

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XX—Number Two

November/December 2009

DON AND CAROL WELCH: ALWAYS ON THE GO!

Don and Carol are the kind of “behind-the-scenes” contributors to East Montpelier and the broader central Vermont community who might go unnoticed. However, when I had the opportunity to visit and talk with them about their work and volunteer efforts over the past 40 years, I was astounded! Don and Carol, who have lived on Bliss Road since 1969, are both native Vermonters: Don is originally from St. Johnsbury, Carol is from Burlington. They have three now-adult children and six grandchildren, and are actively involved in all of their lives.

Don’s work background is in finance, having worked as an actuary for many years at National Life. After he “retired” from National Life, he commuted to Albany for a number of years working as a consultant for Systems Pro. Carol spent many years bringing up their three children, worked at the *Times Argus*, and then as an administrative assistant, also focusing on finance, for the Federal Highway Administration.

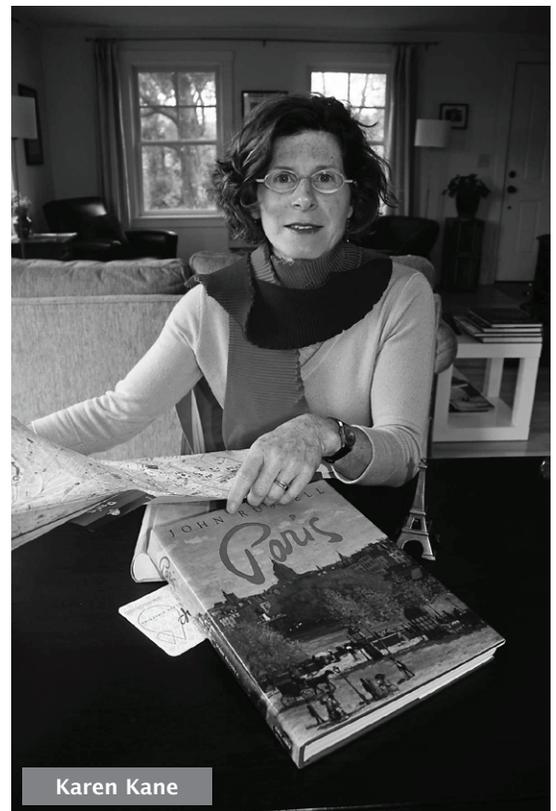
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ENJOY PARIS ON YOUR OWN TERMS!

Imagine strolling down a quaint, narrow, cobbled-stoned street, arm and arm with an intimate friend, smelling the fragrant aroma of baking croissants; passing a Parisian woman in a jet-black skirt and stiletto heels, dangling bracelets on her wrists; and turning into the Josephine Vannier shop where multicolored chocolate figurines line the walls and the sugar-filled air rests gently on your cheeks. Off the beaten path, you nibble your way through a decadent petit four as you make your way to the *cour de Rohan*: the oldest literary coffee shop in Paris with its picturesque courtyard and peaceful surroundings. A sigh of sheer joy escapes your lips as you relish the moment.

Is this one of your wildest dreams? *C’est possible!* Thanks to our very own Karen Kane (a recent transplant to Hammett Hill, East Montpelier) and her business, “Paris By Design,” you can discover the joys of Paris with a customized itinerary of your own creation based on your dreams and desires.

Karen’s quest for knowledge about Paris began when she was 11 years old when she took her first French class and fell hopelessly in love with the language. Living in a small town in upstate New York, the farthest she had traveled was to Buffalo. She studied French all through high school and college but was unable to envision a career in this field in the ‘70s. With math, science, and education majors surrounding her, she graduated from Russell Sage College in 1978 with a degree in Physical Education. She continued her education, receiving a Master’s from the University of New Hampshire in Phys. Ed, but began to pursue her passion by traveling to



Karen Kane

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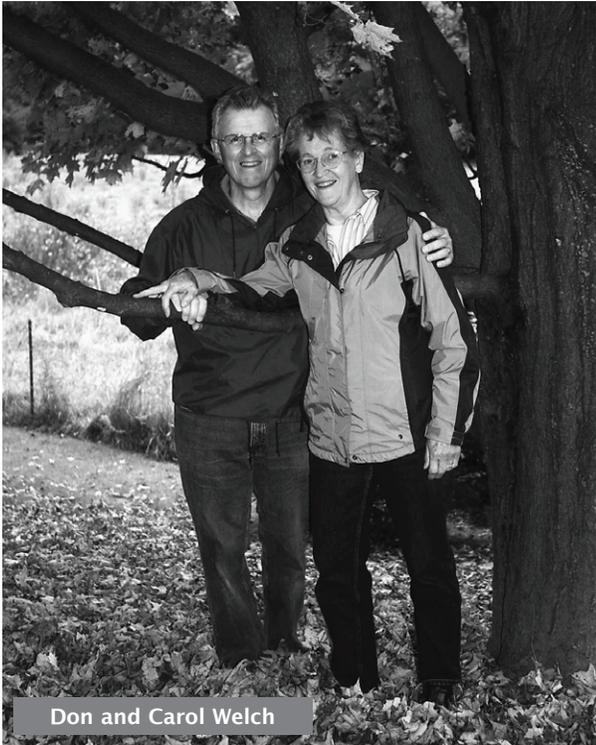
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Don and Carol Welch

Carol and Don's work lives are only part of their story, though. Both of them are exceptionally active in the community. Here's a "short list":

Carol worked as an ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future, now replaced with the Four Winds program) volunteer at EMES for a number of years. One clear memory is the time when she forgot to put the sugar in the Kool-Aid! Carol and I chuckled a bit about that, noting that since ELF is all about observation, the children might have thought it was an intentional experiment to test their powers of observation!

Carol spent many years with the U-32 Booster Club fundraising, hosting athletic banquets, and selling tickets at basketball games. She's been a Planning Commission member for 15 years, and the chair for four of those years. During her tenure a new town plan and new zoning regulations were adopted.

Carol is Vice President of the Central Vermont Hospital Medical Auxiliary, and on the Board of Directors. You may also have seen her in the hospital gift shop. She's also an active member of the Bethany Church, on the Hospitality Committee and Chair of the Mission Board.

Both Don and Carol are on the Central Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board. Don explained that the Board acts as a liaison between the Middlesex Barracks of the State Police and the towns in Washington and Orange Counties served by the Middlesex Barracks. One program adopted by the Board has been to help establish Neighborhood Watch groups in communities that request them and trains volunteers. Don shared that a challenge with the Neighborhood Watch groups is that sometimes it's like

"squeezing a balloon" because once you stop crime in one area, it often moves to a neighboring community.

Don has been extremely active in building the East Montpelier "infrastructure." Back in 1985, he was on the first Finance Committee; at that time, financial systems at the Town Office were much less sophisticated. Don became known as the "blackboard guy" at town meetings, writing down the impact of voting decisions in a clear manner: "If you vote for Article X, the impact on the tax rate will be Y cents." A number of years ago, he made a recommendation that separate requests from outside organizations for town funding be "clumped" together in a single article, resulting in the Funding Request Committee.

Don was an auditor for the U-32 district for a number of years, as well as an auditor for the town of East Montpelier. In his "spare time," Don has been a coach of Little League and different baseball and basketball teams. He's also umpired adult league softball.

When I asked Don and Carol what's different now in East Montpelier from in the 1960s and 70s, they replied, "Not much!" They did acknowledge that the roads are better (for example, the upper section of Bliss Road was closed in the winter in their early years). Don questions the impact of Act 60—now Act 68—saying that he's often wondered if East Montpelier has benefited, or not, by its past decisions regarding business development.

With all their activity, you might wonder when and how do Don and Carol have fun? They definitely fit in fun: they're active tennis players (playing in two or three leagues at a time!), snow-shoers, bikers, and cross-country skiers.

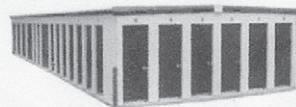
When I left their house, I have to say I was a bit exhausted just imagining all they are doing—many board meetings each month and lots of other activities. But I am also very, very grateful that Don and Carol are my neighbors and strong community members!

—Sue Biggam lives with her husband, Pat, on Bliss Road and is an educational consultant.

Thanks Katy & Welcome Ted!

Thanks to Katy Blow for handling the *Signpost* mail list and managing advertisements for the last few years. The *Signpost* staff welcomes Ted Allen, who will be handling the mail list moving forward.

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France every chance she could get. She took a teaching job in Randolph, Vermont, where she met her husband, Ken Trask. They were married in 1984 and by then she was traveling to Paris at least three times a year.

In the mid-'90s she realized that Physical Education just wasn't her calling, and she began the MFA Writing program at Vermont College. She remembers Ken encouraging her to explore her love of French, but she still wasn't sure how to do that. Halfway through the MFA program, she decided to go to Paris to live. She rented a room for about two years off and on. While there, she began studying and received an International Degree in Language Proficiency. Feeling her dreams becoming a reality, she took a small business course at Trinity College in the fall of 2001 and began to network with other women running small businesses. Her passion finally came to fruition when she launched her new business "Paris by Design" in January, 2002. Her niche business was featured in articles in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, and it grew steadily and successfully. She had found a way to pursue her love of France and French culture while sharing her passion with others.

With Karen's expertise and extensive knowledge of Paris, clients can design individual or group experiences based on specific budgets, time frames, and personal goals. Past clients have planned trips between one day and two weeks, learned about art or history, and dined in obscure restaurants. For some people, it is their first trip abroad. As one client says, "Karen made my first trip to Paris easy. She found my hotel, arranged taxi service to and from the airport, led me to wonderful restaurants, and gave me invaluable tips. And she did it all within my budget. My trip to Paris was memorable, and I have Karen to thank for it."

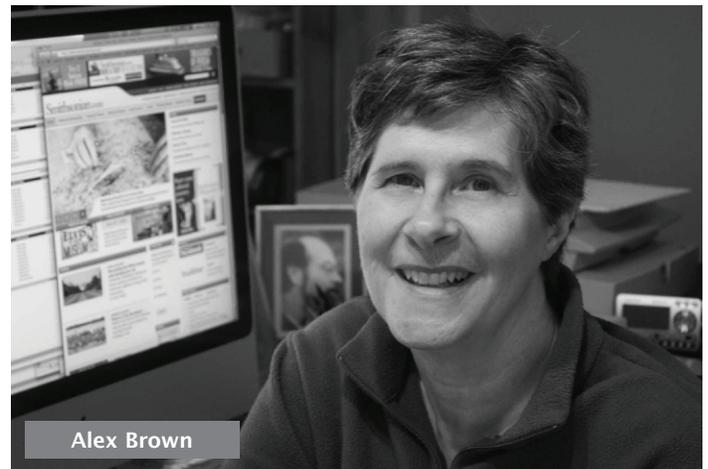
In 2009, with the economy at an all-time low, Karen created another cultural experience for people who want to experience another culture from an insider's perspective closer to home. "Montreal by Design" is her latest venture with guided tours such as: The Artist's Montreal, Montreal for Chocolate Lovers, and Inspired Montreal (with a focus on art, fashion, food, and design for women).

When Karen is not guiding a Parisian or Montreal tour, she enjoys biking, walking, gardening, and cross-country skiing. She is a member of the Adamant Co-op board. If you would like to plan a once in a lifetime trip, visit her websites at: www.parisbydesign.com or www.montrealbydesign.com. From what I have heard and read from her clients, you will have a fabulous time!

—*Sue Chickering lives at the end of Chickering Road with her husband, John Ayers, and her three sons, Lars, Gabriel, and Silas.*

TECHNOLOGY CREATED MY JOB— AND MAY TAKE IT AWAY

This is part of an ongoing series on how technology affects those living and working in EM. Contact us if you have a story to tell.



Alex Brown

In 1984 I faced a crossroads: move back to New York City to advance my career in publishing, or find a way to continue living in the country. At the time I was located in southern Vermont, working for a small magazine publisher.

Back then, Federal Express was used only for the most critical of documents, the fax machine was a specialty contraption that linked perhaps fewer than 1% of lawyers and diplomats, and the Internet was a technicality. It existed, but even the earliest means of mass connection, like CompuServe and AOL, were still to come.

But for the brave, a computer was within reach. Instead of looking for my next employer in New York, I started a business of my own. My principal service is reducing printing costs by negotiating printing contracts for publishers that reflected savings I helped locate by examining schedule, specifications, equipment usage, and workflow. And with a hearty dose of insight about the market at large that allowed me to determine the prevailing prices, I could secure the best deals for my clients.

My company, Printmark, is celebrating its 25th year in business, and I am an expert in a niche so tiny you wouldn't think it needed an expert. But my clients, including AARP, *The Atlantic*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Rolling Stone*, *Scientific American*, and *Smithsonian*, have all benefited from my knowledge of the print industry, negotiating ability, financial analysis, computer modeling skills, and ongoing study of reproduction technology.

That I can run a business like this from Vermont is entirely due to the leveling effect of computer and communication technology. For many years, it was possible to keep pace with the business world by upgrading my technology. But I fell far behind when I moved my office from downtown Montpelier to the house I built in East Montpelier. I began what would be an 11-year quest for broadband internet access. It took that long for Comcast to agree to pull cable through the conduit

I had buried for this purpose in 1998. But at last I'm exceeding dial-up speed, and no longer have to make excuses to my clients. Today, businesses of every kind are hindered without broadband, but fortunately it's reaching more and more places in our town.

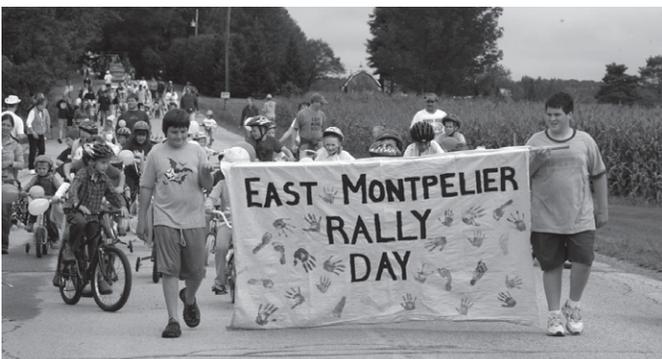
Now, here comes the tricky part: the Internet has changed ideas about advertising, and printed magazines have a limited future. The very technology that allowed me to build a business while living exactly where I wanted to live is now ushering in the end of the need for experts in printing. What I know about printing and papermaking isn't going to be important much longer. The only thing that's certain for me now is that I'll stay right here in East Montpelier. I invented my business so I could live in the country, and I'll re-invent if I need to, in order to live in a community I love while my clients are all over the country. —Alex Brown lives and works on Johnson Road



RALLY DAY 2009

Rally Day started off with a few showers, but by mid-morning it was a perfect day for a parade! Ours was presided over by Citizen of the Year John Audy. We had a great turnout for this annual day of community fun and togetherness. Many thanks to the scores of volunteers that helped make Rally Day happen, and to all the townsfolk who came and made it a wonderful day!

Thanks to Toby Talbot for the great photos!



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

Rob Chickering, Chair
 rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill	Don Welch
Tracy Phillips	Duane Wells

Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375	
Seth Gardner	Mark Lane
Jack Pauly	Gene Troia
Kim Watson	Carol Welch
Ken Santor	Jean Vissering

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Richard Curtis, Chair	
Jeff Cueto	Jane Grinde
Steve Kappel	Cliff King
Mark Lane	Gray Ricker
Ken Santor	Stanley Pierce

State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032
 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

COBURN ROAD QUARRY UPDATE – GET INVOLVED, STAY TUNED

This summer the District 5 Environmental Commission issued a land use permit for road renovation work on Route 2 in Cabot and Danville with conditions specifying that before beginning construction, VTrans must “file an amendment application which provides a revised design for the proposed wetland compensation site,” which would preserve the water quality of the pond, the shorelines, existing and current uses—including swimming, fishing, bicycling—and the aesthetic values of the [Coburn Road Quarry] site. The Commission was convinced of the value of maintaining the existing uses of the site by the Coburn Quarry Citizens’ Alliance led by Renée Carpenter.

In September, VTrans submitted a revised plan that focuses on a smaller portion of the East Montpelier site. The Citizen’s Alliance has filed comments in opposition to the revised VTrans plan. For more information contact Renée Carpenter or the District 5 Environmental Commission.



NORDIC SKIING

For anyone in the Central Vermont area interested in cross-country skiing, there is a local club committed to cultivating Nordic skiing for all levels and abilities. Onion River Nordic Ski Club led by Nick Pettersson has over 200 registered members for the 2009 season as it fulfills its mission “to promote Nordic skiing and support the Nordic skiing community in central Vermont.”

Based at the Morse Farm, Onion River Nordic offers programs for children and adults and entitles members to ski gear discounts at Onion River Sports, organized ski events, technique clinics, connections to the local Nordic community, participation in the Bill Koch League youth program, discounted fee to join NENSA (the New England Nordic Ski Association), and more.

The youth ski program meets weekly on Saturday morning and Monday afternoon, with a noncompetitive focus on camaraderie and having fun on skis. The Club’s adult program offers noon-time technique clinics on Thursdays as well as other periodic programs. Onion River Nordic also hosts a Masters racing team that competes on the New England circuit.

Please contact Nick Pettersen at nick@onionrivernordic.org or check out the website at www.onionrivernordic.org for more information.

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- ✓ **Lawns:** Grading, Seeding and Mulching for New or Existing Sites
- ✓ **Land Improvement:** Rototilling; Bushhogging; and Trail Work
- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Underground Utility Lines; and Much More!

TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births:

- Owen Burton Spooner, son born August 8, 2009, to Monique Karen Trepanier & Burton William Spooner III
- Josephine Autumn Longhi, daughter born August 10, 2009, to Gretchen & Christopher Longhi

Marriages:

- Gregory Lee Chamberlin and Mary Ann Crossman, August 15, 2009
- Christine Ellen Parker and Penny Jo Martin, September 11, 2009
- Jeffrey Harrison Parker and Jody Lynn McPherson, September 19, 2009
- Adam Anthony Popp and Christine Ashley West, September 26, 2009
- Lisa Michelle Mike and Adam Neil Woodworth, September 26, 2009
- Ryan Mathew Rysewyk and Aaron Joseph Taber, September 26, 2009

Deaths

- Nathan Arthur Hale, died August 17, 2009. Brother of Hester Manning, Virgil & Charles Hale.
- Dwight H. Kelton, died August 31, 2009. Spouse of Mary Ellen Kelton and father of Annie H. Kelton
- Geneva Sweet Woodward, died September 8, 2009. Mother of Patricia (Utton) Woodward & Gail (Eastman) Woodward
- Bradford Harlow Lane, died September 12, 2009. Spouse of Ruth E. Lane
- Lawrence J. Perry, died September 21, 2009. Spouse of Paula Seguin Perry and father of Daniel Perry & Lawrence Perry II, as well as five other sons with his first wife Pamela.

Property Transfers

- Thomas Rus to Robert Phillips, 19.9 acres, dwelling, mobile home, & farm buildings, commercial & rental uses, VT14 N.
- Glen D. Bailey to Dennis P. & Ruth O. Farnham, .06 acres, boundary adjustment, Fitch Rd.
- David Antonovich Sr. to Yvona Lukomski-Antonovich, 19.9 acres, 1/2 interest in property, North St.
- Richard Casavant to Ellery Packard III & Jennifer Packard, 1.53 acres, Pine Ridge Rd.
- Kevin Rand, Joseph Thomas, & Jennifer Rand to Joseph Thomas & Jennifer Rand, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Melanie Metz to Jack E. & Jillian M. Zeilenga, 12 acres & dwelling, Lyle Young Rd.
- Patricia O'Regan to Kenneth Liberto, 10.7 acres/dwelling, Sparrow Farm Rd.

- Norman A. & Claire LaPerle to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.22 acres, Government use, VT14 N.
- Kenneth & Marilyn Wood to Kenneth & Marilyn Wood & Jason Wood & Julie Wood, 10.4 acres/dwelling, life estate, Lyle Young Rd.

PLANNING COMMISSION

July 16, 2009

No action taken.

August 6, 2009

- Reviewed the Phillips Sketch Plan and the Hasland Sketch Plan.
- Discussed the Rufenacht lot size and the Hall access to a back lot.

August 20, 2009

- Discussed Pickel recertification of a subdivision and presented the Grants three options for their land subdivision.
- Created a timeline for the Zoning Administrator job search.
- Discussed the issues around having a Development Review Board.
- Ms. Vissering will draft a proposal for how the Planning Commission deals with town-wide projects and bridges such as Cross VT Trails.
- Motion approved: In light of the fact that the PC has not developed a suitable tool to implement the Certificate of Use Compliance provision, the ZA is hereby relieved from enforcing that provision until further notice.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

July 14, 2009

- The board held a public hearing to consider the following:
- Conditional use review of application #09-049 submitted by U-32 Jr/Sr High School to construct a 3,500-square-foot office building, to be used by the Washington Central Supervisory Union on U-32's property located at 930 Gallison Hill Road.
- Motion approved: to recess the hearing until August 4, 2009.

August 4, 2009

- U-32 WCSU Building Site Visit by ZBA Members: Rich Curtis, Ken Santor, Jeff Cueto, Gray Ricker, Mark Lane, Cliff King, Jane Grinde, Steve Kappel, and Stan Pierce
- Motion approved: To recess the (on site) hearing and enter into deliberative session at the end of the regular meeting's hearings.
- Motion approved: To grant conditional use approval for the project subject to the following conditions:

- The access road off Gallison Hill Road shall be 24' wide with a 5' sloping shoulder on each side for the full length of the road;
- Appropriate "do not block entrance" and "fire lane, no parking" signage shall be installed at the entrance to the parking lot and in the parking lot;
- Forested areas shown on sheet L1 submitted to the ZBA at the 8/4/09 hearing shall be maintained in accordance with the Landscape Management Plan for Washington Central Supervisory Union presented by Cynthia Knauf Landscape Design, Inc., dated and submitted to the ZBA 8/4/09, to the extent they provide screening to the existing residential structures in the neighborhood;
- If the gate currently restricting use of the access road off Gallison Hill Road is relocated along the road, it must be placed at least 50' from the entrance to the Washington Central Supervisory Union's parking lot to allow backing of fire equipment.

- Conditional use review of application #09-052 submitted by VAST for after-the-fact permitting of a snowmobile bridge over the Kingsbury Branch near the intersection of Coburn Road and Cate Farm Road. The bridge abutments are on the properties of Richard Wiswall and Allen Soule, both located in the Rural Residential/Agricultural District – Zone D, the special flood hazard area and Conservation Overlay Areas.
- Motion approved: closed the evidence taking portion of the hearing.
- ZBA declined to issue a decision.
- Conditional use review of application #09-055 submitted by Telephone Operating Co. of VT LLC (FairPoint) to construct a small communications facility along County Road on property owned by Harry & Elizabeth Morse. The property is located in the Rural Residential/Agricultural District – Zone D. The project is subject to ZBA regulation as a §4.12 protected public use.
- Motion approved: To grant conditional use approval for the project subject to the following conditions: The metal cabinets will be painted dark green; construction and maintenance of the facility will be accomplished using off-street parking only; and, adequate frontage screening will be maintained.

SELECT BOARD

June 29, 2009

Motions Approved:

- the permit for the Wolkomir property in the Town's right-of-way with recommendations provided by Frank Campbell.
- to appoint Cherie Staples Town Auditor until the 2010 Town Meeting.
- to cancel the special vote on the Emergency Services Facility (ESF).

July 6, 2009

- Interviewed members from two law firms: Zalinger, Cameron and Lambek, P.C. and McKee, Guilian & Cleveland.
- Motions approved : to authorize Collector of Delinquent Taxes to proceed with tax sales of properties on County Road, Towne Hill Road, Horn of the Moon Road, and Sandy Pines Trailer Park.

July 20, 2009

Motions approved:

- to approve financial participation in the Green Mountain Transit Authority Commuter Route from Marshfield to Montpelier to be placed on the ballot for the 2010 Town Meeting with the understanding East Montpelier gets participation from at least one other town.
- to authorize the Emergency Services Facility (ESF) Attorney to hire Stone Environmental directly to do a Phase I Environmental Study in which the funding comes from the approved construction cost.
- to pay one-half the deposit from the approved ESF construction budget on the Hasland property contingent on a satisfactory Purchase & Sale Agreement.
- to accept Black Rock Coal's bid to be the town's sand vendor for FY10.
- to have Frank Campbell decide which truck to purchase provided there is money in the budget to cover the cost.
- Frank Campbell chose Ron Metevier to fill the highway road crew position.

August 17, 2009

Motions approved:

- to spend the \$450 [awarded as a result of a VT Community Energy Project] toward energy improvements for the municipal office. Dave Grundy acknowledged his thanks for the 20 volunteers who put their time into this project.
- to approve the two requests by Fairpoint: one for changing use on County Road and one for moving a pole on VT214 in North Montpelier.
- to approve work in the right-of-way for Todd Croteau and Martha Israel.
- to approve curb cut for Clark Rd.

- to set the FY10 (2009-10) tax rate for the resident rate at 1.6886 and the nonresident rate at 1.7586 per \$100.00 of assessed value.
- to execute Memorandum of Understanding regarding the purchase of the Hasland Property including payment of the deposit but contingent on a favorable vote from Calais Selectboard.
- to ask Town Clerk Terri Conti to warn a Special Town Vote on the change in location for the Emergency Services Facility (ESF) as soon as possible in coordination with the Town of Calais.
- to waive fees for application of two conditional permits: parking lots on the Hasland property and for the fire station and one subdivision permit for the proposed ESF property as per the Memorandum of Understanding.
- to authorize Paul Guilian to enter into a Phase II review with Stone Environmental.
- to sign the application permits.
- to sign the Summary of Receipts and Expenditures for the interest calculation portion [this is regarding the Sandy Pines Account] to be paid out to the State.
- to retain Bruce Bjornlund as the Town's legal counsel.
- to execute the Tax Anticipation note (Line-of-Credit) with the Chittenden Bank for \$100,000. [Don Welch clarified this note pays for town expenses.]
- to include in wage increases for the appointed Town Clerk/Treasurer assistants as long as those increases stay within the budget.
- to change Selectboard meeting date of September 7 to Monday, August 31 because of the Labor Day Holiday.

U-32 JR & SR HIGH SCHOOL

June 17, 2009

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Administrator Evaluation Policy
- to award the Revenue Anticipation Note to TD Banknorth Vermont
- to award Investment Bid to TD Banknorth Vermont
- to award Capital Note Bid for Central Office Building to Merchant's Bank
- to approve Food Service Program Price Increase Proposal.
- to authorize the principal along with Ginny Burley to award the oil or propane bid.
- to approve three foreign exchange student tuition waivers for 2009-10.
- to approve the following resignations: Todd MacKenzie – 1.0 FTE middle school science; Barry Kopecky – social studies.

- to approve board orders.
- to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing legal matters.

August 12, 2009

Motions Passed:

- to approve the Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Background Check Policy.
- to approve transfer from Fund Balance to Capital Fund.
- to approve transferring \$20,300 from the fund balance to pay for the gap in funding the White Table. This gap is due to a change in government funding.
- to approve funding from the Fund Balance for the Emergency Power Upgrade.
- to approve 2009–10 bus routes.
- to approve 2009–10 Student & Parent Handbook.
- to approve 2009–10 Department Heads & Equity Coordinators.
- to approve fall athletic coaches as presented.
- to accept the following resignations: John Antonucci – 0.4 FTE business education teacher; Elizabeth Jaworski – paraeducator; David Nicholson – 1.0 FTE school counselor; Sandra Gaffney – paraeducator.
- to approve the following appointments: John Antonucci – 0.4 FTE social studies teacher; Gillian Thomas – 0.7 FTE foreign language teacher; Kelsey Moore-Quinn – 1.0 FTE science teacher – Middle School; Michael Gilbert – 0.4 FTE business education teacher; Sarah Pierce – administrative assistant (PT health officer); Heather Clark-Warner – paraeducator; Nicole Gokey – paraeducator; Ashley Parizo – paraeducator; Jessica McEachem – 0.70 FTE English teacher (one year only).
- to approve board orders.

September 2, 2009

Motions Passed:

- to approve the fall athletics coaches.
- to approve the resignation of Christy Spannbauer – food services.
- to approve the appointment of Raymond Arsenault III – school counselor.
- to approve board orders.

Anyone missing a car key?

One was dropped off at the municipal office this summer. Stop by to claim it.

NEWS FROM EAST MONTPELIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EMES Facilities Committee

The East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Facilities Committee is working actively to assist the EMES School Board in identifying facility needs and planning ways to meet them. Some history of the recent facilities work that has been done and information about the early work on possible renovation and addition plans should be helpful in moving forward.

In 2006, facing very evident facilities shortcomings, a Facilities Committee identified and prioritized needed basic maintenance work and established regular maintenance schedules. The Committee also worked to get to know the building.

In 2007, with additional input from a teacher questionnaire, it was decided that the first priority was to clean the building. We are sure you have noticed improvements in that area if you have visited the building.

A facility analysis conducted in 2008 identified numerous structural and mechanical issues including air quality, insulation, handicapped accessibility, plumbing, and system efficiencies that need to be addressed. Minor repairs to address some of the most urgent infrastructure needs were identified.

At the 2009 School Meeting, voters agreed to create a master plan for EMES based on the long- and short-term needs identified in the Facility Analysis. East Montpelier appears to be a growing community, and EMES enrollment has been bucking the state trend of decreasing enrollments. Though a sharp enrollment spike last year has not been sustained, it appears that enrollment is on target with the projections used in the 2008 Facilities Analysis. Adding temporary classrooms this past summer was a partial, short-term solution to address general classroom space needs. It is very apparent, however, that the library, art, physical education, special education, preschool, cafeteria, and music programs also require more space.

The school community worked up an educational blueprint (known as education specifications) that outlines the educational opportunities we need and want to provide for our elementary students. That document was reviewed by the School Board and Department of Education and used as a basis to develop a preliminary space needs table. With input from the faculty and administrators, the Facilities Committee started work on a preliminary design for renovation and addition to the school. These drawings were displayed at Rally Day, and many community members had the opportunity to provide suggestions, but much more community input is needed before the School Board can make a decision on how to proceed.

Education is the biggest and most important gift we give our children. There are two major components to the educational experience of the students. The first and most important are the educational programs. The second is adequate, safe, healthy, and inviting space in which to learn. The teachers and administrators are working hard to ensure that high quality educational programs are being offered to EMES students.

Now it is time to find a way to provide the space needed for these programs as well as to address the infrastructure issues in an aging building. Please visit the school to see the facility and space needs first hand and attend any information and input meetings the School Board has in the future.

—EMES School Board and Facilities Committee

From the Principal's Office

A crowded gym greeted me on the evening of September 17th for our annual Parent Information Night. Parents excited for another year of learning were introduced to staff members before heading into classrooms to learn about the work we call teaching and learning. The participation at this event provided me with yet another example of the tremendous value that the East Montpelier community places on education. I am truly honored to be working in such a fantastic community!

Earlier this week, the EMES School Board voted to hold off on placing a bond initiative on the November ballot. I commend all who assisted the board in reaching their decision. The postponement will allow the entire community to participate in identifying the needs and wants for the future of the school as both a learning establishment and as a community center.

In its present state, EMES is in great need of repair. With leaky windows, an unreliable PA system, ceiling tiles that are stained where leaks have caused damage, insulation that is lacking, a non-ADA (Americans with Disability Act) friendly entrance, with no ADA-compliant bathrooms, and a kitchen that isn't up to code (to name a few of the issues), it is a fact that EMES will be facing significant remodeling needs in the near future. I believe that this would be the optimal time to create the teaching and learning spaces needed for new instructional methods and new learning needs, and also provide the community with the space for extra curricular activities (such as Hunter Safety, the Boy Scouts, and basketball games—the latter with room for spectators). It is my vision to work in this school as one which all in the community cherish as a display of excellence. I look forward to working with the EMES community in a collaborative process toward the development of the future bond initiative.

—Roddy Cooke, EMES Principal

First-Grade Postcard Project

The First-Grade classes at EMES would like to receive postcards from all 50 states. We use them to learn about geography and map skills. So tell your friends and family members who live out of state. We'd love to hear from them. Last year Mrs. Pastore's class heard from some former EMES students. What fun! THANKS! Here's the address:

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

—Carolyn Pastore

RALLY DAY AUCTION—THANKS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESS

Congratulations and thank you to Barbara Brown (auction chair) and her team for their hard work and to all of the businesses and individuals below who donated auction items or services. Equal gratitude and thanks are due to all of you who supported the auction by bidding.

Adamant Co-op	Center Farm	James Goodall	Bill Merrylees	Sundara Spa
Kathy Audy	Sandi Chaloux	Rob Halpert	Edie Miller	The World
Dudley's Store	Cold Pocket Farm	Dennis Hawkins	Celina Moore	Sylvia Tosi
Barre Country Club	David Coburn	Martha Holden	Morse Farm	Cindy Tomaszewicz
Black Rock Coal	Delair's Carpet Barn	Karen Kane	North Country Credit Union	Vermont Compost
David Blosser	East Montpelier Home Center	Barry & Fern Langer	Barbara & Allen Ploof	Vermont Mountaineers
Jennifer Boyer	Nona Estrin & Charles Johnson	Sally Longhi	Lori Rice	Jean Vissering
Bragg Farm	Dr. Lydia Faesy	Leatherwood Farm	Riverbend Store	Washington Electric Coop
Cacicio's Heating	Fairmont Farm	Cricket Liebermann	Carol Rose	Wheeler Homestead
Ginny Callan	First in Fitness	Janet MacLeod	Sarah Shapiro	Karen Winchester
Capital Grounds	Fontaine Forestry	Manghi's Bread	Anne Sherman	Flo Young
Cate Farm		Colin McCaffrey	Cherie Staples	
Charlie Catlin		Mekkelsen's Trailer Sales		

SIGNPOST FINANCIAL REPORT

The *Signpost* finances from August 1, 2008, to July 31, 2009, look like this:

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Printing	\$4,201	Advertising	\$1,300
Postage	<u>\$1,593</u>	Auction	\$3,097
Total	\$5,794	Contributions	\$2,365
		Interest	\$46
		Subscribers	<u>\$165</u>
		Total	\$6,973

Six issues a year, sent to all 1,075 East Montpelier households, cost about \$6,000. 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 on individual contributions. These revenue items make up 78% of our income. Contributions increased this past year over the previous one. We received contributions from 48 individuals/families, about 4.5% of our readers, in the past 12 months. The average donation was \$48.61. Ten contributors sent us \$100 or more.

This year's Rally Day Auction maintained its record of raising about half our revenues—more than \$3,000. That's enough to pay for printing and postage for three editions of the *Signpost*, delivered to every home in East Montpelier free of charge. Many thanks to all those responsible for this outstanding result (listed above).

We don't make telephone solicitations or mail out appeals. Your support at the Rally Day Silent Auction and your donations mailed to P.O. Box 184, East Montpelier, 05651 keep us going. We welcome your comments and feedback as well.

—Rob Chickering, *Signpost Business Manager*

TWIN VALLEY SENIORS, INC.

Attendance at the center has been growing, especially since we have started preparing, serving, and delivering our own Meals on Wheels. Meals are served at the center Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 12:15. The center opens at 10:00 for snacks, visiting, and card playing. On Friday afternoon there is bingo. Transportation is provided by GMTA. Volunteers are needed for the kitchen and to help deliver meals. If you are aware of anyone needing delivered meals, please let us know.

Continuing services: (1) The exercise program meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11 a.m. All abilities welcome. (2) Foot clinics are November 16 and December 28. Registration is required by calling 426-3200 and the fee is \$15.00. (3) Blood pressures will also be checked at this time if you desire.

We have an opening on the Board of Directors for a member from East Montpelier. If anyone would like to attend a board meeting and meet the other members, please call Joyce Fowler, Chair, at 454-3308.

The Senior Center will be closed Friday, November 26, Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1, 2010. Call 426-3447 to schedule a visit or for more information about the center.

—Marvie Domey, *TVS, Inc*

GOOD NEIGHBOR STORIES WANTED

Many people describe the pleasures of living in East Montpelier in terms of their relationships with their friends and neighbors. Please share your thoughts on community life in East Montpelier for the *Good Neighbors* column.

Send email to Barbara Ploof at signpostbcp@hotmail.com or post to 255 Barnes Rd, Montpelier, VT 05602. You may call 223-6934 if you have questions.

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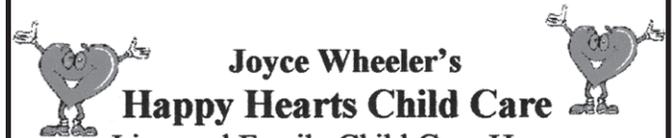
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Volume XX—Number Two
 November/December 2009

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

EVENTS

Orchard Valley School: for information call 802-456-7400
 November 13, Fall into Winter Fair: adults only shopping, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; November 14 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., fun for the family
 Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m. Making Math Meaningful

East Montpelier Elementary School
 November 19, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Early Literacy Night for all parents, grandparents, and caregivers of young children . For information call 223-7936.

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: **www.emsignpost.com**
 East Montpelier announcements are welcome.
 To be notified of new announcements, join the email list. Look under "contacts" for Jennifer Boyer and give her your email address.
 A great way to know what is happening in town.

A PHOTO TOUR OF OUR CEMETERIES

Tour cemeteries in East Montpelier and Calais with Elliott Morse. Hear about the man who killed himself with his jackknife, veterans of the country's wars from the Revolution to the present, including a Medal-of-Honor winner, and learn about interesting monuments, including a hollow one that has been used to stash beer.

Produced by the Historical Society from a presentation Morse gave this summer. Purchase the DVD for \$10 at the Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, at the East Montpelier Municipal Office, by mail (\$3 for postage and handling) at P.O. Box 63, E. Montpelier VT 05651, or through the Society's website: **www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety**.

NOTICES

First Property Tax Installment due Monday, November 16, 2009 BY 5:00 p.m.

Town Office Closures:

- Thursday, November 26 & Friday 27, in observance of Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas
- Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day

Deadline for Next Issue: DECEMBER 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