



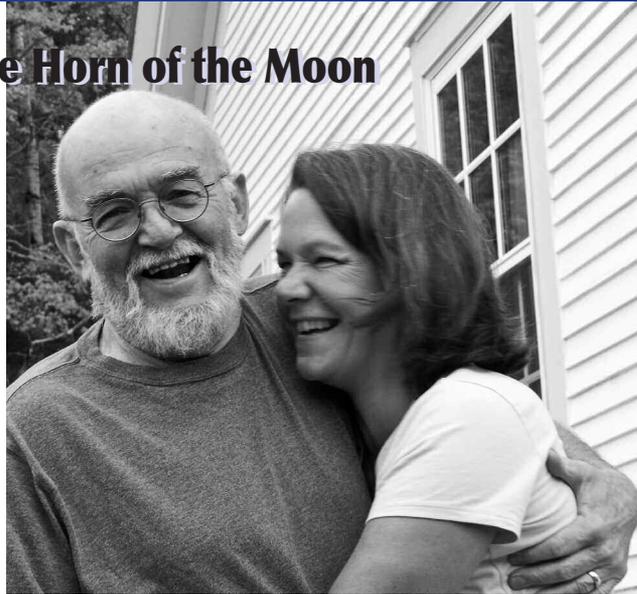
EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

VOLUME XIX—NUMBER TWO

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Artists on the Horn of the Moon

Horn of the Moon. I like saying that. Horn of the Moon. There's something melodic there that rolls with its own cadence. And when it's finished, the accompanying silence begs for a story. These thoughts and others bounce around my brain like a well-hit five iron in a tile bathroom as I drive



TERRY J. ALLEN

Ray and Jody Brown

to Horn of the Moon Road to visit Ray and Jody Brown, owners and operators of The Drawing Board. Horn of the Moooonnnn. I can't stop it.

Standing in the driveway, the one-room schoolhouse where Ray and Jody live is inviting. The house is square, plumb, and gleams in white paint that reminds me of that first day of school

when everything you have is new. There are three options for doors to knock on with flower-lined paths and classic woodwork to show you the way. I follow the wood and am rewarded with a warm greeting from Jody and Ruby.

Jody says to come on in, Ruby says come on in and pet me! Ruby is a charming black dog whose face is frosted with age like my dog. Nothing like a warm greeting from an animal, and they're the perfect ice breakers when you have company. I don't know how long I'd been there when I heard Jody say something about "our three-legged dog." It was only then that I noticed. Ruby is a cancer survivor who lost a front leg and hasn't missed a step since. The urge to continue that story is overwhelming but let me tell you about Ray and Jody.

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Sign Here for Local Graphics

Driving down the driveway to meet Mike and Cheryl Rus at their place of business, Sign Here, Inc., off Towne Hill Road (near Route 2), I am greeted enthusiastically by a rambunctious, noisy, and very sweet yellow lab named Rebound looking for someone with whom to play. Inside I'm greeted not only by Mike and Cheryl, but by another much smaller, but equally friendly dog, Montana, part poodle and part Lhaso Apso. I'm not quite sure why I ask if Montana is named after the singer/actor Hannah Montana (maybe because I have a young daughter who has started to hear and talk about the entertainer), but I find out that she is not. She is named after the state from which she was adopted. So now I know the Ruses are dog lovers, and I am glad that I am, too, since the pooches come to say "hello" to me several times during my visit.

As you may have guessed, the Rus's business, Sign Here, Inc., is a sign business. Mike learned the business from his father and now runs it with his wife, Cheryl, and one part-time employee. Their biggest accounts are with supermarkets, including Price Chopper, for whom they do "interior décor": the aisle and department markers and wall signs. They also do many kinds of other signage, some of which you have likely seen around town. They have done vehicle

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Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Community ... that's exactly why the *Signpost* was initiated ... to foster community. Does it serve its purpose? Each of us must answer that question for herself, but here's my take on it. We see in this issue a follow-up on Rally Day 2008. The whole purpose of Rally Day is to give East Montpelier an opportunity to celebrate itself: for folks—adults and children alike—to visit together, to have fun, to share a meal, to raise a little money, and to just enjoy the pleasures of being part of a small community. It really is fun, and it needs organizational help to keep going. Think about getting involved for next year.

Most months we write about the people and businesses in our town. What better way to introduce us to each other. Last month a few events occurred of importance to our community. Various groups in town updated us on current plans to make sure each and every one of us gets through what promises to be a difficult winter due to inflationary prices for fuel, transportation, and food. Also, the Energy Committee sponsored a free workshop on making our homes more efficient. See their report in this issue. These efforts are people taking care of people—that's community.

In the next issue we'll highlight information about Town Meeting Day and running for office. One of the greatest pleasures and satisfactions of living in a small community is the ease with which you can get involved, have an impact, and feel you're contributing. I highly recommend it.

Community ... think about it. Share your ideas with the *Signpost* about how to further the cause.

— Edie Miller

RALLY DAY

"On September 6 we were absolutely floored to be escorted to Robin Byron's 1964 Chevy and told that in that fabulous blue car (shades of our youth) we would participate in the Rally Day Parade as East Montpelier's Citizens of the Year. What an incredible honor! We thank all of you who planned and executed this wonderful surprise."

—Edie & Marty Miller



DEBORAH FILLION

"Honored as Rally Day 2008 Citizens of the Year: **Edie and Marty Miller**, for their many years of continuing service to the Town of East Montpelier. Congratulations!"

—John Audy, EMFD Chief

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emsignpost.com

Sign, continued from p. 1

lettering for Casella, Lamberton Electric, and Washington Electric, to name a few, and they even did the graphics for a few Thunder Road race cars, including Joey Laquerre's. They also design, manufacture, and install signs for businesses. They've created signs for many local businesses, including Plainfield Hardware, Laquerre's Marine, and the Montpelier Montessori School. They made the wooden signs for The Nature Conservancy that you may have seen on local trails, and they even created the plastic carved "Rules" sign on the recreational field next to the elementary school. Downtown, you may have noticed all the new State signs—those, too, were made by Sign Here, Inc. Mike handles the manufacturing side of the job and installation while Cheryl works on the books and ordering.

The Ruses started their business in 1992, and Mike talks about how technology has dramatically changed the business since then. "Everything is about four-color and photographic printing now," he said. "Printing barely existed in the early 1990s." Back then everything was still about lettering—letters that Mike cut out with a band saw. Mike still owns and occasionally uses a band saw, but he is much more likely to be found working on a computer now. The Rus' major accounts with supermarkets involve computer graphics.

The Ruses also rent out space in the back of their building to two other local businesses: Pins and Needles, an embroidery and upholstery business owned by Mike's mom, Hilda Sibley, and an office for J.A.P. Wholesale Cars, owned by Jamie Parker.

Mike and Cheryl bought their 10-acre Towne Hill Road property in the early 1990s, knowing it was zoned commercial/residential, and then built both their business and home on the site. Mike built both structures himself, and put in a pond and a tree house for the kids as well.

The Ruses met as highschoolers at U-32 and married in 1985. Cheryl is from Berlin, Vermont, and Mike moved from Queens, New York when he was in eighth grade. He said the transition from city to country was easy, since he had been coming up to his parents' camp on Nelson Pond his whole life.

Mike and Cheryl first settled in Woodbury but moved to East Montpelier for the "great school system." They have two children: Stacy, 22, graduated from U-32 and Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire and now works as a graphic designer in Boston, and Michael, 18, is a 2008 graduate of U-32,



Mike and Cheryl Rus with Rebound and Montana

and now attends Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, where he is studying economics and playing football. Both children have worked for the family business over summer breaks.

Since 1999 the Ruses have owned a camp on Lake Champlain, where you could find them almost every weekend when the kids were younger. More recently there have been trips to Boston and Pennsylvania to visit their children.

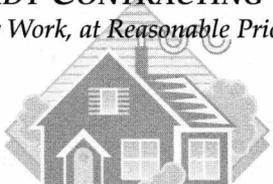
In his free time, Mike enjoys hunting, snowmobiling, and riding his motorcycle. And Cheryl recently bought a motorcycle for herself. She's using it "just on local jaunts for now," she said. But she plans to take a motorcycle-riding course next spring.

Cheryl served on the East Montpelier Elementary School Board for four years and was a member of the PTNO, as well. And while her kids were at U-32, she helped raise thousands of dollars for the Booster Club through concession stands.

And now that Mike and Cheryl are empty-nesters, they are finding themselves heading to their camp more often again. And although their two grown children can't be with them for most of these trips any more, I'm sure Rebound and Montana won't let things get too boring—or quiet.

—Carol McKenna lives on Lyle Young Road with her husband, Michael Thiemann, and daughters Olivia and Anika.

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Artists, continued from p. 1

The warmth and comfort of their house is rivaled only by Ray and Jody themselves. Ray is seated and shakes my right hand lightly with his left. Owing to a stroke, Ray has lost the use of his right arm, but he still paints every day. His face is frosted, too, with hearty features that belie an artistic background. Seems like he would be as comfortable in the forest as he would be in front of an easel.

Ray grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, outside of Boston, in a family as colorful as it is accomplished. His grandfather was the first president of the Boston Garden and for a time owned the Bruins. His father owned a chain of service stations, and was involved in local politics. Ray's uncle Walter founded the Celtics. Ray's grandfather was one of the original founders of the Boston Marathon and, with one exception, a member of Ray's family has started every Boston Marathon since. Ray's mom walked out during the Stanley Cup playoffs (gasp) to give birth to him. If ever there was a "hockey is in his blood" story, this is it.

Ray did well enough in hockey to earn a scholarship through prep school. As learning institutions go, they are often rigid and didactic but now and then a ray of visionary light shines through. The coach's wife was that visionary. She would take the boys drawing in open settings, and this is where his attachment to art began. By Ray's own account he was not born a gifted artist. "I just enjoyed making things that were beautiful." From that point on, hockey and art were woven into the fabric of his life.

After graduating from the Massachusetts College of Art, Ray taught art and coached hockey in high schools for

the next 18 years. Before that he did a brief stint as an instructor at Fort Dix, New Jersey, teaching in the US Army's Special Services center. Ray met Jody through mutual friends shortly before she graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art.

Jody is more the quintessential artist. Her more delicate features and movements accompany a natural look that reminds me of fresh air. You may already know that I know absolutely nothing about art or artists. But there is a definite vibe that comes from Jody that makes you comfortable; she and Ruby are kindred souls.

Though she was born in Mount Kisco, New York, Jody's family moved to Massachusetts when she was nine. Her mother graduated college and became a full-time mom to Jody, her two sisters, and brother. A forward thinker, her father believed the world would see a food shortage in his lifetime and dedicated his life's work to agribusiness. Jody became interested in art during high school and never looked back. She was particularly adept at sculpting, and throughout her life has been attracted to the more structural and tactile elements of art.

While Ray was raising his son, Dylan, from a previous marriage, he and Jody dated and vacationed in Vermont until Jody went to work and study in California for a year. It seemed they were both in a good place at that point but needed to be together again. In the interest of fairness they both gave up their current locations and the three of them moved to Woodbury on the two adjoining ten-acre lots they had purchased a few years earlier . . . in a tent.

Okay, by all accounts it was a nice tent, and they talk fondly of that experi-

ence, but soon they rented an old mill converted to a house. "We went through 11 cords of wood that winter and it was never warm," says Ray. "The water would freeze in the cat's bowl!" echoes Jody. They are both noticeably happy talking of these times. Ray knew Jody had found her place in Vermont and that was good enough for him. They shared stories of volunteering in civic activities throughout their lives and wanted to continue "doing something for the community" here in Vermont. The Drawing Board was up for sale; timing is everything.

They bought The Drawing Board in 1983, and three years later purchased the Morse School House on the County Road at the corner of (say it with me) Horn of the Moooooonn Road. Purveyors of nearly any art supply, as well as picture framing, they are as much art coaches as experts in the medium their clients choose. Ray is a successful artist with works displayed in homes throughout the United States. They both still speak locally about art now and then, between other volunteer activities and running their business.

When Ray told me he still paints every day, I wondered how. Not physically but mentally, how do you create like that with such regularity? "An idea leads to the painting, the painting leads to the idea" explains Ray.

As I digest that, Jody tells me of the trip they are planning to Italy in October. She talks of the many obstacles like time, the economy on the fritz, their business. "It's never the right time, but we're going!" she said. There's an idea.

— Rick Meleady is an avid father and husband who enjoys just about everything.



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At last we have a new supply of the town history. You can get your copy in either hard cover (\$35) or soft cover (\$25) at the Town Office, the Bragg Farm Sugar House and Gift Shop, and the Morse Farm Maple Sugar Works; also at Bear Pond Books and Book Garden in Montpelier and at Barre Books. The Vermont Historical Society sells them in both the Barre and Montpelier gift shops and will carry them in their fall gift catalog.

The Historical Society is grateful that voters in March were willing to appropriate money to reprint the book had private fundraising efforts fallen short. Thanks to generous contributions, advance sales, and Historical Society funds on hand, we were able to cover the entire cost of the reprint without calling on town funds.

Changes were made to the authors' bios on the covers to bring those up to date, and the maps that were on inside covers of the hard cover edition were added to the soft cover edition this time.

If you have a soft cover book that has fallen apart, you may trade it for a \$5 credit at the Town Office or at the contacts below. Information and an order form are available by contacting Anne Ormsbee, 223-5372, or Dave Coburn, 223-6886, or by e-mail at dave.coburn@comcast.net.

REAPPRAISAL – HOW'S IT GOING?

As most of you know, East Montpelier's tax reassessment is well under way. In June, the Selectboard appointed Renée Carpenter as Lister to assist with the process. Her first project was to create a set of lister files to help the Vermont Appraisal Company team of Tom Kane and Bob Vickery get started. Information letters have been sent to all East Montpelier property owners and VAC personnel have taken photos of all homes.

About 60 residences in East Montpelier have recently changed ownership. The new property owners were notified, and their properties were inspected to help establish a base value for the reappraisal process for the rest of the town.

In order to complete the reappraisal in a timely manner, we need to inspect about 30 properties per week. To accomplish this, we notify property owners in one section of town at a time to let them know we are ready to inspect their property. We ask these people to call us promptly at the Listers' office to make their appointment for inspection. If we don't receive your call, we will call you right around supper time. We urge everyone to respond in a timely manner so as to save the town both time and money.

Lister Ross Hazel is in the office most weekday mornings from 9:30 to noon, which is the best time to call. If you call in the afternoon, Town Office staff will help make appointments. You may leave a message for the listers at 223-3313, ext. 206.

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The whole inspection process should last into April, 2009. The response from East Montpelier citizens has been good, and we are proceeding on schedule. Thank you for your friendly and courteous cooperation.

—East Montpelier Listers

THANKS FOR SUCCESSFUL SILENT AUCTION

The Rally Day Silent Auction, which benefits the *Signpost*, was a great success. The \$3,041 that was raised will go toward our annual printing/ mailing costs. Thanks to all who came and bid on our auction items.

The *Signpost* would like to thank Barbara Brown who chaired this event and her crew of volunteers—Kate Rader, Nancy Bisson, Carolyn Pastore, Ida Lange, Cliff & Shirley King, Maurice Brown, Claire Pierce, Rhoda Chickering, Kim Farnum, and Deb Fillion.

Special thanks to this year's auction donors:

Chris & Jim Abrams, Robin & Jeff Biron/C. P. Dudley, Dave Blosser, Jennifer Boyer Pottery/JBoyerDesign.com, Doug & Barbara Bragg/Bragg Farm, Sherrie Brewster, Ray & Jody Brown/Drawing Board, Jane Burroughs, Charlie Catlin, Dario & Darcy Caccio/Caccio's Heating, Ginny Callan, Edna Campbell, Sandi Chaloux, tarin chaplin, Put & Sue Clayton, Dave Coburn, Don & Barbara Cote/Delair's Carpet Barn/Don's Driving Range, Anita Cote/Furniture Barn, Jan Crossan/Jan's Beauty Boutique, Nona Estrin & Charles Johnson, Dr. Lydia Faesy, Marc Fontaine/Fontaine Forestry & Millworks, James Goodall, Bonnie Hall/Fairmont Farm, Rob & Anna

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NEW TOWN EMPLOYEES

East Montpelier welcomes two new employees. Michael Boyd joined the highway team, bringing experience in equipment operation and road maintenance from his work for a southern Vermont town highway department.

Jeanne Lamica from Plainfield joins part-time Town Administrator Robyn Hall as her assistant. She brings impressive office skills from her former employment at a Northfield law firm.

Halpert, Gary Haas & Deb Phillips/*The World*, Karl Hammer/Vermont Compost, Martha Holden, Francis Holmes, John Jewett, Roger King/Barre Country Club, Cliff & Shirley King, Chris & Leslie Kirby/Sundara Spa, Barbara Korecki, Joyce La-Mountain/Pic-A-Posy, Ida & Willem Lange, Karen Liebermann, Sally Longhi/Casella Waste Management, Colin McCaffrey, Elaine & Paul Manghi/Manghi's Bread, Bruce Mekkelsen/Mekkelsen Trailers Sales, Edie Miller, Bill Merrylees, Celina Moore, Burr & Betsy Morse/Morse Farm, Steve & Jane Noyes/East Montpelier Home Center, Brian & Tracy Phillips/Wheeler Homestead, Henry & Arlene Perkins/Perkins Farm, David Pickel/First in Fitness, Allen & Barbara Ploof, Bill Powell/Washington Electric Coop, Lori Rice, Carol Rose, Steve Savoie/North Country Credit Union, Andy Shapiro, Anne & Roger Sherman, Cherie Staples, Jane Staudt, Fern Tilsley Langer, Sylvia & DonTosi, Jean Vissering, Bob Watson/Capitol Grounds, Bonnie White, Karen Winchester, Molly Wingersky, Flo Young, Erica Zimmerman & Kevin McCollister

NEWS ON THE ENERGY FRONT

Good Preparation Important

Robyn Hall, East Montpelier's Service Officer, attended a workshop on Emergency Assistance Training and offers the following:

The workshop offered good advice on dealing with winter blizzards, recommending that each resident plan for a three-day emergency without electricity or outside aid by stocking up with a three-day supply of water, batteries, flashlights, blankets, medications, food, and a temporary heating source.

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- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

Energy Committee Working for You

The members of the East Montpelier Energy Committee have been busy helping our town's residents reduce their energy and food expenses. Some of our members are looking into energy audits of our town buildings and vehicles. We have printed a variety of fliers on carpooling, getting the most nutrition from your food dollars, household budgeting, food and fuel assistance programs, and bicycle safety to name a few.

The Committee has embarked on two major programs:

Home Weatherization - A group of residents attended a two-hour Button-Up Vermont workshop sponsored by the Committee on October 22. Those attending learned about no- and low-cost ways to prevent heat loss in their homes and some personal behaviors that result in energy savings. Volunteers will share what they learned with their neighbors. Low-interest loans are available for weatherizing homes to people who qualify. You may contact April Spinks at 476-4493 for information and application materials.

Neighborhood Groups - The Energy Committee has started a major effort to create new and/or energize existing neighborhood groups to form a network of communication between the Committee and town residents. We hope to expand the activities of existing groups so they serve as a conduit for information out to and in from town residents. We also hope that neighbors will look out for one another—especially our more vulnerable residents. We don't want folks to become "Nosey Parkers," but we know that some of our residents are going to have a difficult time this winter keeping their homes warm and food on their tables.

To learn more about the weatherization project, have a trained person visit you, receive a copy of any of the fliers mentioned above, or find out if there is an active group in your neighborhood—or learn how to start one. Contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or at: ddgrundy@comcast.net.

ELECTION OF 1888

The 1888 presidential election featured Democrat Grover Cleveland versus Republican Benjamin Harrison, and tariff reform was a principal issue. Business contributions as insurance against

Continued on p. 8

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News from the East Montpelier Fire Department

Rally Day 2008 EMFD really enjoyed putting on our second annual BBQ. We served about 160 meals, and most of all got to make contact with many of you in regard to our future plans and also the upcoming heating season.

New Truck As many of you were able to see at Rally Day, EMFD has purchased a used heavy rescue truck from Essex Junction, Vermont, with funds from our truck replacement fund. The \$55,000 purchase means that we will be moving the scheduled 2011 engine replacement out until possibly 2014. This really means savings to all of us as taxpayers.

Building Update As we continue to work on future plans, we have been meeting with Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) to see if it is at all possible to stay at our current location in the village. WEC is very committed to helping us try to overcome the challenges of the site (sewer, the new intersection, and space needs). That location is by far the best spot for us if we can figure out the challenges. I am certain that whatever comes before you in March will have a much different look and price tag from the proposal in 2007.

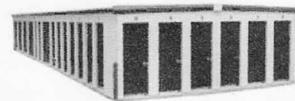
Ambulance Service Proposal EMFD has put a proposal before the selectboards of both East Montpelier and Calais to provide our own ambulance services to the towns. Currently we run as a Fast Squad and do not transport patients; the towns contract that out to existing ambulance services. The two towns pay a per capita fee to another service to have that transportation available, then the individual is billed by that service for the

care received and miles transported. All of this money leaves our community, thus not generating any returns to us as taxpayers. Our proposal would have a full-time employee during the day supplemented with paid volunteers. We can prove that for several years EMFD has operated at a level that would support this move. The returns to our community could be substantial and may be one way to lower the price tag on a new facility and/or the overall emergency services within our community. We will be meeting again with the selectboards in the near future and will be holding some public meetings to lay this plan out to you.

In closing, I would like to invite anyone in our community who has an interest in joining the Fire Department to contact us. Under the proposal mentioned above, we realize that we need to grow our numbers of EMTs and ECAs on our squad. Unlike our practice in the past, we are making those memberships available within our organization. Stay safe.

—John Audy, EMFD Chief

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Continued from p. 6

Democratic tariff reductions flooded into Republican coffers, and party workers made it their business to get out the vote.

The year 1887 saw the formation of local Republican Clubs whose purpose was "simple but persistent, and this is to reach the individual voter as the source of power under our government, and without him, the fabric falls to pieces. There should be a club formed in every school district."

This effort reached District 6 (the Center) in East Montpelier, as Myrtie Gove's 1888 diary, written when she was 16, records:

Aug. 16: The hired man went up to the meeting house last night to the Republican Club forming.

Aug. 19: We went up to the church last night to the political meeting. There were quite a number out. Messrs. Woodward and Ormsbee and others addressed the people.

Aug. 22: There is to be another political meeting up to the church tonight.

Aug. 26: The hired man has been to meeting. He said there were quite a few out.

Aug. 29: Mother, Father, and I went up to the club meeting last night to hear Mr. Smilie speak. He is quite smart, I think.

Aug. 30: The Republican mass meeting is to be held this afternoon and evening.

Aug. 31: Mother, Father, and I went to Montpelier last night to the torch light procession, and Father and John carried a torch in the procession. There was a large crowd out.

Sept. 1: The caucus was held yesterday and resulted in the nomination of Oramel Stewart.

Sept. 4: Oramel Stewart was elected representative today.

Who was Oramel Stewart? One may suppose he was elected representative to the state League of Republican Clubs or even to the fledgling National League of Republican Clubs. At any rate, all this activity promoted "get out the vote." In November, although Cleveland won the popular vote, Harrison carried the crucial states of New York and Indiana, amassing 233 electoral votes to Cleveland's 168. Vermont, as the "star in the Republican galaxy that never sets" (*NY Times*, June 13, 1888), overwhelmingly voted for Harrison. Myrtie noted in her diary on Nov. 8: "Harrison and Morton are elected. Hurrah."

May we, in 2008, "get out and vote!"

PAINTING BEE CELEBRATES COMMUNITY – SAVES MONEY

If you attended Town Meeting last March you may recall learning that the Templeton Road Fire Station was in need of a new coat of paint and that it would be costly. The Horn of the Moon/Upper North Street neighborhood heard that, and they decided to take on the painting as a community project.

Paul Cate and Sarah Gillen met with the firefighters to work out the details, and on June 1, about two dozen neighborhood volunteers arrived at the Templeton Road station for a day of work. Ladders, brushes, paint, and clean-up gear were all set up, and the painting began. By day's end the fire station was all painted, the soil around the building had been cleaned up, and a celebration was set to unfold. These Horn of the Moon volunteers held their monthly potluck at the fire station and invited the firefighters to join them. It was a true celebration of teamwork and community and a great opportunity for the two groups to get to know one another.

Appreciation and thanks go out to the firefighters who helped: John Audy, Diana Chace, Earl Smith, Chris Tuller, Ty Rolland, Todd Parker, and Brad Nutbrown. And special thanks to the following Horn of the Moon volunteers: Paul & Sandal Cate, Sarah Gillen, Terry Keeney, Austen Gillen-Keeney, Bill & Helen Jordan, Christa & Ben Larrow, Marijke Russo, Joel Page, Jean Vissering, Sue & Put Clayton, Kim Watson, Dave Burley, Catherine Russell, and Jan Burrus.

— Rhoda Chickering

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- Septic Tank Risers •Landscaping •Rototilling
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Town Offices

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 Phone: 802-223-3313
 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Fri, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Clerk/Treasurer: Terri Conti
 eastmonttct@comcast.net

Town Administrator: Robyn Hall
 Mon-Thurs, 12-3 p.m.
 eastmontadmin@comcast.net

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

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
 (Contact Bruce for sewage questions.)
 Tues-Thurs, 1-4 p.m.
 eastmontza@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher, 223-7902

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

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

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes, 223-1651

Selectboard

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

Planning Commission

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

Board of Adjustment

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

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032, twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr. Sr. High School

Ginny Burley, Chair, 229-0826
 gburley@u32.org
 Emily Goyette 223-1867
 egoyette@u32.org

Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair, 229-0406
 Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com

Julie Roachat 223-1423
 vtseven@yahoo.com

John Audy 223-7899
 vtfiredog@comcast.net

Andrea Colnes 223-8474, alc@sover.net

Trevor Lewis 229-2569, kd1yt@pshift.com

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births:

- Cody Micah Young, born July 2, 2008, son of Spunqi & Marc Young.
- Jesse Richard Laquerre, born July 10, 2008, son of Kristine Marie Murphy & Jamie Jo Laquerre.
- Stella Mary-Elaine Stoufer, born July 15, 2008, daughter of Maria E. & Steven K. Stoufer.
- James Thomas Patchen, born July 17, 2008, son of Britney Lee Patchen.
- Paige Lorraine Parker, born August 18, 2008, daughter of Jodi Lynn McPherson & Jeffrey Harrison Parker.

Marriages:

- Jared Calderwood Lamere and Anne Marie Skroki, August 2, 2008.
- Michael Aner Humling and Gina Elizabeth Pastore, August 23, 2008.
- Dennis M. Trapp and Linda A. Norton, September 25, 2008.

Civil Union:

- Shawna Marie Liff and Shannon Marie Lank, August 16, 2008.

Deaths:

- Geraldine LeFevre, died July 31, 2008, mother of Scott LeFevre.
- Robert Labbanca, died August 24, 2008, spouse of Kathy Hickman.
- Dianne Wilson, died August 25, 2008, partner of Barry Rufenacht.
- Real A. Ouimet, died September 19, 2008, father of Tracy Ouimet Phillips.
- Kathleen Edmunds, died September 25, 2008, spouse of Harold Edmunds.
- David Janawicz, died September 28, 2008, spouse of Linda Janawicz.

Land Transfers

- Benton, Thomas William, Estate of, to Cross VT Trails Association, Inc. 11.42 acres and mobile home, US2.
- Alan J. Ritchie to Julie J. Ritchie, 40 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- The Housing Foundation to Harry & Audrey Flint, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- David H. & Pamela A. Sparrow to Matthew F. & Coleen Hogan Krauss, quit claim interest, Sparrow Farm Rd.
- Linda L. Sparrow to Matthew F. & Coleen Hogan Krauss, 10.11 acres & dwelling, Sparrow Farm Rd.

- Duane Wells to Deidre M. Lamberton, 3 acres, Capt. Kidd Rd.
- Michelle Lavigne & Anthony Lavigne to Michelle Lavigne, 8.4 acres & dwelling, Snow Hill Rd.
- Edward V. Zuraw to Edward V. Zuraw, John F. Zuraw & Nancy J. Zuraw, 10.5 acres & dwelling, Putnam Rd.
- Bruce G. & Barbara L. Watson to State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, 4759 sq.ft., US2 (bridge)
- Mark S. Novogroski a/k/a Mark S. Novin to State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, 7966 sq.ft., US2 (bridge)
- Judith Rosch Hinds to Judith R. Hinds, Trustee of Judith R. Hinds Revocable Trust, 1.9 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Duane Wells to Laura Rappold & Shawn Kasulka, 3.06 acres & dwelling, Capt. Kidd Rd.
- Robert Prozzo, Licensed Auctioneer (VanderEls) to Citifinancial, Inc., 2 acres & dwelling, VT214.
- Karen S. Blosser to Karen S. Blosser, Trustee of Blosser Living Trust, 0.55 acre & dwelling, Center Rd.
- John W. & Rebecca A. Trollinger to Richard S. & Anne D. O'Neill, 3.04 acres & dwelling, Towne Hill Rd.
- Stewart Friedman & Ellen David Friedman, Trustees, to Chris J. & Susan I. Racanelli, 7.1 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- David B. & Darlene A. Grundy, Trustees, to James G. Grundy, 11.79 acres, Clark Rd.
- Etsuro Nishiyachi & Suzanne Austin Nishiyachi to Elliot Greeley Kaiman & Alison Ruth Brodhagan, 7 acres, Jacobs Rd.
- Jessica M. Kobb & David H. Webb to Jessica M. Kobb, 23.2 acres, North St.
- Jessica M. Kobb to David R. Bookchin, trustee to reconvey, 6.28 acres & dwelling, North St.
- David R. Bookchin, trustee to reconvey, to Jessica M. Kobb, 6.28 acres & dwelling, North St.
- M. Whitney & Barbara K. Dall to Barry B. Rufenacht, 13.25 acres & dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- James H. Hanna, Jr. to Kurt C. & Patricia C. Giavara, 1.5 acres & dwelling, County Rd.
- Shayne M. & Debbie L. Atkinson to Crispin R. & Heather J. Michaud, 7 acres & dwelling, Bliss Rd.
- Robert J. & Susan M. Rigger to Robert J. & Susan M. Rigger Trust, 9.23 acres & dwelling, Murray Rd.
- Susan Mahoney to Jamie J. Laquerre & Kristine Murphy, 0.67 acres and dwelling, VT14S.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- Barbara G. Cote to State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, permanent easement, US2 (bridge)
- Donald G. Cote to State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, 0.23 acre, US2 (bridge)
- Donald G. & Barbara G. Cote to State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, easement, US2 (bridge).

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: MINUTES: July 15, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- To grant conditional use approval for application #08-047 submitted by the Central VT Humane Society to alter the use of and expand the facility located at 1589 VT14S with the following conditions:
 - any areas that are to be managed as lawn shall be maintained in presentable condition
 - animal waste will be managed in such a manner that minimizes odor outside the building
 - there will be no residential use of the building
- To continue hearing until Aug. 5 to grant conditional use review of application #08-052 submitted by George Estes to reconstruct a fire-damaged non-complying structure and re-establish the use of three apartments on his property located at 2614 US2.

August 19, 2008

- Made a site visit at the property of John Sanfacon for conditional use review of application #08-055.

The following motions were approved:

- To appoint Mr. Cueto as Acting Chair for the Aug.19 meeting of the ZBA.
- To close evidence-taking on the Sanfacon Mixed Use Conditional Use Review (#08-055) and continue the hearing in closed deliberative session on Sept. 2.
- The ZBA supports the ZA determination that Mr. Estes' building is outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.
- The requested dimensional variance, a variance from the provisions of a bylaw or interim bylaw, for a structure that is not primarily a renewable energy resource structure is approved because all five variance criteria are met.

PLANNING COMMISSION

July 10, 2008

- The members discussed alterations to the

Proposed Zoning Regulations. Topics included the extraction of groundwater, adaptive re-use of historic barns, and flood hazard areas.

- The Groundwater Committee will be drafting language concerning the use of ground water.

July 17, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to grant preliminary approval to the Grimard subdivision plat (Application #08-054, submitted by Chris Grimard, to subdivide his property located at 2515 Horn of the Moon Road) as presented, with final approval pending the submission of an acceptable, complete survey.
- to approve the commercial site plan application (Application #08-053 submitted by John Audy, chief of the East Montpelier Fire Department) to construct an 8-foot by 18-foot addition to one bay of the EMFD facility located at 110 VT14N on property owned by Washington Electric Co-op, Inc.
 - Reviewed Hull Sketch Plan and Morse Sketch Plan.

August 7, 2008

- Continuation of Grimard Subdivision Plat Review: gave final approval to the site plan with the two corrections that have been noted to make changes on a paper copy and on the final mylar.
- Reviewed separate Sketch Plans from Jessica Kobb, Hugh Hawkins, and Ken Trask.

August 21, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to approve the commercial site plan as presented (Application #08-061 submitted by Brian Phillips dba Wheeler Development LLC) to construct a 60-foot by 40-foot pole barn to serve as a vehicle garage on his property located at 2045 VT14S.
- to approve the Kobb subdivision plan as presented, with the condition that the new deeds are recorded before the mylar is recorded and that the mylar shows the merged lot.

September 4, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the boundary as adjusted. Preliminary and final plat review of Application #08-074, submitted by Ken Trask & Karen Kane, to alter the boundary be-

tween their properties located at 200 Hammett Hill Rd. and the Christiansen Living Trust located at 470 Hammett Hill Road. This proposal will alter lot lines, but not lot size.

- to accept the subdivision as presented with the condition that the abutters' names and the surveyor's stamp are added to the preliminary survey and final plat review of Application #08-073, submitted by Hugh, Susan, and Dennis Hawkins, to subdivide and alter boundaries of their property located at 2530 Towne Hill Road.
- to accept the non-residential change-of-use and site plan in Application #08-076 submitted by Lighthouse Christian Church, to operate a place of worship at the Blueberry Hill Commons building, owned by Alan Lendway & Stephen Ribolini, located at 4583 US2.

SELECTBOARD

April 22, 2008

This meeting was devoted to discussing the Town Office protocols and personnel issues. No motions were made.

May 21, 2008

There was a public hearing to take questions and comments about the proposed Town Plan Land Use and Development Regulations.

June 2, 2008

John Audy, Fire Chief, spoke to the need of having the interlocal agreement with Calais and East Montpelier completed and that it is his intention that, through this document, the Selectboard will provide the Fire Chief an opportunity to express his concerns related to fire protection and other public safety issues on projects in the town directly to the Selectboard.

The following motions were approved:

- to authorize Ross Hazel to employ an assistant, as proposed, to work with the listers.
- to authorize Robyn Hall to purchase the plaques in memory of Tony Williams, per the submitted sketch, for \$50.00 each.
- to accept the following assignment of roles: Tracy Phillips as Alternate for Regional Planning Commission; Rhoda Chickering, Frank Pratt, and Sylvia Tosi as members of the Funding Request Study Committee; and Cherie Staples as Auditor.
- to approve the excess weight permits for Green Mountain Power, Feed Commodi-

ties International, and Frank Whitcomb Construction.

- to approve the Warrant to Destroy Unlicensed Dogs. Owners of unlicensed dogs are contacted at least twice.
- to grant an extension of the filing of the preliminary grand list report 411 until June 11.
- to authorize Steve Jerome to sign the culvert #3-19 project proposal as submitted by DuBois Construction for \$114,522.00.

June 11, 2008

Public Hearing on the Town Plan – 7:00 p.m.

- The Selectboard and members of the Planning Commission listened to and responded when needed to comments and questions concerning the possibility of making updates to the Town Plan, with a focus on town water rights and using the term “ground water” for clarity and specificity. The other issue discussed was the Coburn Road swimming hole.

Selectboard Meeting – 8:37 p.m.

The following motions were approved:

- to insert the 2003 language back into the Town Plan as presented.
- to add the following language to the Town Plan: “The Town acknowledges S.304 An Act Relating to a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Program as passed by the Vermont House and Senate relating to the management of ground water.”
- to appoint Renée Carpenter as interim Lister until Town Meeting Day 2009.
- to accept the revised payment schedule for lease for two 2008 International Dump Trucks.
- to approve the Wells’s access permit applications #07-026, #07-027, and #08-043 as presented with the Road Foreman’s recommendations.
- to leave Renée Carpenter at her current hourly wage until 6-30-08 and then reevaluate the Lister Payroll.

June 16, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the legal issues of the dismissal of the lawsuit, the opinion of the enforcement of Article 15 as amended, and the Selectboard’s response to the forensic investigation with Bruce Bjornlund under attorney/client privileges.

Back in open session the following motions were approved:

- Bruce Bjornlund’s draft of the Stipulation for Dismissal.

TOWN WEATHERVANE

- to table the discussion of the response to the draft forensic investigation report.
- to reimburse Linda Ormsbee \$35.00 for her septic re-certification fee.
- to authorize Tracy Phillips to sign a warrant for postage expense for the week of June 16 in an amount not to exceed \$1000.00 and to designate Don Welch as a back up in the event Tracy Phillips is not available.

June 25, 2008

- The Selectboard signed the recommendation from the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation that Jon Boucher be appointed the Town Fire Warden.
- Kathy Richardson is the new Recreation Board Treasurer.
- Robyn Hall, as payroll administrator, asked for and received approval of the following for FY 09: 4% cost of living raise for the Town Clerk & Treasurer, the Highway Department, the Zoning Administrator, and the Town Administrator, effective 7/1/08 as outlined in the FY09 budget. However, all other wage considerations will be determined following evaluations of employees or meetings with the independent town officers: Listers, Auditors and the Town Clerk and Treasurer with regard to her staff. The Cemetery Commission determines its own wages. Ms. Hall is to contact Vt. League of Cities and Towns for a template of an evaluation form and to add personnel evaluation process to the July 7 meeting agenda.

The following motions were approved:

- to appoint Tracy Phillips to approve the warrant on behalf of the Selectboard for the Central Vt. Regional Planning Commission dues expense and the VLCT PACIF insurance expense prior to July 1 and for the known expenses due after July 1.
- to accept the Management Representation Letter as presented by Fothergill, Segale and Valley.
- to accept the Management Discussion Analysis as presented.

U-32 / June 17, 2008

The Teacher Arts Program Review was presented by Liz Snell and the Music Program Review was presented by Ann Decker. The board thanked teachers for their dedication.

The following motions were approved:

- to award the Revenue Anticipation Note and Investment Bid to TD Banknorth VT.
- to transfer \$250,000 from the Fund Balance to the Capital Fund.
- to accept with regret the resignation of Barbara Kohn-Saxe
- to appoint Xiomara Blakely Custodian

August 6, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to accept the following resignations: James Segar – 1.0 FTE Physical Ed. Teacher; Tracey Witherspoon – 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teacher; Jamie Caron – 1.0 FTE Math Teacher; Becky Goddard – Food Service
- to approve the following appointments: Judy Abiatti – 0.9 FTE Physical Ed. Teacher; John Antonucci – 0.4 Business Ed. Teacher; Katie Babic – 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor; Robert Blankinship – FTE Science Teacher; Daniella Ferreira – 1.0 FTE Visual Arts Teacher; Cathy Guiffre – 1.0 FTE Math Teacher; Amy Koenigbauer – 0.7 FTE Visual Arts Teacher; Erin Mooney – 1.0 FTE Special Ed. Teacher; April Peet – 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teacher; Stephen Towne – 1.0 Physical Ed. Teacher

August 20, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to approve the tuition waivers for the four exchange students.
- to table approval for final tennis court costs.
- to table approval for the 2008-09 Action Plan as presented by Janey Malloy.
- to table approval of the Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Background Check Policy.
- to approve residency tuition waiver request.
- to approve the 2008-09 Department Heads with the noted change that Emily Smith stepped down as the foreign language head.
- to approve the Fall Athletic Coaches.
- to approve the following appointment nominations: Brian Swisher – 0.5 FTE Science Teacher; Janey Malloy – 0.1 FTE Math Teacher; Benjamin Salls – Custodian; Peter Daigle – Custodian; Beth Allen – 0.6 FTE Health Teacher; Maria Paris – 1.0 FTE Special Ed. Teacher; Rachel Collier – 1.0 FTE Math Teacher; James Chartrand – Paraeducator.

Committee Meetings

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

Calendar of Events

KELLOGG HUBBARD LIBRARY

Wed. Nov. 5, 7 p.m. *The Renaissance That Could Only Happen in Italy*, with Dr. Nancy Nahra
Mon. Nov. 3, 10, 17, 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m. *Global Warming Discussion Class*, with the Vermont Earth Institute.
Tues. Dec. 9, 7 p.m. *Montpelier: Images of a Vermont Capital*, with historians Paul Carnahan and Bill Fish
Fri, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Evening at the Library – fundraising event honoring Tom Slayton

LIBRARY INFORMATION

All East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card.
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. Closed Sundays.
Phone: 223-3338 / www.kellogghubbard.org

GROUNDWATER STUDY

Wed. Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m. *Community Groundwater Study Group* meeting: place TBA

ORCHARD VALLEY SCHOOL call 456-7400 for info

Wed. Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. *Windows on Waldorf*: Orchard Valley Waldorf School, 2290 VT Route 14N, East Montpelier.
Sat. Nov. 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m. *Early Ed Open House: Child’s Garden*, 155 Northfield Street, Montpelier.
Tues. Nov. 11, 8:15-11:00 a.m. *Observation: Grades*: Orchard Valley Waldorf School.
Fri. Nov. 14, 8:45-9:30 a.m. *Observation: Mixed-Age K—Child’s Garden*.
Wed. Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m. *Parent Education: Discipline not Punishment: Using Rhythm to Support a Nurturing Home Life*.

Notices

Tues. Nov. 4, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. GENERAL ELECTION: Voting at EMES.
Tues. Nov. 11 Veterans Day: Town Office closed
Mon. Nov. 17 Property Tax installment due by 5 p.m. Late payments are subject to 1% interest per month.
Thurs., Friday Nov. 27, 28 Thanksgiving: Town Office closed.
Thur. Dec. 25: Christmas Day: Town Office closed.
Thurs. Jan. 1, 2009: New Years Day: Town Office closed.

Deadline for next issue December 1, 2008 / to Barbara Ploof: 223.6934, signpostpcp@hotmail.com

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