and then driving the housesitter—who was suppose to be delivering the puppies, but turned out to be allergic to dogs—to the emergency room because of an extreme asthma attack. What would we all do without all our neighbors? Who would we call for the cup of sugar, to check to see if we really forgot to turn off the stove, to help move the piano, to give the kids a ride when they miss the bus, to crawl through the chicken coop back door and remove the skunk-eaten headless chickens?

—Wendy Soliday, Murray Road

Do you have a story to share about the joys and kind acts of neighbors and community? If so, please send it to the *Signpost*.



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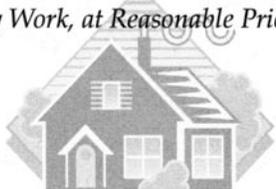


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ON THE TRAIL OF "ANCIENT ROADS"

Have you taken an East Montpelier road less traveled? If so, the folks at the Zoning Board want to hear from you.

In 2006, the Legislature passed Act 178 to provide an orderly method to resolve the issue of abandoned and essentially unknown town road rights-of-way. In other words, it gives towns an opportunity to determine whether former roads should be maintained in some fashion or given up.

To clarify, the Act added a new town highway category: the unidentified corridor. These "ancient roads" must meet four criteria: 1) they must have been legally established; 2) they do not appear on a town highway map as of July 1, 2009; 3) they are not clearly observable by physical evidence of their use as a highway or trail; and 4) they are not legal trails. Any so-called ancient road must be identified by July 1, 2009. Early in 2007, the East Montpelier Selectboard authorized the creation of a committee to determine if there are any potential unidentified corridors in town and, if so, whether there is interest in reclaiming public, mainly recreational, use of any such corridor.

The Ancient Roads Committee has, to date, identified nine areas that may include unidentified corridors. Maps of these areas will be printed in the 2007 Town Report. Large-scale versions of these maps and other maps used in the committee's research are currently hanging in the main meeting room of the Town Office. The committee is requesting input from town residents regarding the potential value of reestablishing public use of the nine identified possible ancient roads. The committee would also like to hear about other locations that might include one of these forgotten roads.

One of the options towns have for dealing with the abandoned road issue is to authorize, by July 1, 2009, a mass discontinuance of all highways not included in the official annual certification of town highways. On June 1, 2008, the committee intends to recommend this action to the Selectboard unless significant public interest is shown in one or more of the potential unidentified corridors.

If you have "ancient road" knowledge to share or questions, please contact Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier's Zoning Administrator and acting facilitator of the committee, at eastmontza@comcast.net.

—Bruce Johnson, EM Zoning Administrator

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EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: NEWS, WORK, AND HAPPENINGS

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Dear East Montpelier residents:

At its November 29 meeting, the East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board of Directors accepted Principal Mitchell Golub's resignation effective immediately. Board members are aware residents may have questions about recent events. Minutes of all School Board meetings are available at <http://www.emontpelierschool.org> and at EMES. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 223-6028 or Superintendent Robbe Brook at 223-0553.

As of October 19, 2007, Carole Freeman, the WCSU Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development has been Acting Principal. Carole worked closely with the staff at EMES to disseminate information to the children regarding Principal Golub's resignation. A team of staff members developed a script for teachers to help frame the conversation with children in an age-appropriate manner. Freeman, Superintendent Brook, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Thomas, Business Manager Lori Bibeau, EMES staff and the Board continue to work together to ensure school resources are used in the best interests of the students and the community.

The Board is grateful to Carole Freeman for her willingness to assume the Acting Principal position during this difficult period. However, her work on our behalf meant that much of WCSU curriculum and professional development work has been on pause for this time period.

At our December 13 meeting, the EMES School Board appointed Alice Angney as Interim Principal starting at the beginning of 2008 and continuing through the end of the school year. Angney, a longtime East Montpelier resident, was formerly superintendent in this supervisory union and more recently retired after twenty-one years as superintendent in the Lamoille South Supervisory District. A full search for a permanent principal will begin in the new year.

—Marlene Betit, EMES Board Chair

YOUNG POETS FROM MRS. GANNON'S FOURTH-GRADE CLASS

Wetlands In Danger by Eli Pandolfo

Wetlands are any
Land that is wet
And if you hear me now
I will make you a bet

If you are alive 300 years from now
How will the wetlands be doing? Hmmm, how?
I ask you now will there be any more
Of the great and almighty wetlands galore

If people keep filling in wetlands then there
Won't be any more of the wetlands we share
They will all be gone, just because of us
And all the long while we make quite a fuss

If we keep destroying wetlands here and there
Leaving no small amount of animal despair
And we see no more wetlands ever again
Except for the poem I just wrote with this pen

If you can change that then the world will be happy
So try to bring wetlands back
And try to make it snappy

Fall by Audrey Oliver

It's turning Fall all around,
Leaves are falling to the ground.
They're coming in colors, yellow, brown, orange,
and red,
As they fall they make a wonderful bed.
Fall is very, very fun!
There are lots of things to be done.
There's pumpkin carving and other stuff.
Like trick-or-treating
And pumpkin pie or turkey eating.
So this is why Fall
Is one of the best seasons of all!



SEND A POSTCARD TO YOUR FIRST-GRADERS

Mrs. Pastore and Mrs. Shedd's first-grade classes would like to receive postcards from all fifty states. This is part of our geography work and map studies for the year. If you have family or friends who would be willing to send us a card, please pass along the request. Our address is:

Mrs. Pastore's or Mrs. Shedd's Class
East Montpelier Elementary School
665 Vincent Flats Rd.
East Montpelier, VT 05651

PTNO IS CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

If you are interested in getting on the Early Bird list for the November 8, 2008, EMES PTNO Holiday Craft Show, now is your chance. By January 31, 2008, send your request with name, company name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of your products to East Montpelier Elementary School Attn: PTNO, 665 Vincent Flats Rd, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

This event will support the various family enrichment activities that are sponsored each year by the East Montpelier Elementary School Parent Teacher Neighbor Organization.

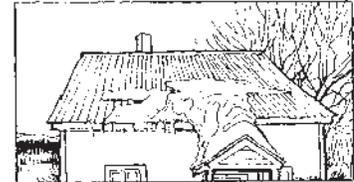
—Katina Johnson, EMES PTNO President

COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

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

NOTICES

Jan 1: Town Clerk's Office closed.
Jan 24: Petitions for articles to be part of Town or School Warning due
Jan 28: Candidate petitions due at Town Office
Feb. 13: First day to Request Absentee/Early Voter ballots from Town Office
Feb. 27: Last day to add name to Town Checklist



EVENTS

Orchard Valley School and Child's Garden: Call 802-456-7400 for more information.

Open Houses and Observation Days during the month of Jan.

Student Art Show: Month of Feb., City Center, Montpelier.

Kellogg-Hubbard Library: Call 223-4665 for more information

The Enduring Appeal of King Arthur, First Wed. Lecture, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.

Story Time for preschoolers every Tues., Wed., and Fri. at 10:30 a.m. starting Jan. 8.

"Crafternoons" with Ben Matchstick, Jan. 26, 1 p.m. and monthly

The Culture of Food in Rural China, First Wed. Lecture, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

East Montpelier Public Meetings:

Town & School Forum: Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m. East Montpelier Elementary School gym

Town & School Meeting: Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m. EMES Gym

Presidential Primary/Town/School/U-32 Australian Ballot: Mar. 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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

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