



# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XVIII—Number Four

March/April 2008

## Town Meeting Day Issue

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR: VOTING DATES AND PLACES

**Voter Registration:** You can register to vote in the upcoming Town/School Meeting and Presidential Primary at the Town Office during regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. The last day to register will be February 27, by 5 p.m.

**Town Forum:** Saturday, March 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon, EMES gym. This will be your only opportunity to discuss all school district and town warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted on by Australian Ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report. The School articles will be discussed first, followed by the Town articles.

**School/Town Meeting Day:** March 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m. EMES. The Town and School meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The Town Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the School Meeting. Babysitting will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the kindergarten room.

### Australian Ballot and Presidential Primary Voting:

March 4, 2008, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Early or Absentee Voting:** Available February 13 to March 3, 2008. Call the Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313, or go to the office to obtain ballots and vote. All ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. Town Meeting Day to be counted.

### CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE POSITIONS

#### **Town and School Meeting 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 and School Meeting Moderator (one-year term):

For the last two years, I've been honored to be elected Moderator for our Town and School Meetings. I have to say that I've enjoyed it, and I hope I've been doing a fair job. If you think so, I'd appreciate your vote in this year's election.

I've tried to follow up on the good examples I've seen in past decades—able moderators who helped us consider, debate, learn from each other, and decide things. I'll keep trying to listen for "the sense of the meeting," to apply the rules with fairness, efficiency, and common sense, and to help us all move to clear resolutions of the issues before us.

As to my background, 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 for the U.S. EPA 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 help Vermont, America, and some other parts of the world balance energy desires and environmental needs.

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.

*Continued on Page 3*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

2—Town Meeting Potluck

6—Town Weathervane

8—Loan Funds Available

8—Our Good Neighbors

11—News from EMES

## Signpost Volunteers

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EAST MONTPELIER  
**Signpost**

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charge to all residents of  
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PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## GOOD EATS: TOWN MEETING POTLUCK A TIMELESS, TASTY TRADITION

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 (enough food for four times as many people as in your group)—salad, main dish, bread, or dessert. For example, if two people attend, bring a dish that will serve eight. To make sure this remains a true potluck (and we don't run out of food), we encourage one and all to share a favorite recipe. Drop your dish off in the morning and settle in for the meeting. However, if the only way you can eat with us is to purchase, please do! \$5 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year!

Being part of the kitchen crew is another way to contribute to the great tradition and make this community lunch a success for friends, acquaintances, and family. Helpers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer or for more information, contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177.

### Kellogg-Hubbard Library

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library has an interesting array of programs for all ages occurring regularly. Because space prevents us from detailing them this month, please visit their website at [www.kellogghubbard.org](http://www.kellogghubbard.org) or phone them at 223-3338.

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Children's Library closes at 5:30);  
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Labor Day through June 1st). Closed Sundays.

## REFLECTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

I just want to express my appreciation to the Town for electing me to be your School Director for the past terms and entrusting me with the responsibility of providing our children with the best possible education we can provide. It has been an honor and a wonderfully humbling, challenging experience. I have gained a much deeper understanding of all the hard work and tough decisions that face a school board week by week. I have greatly valued the many phone calls and e-mails sharing your thoughts and perspectives, as they helped me to better represent a broader view than my own while on the board. Though I will miss the intensity of this involvement, I encourage any of you who are eager to have an impact on our children's education and future to seek this opportunity. Thank you once again.

—Sue Chickering



Young artists Devin Burroughs and Avery Pashe. For more on EMES's recent student exhibits, see page 11 and photos throughout this issue.

## 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.

**Thomas Brazier:** Selectboard Member (three-year term):

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as a member of the East Montpelier Selectboard for the past 15 years. I have also served as a member of the East Montpelier Fire Department/Fast Squad since 1973. I've found great satisfaction helping many during their greatest time of need.

I own and operate a business consulting firm and a dairy business—the fourth generation on our property. In 1999 I was forced to scale back the farm business due to an accident. I was determined that the challenges that I faced would not inhibit me or define me, so I changed my approach to achieve my goals.

I'm proud to report that the Selectboard budget for Fiscal 2009 will again result in the reduction in the municipal tax rate. We met this challenge in spite of rising costs for energy, wages, and insurance. The Selectboard has been able to accomplish this by hiring good employees, using prudent management, and enacting the capital budget, which was supported by the Town's taxpayers.

The board has reviewed our Town's proposed zoning ordinances. I believe that these new zoning regulations will be a major change. The East Montpelier voters should have the opportunity to vote on these by Australian ballot. I know that my colleagues Steve Jerome and Tracy Phillips feel the same. What is the cost of implementing the proposed zoning ordinances?

If you have concerns or questions, please feel free to call me at 223-7853. I truly appreciate your support and would appreciate your vote on March 4, 2008.

**Rob Chickering:** Selectboard Member (three-year term):

No matter who is elected to the Selectboard on Town Meeting Day, the board will be different in this coming year. The increase to a five-person Selectboard will make it possible for the board to connect and participate with other groups in town and help to move projects forward. There are several important issues that East Montpelier needs to deal with soon, and I would like to see the board actively seek out townspeople's opinions. I would like to be a part of that process as a Selectboard member.

I have served on your Planning Commission for the past seven years, as Chair for the past four years. During this time I have been instrumental in writing a new Town Plan and then the proposed revision of our town's zoning and subdivision regulations. Writing town policies is a challenging process of balancing priorities, yet the result is a clear guideline for decision making by town officials. I believe that more written policies would benefit the functioning of the Selectboard and ensure consistent decisions.

My work background includes teaching and assistant principal at U-32, carpentry work, real estate sales, agricultural energy conserva-

tion, and small business management. Mostly retired now, I have the time, energy, and interest to perform well as a Selectboard member.

**Real Ouimet:** Selectboard Member (one-year term):

No statement submitted.

**Don Welch:** Selectboard Member (one-year term):

I am running for the new one-year term on the Selectboard. My career as an actuary with National Life Insurance Company has given me the financial background to serve as your elected auditor for the past two years. My experience as auditor has exposed me to the many issues that face the members of the Selectboard. There is no specific issue that attracts me to this opportunity to serve East Montpelier, just a general desire to bring my experience and perspective to each one. My wife, Carol, and I live on Bliss Road and have three adult children.

**Duane Wells:** Selectboard Member (two-year term):

I am a Vermont native who has spent most of my life in Central Vermont. After graduating from Goddard College, I began my career as an educator working for Community College of Vermont and then as a teacher and teaching principal at Rumney School in Middlesex. For the last thirty years I have been the Duane Wells of Duane Wells Construction in Montpelier.

To paraphrase the late, great Tip O'Neill, "All politics is local." I have decided to start and end my political career by running for the Selectboard in the town that has been so good for Carol and me (and the dogs). I hope that the townsfolk will have the faith in me to realize that I will call 'em as I see 'em. The bottom line is that I will be as fair as possible and will consider all sides of issues that come before the board. The town has so many good things going for it. It is my goal to make sure that our town retains its character and only gets better.

I'd appreciate your vote on Town Meeting Day!



Stella Gardner's zebras.

## 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.

**No Candidate:** (three-year term)

Continued on Page 4

### 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.

**Putnam Clayton:** Auditor (three-year term):

As an East Montpelier resident for almost 45 years, I am overdue for running for town office. I'm running for auditor for two reasons. First, I got a phone call asking if I would consider running, and, second, some of my experience over the past 50 years should be a help. My 30 years as a high school math teacher might be helpful, but perhaps more to the point would be the eight years I was the bookkeeper at Rumney School in Middlesex. Since the books of our town are professionally audited by a CPA, the town auditors have what looks like an interesting variety of responsibilities, which even includes the assembling of the Town Report. I am looking forward to taking a more active part in the town as one of your town auditors.

### 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.

**No Candidate:** Trustee for Public Funds (three-year term)

### Town Law Agent

As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier. Although state 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:** Town Grand Juror (one-year term)

### First and Second 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.

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

No Statement Submitted.

### 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, historic, and wetland and scenic preservation.

**Seth B. Gardner:** Planning Commissioner (three-year term)

I've lived in East Montpelier for 21 years, and I feel it's time for me to make a contribution to the Town. Four positions need to be filled on the Planning Commission, so I decided to run for one of those positions because I have a background in planning and I can make a strong contribution to the Commission. As a dairy farmer, I feel that stewardship of the land is one of the most important things we do. Zoning issues and land use are important issues that relate directly to agriculture in East Montpelier. With this background in land conservation, I feel I can have a unique voice on the Planning Commission. Thank you for considering me for this position.

**Richmond "Rick" Hopkins:** Planning Commissioner (three-year term)

I have been a resident of East Montpelier since 1992.

I would like to remain on the Planning Commission for another three-year term and to occupy a seat on the nine-person Commission, which I have held for the last six years. While serving as a member of the Planning Commission, I have helped with the drafting of the Town's Master Plan. I have also been part of the multi-year effort undertaken by the Commission to revise and update the town's zoning and subdivision regulations.

I am a firm believer in a fair, equitable, and consistent process that is transparent and respectful to applicant and abutters alike.

If elected, I look forward to helping to develop a new Town Plan, and I will continue working with the Selectboard and Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to see the proposed regulations go into effect. The proposed regulations are clearly written and, if adopted, will not

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only help the town achieve the objectives outlined in the Town Plan but will also inform applicants and interested parties alike about what is expected when undertaking development within the town.

**Thomas K. Pierce:** Planning Commissioner (three-year term):

I am a native Vermonter and have lived here all my life. Following graduation from Norwich University, I went to work for the Vermont Agency of Transportation. I retired from the Agency in 2000 after 42½ years. The last 13 years I was an Administrative Civil Engineer in charge of the Construction Division, and, prior to that, I was Chief of Contract Administration.

From 1960 to 1963 I was the Assistant District Engineer for District 8, which encompassed Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. I worked primarily with town selectboards and road commissioners on layout and construction of State Aid and Town Highway construction projects.

During my tenure as chairman of the Montpelier Recreation Board the following was accomplished: built athletic complex for Montpelier High School, including running track, football field, baseball field, softball field, and four tennis courts; built four other lighted tennis courts and five ball fields.

Since my retirement I have had the opportunity to work with four different town planning commissions on subdivision and building projects and have gained an appreciation for the value of good thoughtful planning and zoning to preserve the desires and needs of town citizens. I hope that my statewide experience might be of some value to the Planning Commission and that I also would have the opportunity to expand my knowledge as a member of the Planning Commission.

**Kenneth Santor:** Planning Commissioner (three-year term)

*No statement submitted.*

**Gene Troia:** Planning Commissioner (three-year term):

I have been a resident of East Montpelier living on Vincent Flats Road with my wife and two sons for 22 years. During that time I have served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and as the town Zoning Administrator. I also have experience as chair of the Board of Adjustment.

I believe that this past experience will benefit this town if I am elected to serve on the Planning Commission. I have also had extensive experience working with other local towns dealing with their zoning laws and permitting process through my business as a building contractor.

I am able to listen to all sides presented when dealing with permit applications. I am familiar with the Town Plan and applicable town

and state regulations. This knowledge will allow me to be an active member of our Planning Commission. I sincerely hope I gain your vote because you want someone with my qualifications on the East Montpelier Planning Commission.

**Jean Vissering:** Planning Commissioner (one-year term):

I am a landscape architect with a background as well in town planning. Having been lucky enough to live in East Montpelier for 26 years now, I look forward to being able to contribute to this very special community. Five years ago, I helped write small sections of the current Town Plan, which is now due to be updated. The existing Planning Commission has worked hard on revisions to the zoning ordinance so the focus can shift once again to the larger questions of future growth, development, and conservation in East Montpelier.

I am currently serving as a member of an informal committee examining the proposed change to the intersection of Routes 2 and 14 in East Village. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm of East Village residents and business owners for enhancing the village, something that is also of strong interest to me.

There are challenges and opportunities on the horizon concerning potential growth in the village and elsewhere in town. Development can benefit the town if it is designed to maximize the conservation of resources, minimize energy consumption, and, where possible, include affordable housing.

### Cemetery Commissioner

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

**Frederick Strong:** Cemetery Commissioner (five-year term)

*No Statement Submitted.*

*Continued on Page 9*

*Signature*

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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

**Town Administrator: Robyn Hall**  
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:00-2:00  
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

### Selectboard

Tom Brazier, Chair  
Stephen Jerome, Tracy Phillips

### Planning Commission

Rob Chickering, Chair

Lyn Blackwell	Tim Carver
Mark Lane	Rick Hopkins
Jack Pauly	Kim Watson
Ken Santor	Carol Welch

### Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair

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

Marlene Betit, Chair 223-6028  
mabetit@aol.com

Jan Aldrich, Vice-chair 229-0406  
Janice\_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Julie Roachat 223-1423  
vtseven@yahoo.com

John Audy 223-7899  
vtfiredog@comcast.net

Andrea Colnes 223-8474  
alc@sover.net

## TOWN WEATHERVANE

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- Glenn Arthur-Leonidas Jennings, born Nov. 17, 2007, son to Anna Teresa & Peter Michael Jennings
- Gavin Michael Clark, born Dec. 9, 2007, son to Amanda Ayers & Arthur Edwin Clark
- Ethan Zachary-James Dulac, born Dec. 12, 2007, son to Zachary & Marcia Tosi Dulac, Grandparents, Donald & Sylvia Tosi of East Montpelier, VT & Gregory & Olive Dulac of New Portland, ME
- Katrina Marie Bergeron, born Dec. 23, 2007, daughter to April Maude & Matthew John Bergeron
- Lexi Ann Duprey, born Dec. 30, 2007, daughter to Kimberly Ann & Eric Allen Duprey

#### Deaths

- Barbara Herrmann, died Dec. 6, 2007, spouse of Richard Herrmann
- Rosendo Cueto, died Dec. 23, 2007, spouse of Armonia (Val) Cueto, father of Jeffrey and Julie
- Richard L. Thurston, died Jan. 29, 2008, father of Allison, Elizabeth, and Peter.

#### Land Transfers

- Paul Grant Sr. & Emma Grant to Reginald Brown Jr., mobile home moved out of town to Roxbury.
- Estate of Gladys P. Dunkling to Elizabeth H. Catlin, G. Mark Catlin & Susan H. Catlin, 1.5 acres & dwelling, Kelton Rd.
- Walter & Mary Brenneman to Matthew Stiles & Teal Church, 11.9 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Joseph & Grace Trombly to Annette F. Adams, 1.6 acres & dwelling, VT145
- Estate of Diana J. Clark to Estate of Edwin A. Clark, 13.63 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd. (corrective deed)
- Chandra Ryan Lamery to Aldo R. Gray, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.

### SELECTBOARD

#### December 17, 2007

- Selectboard responded to questions as to why town office was closed recently. Tom Brazier noted that an audit is underway and a report to the town will be made when completed.
- Road crewman Tony Williams will return from medical leave part time on Monday.
- Bruce Campbell has been hired to join the road crew.
- Approved Pandolfo permit with conditions.

- Auditors have drafted an action plan for each point of concern expressed in the external audit management letter.
- Selectboard is addressing the vacancy created by auditor Paulie Coburn's resignation.

#### January 3, 2008

- Request for traffic study for VT214; Selectboard responded that it can be done readily if no cost.
- Approved changing the pay period for town employees to Friday through Thursday with a Tuesday pay date biweekly.
- Selectboard requested Town/Clerk Treasurer to attend future meetings.
- Approved change in job and title from Town Administrator to Finance Director/Town Administrator and increased hours for the position to 40 hours/week with overtime as needed.
- Discussed creating a policy to document past practice of allowing town residents to take small amounts of sand from the Town's pile.
- Sandy Conti has resigned from the ZBA.
- Approved the Carver permit plan with a ROW change from 2004 plan.

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

#### October 2, 2007

- Motion: passed Conditional Use application #07-081 submitted by Marc Fontaine an amendment to Conditional Use Permit #04-081. Fontaine plans to construct a garage/storage building and storage building.
- Motion: passed Conditional Use application #07-089 submitted by Jacob Simpson to construct a welding and equipment repair facility on Donald Cote's Lot 2C located off Rt 2 near Delair's Carpet Barn.

#### December 18, 2007

- Approved the Kobb amended dimensional variance request.

### EAST MONTPELIER PLANNING COMMISSION

#### November 1, 2007

- Discussed Kobb Sketch Plan Review.
- Discussed need to alter EM Zoning Regs to meet FEMA requirements in order to have Town be eligible for federal flood insurance.

#### December 6, 2007

- Discussed how to review and update the current 2003 Town Plan prior to due date of June 2008. Hope to review and update minimally. Planning Commission members volunteered to review specific sections.

## TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

### December 20, 2007

- Reviewed and approved with conditions the subdivision application #07-107 by John Pandolfo to subdivide property at 165 Templeton Rd.
- Representative of CVRPC said that the housing section of the Town Plan is weak and should be examined in the current review and update of the 2003 Town Plan.

### January 3, 2008

- Reviewed and approved Blake site plan for 1920 VT14S – bldg addition to run wholesale auto parts business.
- Noted that a neighbor has appealed the Kobb variance (by ZBA) to the Environ. Court.
- Noted that Danforth Sugarhouse is being used as a museum and retail show. PC will ask owners to come in for a change-of-use site plan review.
- Discussed progress on Town Plan review and agreed to continue effort at next meeting.
- Noted that the ZBA is asking for a hearing on the VTrans extension.

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

#### November 7, 2007

- Budget discussion: currently showing a 4.04% increase and includes a phone over-hall. Additional staff positions are under consideration.
- Policy Comm. working on a field trip policy and a due process requirement for coaches.
- Approved Curriculum Comm. proposal for statistics and Branching Out courses. Continuing discussion of grading and AP courses.
- Facilities Comm. working on capital budget and updated on funding for tennis courts,

### Thank you to these Signpost Supporters

Lois McKnight  
Bob & Lois Webster  
Philip & Donna Leno  
Richard & Alice Angney  
Albert & Elizabeth Jerome  
Marjorie Morse

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roof project, aeration of fields, resurfacing the track. Follow-up discussion on bleacher safety.

- Schedule Comm. recommends semester schedule and is supported by Principal Gerritt. Board voted to table the schedule discussion until next special meeting.
- Approved winter athletic coaches positions, Co-Curricular Advisor position, and the appointment of Chantal Boulanger & William McMahon as custodians.

#### November 14, 2007 Special Meeting

- Public discussion of pros and cons of current trimester schedule vs returning to a semester schedule as recommended by Schedule Comm. Defeated a motion to remain on trimester schedule for one more year. Approved the Comm. recommendation to implement semester schedule.
- Approved tuition waiver request.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Albert Petrella. Discussed transition.
- Approved the creation of a full-time Bldg & Grounds Director position.

#### December 5, 2007

- Curriculum Comm. reviewing AP courses, grading, rankings, and specific courses.
- Facilities Comm. reports roof project and bleachers work are complete; initial reports on athletic fields are positive.
- Principal Gerritt reports he and Tom McKone are participating in restorative justice program with students who damaged the track.
- Congratulated Chris Grantz, English, and Carolyn Grace, foreign language, for achieving National Board Certification.
- Second reading for Search & Seizure Policy which board hopes to be "least invasive."
- Approved a faculty member request to use no more than 15 days personal sick leave for a family illness.
- Supt. Robbe Brook presented a draft budget representing an increase of 3.85%. This budget will be presented to the full WCSU board.

#### December 19, 2007

- Discussed and clarified FY 09 draft budget. Board wants no more than a 5% increase. March 3, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., is the annual Budget Information Meeting at U-32.
- Approved winter coaches.
- Approved extension of previously granted tuition waiver until Feb. 08.
- Approved offering Casey Harrington position of Bldg & Grounds Director.

### January 2, 2008

- Jeff Arey reported on current technology which is one of 5 top priorities in the district.
- Lori Bibeau presented current budget draft and board discussed what should be allocated to capital fund and what purchases should come out of that fund.
- Approved Draft #3 of FY09 budget for \$12,511,530.
- Approved the U-32 District Warning.
- Approved participation in 2008-09 Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative. U-32 can send and receive 10 students.
- Approved the Search & Seizure Policy.
- Approved proposal for a new course – Workplace Readiness.



Anna Richardson's panda.

### EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### December 12, 2007

- Lori Bibeau presented latest budget draft.
- Approved appointment of Alice Angney as Interim Principal for the remainder of the school year.

#### December 20, 2007

- Bibeau reported that EMES's current cost per equalized pupil is lowest in the district at \$12,343.
- Discussed budget issues.
- Approved hiring Lynn Commo as assistant cook.
- Accepted resignations of Tracy Story and Lisa Clark.
- Bibeau gave food service update which outlined many areas that are lacking and reported on the state audit findings.

## LOAN FUNDS RESERVED FOR EAST MONTPELIER FOR ONE MORE YEAR

Until December 31, 2008, lower-income East Montpelier home owners and business owners have loan funds available exclusively to them through Community Capital of Vermont (CCV). The Loan Fund was established with repayments from a loan made in 1995 to Fairmont Farms by the Town of East Montpelier with Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant funding. CCV uses VCDP funds throughout the state to finance small business start-ups and expansions, operates the business loan program, and contracts with the Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT) for housing loans.

Affordable home repair loans are available for East Montpelier residents who live in single-family homes or owner-occupied properties of up to four units and whose household income is within the income guidelines. Home loan applications may be obtained at the Central Vermont Community Land Trust Barre office (107 North Main Street) or at [www.cvclt.org](http://www.cvclt.org).

Funds for business start-ups and expansions are available through Community Capital at [www.cvcapital.org](http://www.cvcapital.org).

During the year 2008 only, the new agreement also sets aside \$50,000 for special community development projects that benefit low-to-moderate income residents of East Montpelier. Starting March 1, 2008, Community Capital will accept applications from qualified and eligible organizations that need up to \$50,000 to finance their community development project. The application criteria and process will be posted on Community Capital's website by March 1, 2008 ([www.cvcapital.org](http://www.cvcapital.org)). Applications will be reviewed and funded by Community Capital on a first come, first serve basis.

Applications will be accepted for the business loan program, owner-occupied housing program, and special community development loan program through December 31, 2008. After that time, the East Montpelier Revolving Loan Fund dollars will no longer be restricted for use in just East Montpelier. Rather, they will be added to Community Capital and Central Vermont Community Land Trust's respective loan pools for Central Vermont (Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties), and the community development project loan pool will no longer be available.

—Emily Kaminsky, CCV, and April Spinks, CVCLT

### Kevin E. Hudson

2235 Brazier Road  
Montpelier, VT 05062

(802) 223-6663

Pager: 826-5313

#### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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

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## OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS



On July 28, 2007, I was diagnosed with APL-Leukemia. After being in the hospital for 35 days, I'm still going through treatments. The love, support, and prayers that came from some great friends from the town of East Montpelier are incredible. My friends came to visit me weekly in the hospital, sent cards and gifts. When I did get out of the hospital, this great support of friends has still been with me—also helping with my daughter Madison, who just turned four. They are still bringing weekly meals for my family and me.

Thank you doesn't seem enough, so I wanted to express my feelings through the *Signpost*.

Thank you so much for the love and support while my family goes through this unpleasant time in my life; without all of you I couldn't have done it:

Carmen and Earl Doe, Chrissy George, Julia Haynes, Gabrielle Malina, Michelle McFadden, Carol McKenna, Krissy Pozatek, Julie Ritchie, Jo Jo Velander, Erica Zimmerman.

I would also like to thank their families for being there too. And my mom, Patricia Renzello, of East Montpelier, who's always been there for me with her love and support.

—Luellen McDonagh

*Do you have a good neighbor? We're guessing you do. "Our Good Neighbors" is a regular Signpost column. Send your story, about 250 words or so, to P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier 05651, or email to [theploofs@hotmail.com](mailto:theploofs@hotmail.com)*

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### 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 settle the Town's claim.

**Lena Brazier:** Collector of Delinquent Taxes (one-year term):

I am running for the one-year term for the office of Collector of Delinquent Taxes. I decided to run because I am retired and I like to work with people.

My qualifications to serve East Montpelier as Delinquent Tax Collector are that I worked for the Claims Department of Green Mountain Mutual and Union Mutual Insurance Co. for 13 years processing claims and analyzing and rewriting policies before I had kids. I assisted in the management of our Dairy Business and did the bookkeeping including tax preparation from 1957 until 1987. I like to work with people and believe I may be able assist some of the people by giving them creative suggestions for how they might be able raise funds to pay their back taxes.

I have had a hard time paying taxes in the past, and I want to make sure all people are treated equally and fairly.

I believe I can do a good job collecting delinquent taxes by being fair to everyone, but tough if the situation calls for it. I would appreciate your vote on Town Meeting Day March 4, 2008.

**Lynn (Peaches) Commo:** Collector of Delinquent Taxes (one-year term):

I am running for the position of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. I along with my husband, Don, and our four children have lived in the East Montpelier community on Barnes Road for the past three years. I have been involved with the schools and local happenings of our wonderful community.

With the knowledge from my previous town service as Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer I possess a clear understanding of the necessity to balance the taxpayers' ability to pay with the town's need for revenue. My past work experience in the Town Office has allowed me to work closely with Robyn Hall, the current Collector, and has given me the knowledge to work with the individual needs of taxpayers of East Montpelier. At this time I want to make a contribution of my time to the town and would be honored to serve in this capacity.

**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 the taxpayers to obtain a fair resolution, while also understanding the town's need for revenue.

My ties to the East Montpelier community began 23 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. Currently, I am serving the town as a member of the Ancient Roads Committee and serving the State of Vermont as treasurer and commissioner of the Vermont Municipal Land Records Commission.

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. I am well qualified for the position of Collector of Delinquent Taxes and would appreciate your vote at Town Meeting!

### 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.

**Janice Aldrich:** E.M. Elementary School Director (three-year term):

I'm running for the three-year East Montpelier Elementary School Director position. My husband, Alan, and I were married in 1976 and we chose East Montpelier as the place we wanted to live and raise a family. Our son, Jason, attended EMES, U-32 and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering from VTC. He lives in the family homestead in East Barre with his wife, Ashley, and son, Brady. I am a Business Analyst/Technical Specialist for the Customer Service Department at National Life, where I have been employed since 1986.

I hope that this coming year we can work as a board to build back rapport and trust between the board, staff, administration, community, and central office. We need to move forward in a positive way to help the healing start for our school and community.

I believe in a common sense approach to education and fiscal responsibility, trying to find the right balance between sound instructional programs for the children, a well maintained facility, and affordability for taxpayers. I have 17 years experience on the school board and if re-elected, I will continue to take the time necessary and

*Continued on Page 10*

### 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

make the commitment to fulfill my role as a school director. I may be reached at 229-0406.

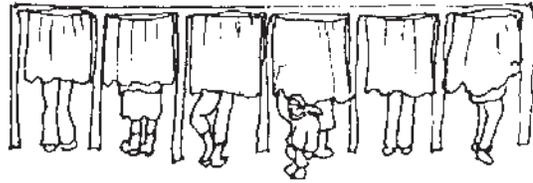
**Trevor Lewis:** E.M. Elementary School Director (two-year term): A fellow townsman recently asked me to consider running for the School Board. After thinking it over, I've decided to run. I've lived in East Montpelier since 1993 and owned a home here since 1997. I spent about 10 years in the private practice of law, and for the past four years, have worked for the State; that work has given me exposure not only to legal issues, but governmental, business, planning, and financial issues.

East Montpelier's school and the role that it plays for families with school-aged children and as a centerpiece of our community in general were among the reasons I chose to live here. I know that the same is true for many of us, and I'm also glad for the support that I sense that those without elementary-aged children have for the school. I'm very pleased with the education and healthy learning environment that my son Caleb (now in 4th grade) receives at the school.

We all know that all schools face many challenges, while our communities and individual taxpayers also face their own challenges in a time of rising costs and increasingly scarce resources. In the coming year, East Montpelier Elementary will face the particular task of searching for a new principal. It can benefit from renewed collaborative efforts by and among the School Board, teachers, Supervisory Union, and community members to make the school as a whole function at the highest level that it's capable of for both the immediate future and the long-term.

I welcome suggestions and questions in the time leading up to the election, and, of course, will continue to welcome such input if I'm elected.

**No Candidate:** U-32 School Director (three-year term)



## FLASHBACK: TOWN MEETING 1908

One hundred years ago, on March 3, 1908, at 10 a.m., moderator D. W. Cummings called Town Meeting to order in the East Montpelier Town Hall. We don't know how many attended except that the Town voted not to allow the sale of intoxicating liquor by a 79-to-33 vote. Remember that women were not able to vote at Town Meeting until 1917, so this was a male-only vote. Do you suppose there was discussion and instruction given at home before the meeting? Nor do we know the discussion that centered on the election of officers. Nominations were from the floor rather than by the current practice of Australian ballot.

The 1908 minutes show Clark Sibley was re-elected Town Clerk & Treasurer and that the next day he appointed and swore in his son, Lewis, as assistant Town Clerk. Edgar Cummings and Herbert Kelton were re-elected Selectmen while Lewis D. Coburn replaced his brother F. W. "Will" Coburn on the Board. Also elected were an Overseer of the Poor, First and Second Constables, three Listers, three Auditors, two Road Commissioners, a Town Law Agent, three Grand Jurors, six Petit Jurors, one School Director, and one Trustee of Public Funds.

The meeting approved a tax rate of \$1.40 on a dollar of the Grand List (\$0.40 for a general tax, \$0.50 for highways, and \$0.50 for schools). In addition, an appropriation of \$275.00 was voted from the general fund for permanent highways. Other incidental business included that Town officials be instructed to house the tools belonging to the Town, and rescission of the vote of March 7, 1905, to pay support of Albert Gould the sum of \$104.

The Selectman appointed three Fence Viewers, a Pound Keeper, an Inspector of Leather, and Surveyor of Wood and Lumber.

On the whole, the way of doing the Town's business in 1908 seems remarkably similar to the business before us in 2008. See you at Town Meeting.

—Anne Ormsbee, East Montpelier Historical Society

Note: The remaining copies of the 1999 Sesquicentennial calendars will be offered for free at Town Meeting. They contain great pictures, and in 2010, the calendars will be the same as 1999!

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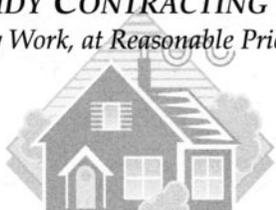


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## EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: NEWS, WORK, AND HAPPENINGS

### Playing with Numbers

Do you like math? If you do, you would have liked Math Night in January. We played a lot of games. Parents and grandparents came to EMES. We played "Five in a Row," "Fill the Hexagons," "Fill in Shapes," and "More or Less Fill in Shapes." All the kindergartners and first-graders and second-graders were doing Math Night. Mrs. Pastore, Mrs. Shedd, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. O'Hare, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Christiano were the teachers who went and who planned it. It was exciting. We played Freeze Dance with Math Music. The grown-ups weren't as good as us, because we practiced.

—Frances Kaplan, age 7, Mrs. Pastore's first-grade class.

### Young Artists on Display

Recent art exhibits at the T.W. Wood Art Gallery and at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier featured the work of East Montpelier Elementary School students.

Participating artists in an exhibition of *Exotic Animals* that resulted from students' studies of animal life and the use of texture in art were the following second- and third graders: Fiona Astle, Emily Atkinson, Justin Bennett, Devin Burroughs, Nicolas Buzzi, Emma Curchin, Avery Ehret, Noah Elmore, Riley Flynn, Jesse Gorton, Stella Gardner, Noah Gokey, Alex Hepp, Henry Hoffert, Maggie Kirby, Wilson Knight, Haylie Lane, Stephen Looke, Xavier Martinez, Joel Marshall, Ashley Mekkelson, Caleb Moody, Parker Morse, Gus Obeldobel, Avery Pashe, Katie Phillips, Justin Plummer, Emma Reiner, Anna Richardson, and Aliyah Rosen.

Fifth- and sixth-graders Annik Buley, Joey Laquerre, Rachel Phillips, Terrin Calder Rosen, and Justin Vincent presented works of *Optical Illusion*.

Some of their artwork is displayed throughout this issue of the *Signpost*.



Maggie Kirby and EMES Principal Alice Angney.



Noah Elmore

### Letter to East Montpelier from New School Principal Alice Angney

I was pleased when I was asked if I would serve as the principal for the East Montpelier Elementary School for the rest of this school year, and I am finding the work to be as satisfying as anyone could hope. The teachers are dedicated to helping students be successful learners, and there are 244 eager students who make the EMES an exciting place to be. In addition to the everyday focus on literacy, mathematics, social studies, science, music, art, library, and physical education, there are many special activities offered for students, families, and community members.

On January 16, the kindergarten, first, and second grades hosted a math night to introduce their families to the many math games that are used to enhance math skills. All of the kindergarten and first-grade students had a parent or grandparent attend and most of the second graders did as well. It was fun to watch the students teaching the adults. One student and her dad had not finished trying all the games when the time was up, which resulted in an extension of the time. How nice to have students so engaged that they don't want to leave.

EMES student art work has recently been exhibited at the T.W. Wood Gallery and Arts Center and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. We have some amazing young artists. (Ed. Note: See EMES student art work throughout this issue.)

The winter concert was held on January 24, with many parents and grandparents in attendance. The band, jazz band, chorus, and select chorus all performed. It was a wonderful concert showcasing EMES's many fine young musicians. Concerts are free, and community members are always invited to attend. The spring concert is scheduled for May 22. Please put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

The entire school engaged in a multi-cultural celebration during the week of February 4. This is a PTNO-sponsored yearly activity, and the country being studied this year is Vietnam. Teachers are integrating learning about the Vietnamese culture and country into the math, literacy, social studies, and art and music curricula. There was an artist-in-residence that week teaching the students Vietnamese dances. The halls are adorned with Vietnamese inspired art projects.

One of the wonderful things I am noticing is that there is a lot of parental and community support for the school. Parents come in regularly to help out in classrooms, providing additional hands when needed, and there are people without children in the school who volunteer to help raise money or mentor a student. The children of today are the future of our town, state, and nation, so it is very nice to have so many people working to support their education in a "hands-on" way, in addition to supporting the school budget at Town Meeting. This is greatly appreciated.

—Respectfully, Alice Angney, Principal

## 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

Feb. 27: Last day to add name to checklist for Voting Town Meeting Day.

Mar.: Rabies Clinic, Village Fire Station, VT14 N, across from Town Office. (Call Town Office at 223-3313 for date.)

Apr. 1: Last day to license your dog without penalty at the Town Clerk's Office.

## EVENTS

### East Montpelier Public Meetings:

**Town & School Forum**, Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m., EMES 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.-7 p.m.

**Kellogg-Hubbard Library**: Call 223-4665 for information.

**Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging**, Apr. 2, 7 p.m.

**Pruning Trees with David Wilcox**, Mar. 29, 10 a.m.-noon.

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

**Open Houses and Observations**, month of Mar.

**Parent Education: Warmth & Children's Health**, Mar. 12, 6:30-8 p.m.

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

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