

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XIX—Number Five

May/June 2009

COUNTERPOINT IN STORY AND MUSIC

Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder

Partners in life and in work, Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder live off County Road with their greyhound dog, Molly. Musicians and storytellers, they travel to colleges, festivals, celebrations, camps, and resorts throughout North America.

The music they play is Celtic and instrumental only. Tim plays the concertina and Leanne, the harp. They perform both to a quiet audience and as background music. They pick out tunes, Leanne explains, designed to “not get tired,” meaning overused. “We pick out the tunes because we love them.”

For their storytelling, Tim and Leanne have perfected a form they call “narrative counterpoint.” They echo and overlap each other and finish each other’s sentences. Dialogue and sound effects tumble forth as they weave the narrative, impersonating the old, the young, the slow, the facile, the calm, the excitable, and the bumps and whooshes generated by their actions.

Their stories are for all ages and deal with love lost and found, betrayal and loyalty, cru-

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JOHN AUDY: HOW DOES HE DO IT ALL?

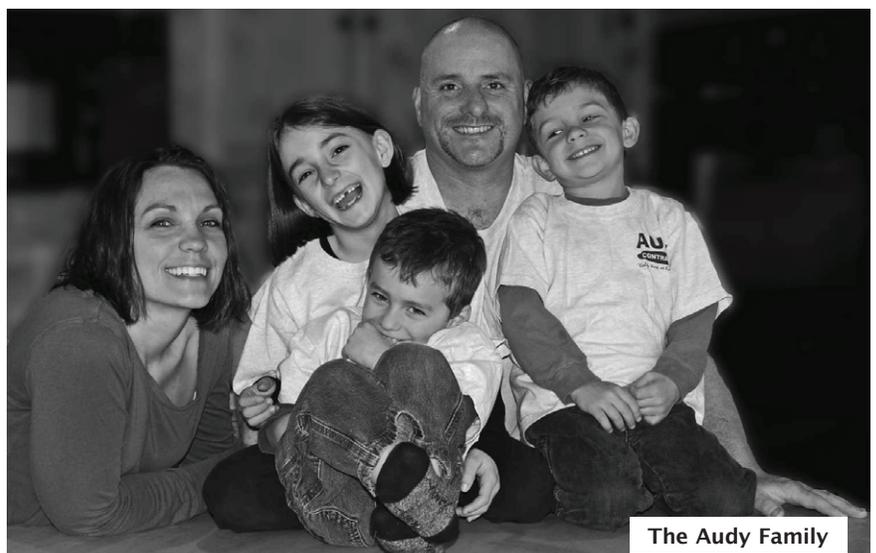
First time I met John Audy, it was a January day, six below zero. I’d fallen on the ice in my driveway, shattered a femur, and was going nowhere. But instead of an ambulance, a big pickup with a plow and a sander rumbled up the driveway. “Great!” I thought. “But it’s a little late to sand the driveway. What I need is something to get me to the hospital.”

The truck door popped open and a young man jumped out dressed in firefighter’s clothing. It was John, and right behind him were more trucks and guys in firefighting equipment. The East Montpelier Fire Department and emergency responders—they were just returning from a fire when they’d heard my wife’s 911 call.

They went right to work with a traction splint and painkillers until the ambulance finally arrived (East Montpelier is, at this writing, still using the Barre Town ambulance service), and off I went. But I’ll always remember the cheerful, competent men who hustled around in the cold to make a busted-up old guy safe and comfortable.

The tone of any organization derives from its leader. Whether it’s McDonald’s or your local bank, the way you’re treated has a lot to do with the messages coming down from the boss. If you look at the recent photograph of the entire East Montpelier emergency services roster, you see smiling faces everywhere. I believe that has a lot to do with John’s upbeat attitude.

Continued on Page 4



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EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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TOP OF THE SIGNPOST

Spring Greening Traditions

Spring just had to be Jean Cate's favorite season. By now the shelves in her sunroom would be filled with garden flats supporting transplantable vegetables and flowers, hundreds of delicate stems and leaves adding a green aroma to the room. So many plants, so many rows to hoe, so many baskets of edible and beautiful plant products to harvest through the summer.

And her husband, Wes, at 87, continues the tradition at Fox Run Farm, gently patting down Vermont Compost Company's potting soil, marking each flat with the seed variety, using a sprinkler bottle (from the old days of ironing clothes) to keep tender sprouts growing. Then he'll count on the next generation to put them in the ground.

What are your spring traditions? So many of them are good for us and our earth: hanging out laundry while listening to bird songs, pitching in on Green Up Day (and hopefully every day) to put solid waste in its place, walking and biking instead of driving, turning your compost into productive soil, and throwing a baseball or lacrosse ball around instead of plugging in to a computer. Get out and enjoy it all!

—Sandal Cate, County Road



GREEN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 2

Once again, East Montpelier citizens of all ages will participate in Vermont's state-wide spring cleaning! Here are some quick facts about our local plan:

- Green Up bags available at Town Clerk's office, Dudley's, Riverbend Store, or East Montpelier Elementary School through May 1; available on Green Up Day at school.
- Meeting point and trash drop-off is East Montpelier Elementary School.
- Times: Drop off collected trash and recyclables from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. ONLY. Please don't dump trash before trucks are there for loading at 9:00. Trash from roadsides and public lands only please, not from private property.
- You are invited to separate out glass and plastic as you collect. It will be recycled.
- Community lunch: The Jean Cate Community Fund will again host a free lunch for Green Uppers. Come to school cafeteria between 11:00 and 1:00 for coffee, sandwiches, and homemade cookies. You might even win a creemee!

For more information, please contact Lucy Patti or Bill Merrylees at 223-4951.





Leanne Ponder & Tim Jennings

elty and kindness. “They take you,” says Tim, “to a dreamtime, which is related to the current time the way your dreams are related to current time, but is also someplace else. If the storyteller is doing it right, the hearer and storyteller are both there and both gone (into the dreamtime). If that happens when you have been feeling sick, it helps to make you well.”

Tim describes his conversion to storytelling. At a folk festival he heard a woman tell tales told by her Irish grandmother. This transmission, direct from the source, had a power “very familiar and very odd. It was like there was this hole in me, and this filled it up.”

Tim moved to Vermont in 1974 to help establish a school in a home for troubled youth. It was storytelling that helped Tim “get through to the kids.” He had to be good at it because “the kids weren’t polite.” During one performance by the duo at a Maine reform school, a boy “got sarcastic.” Another boy, the “Alpha” of the group cut the jeering off. “Shut up. This is cool,” he said. End of disruption.

Leanne has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s in English. She has won awards in poetry and has been published in several journals. She was writing and teaching in Vermont when she saw someone playing a harp on the street and was so taken with the sound of the instrument that she took up the harp herself, which she mastered in two years.

Leanne and Tim met at a Vermont artists-in-residence conference. Leanne, new to the harp, was reluctant to perform in public. The “last thing” she wanted to do was perform with

Tim and “mess anything up.” Tim, however, insisted everything would be fine. “You don’t have to be perfect.” It worked. When they did perform on Church Street in Burlington they developed an immediate and loyal following. In response to repeated requests from fans, they put out their first album of music in 1990.

I asked them if current events were having any influence on their art. They said they are exploring folk tales on the theme of greed and have a tale from India in mind. A theme that runs through their current stories is that of redemption. Their protagonists often make big mistakes. The truly mean-spirited end badly. But to the simply foolish who are seeking it, help comes, often seeming like not much at first. A lot hinges on openness to the unexpected and not giving up. (Also, if you come upon a little old lady in the woods stirring a pot who asks you to do something for her, it is wise to do it.)

Leanne and Tim perform as Sheefra, an Irish spirit whose song heralds good fortune. Their instrumental recordings include *Water Kelpie* and their storytelling, *World Tales*, and *Wolves*, winners of National Library and Parents’ Choice Awards, respectively. Sheefra also performs at weddings and family birthday parties. More information can be found at their website, “www.folktale.net.”

—Sarah Brock is partner in life and work with Richard Brock, a lawyer at the Montpelier firm of Cheney Brock & Saudek, P.C.

RALLY DAY 2009 UPDATE

There are a lot of exciting things in the works for Rally Day.

- The Parade—this year will include a farm animal division, so roust up your cattle, goats, horses, sheep, and marching pigs, and bring them along. Sorry, no dogs, cats, or goldfish! We also expect a slew of young stilt walkers; this will be something not to be missed.
- Citizen of the Year nominations—the Rally Day Committee is asking for nominations for Citizen of the year, someone who has served our community and inspired others. This is a very informal process. You may share your ideas by mailing a note to the committee c/o the town clerk’s office, or telephone below.
- The silent auction to benefit the *Signpost* is in the works. This is a huge undertaking in itself; helpers and item donations are needed. For more information and to volunteer, contact Barbara Brown at 223-2842.
- There will be a photo contest again this year, so dust off your digital; youth and adult divisions.
- The Variety Show is back! Aspiring performers, this could be your big break. Get in touch.

There will be something for everyone at this year’s Rally Day, to be held on September 12 at the elementary school. For more information, or to volunteer (that’s a hint!) please call Bill Merrylees at 223-4951.

John Audy, continued from Page 1

John Audy was born in Morrisville 38 years ago and moved to the Montpelier area. He attended Montpelier High School, graduating in 1990. Even then he knew just what he wanted to do. He'd been "pretty much raised" by an uncle, Jim Davis, who was a carpenter. So John went to the Barre Voc-Tech Center to learn carpentry himself.

He also knew he wanted to be a firefighter. Right out of high school, he joined the Middlesex Fire Department, later moving on to Montpelier, and finally to East Montpelier, where he's been chief for the past four years.

Moving to East Montpelier with his wife, Cathy, he went into business as a sheetrocker. Eight years later he branched out as Audy Contracting, specializing in remodeling and renovations. He estimates the cost of the jobs and, with a two-man crew and various subcontractors, completes them. Cathy handles the phone, the books, and the payroll.

The Audys have three children—a daughter, Madison, 8, and two sons, Colin, 4, and Ethan, 3. Madison's in the second grade at East Montpelier Elementary School, with the boys coming along right behind her.

John served on the East Montpelier School Board for two years, an experience he found "challenging, but a lot of fun." East Montpelier, unlike many Vermont towns, is recording a growth in its student population; so John's experience in building and remodeling was important to considerations of future expansion and renovations.

If you live in New England and don't have a profession, you probably have several jobs. John personifies this. In addition to his fire chief and emergency response responsibilities, his contracting business, raising his kids with Cathy, and serving on the school board, he plows and sands driveways in season—over fifty of them. That explains his truck the first day I met him. Other contractors swear they don't know how he does it all.

But perhaps his most impressive achievement has been marshalling the new emergency services building through five years of planning and presentations. It was obvious some years ago that the fire and emergency services vehicles and personnel needed more space and amenities. After years of discussion, John presented the voters a 2.8 million-dollar expansion plan. It was defeated.

Undaunted, the department went back to the drawing board and this year presented a revision of the original, priced at 2.1 million. At John's urging, they also took the details of the proposal to the voters at small gatherings, where people could more easily ask questions. John figures he did about a dozen of them himself. And it worked! The proposal passed at Town Meeting, and construction should begin this coming summer.

I don't know how he does it all, either. But I'm awfully glad he does!

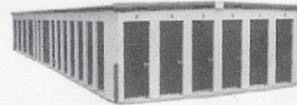
—Will Lange moved to East Montpelier with his wife, Ida, about three years ago.

Thank you to these Signpost supporters

Steve & Louise Rauh
Rachel Grossman
Town Meeting Lunch crew

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
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K & A LEASING



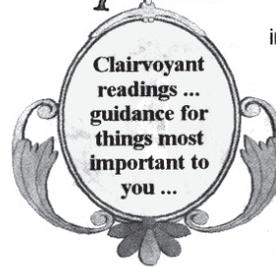
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EAST MONTPELIER FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

First and foremost, THANK YOU for supporting the bond for the new Emergency Services Building. We have been assembling the management team that will coordinate and oversee the project. EMFD is recommending two businesses that have been a vital part of this project thus far, bringing both local ties and the necessary expertise.

Scott & Partners (represented by East Montpelier resident Joel Page), has been working with EMFD for nearly four years on this project and will be responsible for the architectural design, engineering, permitting, documents, plans, product specs, submittal reviews, and reviewing bid packages.

Connor Contracting Inc. will manage the construction project. John and Steve Connor both live in town, and John has worked with the committee through this second round. The company will oversee budgeting, bid packages, project schedule, subcontractors, vendors, site supervision, and overall project management and safety.

EMFD and the selectboards of East Montpelier and Calais are committed to using as many local tradespeople as possible. As segments of the project are defined, they will be put out to bid. Anyone who wishes to be considered through the bid process is encouraged to contact John Connor at his office.

We would also like to welcome town representatives to our team: Duane Wells from East Montpelier, and Scott Bassage and Cy Lamberton from Calais. Our goal is to run this project with transparency and to keep it within budget (if not under). We have already heard from local contractors who are willing to make significant contributions to this project. The team is hard at work with a mid-July start date in mind. Call me with any questions at 223-7899. —John Audy, Chief EMFD

Reminders from the Fire Chief

- **Burn Permits required for outdoor burning.**
Please plan ahead; the chances of obtaining a permit the minute you want one are slim. Note that EMFD staff DO NOT have the authority to issue burn permits. Call the town Fire Warden Jon Boucher at 223-7902.
- **Did you change your batteries this year?**
Stay safe and don't forget to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Kevin E. Hudson

(802) 223-6663 2235 Brazier Road
Pager: 826-5313 Montpelier, VT 05062

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

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Carroll L. Coburn (Dave's father) facing north on what is now VT-14, down from Daggett Rd. The photo was taken sometime in the 1930's.

TWIN VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

Twin Valley Seniors, Inc., in existence since 1968, serves the towns of Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, and Woodbury. Headed by Rita Copeland with food services directed by Roger Huntington, the Center is located at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for activities and a hot meal. Due to increasing numbers, we are looking for a larger space.

Activities include a one-hour exercise program Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 11 a.m., foot clinics (appointments required) every six weeks, and special holiday celebrations. Card games are a favorite of many. A new Meals on Wheels program was initiated in April, and the Center is also selling gift certificates for the purchase of meals at the Center.

A raffle of a crocheted afghan made by Audrey Huntington is being held now, a plant sale/flea market will be held in Plainfield sometime in May, and soon there will be a cookbook for sale.

Donations are always welcome and the Board of Directors is looking for people interested in volunteering. For information, to register, or to volunteer, call 426-3447.

—Marvie Domey, TVS

TOWN OFFICES

PO Box 157, East Montpelier, VT 05651
Phone: 802-223-3313
Office Hours: Mon–Thurs 9 AM–5 PM
Friday 9 AM–12 PM

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

Town Administrator: Craig Kleman
eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator: Bruce Johnson
eastmontza@comcast.net

Collector of Delinquent Taxes: Karen Gramer
karengramer@comcast.net

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher 223-7902

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

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer:
Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

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rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill	Don Welch
Tracy Phillips	Duane Wells

Planning Commission

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Seth Gardner	Mark Lane
Jack Pauly	Gene Troia
Kim Watson	Carol Welch
Ken Santor	Jean Vissering

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Steve Kappel	Cliff King
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Ken Santor	Stanley Pierce

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twk@tonyklein.com

U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Ginny Burley
Emily Goyette

Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair
Janice_Aldrich@hotmail.com
Andrea Colnes
Rosie Laquerre
Michele Leno
Trevor Lewis

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Rayne Marie Gartner & Lance James Gartner, twin daughter and son born on December 22, 2008, to Amber Lyn & Lance Dietzel Gartner.
- Mollie Amanda Mislak, daughter born on January 12, 2009, to Amanda Lee & Michael Joseph Mislak.
- Lincoln Jacobsen Lazarus, son born on January 31, 2009, to Chelsea Lowberg & Joshua Lazarus.
- Hazel Anne Singer, daughter born on March 10, 2009, to Michelle Lakey & Joshua Singer.
- Braden Charles O'Donnell, son born on February 19, 2009, to Cristin and Patrick O'Donnell.

Deaths

- Lorraine Carolyn Raymond, died January 27, 2009.
- Ross A. Haverstick, died February 1, 2009, former Town Zoning Administrator 2005–6.
- Robert George McLaughlin, died February 20, 2009, spouse of Roberta K. McLaughlin.
- Louis w. Pariseau, died March 11, 2009, father of Vicki Villa, Therese Ackerman, and Tamera Pariseau, & half brother to Richard Casavant.

Property Transfers:

- Joanne H. Bair, Trustee, to Douglas J. Hill, 75 acres & dwelling, Templeton Rd.
- Josephine K. Spilka to Nancy W. & Jeffrey B. Winings, 2.7 acres & dwelling, North St.
- Nelda Haley, Estate of, to Camille L. Hayford, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- William K. Porter & Thomas J. Stuwe to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.24 acres, VT14N, North Montpelier Village, bridge construction.
- Margaret Jean Ormsbee & Linda J. Ormsbee to Linda J. Ormsbee, 11 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- Scott LeFevre & Paul LeFevre II to Debra Clark, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Donald S. & Rosemarie A. Runnalls to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.20 acres, US2, reconstruction of bridge
- Kenneth J. & Beverly A. Hull to Ronald Lee Koss & Carley H. Claghorn & Gerald W. & Patricia Balkcom, 235 acres, Sanders Circle.
- Patrick M. Malone to Malone Codling Rd Properties, LLC, 1.6 acres & commercial building, Codling Rd.
- Patrick M. Malone to Malone 795 Route 14 Properties, LLC, 6.46 acres & commercial building, VT14S.

- Patrick Malone to Malone Packard Road Properties, LLC, 12.1 acres & commercial building, Packard Rd.
- John E. & Grace M. Mekkelsen to Bruce A. Mekkelsen & Constance A. Cherrier, 4 acres & garage, storage & display unit.
- Kathy & Montgomery Karr to Ronald Lee Koss & Carley H. Claghorn & Gerald W. & Patricia A. Balkcom, easement, Sanders Circle.
- Abigail Bruce & Sean K. Downey to Central VT Humane Society Inc., 8.1 acres & commercial building, VT14S.
- Sandal W. & Paul S. Cate to Vermont Land Trust, conservation easement, County Rd.
- James V. & Janetlee G. Goodall to James V. & Janetlee G. Goodall, et al., 8 acres & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- George Estes III to Steven & Janet Noyes, 0.4 acres & multifamily unit, US2.
- John Southgate to D B Design Inc., 2.67 acres & commercial building, VT14S
- Paul J. Dayton to Erika Dayton, 5.6 acres & dwelling, Hagget Rd.
- Thomas D. & Lucinda Webster to Melissa Stridsberg, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Penelope V. Howard to Penelope V. Howard & Jimmie R. Smith, 0.28 acres & dwelling, Paul's Square.
- Paul & Emma Grant to Heather Holmes, 1.36 acres & mobile home, Fair Rd.

PLANNING COMMISSION

January 15, 2009

- Preliminary and final plat review of Application #08-114 submitted by William Porter and Thomas Stuwe located at 3040 VT14N. Motion Approved: to approve the subdivision with the understanding that Lot 2, which is divided by VT14, is a single lot for zoning purposes.
- The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is asking for grant proposals for geological mapping. The Selectboard may put \$6,000 in the Town's budget for seed money. The PC will send a letter of support to the Board and ask the Zoning Administrator (ZA) to begin work on the grant proposal.
- VTrans has applied for another permit extension for Coburn Rd. gravel pit wetlands mitigation. If there is no response within 30 days, the extension goes into effect. Two years ago, the Commission deferred to the ZBA. Motion Approved: for the PC to make the recommendation to the ZBA to deny the extension.

TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

• Regarding Michael Duane, the ZA spoke with a consultant at ANR who believes there does need to be a level of proof on farm status. Under the new zoning regulations, proof is needed for farm status. The ZA will send Duane a notice of violation and refer him to the ZBA to answer the question. The ZA requested that he be given a free appeal, which would normally cost \$75 and the Commission agreed.

SELECTBOARD

October 6, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to grant Access Permit # 08-084 to Rick Gordon: replace existing access previously approved on Towne Hill Rd. to an access further away from Wheeler's driveway.
- to grant Access Permit #08-088 to Tom Morse, Center Road: change to residential from agricultural.
- to approve the resolution stating the Selectboard's approval for the Town to apply for Village Designation as required by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs in order to continue the application for The Vermont Downtown Program.
- to modify the Land Use and Development Regulations (2008 September draft) with language as proposed in Rick Hopkins' e-mail from 10/1/08 and the Planning Commission's recommendations as outlined by Hopkins.
- to accept the supplemental letter from Melanson Heath and Company as part of the forensic investigation's final report.
- to print 100 Winter Preparedness Cards for distribution by the Energy Committee at the Informatory.
- to approve a Caterer's Permit for Langdon St. pub.
- to accept a draft letter on behalf of the Selectboard in support of a future purchase

of trail easements by the Vermont Land Trust for property adjacent to the U-32 trail system.

- to approve \$100 memorial contribution for Real Ouimet to St. Monica's scholarship fund.
- to go into executive session to discuss personnel compensation—no action was taken.
- to authorize Jean Vissering, Michelle McFadden, and Robyn Hall to act on behalf of East Montpelier to discuss Village Center Designation boundaries at the upcoming hearing with the review board.
- to send a letter of intent to contribute \$6000 for survey work to Laurence Becker, Vermont State Geologist, at the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- to enter executive session to discuss the Town Administrator's position—no action was taken.

October 20, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to approve the change on the Grand List resulting from the adjustment to Peter Lincoln's mobile home's length.
- to approve the following applications as recommended by Mr. Campbell: a) Messier's access permit, b) Royce/Coburn access and right-of way-permit, and c) Fairpoint's right-of-way permits.
- to write a letter of support to the Vermont Department of Health for the proposed ambulance service.
- to enter executive session to discuss personnel compensation.

October 24, 2008

- Motion Approved: to enter executive session to discuss the payment of legal fees.
- Due to the fact that Terri Conti is unable to attend the November 3, 2008, meeting because of general election preparations, the Selectboard will invite Conti to the November 17, 2008, meeting to discuss her presented legal fees and the possibility of negotiations.

November 17, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to inform a concerned citizen of test results that showed no speeding on Taylor Road.
- to accept a right-of-way permit at Hagggett Rd. for snowmobile travelers.
- to set a date for a special town meeting to accept the 2008 Final Draft of the revised zoning regulations.
- to accept an excess weight permit for Mobile Mini Mart.
- to contract with NEMRC to do our payroll processing provided the SB will have the opportunity to approve payments prior to being issued.
- to have Tracy Phillips be the interim EMSLI Grants Administrator.
- to place an ad for the Town Administrator (TA) position and the wording for that ad to be determined by Don Welch.

November 19, 2008

- Motion Approved: to direct Robyn Hall to submit the advertisement for the TA in the local newspaper and to post it on the VLCT webpage.

November 24, 2008

- Motion Approved: to warn a Special Town Vote as written.

December 4, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to authorize readvertising the Warning for the January town vote using two-column by 3 1/2 inches for the next 3 weeks.
- to approve the Town of East Montpelier as fiscal agent for the New England Grassroots Foundation grant and for Rob Chickering to act as grant administrator.
- to approve the VLCT Health Plan 10/20 B as the coverage for 2009 (this is the same policy as last year) but to change the percentage of premiums paid by the town and the employees to 82%/18% respectively.

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TOWN WEATHERVANE (CONTINUED)

- to adjust health care stipends to town employees to 25% of the value of a single premium effective 1/1/09 and allow this motion to effectively amend the personnel policy.
- to increase the hourly wage for the Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer to \$13.00/hour retroactive to October 1, 2008.

March 2, 2009

Motion Approved: to amend a prior motion to remand the Sanfacon commercial landscaping decision to the ZBA and recommend that ZBA remove the reference to "residential storage" as found in its Findings of Facts and the decision.

U-32 SCHOOL BOARD

November 19, 2008

Motions Approved:

- to approve the recommendation in the matter heard in Executive Session.
- to approve Site #A, adjacent to the football field, as the proposed site for the WCSU Central Office.
- to approve the FY08 Draft Audit Report.
- to designate board members to vote at the WCSU Meeting on Dec. 11. Allen Gilbert nominated Andrea Magida, Conrad Smith, and Ginny Burley.
- to approve winter athletic coaches.
- to accept the resignation of Nathalie Cameron – FT Food Service Worker.
- to approve the appointment of Russell Shannon – FT Maintenance and Mechanics.
- to approve the board orders.

February 4, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to move to a second reading the Class Attendance Policy F25.
- to table the Honor Roll Policy G9c.
- to move to a third reading the Substitute Teacher Policy D6 and Medications Policy F6.
- to accept the FY 2009–10 tuition rate at \$12,191.

- to begin the bid process for the tennis courts.
- not to amend the administrative actions taken in the two student disciplinary cases heard earlier in the meeting.

February 11, 2009

Motion Approved: to accept the Administration's recommendations on two disciplinary matters discussed in Executive Session.

February 18, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to adopt Policy D6 – Substitute Teachers Policy, and F6 – Student Medication Policy.
- to approve spring athletic coaches.
- to approve administration's recommendation regarding student discipline matter.
- to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.
- to accept the Administration's recommendation on a personnel matter.

March 4, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to elect the following board members to these positions: Mark Berry, Board Chair; Emily Goyette, Vice Chair; Allen Gilbert, Clerk; Ginny Burley, Washington Central Executive Committee and Andrienne Magida as Alternate; Ginny Burley, Adrienne Magida, Conrad Smith, members to the WCSU Full Board; Mark Berry, WCSU Policy Committee and Mike Stridsberg as Alternate; Mark Berry and Ginny Burley, Representatives to Negotiations Committee; Conrad Smith, Representative to WCSU Transportation Committee; Dan Violette, Truant Officer; Ginny Burley, Representative to the Barre Tech Center Regional Advisory Board; committee memberships remain status quo with the exception of Emily Goyette who was included on the Finance Committee.
- to set the Board meeting time 6:00 p.m.
- to use the *Times Argus* as the official newspaper for postings
- to approve the Class Attendance Policy F25

EAST MONTPELIER INFO ONLINE

Have you checked out the *Signpost* website at www.emsignpost.com? The website now opens to a page of local happenings. If you would like to add an announcement, contact Jennifer Boyer at vtpots@gmail.com. To be alerted by e-mail, to new announcements when they are posted, please send your e-mail address to Jennifer for her email list.

On the same *Signpost* website are links to the 2008 Town Plan, the 2009 Land Use & Development Regulations, and the three new zoning maps (Zoning Districts, Conservation Overlay Areas, & Water Resources). The zoning maps are updated with the 2008 parcel data and can be zoomed-in on, allowing you to check out your own land—and your neighbors as well.

Thanks From The Humane Society

Thank you East Montpelier voters for approving a property tax waiver to the Central Vermont Humane Society for the next three years. We appreciate your generosity in light of the Town's increased expenses related to the new fire station and the general economic climate. We're looking forward to relocating to the new facility on Route 14, and hope that all of you will stop by to see the shelter and its residents after we settle in.

—Marcia Bellas
Interim Executive Director

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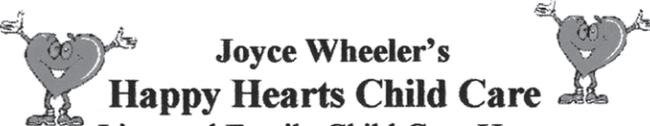
EM ENERGY COMMITTEE IN ACTION

East Montpelier, along with Plainfield and Marshfield, was chosen as one of ten sites around the state to participate in Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project. On February 7, 15 residents trained to become energy counselors. Over 60 residents requested energy visits from these volunteers who installed compact fluorescent light bulbs, low flow shower heads, electric hot water tank insulation, pipe insulation, and programmable thermostats. In addition, an energy assessment was made of the home, and suggestions for how to save additional energy dollars were given to homeowners.

The Committee has submitted an application for a grant to provide funds to help pay for the wood pellet heating system in the new fire station. This is a matching grant with the town kicking in ten percent.

In the spirit of helping to save energy in our homes, you may be interested in the website www.carbonshredders.org. Once there, you can sign up at "Do Your Part" to calculate your personal or family carbon production. You enter your use of energy in your home and vehicle, your recycling habits and your personal behaviors around energy use. An automatic calculator figures the number of pounds of carbon you release every year and you are given suggestions on how to reduce your carbon footprint. By making some changes and entering them into the calculator, you can see your carbon production go down. There is even the capacity to form an East Montpelier group that can be compared with other groups around the country. Wouldn't it be great to be in competition so we can show what Vermonters can do for the environment?

—Dave Grundy, Chair Energy Committee



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EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS

East Montpelier Trails, Inc. has miles to go... Currently with 13 miles of permanently protected multi-use trails, we have a vision (even a plan) to connect to U-32 High School, the Cross Vermont Trail, Montpelier bike path, and the Central Vermont Civic Center. And it's all done with donations, grants, and volunteers.

If you haven't yet experienced the satisfaction of doing trail work, this year there will be lots of opportunities. In fact, 6 monthly community work parties are scheduled on the Mallory Brook Trail with trail experts Greg Western and Zyla Nuite between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tools are supplied. Save these dates: May 17, June 20, July 26, August 15, September 13, and October 10.

Some people mistakenly think trail work is only for those who get a kick out of moving boulders, shoveling mud, and nursing sore muscles. Actually, trail work can accommodate all types and can be adjusted for all ages and experience levels. Which type are you?

- you like to be outside doing almost anything; you're a multi-tasker, even when communing with nature (how else could you get exercise, talk with friends, meet new people, contribute to the community, be in nature, all at the same time?)
- you use the trails and want to contribute to their upkeep.
- you'd like to serve your community, but don't like to sit in meetings
- you believe moving boulders is for (fill in the blank) but trimming limbs is more your speed.

If you know of a youth group or other organization that would like to be involved or need a special date, contact Greg at atgwestern@comcast.net.

Additional work parties will be scheduled for maintenance work on some of our other trails—check website for details. If you'd like to be notified when we'll be doing trail work suited to your type, send your contact info to: srigger@comcast.net 223-4262. Happy Trails!

—Sue Rigger, East Montpelier Trails, Inc.



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TOWN REAPPRAISAL NEARLY DONE

The East Montpelier Listers are happy to report that we are making good progress toward the completion of the town-wide reappraisal. The Vermont Appraisal Company (VAC) will be finishing up their last inspections by early May. The Listers, with the assistance of Deborah Fillion, have begun to review the data and values for each of East Montpelier's approximately 1200 properties in preparation to complete the reappraisal process.

The purpose of this reappraisal is to better align the assessed values of properties with actual market value of properties in town (measured by the Common Level of Appraisal) and to reduce inequities between properties in town (measured by the COD) that have accrued over the years. The State of Vermont mandates a town-wide reappraisal whenever the CLA is less than 80% and/or the COD is greater than 20%. This is done to ensure there is an equitable statewide distribution of education funds. For 2008 East Montpelier's CLA was 56.44% and the COD was 24.17%.

Sometime in June, after the property inspections have been completed, the VAC has compiled the data, and the Listers have reviewed the assessments, a complete list of all reappraised property values will be mailed to every taxpayer. This list will show the old and new values of each property in the town. Once these reports have been issued, there will be a two week period when property owners may come in to speak with Listers during Town Office hours to have their questions answered, discuss their new property values, and see how the values were derived. After this two-week informal question period, there will be the formal grievance period where property owners can dispute their new property tax assessment before the Board of Listers and the appraisers from the Vermont Appraisal Company.

There are still a few final mailings to be sent and interior inspections to be completed. If your property hasn't been visited by one of the appraisers, please call the Listers' office at 223-3313, extension 206. All properties that have been issued a recent building permit will be reappraised based on what has been completed by April 1, 2009. We wish to thank the people of the Town of East Montpelier for their courtesy and cooperation during this current town-wide reappraisal.

—Ross Hazel, Renée Carpenter, Earl Montague EM Listers

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS BEGIN MAY 30

Do you have paint, pesticides, cleaning products, spent fluorescent bulbs, or other hazardous waste to clean out of your home? Bring it all to a Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Household Hazardous Waste Collection. We'll be holding five collections in the District this season on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the following dates:

- May 30: Barre Town Garage
- July 11: Tunbridge Transfer Station
- August 29: Hardwick Town Garage
- September 19: Bradford Town Garage
- September 26: Montpelier (Dept. of Labor parking lot, off Memorial Drive)

Disposal Fees: \$15 per car for most residential loads. Please call for more information, and note that businesses must call ahead and pre-register. Please see the District's website for directions to the collections and more information on hazardous waste—www.cvswwd.org; go to the Household Hazardous Waste section under the Categories heading.

—Cathy Donohue CVSWMD Communications Manager

KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY NEWS

East Montpelier residents are entitled to a free library card!

Website: www.kellogghubbard.org

Phone: Main Desk 223-3338; Children's Library 223-4665

Thanks to the Voters

Thank you to voters who expressed strong support for your library, even in difficult economic times.

Youth Services

There is a new face in the Children's Department of the Library. Her name is Coco and she is a 6-year-old schnauzer/poodle mix who spends an hour or so each week with children who have difficulty reading.

Summer Reading Program,

Vermont's popular Summer Reading Program, "Be Creative@ Your Library," will be in full swing at the Kellogg-Hubbard, with an array of activities for kids of all ages. Sign-up begins in June.

PAULIE'S RECIPE

Peanut Mocha Cake (Mrs. Eva Foster)

6 tbsp. peanut butter	2 eggs
2 cups flour	¼ tsp. salt
1 cup sugar	1 cup milk
4 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla



Cream peanut butter and sugar. Add well beaten eggs. Add milk and vanilla alternately with flour, which has been sifted with baking powder and salt. Bake 30 minutes in moderate oven (350°).

FROM THE COMMUNITY COOK BOOK OF THE NORTH
MONTPELIER FRIENDLY CIRCLE. PUBLISHED ABOUT 1940.

Frosting

3 tbsp. hot strong coffee	1 tbsp. peanut butter
2 cups powdered sugar	1 tsp. vanilla

Pour coffee over peanut butter. Add vanilla and sugar. Beat until creamy and spread.

Paulie's comment

This is a light, fluffy cake with a good peanut flavor.

EMES NEWS FROM THE BOARD

In these uncertain fiscal times, the School Board thanks the voters of East Montpelier for supporting the school budget. Thank you for recognizing the difficult balance we attempt to strike between proposing a fiscally responsible budget while meeting the increasing needs of our students.

We also thank John Audy and Julie Rochat, school board members, and Debbie Lesure, principal, who have contributed greatly and are now leaving active service. We welcome their successors—board members Rosie Laquerre and Michele Leno; Roderick “Roddy” Cooke will be joining us as principal in July.

Two major changes will soon be apparent at EMES. We would like to make clear our reasons for 1) hiring an assistant principal and 2) installing a mobile unit that will house two classroom spaces.

The two primary functions of a principal, as head of a school, are to manage the many operations of the school and to provide educational leadership for the professional staff. School management includes the administration of all staff and facility operations, such as school maintenance and security, busing, class and meeting schedules, student discipline, and contractual obligations to name just a few of the specific responsibilities. Educational leadership, on the other hand, focuses on support of the teachers so as to improve student education with a strong, consistent curriculum while creating a culture of continuous learning, professional development, and support for change.

In recent years, the principal of EMES has been increasingly taken up with operational issues to the detriment of the educational leadership role. Right now there is simply too much for one person to do. We realize that there is a need for many of our systems (of student discipline, emergency and safety, scheduling, supervision and evaluation, staffing, etc.) to be reorganized and updated to function smoothly. These are some of the tasks the new assistant principal will take on. We anticipate that this position will be needed only for the next couple of years until new systems are in place that can be managed more easily by other staff members. In the meantime, the principal will be freed to focus on what is happening in our classrooms and to work with teachers to identify, clarify, and address barriers to student learning and to assure that the needs of children of all abilities are met at EMES.

The East Montpelier Elementary School is bucking the decreasing enrollment trend seen in other parts of the state. Over the last three years we have grown from about 225 to 270 students in grades pre-k to 12. To address our short-term needs we are installing a double-wide mobile unit to provide two classroom spaces. Permitting and siting processes are underway. We hope to locate the unit outside the back door of the upper grades wing, which will make movement of students easiest.

At the same time, the EMES Facilities Committee is working with the architectural firm Black River Design to develop a facilities plan to meet the school’s long-term needs for more space and address ongoing facilities problems. John Audy has been the board’s representative to that committee, and he has agreed to continue this work. It is a small but dedicated committee and if anyone would like to serve on the committee, please let me know.

—Janice Aldrich, EMES Board Chair

INTRODUCING EMES PRINCIPAL RODDY COOKE

The School Board announces the appointment of Roderick “Roddy” Cooke as East Montpelier Elementary School Principal beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. He will assume his responsibilities in July.

Cooke is moving east from Damascus, Oregon, where for the past three and one half years he has been the Assistant Principal of the Oregon Trail Elementary School. Prior to that, he was a public school elementary teacher for 10 years. Cooke brings experience in all aspects of school management and instructional leadership including professional and curriculum development, diversity training, school safety, crisis response, student management, and staff recognition and coaching. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree and his Master of Arts in Teaching at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.



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Volume XIX—Number Five
 May/June 2009

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EVENTS

Green Up Day, Sat. May 2, trash collection at EMES 9 a.m.–3 p.m., lunch from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Kellogg–Hubbard Library: Weathering the Storm: Meet the Challenges of Difficult Economic Times

Saving Money on Transportation, May 4, Mon. 7 p.m., with Becka Roof, Going Green Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning & Design Expert.

Programs and Services of the Small Business Administration, May 7, Thurs, 7 p.m.

Caring for your Pets in Hard Times, May 14, Thurs, 7 p.m., with Erika Bruner, DVM from Onion River Animal Hospital

Credit Issues & How to Deal with Shortfalls, May 21, Thursday, 7 p.m., with Wendy Rea, Barre Branch President at Merchants Bank

Investing in Uncertain Times, May 28, Thurs, 7 p.m., with Tom Golonka, Managing Partner in Silverlake Wealth Management

Waldorf School Events: RSVP 456–7400

Opportunities to visit on Apr 28, May 8, and May 9

Explore the Waldorf Science Curriculum: April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Alternatives to Media: May 19, 7:00 p.m.

Sweet 'n' Savory Pie Breakfast: May 2, 8:30 a.m., at Christ Church Montpelier

Mayfest: May 16, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

ELECTION RESULTS ON THE WEB



Richard Czaplinski speaking at Town Meeting 2009. For complete election results, visit www.emsignpost.com.

NOTICES

Owners of dogs not registered by April 1 will receive notification and be assessed an increased registration fee. Up-to-date documentation of rabies vaccination must be on file. Certification for newly spayed or neutered animals should be presented at the office.

Deadline for Next Issue: JUNE 1, 2009, To Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00	Town Office Building
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:30	Town Office Building
Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	2nd Thurs	7:30	Town Office Building
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 Wed	7:15	Elementary School
Volunteer Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00	Fire Station, Templeton Rd.
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00	Four Corners School
East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30	Town Office Building
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30	Elementary School