

EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Volume XIX—Number One

September/October 2008

ANIMALS OF THE EAST MONTPELIER WILDS

Sightings of wildlife, large and small, are an almost daily occurrence for us lucky residents of East Montpelier. Here are the stories about some surprise encounters.

Have You Ever Seen a Flying Squirrel?

Upon reading in the *Signpost* that animal sighting stories were wanted, I thought I would tell you about an incident that happened when my daughter Lori was 9 years old.

Lori woke up in the morning to get ready for school and informed me that a “flying mouse” was in her bedroom flying around and was in her wastepaper basket. I told her mice didn’t fly and she was having a bad dream. She still insisted and got up to shut her door once it left her room.

The children all left for school and at about 10:00 a.m. I went to water a huge geranium I had hanging in my living room window. As I started to pour the water, something started to move! It looked like a large creature of some sort. My husband was at work, and I wasn’t about to investigate any further.

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20TH ANNUAL RALLY DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, RAIN OR SHINE

Celebrate community! Come to Rally Day, Saturday, September 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Here are some of this year’s highlights:

Breakfast (8:00–11:00). Baked goods, coffee, juice, and more.

Puzzle Mania (9:00–11:00). We have all the materials for you to decorate your own piece of the puzzle in “Art Fits Vermont,” a new Vermont Arts Council statewide community arts project.

Fire Department Fun (9:00–10:30). Explore fire-fighting equipment and learn about safety.

Veggie Decorating (9:00–11:00). Transform vegetables into animals, aliens, or whatever you imagine. To donate your garden surplus, call Erica Zimmerman 223-6930.

Daffodil Give-Away (9:00 ‘til they’re gone) The Jean Cate Community Fund Committee will have free bulbs for you to plant near town roadsides.

Bike Safety Skills (9:30–10:30). Get safety tips; then ride a fun obstacle course for all ages. Bring your bike and helmet. For Bike activities info, call Bill Merrylees 223-4951.



Rally Day: Not Just for Kids!

Bike Decorating for the Parade (10:30–11:15).

Home Grown Parade (11:15–12:00). Join friends, family, and 2008’s Citizen of the Year! Parade Coordinator: Peter Burroughs 229-2107.

Fire Department Barbecue Lunch (12:00–2:00). Menu includes barbecued chicken, vegetarian dish, pasta salad, and cole slaw. Tickets are \$9 and can be purchased from Asst. Fire Chief Jon Boucher at 223-7902 or any member of the EM Fire Dept. Tickets will also be on sale at Rally Day.

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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charge to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

The *Signpost* is now 18 years old! Volume 1, Number 1 was published for September/October 1990. Many of the readers today were not residents at that time and most likely did not know Jean Cate, the founder of this wonderful town newspaper. I am proud to have had Jean as a friend even before she moved to East Montpelier. She loved this community. She thought about it, worked for it, did whatever she could to promote it. Best of all she influenced many townspeople to do the same.

A sentence in her writing in the first issue reads, "There's lots of ability in East Montpelier." In the first anniversary issue Jean wrote, "We know that we wanted to create a paper that kept you all in touch with the town's businesses, official and unofficial, and that we wanted to reach everyone in town." The fall issue 1992 was a lot about our town government. Most interesting.

I left East Montpelier in late 2006 after 58 years of living here. After a year and a half of no sense of community, I returned to find my East Montpelier neighborhood still a friendly and caring community.

Jean Cate's goal for the *Signpost* was "...keeping us all in touch with what's going on. The day we cease to serve that mission, we will go out of business." Jean also had the idea of Rally Day and wanted so much to have it successful each year. In her words, "a community is strong when people have lots of opportunity to work and play together."

So let us all, adults and children of all ages, come together for a special good time on Saturday, September 6, for our 2008 Rally Day and once again honor Jean Cate.

—Norma Raymond

PAYING FOR THE SIGNPOST

Our *Signpost* annual budget is a pretty simple matter since all our staff members are volunteers and our expense categories are limited to Printing and Postage, which cost just over \$1,000 per issue. Six issues a year, sent to all East Montpelier households, cost about \$6,100. Last year our miscellaneous expenses totaled less than \$100. On the income side of the ledger last year, we had silent auction proceeds of \$3,221, \$1,283 from advertising, \$1,415 from contributions, \$135 from out-of-town subscribers, and \$60 from interest.

It is easy to see that the revenue that makes it possible to keep sending out our local publication is mostly dependent on townspeople's support of the Rally Day Silent Auction and individual contributions. Individual/family contributions are about \$1,000 less this past year than last. We mail the *Signpost* to around 1,000 households, and we have received contributions from only 39 of them in the past 12 months.

If you add up the expenses and subtract the income, you see that we are facing a shortfall of about \$1,370 for the 12 months ahead. This is where the "please" comes in. I know that every organization is asking for donations, especially this year. Many of your fellow townspeople have been very generous in their support of the *Signpost*. We simply need more donations in this year ahead to balance our budget.

We don't make telephone solicitations or mail out appeals. Your support at the Rally Day Silent Auction and your donations (along with comments and suggestions), mailed to PO Box 184, East Montpelier 05651, will keep us going. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

—Rob Chickering, Business Manager

Cookie Contest (1:00–2:00). For dessert, you be the judge in our 2nd Annual Cookie Contest. To enter your homemade cookies, call Helen Jordan 223-3793.

Signpost Silent Auction—Last Call (1:30–2:00). Bid all morning and throughout lunch to benefit the *Signpost*. Then, spend an hour on one of the activities below, and be back at 3:00 to pick up and pay for your items. To donate an item or service for auction, call Barbara Brown 223-2842.

Memory Hour: “Before Cheap Gas—and After” (2:00–3:00). What can we learn from the past about managing our lives and our future without cheap gas? Share your stories at the Four Corners Schoolhouse.

Family Soccer Games & Frisbee! (2:00–3:00). Lively activity for all ages. Meet at the Playing Fields. Organized by CJ Flynn 229-2270.

Nature Walk (2:00–3:00). Join Nona Estrin on a Carol Badger Memorial Nature Walk. Gather at the Information Table.

Bike Rides (2:00–3:00). A quick mechanical check and review of safety rules, then head out on a group ride. Bring your helmet and a water bottle; meet at the flag pole.

Signpost Silent Auction—Pick Up & Pay (3:00–4:00). Proceeds support our free local newsletter.

Early wrap-up this year (4:00). Safe trip home.

Rally Day Exhibits:

4-H Club Project Fair: Come see the food, farm, and craft projects of East Montpelier kids.

Marketplace & Local Displays: Featuring local handmade or homegrown products and hometown businesses and civic organizations. Must bring your own table. For info, call Bill Jordan 223-3793.

Cozy Corner Cafe: A place to sit inside the school gym and enjoy tea, board games, and conversation. Go to the stage area to view a DVD travelogue of Dave and Paulie Coburn’s great adventure to the Canadian Rockies and points west.

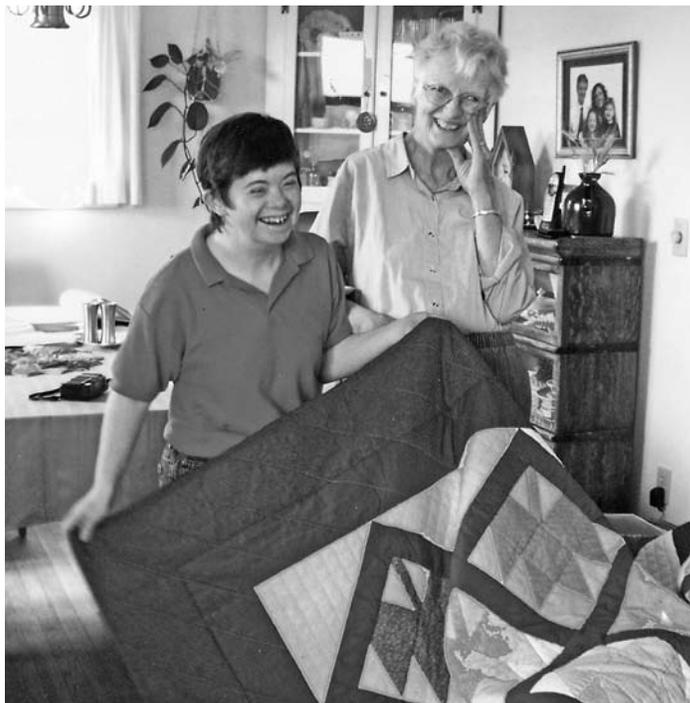
Historical Society Exhibit: “Industry and Innovation: Vermont Ingenuity,” a display about the woolen mill at North Montpelier. In the school gym.

Remember: Many hands make light work.

To volunteer for an hour on Rally Day, call Deb Fillion 229-1320. To help with Set-Up & Clean-Up, call Matt Curtis 223-7403.

AMY ANGNEY WINS ACROSS THE ONION RAFFLE

As a way to help fund the reprint of *Across the Onion: A History of East Montpelier, Vermont 1781 to 1981*, the East Montpelier Historical Society held a quilt raffle. The quilt was machine pieced and hand quilted by Anne Ormsbee who had been working on it for two years. It is with great joy that we announce that the winner of the Maple Leaf pattern quilt is Amy Angney, daughter of Richard and Alice Angney. Thanks to all who supported the raffle, thereby supporting the reprint. Hard cover (\$35) and soft cover (\$25) copies are available at the Town office, at local books stores, and at Rally Day.



Amy Angney receiving the quilt from Anne Ormsbee.

CHURCH BELLS



Old Brick Church

Mark McEathron, Pastor

Worship & Sunday School at 10 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

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ReadingByShawnee@aol.com

I called my neighbor (at the time) Don Hawkins and asked if he would come and take it out. He came right over and, with his gloves on, pulled out the most beautiful flying squirrel I ever saw! It apparently came down through the fireplace opening. It initially got away from him and flew or glided to my drape and clung to it, but he managed to grab it again and take it outside. Lori, of course, said, "I told you there was something flying around!" That was quite an experience. I have never seen a flying squirrel since and often wondered what became of it.

—Joyce Coppin

Cool Snake

I went out on a cool June morning with my camera looking for some interesting subjects to shoot. While passing a blueberry bush I noticed a well-camouflaged snake waiting for the temperature to rise.

I moved very slowly to get the right angle and shot this picture.

—Gary Lewis



The Power of Smell

Over the years, I've seen many skunks along roads, meadows, and even near my house. They're cute little critters—at a distance—and people of my age have fond memories of Flower, the skunk in Disney's *Bambi*. On the other side of the coin, we, like many dog owners, have experienced the appearance of a very unhappy and smelly pet after a less-than-friendly run-in between species. Despite their bad reputation and the pain of getting rid of the smell of a direct squirt on our dog, I actually like the smell of skunk—at less than full strength.

However, we had a real lesson on the extraordinary power of smell when we were actually awakened one summer evening by an overwhelming, almost overpowering odor of skunk

that appeared to emanate from just below our open bedroom window. Apparently a skunk felt threatened by another animal as it reconnoitered around our home. Who knew that you could actually be awakened by a smell?

— Edie Miller

Bear Crossing

I work out of my home. One morning in mid-June I was sitting at my desk by the window, rapidly keyboarding, when I caught a glimpse of movement in my peripheral vision. Glancing out the window, I was annoyed. "What neighbor has failed to secure the family dog?" Then I realized that this was a BIG dog, so I grabbed my glasses, and there was a bear—walking leisurely across the lawn outside my window. The bear strolled over to the driveway and ambled up it. At the road's edge (Center Road, at the corner of Bliss), it looked both ways and walked across the road into Jan Crossan's yard. At that point, it loped up the hill behind her yard and was gone. My aged dogs slept through the whole episode!

—Ann Stanton

A White Flash

Over the years the sound of a scurrying squirrel in our attic has not been unusual, so when I opened the attic door last February and a flash of motion brushed by my feet, I wasn't terribly surprised. However, as it crossed the bedroom, I saw that it was pure white! It wasn't a squirrel, but an ermine. I shut him in the bedroom long enough to get my camera and take a picture. Then I opened the window for him and out he went onto the roof and down a snow pile next to the roof. The next day I saw him come out of a tiny snow tunnel next to the garage door and enter another tunnel across the driveway. That was the last I saw of him, though his tunnels continued to appear to be in use for another week. I found out that ermine/weasels prey on other small animals—mice, chipmunks, and squirrels, so I was glad he'd spent some time with us. Since then there have been no squirrels in the attic, chipmunks in the garden, or mice in the cellar. Good work, Mr. Ermine!

—Barbara Ploof



ACTIVITY IN THE EAST VILLAGE

The following letter was recently sent to residents of the East Village.
This topic will be of interest to all residents of East Montpelier.

July 27, 2008

Dear East Village Residents:

The Selectboard has been reviewing the "Village Center Designation" program for over a year. A well-attended public meeting was held July 11, 2007, and the participants discussed East Montpelier's intention to complete an application for this program. Founded in 2002, the Vermont Village Center Designation process recognizes and encourages local efforts to revitalize Vermont's traditional village centers; the program neither encourages nor discourages growth. This state program offers financial benefits, listed below, but does not include any restrictive legislation. It is an "incentive"-based program, and any village can apply or withdraw their designation at any time. Presently, there are about 70 villages that have received this designation, including Plainfield, and several in our area are applying now.

Incentives include a 10% tax credit for substantial rehabilitation of Certified Historic Building, a 25% tax credit for façade improvements, and a 50% tax credit for code improvements (such as bringing a building into compliance with state codes). A village that has been designated a "village center" would also receive priority for a planning grant through Vermont's Municipal Planning Grant program and also for Community Development Block Grant funding. Grant money is not "paid back"—it is one-time financial assistance.

The application is short. A significant part of the application is the determination of the boundary of the East Village—the traditional center of East Montpelier. This area would include historic anchor points such as the post office, the East Montpelier municipal building, the church and other public buildings that typically comprise the center of a village.

Residences are included that occur in between these types of public buildings, but not surrounding residences or open space. Any properties within the boundary would be eligible for the financial incentives, as well as the benefits from planning and other grants.

We would like to hear from the landowners of the East Village who are interested in reviewing and contributing to the application, including the determination of the boundaries around the traditional center of our East Village. We are holding our meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building. We are hoping that this will be a short process, limited to just this meeting.

Please call us with any questions you may have:

East Montpelier Selectboard:
Steve Jerome: 223-3734
Tracy Phillips: 223-0126
Rob Chickering: 229-5005
Duane Wells: 229-0664
Don Welch: 223-6208

East Village Committee Representatives:
Michelle McFadden: 229-0286
Jean Vissering: 223-3262

Local Home Destroyed by Fire

The Calais home of Mike Garand, who was our town's Road Foreman for over 18 years, was destroyed by fire on August 5, 2008. The outpouring of sympathies from the Calais and East Montpelier communities has been impressive. For community members who wish to offer relief and/or support, or obtain information, please contact:
Terri Conti (h) 479-3169, conti1550@aol.com
(w) 223-3313, eastmonttct@comcast.net (Town office)
or Claudia Fitch (h) 223-2813, fitchfamily@aol.com

Thank you to these Signpost supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to
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TOWN OFFICE

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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

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Julie Roachat 223-1423
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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

• Claire Jacqueline Phillips, born April 21, 2008, daughter of Tracy Michelle & Brian Gene Phillips

Marriages

- Olaf James Hedding and Crystal Lee Stridsberg, June 7, 2008.
- Christopher Volney Pickel and Marlana Jean Charron, July 4, 2008.
- Randall Alan Defrain and Loretta Lynn Eastman, July 5, 2008.
- Anthony John Meiggs and Jessie Ann Metevier, July 12, 2008.

Deaths

- Jeannine L. Leclerc, died May 21, 2008, spouse of Normand Leclerc.
- Sally W. Donaghy, died June 2, 2008, spouse of Richard Donaghy.
- Gardner E. Ibey, died April 26, 2008, father of Andrew Ibey.

Land Transfers

- Verizon New England Inc. to Telephone Operating Company of VT, LLC, telephone access boxes throughout town.
- Karen M. Dunkling to Todd & Lisa Gariboldi, 5.1 acres & dwelling, Vincent Flats Rd.
- Gloria J. Walker to Camille L. Hayford, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Shawn A. & Cynthia A. Marshall to Jason R. & Kimberly D. Douse, 10.55 acres & dwelling, Codling Rd.
- Liza Hopkins to Joshua Ashline, 2.1 acres & dwelling, VT14N.
- Douglas J. Hill to John & Linda Hutchins, easement, Boulder Ridge Rd.
- Camille L. Hayford to Carole S. & Frederick H. Demag, Mobile Home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Gloria Biron, Jeffrey R. & Robin D. Biron to Jeffrey R. & Robin D. Biron, 3.5 acres & Store with apartment, US2, village.

SELECTBOARD

May 5, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to approve the Heller right-of-way permit #08-015 for a non-frontage lot off US14.
- to grant permit #08-020 submitted by Fairmont Farm Inc. for a curb cut on Putnam Road.
- to endorse the 2008 Collection Policy of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes in which Karen Gramer, CDT, outlines that she will come before the Selectboard before every tax sale.

- to warn a public hearing for May 21, 2008, on the Town Plan and the Proposed Land Use & Development Regulations as presented by the Planning Commission.
- to pay the Wrightsville Beach Assessment of \$1,328.50 as billed, which represents an increase in per capita fee.
- to approve excess weight permit applications for Kelly View Farm Inc., John A. Picard, and Ray LaPerle Construction.
- to designate Don Welch as the Selectboard member to act on behalf of the Selectboard to sign payroll warrants.
- Karen Gramer informed the Selectboard that it has the ability to raise the interest charge on delinquent taxes to 1.5% if it so chooses.
- The board discussed the Interlocal Agreement between the towns of East Montpelier and Calais presented by the EMFD. It was suggested the EMFD revise the language of their proposal for participation in Act 250 hearings and bring it back to the Selectboard.
- The group discussed the issue of having homes brought up to standards that would allow the fire department to provide proper fire protection.

May 19, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to contract with DuBois Construction for replacement of the box culvert #3-19 on Center Road.
- to approve excess weight permits for Warren Hill Trucking and REV Vize Mobile Home Transport.
- to approve the following appointments: Funding Request Study Committee—Allen Ploof, Lyn Blackwell, and Lindy Johnson; Conservation Fund Advisory Committee—Brian Lusignan; Zoning Board of Adjustment—Real Ouimet and Stanley Pierce; Green Up Day Coordinator—Bill Merrylees; Town Service Officer—Robyn Hall
- Discussed plans for the upcoming public hearing on the Town Plan.
- Discussed the forensic audit.

May 27, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to approve the revisions as discussed and to warn the second public hearing for the Selectboard's final draft of the Town Plan for the earliest possible date.
- to authorize Rob Chickering to contact Carl Etnier to retrieve the town's septic system files in order to answer questions about the Ormsbee Septic Re-certification.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- to schedule a meeting between the Selectboard and Town Attorney, Bruce Bjornlund, to discuss the Stipulation to Dismiss prepared by Mr. Richardson.
- The board reviewed the revisions to the Proposed Zoning Regulations.

PLANNING COMMISSION

May 15, 2008

- Continued the Phillips Commercial Site Plan Review.
- The site plan was approved with the following conditions:
 - the applicant should purchase two portable handheld propane gas meters with vehicle chargers for two front line pumpers, two barrels of Hazmat pads and booms to be stored at the EMFD or onsite in the storage building, a supply of Speedi-Dri absorbent to be stored onsite, a fence around stored above-ground propane tanks.
 - no gasoline stored onsite; products stored onsite would be limited to retail customer end-user consumption.
 - a strategic plan to be made with the EMFD to incorporate emergency response and management
 - a future look at the possibility of creating a pond onsite to provide water supply
 - that the off-loading of delivery trucks occurs during reasonable business hours
 - upon completion of Dept of Public Safety review and other agency requirements and prior to construction, the applicant will provide to the Zoning Administrator a complete and accurate site plan and a copy of the permit or other certification of acceptance of the installation.
 - provide for specific EMFD training in the summer of 2008 with follow-up training every 18–24 months.
- The following items were discussed:
 - that every zoning application be considered under both current regulations and proposed regulations on a case-by-case basis;
 - “temporary” mobile storage units
 - an Act 250 site visit to Coburn Road Mitigation Site
 - Act 250 actions regarding VT Compost facilities
 - reviewed the Grimard sketch plan.

June 5, 2008

- The members reviewed the decision written by the Chair regarding the Phillips application #08-011 and approved the written decision as amended.

June 19, 2008

- With regard to the recently approved Town Plan, the Selectboard has charged the Planning Commission with working with concerned citizens to come up with Actions and Goals regarding water systems. A letter will be sent to the Groundwater Study Group asking them to come up with the language that they want to see in the Town Plan.
- With regard to the Proposed Zoning Regulations, there are a number of issues that have been sent back to the Planning Commission from the Select Board for advice and consent: Section 3.12—Water Resources, Section 4.6—Extraction of Earth Resources, Section 4.3—Adaptive Re-Use of Barns, Fence height issue, Flood hazard, and Conservation overlay map.

June 26, 2008

- Members discussed alterations to several of the proposed zoning regulations. They tabled the following issues: Section 4.3—Adaptive Re-Use of Historic Barns, Section 4.6—Extraction of Earth and Water Resources, Section 7.2—Flood Hazard.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

May 6, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to grant conditional use approval for building four tennis courts at U-32 as presented, subject to the condition that U-32 return to the ZBA for approval of any lighting for the tennis courts.
- dimensional variance #08-023 for Andrew Kline to construct a single-family residence on a 2.2-acre portion of his property located at 205 Chickering Road.
- dimensional variance #08-030 for Peter Shattuck & Kathleen Westbrook to add a deck and a porch to their house located at 1143 County Road.

June 17, 2008

- Moved to approve conditional use application #08-037 submitted by the Vermont Agency of Transportation to construct a 66' x 84' replacement salt/sand shed on its property located at 1876 VT214.

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

May 21, 2008

- The facilities committee discussed the following projects: tennis courts, relocation of the Supervisory Union central office, telephone upgrade, the theater, track repair,

the greenhouse, athletic fields, and tractor purchase.

- Carole Freeman, Janey Malloy, and Maggie Eaton presented the annual NECAP testing data and a related action plan based on the results.
- There was a discussion of the Criminal Records Check Procedure.
- The Board thanked Tom McKone for his 24 years of service to the school and asked him to discuss his reflections of his experiences working at U-32.
- The Board accepted with regret the following resignations: Emily Johnson, Barbara Cioffi, Judy Klima, Jamie Jenkins, and Victoria Sperry.
- The Board appointed Andrea Shea a 0.5 FTE Student Assistance Counselor.

June 3, 2008

The following motions were approved:

- to approve the resignations of Kathie Ball, Living Arts, and Ralph Hunnewell, Guidance Counselor.
- to offer the position of High School Assistant Principal to Stephanie Taylor.
- to approve the recommended salaries for non-bargaining contract employees.
- to clarify that the contract offered to the new Assistant Principal will be for two years with 20% health insurance co-pay.
- to offer the principal a two-year contract at the salary discussed in executive session.

EMES SCHOOL BOARD

April 15, 2008

- The following motions were approved:
 - to accept the Principal search process as outlined in an April 15, 2008, memo from Superintendent Robbe Brook.
 - to approve hiring Sheila Patterson as Special Education Intensive Needs Teacher.
 - to approve the purchase of floor cleaning machine.
 - to accept the resignations of four para-educators for reasons related solely to those individuals' plans to pursue other options.
 - to write off \$270.00, to be covered from the fund balance, in uncollectibles from the food program, which, as a result of diligence by Principal Angney and others, is the last remaining amount from a previously much larger receivables balance.
- The following policies were reviewed and passed to a second reading: Vehicular Idling, Anti-Harassment (Students), Drugs and Alcohol, Anti-Harassment (Employees).

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

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

Library Information

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (5:30 p.m. for the Children's Library); Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Closed Sundays.
Website: www.kellogghubbard.org, Phone: 223-3338

For Children and Teens *(For more information, call 223-4665)*

Children's Librarian Jane Napier brought the popular Storytime to children in East Montpelier on July 16, in cooperation with EMES. Remember that you can catch Storytime for pre-schoolers at the library on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The exhibit of art by EMES children will be on display at the library through September.

Teens who come to the library after school are sure to enjoy the newly organized Young Adult section on the mezzanine, with comfortable seating, teen magazines, books on CD, and graphic-novels.

The Kellogg-Hubbard Adamant Annex

If you don't want to drive into Montpelier for a book or an audio book, stop by the Adamant Co-op. You can request that books be delivered to the Co-op for you! Call Rachael Grossman at 223-3338.

New! Audio Books for Downloading

You can now download audio books to your computer or your MP3 player from the comfort of your own home. Just go to the library's home page and click on "Listen Up! Vermont," download the software you will need, and get started.

Lunch in a Foreign Language

Make new friends and try out your conversational skills in a foreign language at noon in the library. Native speakers welcome! Mondays: Chinese & Russian; Tuesdays: Italian; Wednesdays: Spanish; Thursdays: French; Fridays: German.

Fall Events at the Library

Check the library website or pick up a newsletter for a full schedule of events each month.

Wednesday, September 10, 7 p.m. Jim Schley on "Why I (Still) Love Robert Frost" Schley, South Strafford poet, essayist, and editor will talk of how this complicated poet (and difficult, cantankerous man) continues to engage his and other modern sensibilities and imaginations.

First Wednesday Lecture October 1 at 7 p.m. Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief with James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, noted historian, and Professor, who will discuss how Lincoln mastered this crucial part of his presidency. Sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Healthier Living Workshop, Thursday Series: September 4 thru October 9, 2008, 2:00–4:30 p.m., This free series, presented by Central Vermont Medical Center, teaches how to deal with chronic medical conditions. To register contact: Central Vermont Medical Center Community Health and Education Department 802-371-4198 or e-mail galena.magee@hitchcock.org

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NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL MUSINGS

The new school year is rapidly approaching, and I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you about changes and initiatives at East Montpelier Elementary School. I am the new interim principal. Previously, I served as principal in a small, rural elementary school in New Hampshire. My background is in elementary education, special education, and school psychology. Literacy is a particular passion of mine. It's magical when children begin to read! Please feel free to come in and introduce yourself. I am truly looking forward to getting to know this community.

A new Physical Education teacher has been hired. You may have already heard that Steve Towne has taken a teaching position at U-32. We wish him all the best. Michael Sherwin will be joining our staff. He has experience teaching in Vermont, Georgia, and in his home country of Australia. Jessica Kobb will be teaching with Laura Giammusso. Each will teach a half-day in their second/third grade classroom. Kobb has a special interest in literacy and is pursuing advanced studies in this field.

Last spring, the School Board adopted an Action Plan with three goals. The first focus area is literacy. To this end, most of our teachers took a week-long literacy lab course for graduate credit this summer. They learned about the recent research in reading instruction and the essential components of a balanced literacy program. Together we will be developing a new curriculum with a school-wide literacy approach. We will be certain to evaluate the effectiveness of current practices while we bring in new strategies and techniques. Most importantly, we want children to enjoy reading and be able to gather and use new information from their reading.

The district is fully implementing Math Investigations 2 in grades K-5. In grades 6-8, the district is implementing the Connected Math program. Math is the second focus of the EMES action plan. Many teachers took part in a three-day training given by the district. These are research-based math programs that stress mathematical thinking and technical writing. These programs also allow for more in-depth integration of technology. These skills are so necessary in today's rapidly changing world.

The final focus is school climate. This would seem more difficult to measure; however, a survey of students indicated some specific needs in the school. One area has been addressed this summer with the student bathrooms receiving an upgrade. If you visit, you will notice improvements to the school that make the learning environment more functional and pleasant. Our school will renew use of the Responsive Classroom approach to foster safe, challenging, and joyful classrooms. Through this, children learn to create rules, work cooperatively in groups, and treat others with respect. This is

a nationally recognized approach to balancing social skills with academic learning.

This will be a busy year at East Montpelier Elementary School. There will be changes and initiatives. We are moving forward—working to create the best, most effective elementary school for our students...your children.

—Debbie Lesure, Principal EMES

SUPPORTING YOUR SCHOOL HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY

Help EMES win valuable prizes by bringing the following items to EMES or C.P. Dudley's Store: General Mills box tops, Campbell's points, Hannaford's points, Price Chopper receipts, Shaw's receipts.

—Katina Johnson, EMES - PTNO



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TRAIL WORK CONTINUES: COME LEND A HAND



East Montpelier Trails are lovely this time of year—at least as soon as the deer flies clear out—and that should happen pretty soon, right? They were bad this year! But not too bad to keep my husband and me from enjoying the continually improving and evolving Mallory Brook Trail.

What a knock out—with the mossy, cool approaches to the water and its beautiful hand-crafted 40-foot bridge spanning this pristine trout brook. And the boulder and stone stairways here and there—constructed by our neighbors, including Zach Troia with his crew of young friends with instruction from trail guru Greg Western—these are simply awesome. Trail work continues as does the ongoing background, non-trail easement work to connect this trail with the Clark property on Codling Road and U-32. Call Sue Rikken at 223-4262 to join a trail construction crew day this fall.

Other trails under construction, (and as we grow, there are always some) are down on old Route 2, east side of the river, and the re-route around the big new fields just south of the Town Forest, on the way to Templeton Road. It can be challenging to follow the new route, but a really nice trail is emerging, and trail signs have been put up. Come to think of it, it was not far from there I saw one of my first bears in town, with a wild-eyed bicyclist just behind him yelling, “Was that your big black dog that just ran past me?”

—Nona Estrin

TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE FORMED

In July the East Montpelier Selectboard approved the formation of a town Energy Committee. Such a group was first encouraged in our 2003 Town Plan. The advent of \$4 per gallon gasoline and \$5 per gallon heating oil has highlighted the relevance of energy issues in all of our lives. Many other Vermont towns and cities have had active energy groups for years.

The Energy Committee had its organizational meeting on July 28 with 11 attendees. Other townspeople have also expressed interest in being part of the group. After a round table discussion of issues and concerns of those present, the group established the following subcommittees: Energy in Municipal Buildings and Vehicles, Supporting Vulnerable Townspeople, Weatherizing Homes and Businesses, Transportation, Financing, Information, and Food.

Committee members volunteered to serve on these subcommittees and to report back at the next meeting on August 19.

The Energy Committee hopes to be able to use space on the *Signpost* website to provide information to townspeople on energy matters. It further expects to coordinate with energy groups in neighboring towns perhaps on a regional Energy Fair and have a presence at Rally Day.

The Central Vermont Community Action Council will be presenting workshops starting in October to train town volunteers to do simple home energy assessments. Townspeople who would like to attend a workshop are urged to call Rob Chickering at 229-5005 or Dave Grundy at 479-4300.

Dave Grundy was elected Chairperson. If you are interested in participating on the committee, contact him at 479-4300.

WANT TO READ THE *SIGNPOST* ONLINE?

Would you prefer your *Signpost* paperless? If so, send an e-mail to info@emsignpost.com saying you want to discontinue your paper copy, and we'll connect you with a “click-through” to the *Signpost* online. We'll also save on printing and postage. If you want both the paper copy and the website link, you can have both.

We *Signpost* volunteers keep an eye on ever-increasing costs, and do our best to put out our town publication using your generous donations, a smattering of advertising revenue, and proceeds from East Montpelier's annual Rally Day auction. We regularly review our mailing list to assure that we mail only to town residents, property owners, and subscribers. Currently, it costs about a dollar per subscriber for printing and postage, so if you don't need the paper copy, we can save some money.

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SENIOR HOUSING RECEIVES \$30,000 VCDP GRANT



Governor Douglas presents grant to
EMSLI's Austin Cleaves

At a ceremony in St. Johnsbury on August 24, Governor Douglas presented a "big check" to the Town of East Montpelier, symbolizing a \$30,000 planning grant awarded by the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). Austin Cleaves

accepted the grant on behalf of the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI). The funds will be combined with \$8,000 from repayments of a loan made to the owners of the Sandy Pines Mobile Home Park, which was funded by a 1998 VCDP grant. With these monies, EMSLI will move forward with design work toward the eventual construction of rental housing units for seniors in our town.

Work to be done will include testing sites for wastewater disposal and water supplies, producing preliminary architectural designs, and engineering work on grounds, access, and landscaping. An economic analysis will be conducted to estimate costs and financing alternatives. EMSLI will seek the assistance of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Central Vermont Community Land Trust in the administration of this planning project. It is expected to begin by mid-September and to take from twelve to eighteen months to complete.

In related news, EMSLI has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service. That means we are an official non-profit organization, and any donations are now tax-deductible! Of course, you can always donate your time by coming to one of our meetings. We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Town Offices. There are usually twelve of us at meetings, often with guest speakers and refreshments, too.

—Dave Coburn

FIND A LOCAL CONCERT OR A LOST DOG

The East Montpelier *Signpost* has published six issues per year for more than 18 years and your feedback to us has been quite positive. The timeline under which our all volunteer staff works usually requires a submission lead time of four to six weeks before publication. This timing means that it is impossible for us to provide information about the many current events and needs that arise between issues.

One of the reasons that we launched the *Signpost* website (emsignpost.com) was to provide a space for posting more contemporaneous material. We have both a Community Calendar and a Meetings Calendar listing times and places. We are thinking of adding a section that would invite more immediate notices like lost pets or special events. If we add this type of notice to the site, we need to be able to notify residents of this kind of "short-term" posting.

If you would like to be on an email list that gives you notification of such a website posting with a "clickable" link, send an e-mail to info@emsignpost.com asking to be added to that list. All e-mail addresses provided to the *Signpost* remain confidential and will not be distributed to other parties.

—Rob Chickering

OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS



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 e-mail to signpostbcp@hotmail.com.

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COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office
Conservation Fund Adv. Comm.	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00	U-32 School
Elementary School Board (EMES)	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

Early or absentee ballots for the state Primary Election are available from the Town Clerk. A ballot may be mailed to you (if you request it in time) or you may complete the ballot in the office during office hours on or before September 8.

Voter registration deadline for the State Primary Election is 5 p.m., September 3

State Primary Election on September 9, voting at EMES 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voter registration deadline for the general election is 5 p.m., October 29

General election voting November 4 at EMES 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EVENTS

Fall Events at the Library: See page 8 for details

Wednesday, September 10, 7 p.m. Jim Schley on "Why I (Still) Love Robert Frost"

First Wednesday Lecture October 1 at 7 p.m. *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief* with James McPherson

Healthier Living Workshop, Thursday Series: September 4 thru October 9, 2008, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

September 27, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.: Energy Fair, Twinfield High School Energy efficiency workshops and displays

Mondays and Thursdays, Strong Living Program – an exercise program for men and women over 50—at the Four Corners Schoolhouse, at 9 a.m. Information at 223-6886.

October 18, Chicken Pie Lunch/Dinner at the Old Meeting House, 12 noon, 5 p.m, and 7 p.m. Information at 229-9593.

Deadline for Next Issue: OCTOBER 1, 2008, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

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