

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XX—Number One

September/October 2009

TECHNOLOGY AFFECTS US ALL: E. MONTPELIER STORIES

It only takes a casual look around us to realize that technology is a significant part of our lives no matter where we reside or what we do. In this issue we are starting what may become a regular or periodic feature: stories about the impact of automation and telecommunications on East Montpelier citizens. We start with articles about two of our neighbors—one a telecommuter who might not live here but for technology, and the other a business that's into its third century of operation in East Montpelier. Let us know about your experiences for future issues.

WITHOUT THE INTERNET WHERE WOULD I BE?

Telephone headset, large monitor, comfy chair: all helpful. But my most important work tool is a high-speed internet connection (although my trusty MacBook Pro plays a big role too). Unlike the handful of other remote workers that I know, I am not a contractor or a freelancer, and I don't own my own business. I am a scientific writer/

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DON'T MISS THE 21ST ANNUAL EAST MONTPELIER RALLY DAY!

SAT., SEPT. 12, 9:00 AM TO 9:00 PM—RAIN OR SHINE



9:00–11:00 Breakfast Bar Baked goods, fruit, coffee, juice. EMES Nutrition Committee. Food donations needed; call Erica Zimmerman, 223-6930.

9:00–10:30 Fire Department Fun Explore the fire fighting equipment and new ambulance.

***** Special Treat:** The DHART helicopter ambulance will touch down at Rally Day (unless they're called away on an emergency).***

9:00–11:00 Activities for kids of all ages Puzzle Mania (create your own piece of the statewide puzzle project), veggie decorating, toddler play area, face painting, the 4-H Club Project, Fair, and more.

9:30–10:30 Bike Safety Skills Get your helmet fitted and ride a bike-safety obstacle course.

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EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Published six times a year.
Mailed free of charge
to all residents of
East Montpelier.

PO Box 184
East Montpelier, VT 05651

TOP OF THE SIGNPOST Community Connection: Going on 20 Years

Jean Cate and I were on a committee that met early in 1990 to think of ways that might enhance the feeling of community in our town. This committee determined that having a town newspaper would help expand the sense of community we had.

In our first issue of the *Signpost* (September/October 1990), Jean Cate wrote the first in the series now known *Top of the Signpost*. It is reprinted here:

The concept of 'community' comes up a lot in talking about East Montpelier. The sense of working together, of caring for each other and for the town, seems to be in the soil and the blood of this town. Perhaps then, it's no surprise that a group of residents decided to create a newspaper to foster 'community-ism' and to keep people in touch with what's going on in town.

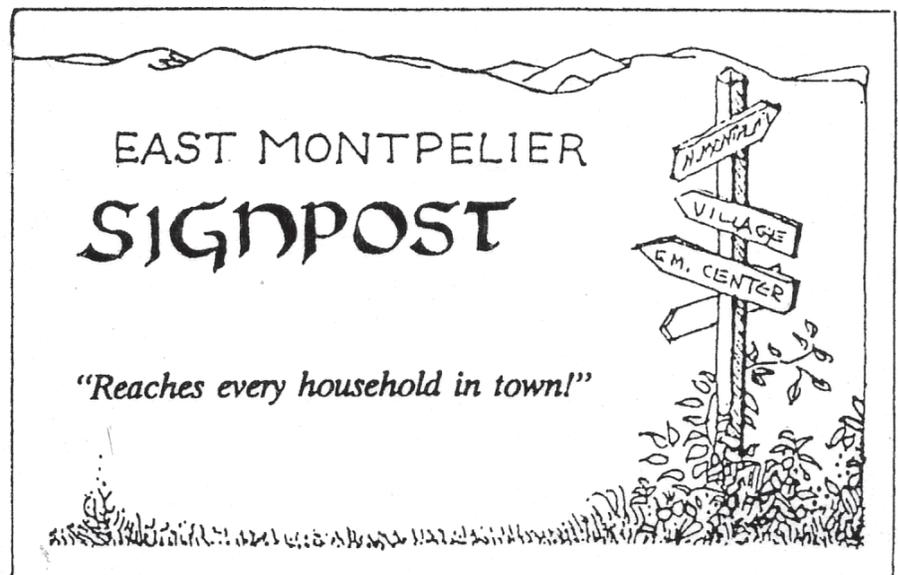
The Signpost committee has met since spring to lay the groundwork for a paper that will report town government meetings and local events, and provide features on people and businesses. It will be mailed to every household in town, with subscriptions for out-of-town readers at \$8 a year. And oh yes...we hope it will be fun to read!

The Signpost welcomes community help: for reporting, writing, ideas, and money. We need your suggestions and words of encouragement! We will depend on individual contributions for operating expenses, though some advertising may be added later. We encourage your financial support. Call and ask how you can help!

Members of the first Signpost committee were Jean Cate, Publisher; Cherie Staples (formerly Langer), Managing Editor; Janet MacLeod, Artist; Becky Reed, Town Affairs; Anne Sherman, Treasurer; Sylvia Tosi, Advertising; Fred Tubbs, Copy Editor; and Janice Waterman, News Editor.

Reviewing the concepts Jean first outlined, today's *Signpost* staff find themselves employing the same priorities. Community is still the most important aspect of our newspaper. It is the citizens of our town who help foster community. During these past 19 years, I have personally seen that our town really wants to continue this newspaper as so many people have volunteered as writers, photographers, and artists in addition to providing financial support. Many local businesses have purchased ads to help defray our expenses. Rally Day support continues to help with money raised through the Silent Auction which has been held every year since its inception. All these efforts let us know that you want us to keep going.

—Sylvia Tosi is former Town Clerk/Treasurer and longtime Signpost contributor





11:15–12:00 Home-Grown Parade Fire trucks, tractors, vintage cars, bicycles, unicycles, stilts, farm animals (no dogs). Join in or cheer on friends, family, and our Citizen of the Year!

12:00–2:00 Fire Department Barbecue Lunch Tickets may be purchased by contacting any member of the East Montpelier Fire Department or by calling fire fighter Jim Carrien at 272-4764. Tickets will also be on sale at Rally Day.

12:00–'til they're gone Third Annual Cookie Contest Dessert Democracy, you be the judge! To enter your cookies, call Abby Bruce at 223-3354.

1:00–2:00 Old-Fashioned Field Games New this year: Sack race, 3-legged race, water balloon toss and more. Great fun! If you're not in it, you gotta see it!

2:00–3:00 Memory Hour "When We Were Children at Play." Bring your favorite old toys and memories to share.

2:00–3:00 Neighborhood Volleyball A fun and friendly volleyball competition among neighborhood groups. Earn bragging rights and stories to tell at your potluck.

3:00–4:00 Bike Rides with Carl Etnier Bring your bike, helmet, and water bottle.

3:00–4:00 Nature Walk with Nona Estrin Bring your feet.

4:45–6:30 Dinner All-You-Can-Eat Turkey and Ham Dinner at the Crossroads Christian Church (on Fassett Rd) to benefit an orphanage in Guatemala. Take-out also available. Call Matt Curtis at 223-7403 for tickets and info. A limited number of tickets will be on sale at Rally Day.

7:00–9:00 VARIETY SHOW Back by popular demand, this is an extravaganza not to be missed! To participate, call Colin McCaffrey, 454-1007.

Throughout the day:

Signpost Silent Auction (9:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.) Bid all day; Pick-up and pay during and after the evening Variety Show. To donate items, contact Barbara Brown, 223-2842.

Perennial Plants Exchange Bring some; take some! For info call Carol Rose, 229-2949.

Marketplace & Local Displays Local handmade or home-grown products and hometown businesses or civic organizations. For info, call Bill Jordan at 223-3793.

Cozy Corner Cafe A place to sit inside the school gym and enjoy tea, board games, conversation. Occasional acoustic music will be performed.

There's something for everyone to enjoy at Rally Day, so come spend a few hours with your friends and neighbors. Check in your TAX BILL ENVELOPE for the complete Rally Day flyer. For general information, call Bill Merrylees at 223-4951. To volunteer for an hour on Rally Day, please call Abby Bruce at 223-3354



GOOD-BYE HILARI

East Montpelier's Hilari Farrington submitted her final *Signpost* contribution for this issue as she completed more than eight years as library director at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library (KHL) on July 31. During her tenure, Farrington oversaw enormous growth at KHL—making it the second (to Burlington's) busiest library in the state—as well as the completion of the computerized catalog. She feels that the use of technology has enabled KHL to give "big-city" services to its thousands of patrons making accessible information resources from anywhere in the world. Her goal was always to make KHL a comfortable and productive environment for Central Vermonters, and judging from the comments in her "good-bye" book, she was most successful, and she will be greatly missed.

editor, and one of about 10,000 employees working for a biotechnology company called Life Technologies. Life Tech is the product of a long series of acquisitions and mergers; there are 19 sites in the U.S. and another 40+ worldwide, with about 10,000 employees, but... I'm pretty sure that I'm the only one in Vermont.

When my family and I were making the decision to move home to the Northeast, we were looking for a rural but progressive lifestyle, and a culture favorable for raising healthy, happy children. My husband, Joe Buley, has strong connections in Vermont; both his parents were raised here, and he spent a few weeks of many summers with his grandparents—fishing, swimming, chopping wood, and picking berries. Joe had no trouble getting a job offer as a chef instructor at NECI, but my work prospects were pretty bleak. My experience and training are in molecular biology, a field that I find more fascinating with every new breakthrough. So, I pitched a proposal to bring my biotech job with me from Austin, TX, to our new home in Montpelier (we rented a house for several months before finding our place in E. Montpelier.). My request definitely tested the limits of just how progressive my self-described “dynamic and forward-thinking” biotech start-up really was, but luckily the VP of Marketing put his money where his rhetoric was, and coughed up a new laser printer and company credit card for my future home office. In the 10 years since our migration to central Vermont, my company has been through two tumultuous acquisitions, so my home office is one of the few stable things in my work life.

For me and my family, high-speed internet access is access to a job in my field—one that is probably more lucrative than I could find locally. It also brings some of the advantages of big city living here to the hinterlands—albeit sometimes by UPS.



—Lori Martin (Buley) lives on Screamin Ridge Farm (Dillon Rd) with her husband and three daughters



FAIRMONT FARM: NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DAIRY

We all enjoy the traditional pastoral landscape of Vermont, especially active farmland with grazing cattle. Have you found yourself thinking, “at least some things haven't changed over time.” But, in fact, it may be only the visual scene that looks familiar. The business of running a dairy farm is quite different from years ago and utilizes technology every bit as much as other contemporary businesses.

Richard Hall, President of Fairmont Farms, Inc. (FFI), gave me an overview of the ways technology is used on his farms. Hall grew up on the family farm, and he's the first to admit that while the end product is similar, how it's produced and managed is quite different from the way his father did business. He talked to me about three areas: cattle, crops, and finances.

Cattle

No longer does a farmer breed his cows and hope for the best as s/he waits for the cows to begin lactating. Long-term cattle breeding studies have succeeded in determining the links between genes and many traits important for dairy operations, such as milk production, breeding strength, udder size, feet and legs, etc. So when FFI orders semen for artificial insemination, it can request specific traits. New animals are genotyped (genes are analyzed) at two months of age, allowing Hall and his colleagues to have a very good idea of the potential of each of their animals. Now, in addition to milking cows, FFI sells highly desirable bulls for stud, and they are also moving toward using their high-producing cows to produce eggs (through superovulation) for sale. The Holstein Association keeps a database with information on animals nationally and internationally, allowing buyers and sellers of specific animals, sperm, and eggs to find each other. Hall noted how much easier it is to transport semen and eggs than live animals.

The feeding of FFI's cattle is managed by the Digistar computerized feed program and overseen weekly by a nutritionist who tests the farms' silage, forage, and other feeds. The attention to detail, managed by computer, assures that rations are regular and consistent, and meet the specific needs of the animals.

Crops

Like most farms, FFI raises much of the feed for their animals, so the East Montpelier farmers make sure they are up to date on the latest developments in feed technology. A good portion of FFI's corn is genetically modified to be resistant to the herbicide Roundup. Hall explains that most herbicides are soil-based—accumulating in the soil, which may lead to concerns about the effect on water quality. In contrast, Roundup works by attacking weed plants directly through their roots. According to Hall, planting Roundup-resistant corn is safer for local water supplies, resulting in far less use of very strong chemicals.

And did you know that global positioning (GPS) is in regular use at FFI? A GPS unit mounted on farm equipment is connected to a video screen in the cab that aids the driver in spreading fertilizer and planting seed in optimal, consistent, and regular patterns. Hall says they may eventually connect the GPS to the steering mechanism, leading me to wonder if the next step would be robot drivers.

In addition, the use of GPS will allow FFI to use more cover crops and till less acreage, leading to healthier, less compacted, and more productive soil. Another possibility for the future is spreading based on automatic soil sampling to control the amount of fertilizers spread on specific areas as needed.

Finances

Managing the business side of the farm, too, benefits greatly from technology. For years Hall has kept a close eye on commodities prices to lock in grain prices in the fall—much like many of us do with oil or propane for heating. This approach creates certainty about some large expenses resulting in better overall financial management. In more recent years, farmers are able to lock in revenue numbers also by trading in milk futures. Hall admits that this takes so much time and attention in front of a computer screen that he often has to decide whether he can spare the time. He also notes that the ups and downs of the markets can be pretty nerve-racking.

The use of computers provides FFI with daily information on inventory, milk production, and feed costs so they can easily see how much each gallon of milk costs. In response to my question about whether all the data entry is very time-consuming and onerous, Hall says that much of the information has always been tracked—on scraps of paper that were often illegible and easily lost. Having everything computerized creates a consistent, readable record and, of course, the computer does all those calculations!

With farms in East Montpelier and Craftsbury, all FFI staff members heavily utilize cell phones, CBs, and the herd manager is rarely seen without his laptop as he visits both farms.

Hall mentioned that an unnamed former principal in FFI—a generation older—sometimes rolls his eyes at all the changes at the farm, saying he's glad he doesn't have to deal

with it all. Hall, on the other hand, clearly embraces each technical advance that helps him better run his business.

—*Edie Miller lives on Murray Road with her husband and a few well-used computers*

NEWS FROM EM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ambulance Update: On July 1st, 2009, EMFD took over ambulance services for East Montpelier and Calais. We are proud to say this service is up and running very smoothly. As with any business we will continue to evaluate and look at ways to become more efficient and effective as time goes on. One of the major goals in the near future is to find temporary housing for the operations of this unit. If you have an interest in becoming part of this service, please contact Chief Audy or Deputy Chief Rolland.

Emergency Services Building Update: As many are aware we are not yet in the construction mode. The proposed site owned by Washington Electric Co-op (WEC) has been abandoned. From the beginning, the site was extremely compact and will be even smaller when the new intersection is done. Other major factors were the need to raise the site approximately five feet to match new road elevation, environmental concerns, and the cost of investigation and testing. The site being pursued at this time is one that was looked at by the original committee five years ago. This is the Hasland property, a +/- 15 acre parcel located parallel to US Route 2 in the village. The entrance to this property is off US Route 2 between the old Laperle property and Buy Right Auto. The proposed site of one and one-half acres is currently being designed and surveyed. This site offers some very positive options that were not available at the WEC site, such as a larger site, on-site sewage disposal, more parking, and it is still in the village setting.

We will need to go back before the voters for change of location only. It is EXTREMELY important to understand this will not be to change the project cost and/or intended use. The team that is in place is very committed to seeing this through. We want everyone to understand that we are working very hard to locate and construct a facility that will be in line with the town's future visions and needs. We are working with the same footprint that was proposed at the WEC site with some minor changes to the interior of the building.

In closing I would like to thank the boards and the team that has worked so hard to keep this on track. You will be hearing from us via mailings in the very near future with regard to a special town meeting to change the location. The current schedule looks like we could be starting construction in early November of this year with completion in late spring of 2010. We have much to do between now and then and are very much looking forward to the day we have a building to support our operations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns at 223-7899.

—*John Audy, Chief, EMFD*

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

2009 TOWN-WIDE REAPPRAISAL—SOME FACTS

East Montpelier recently underwent a state mandated, town-wide reappraisal. For the first time since 1995 most properties (97%) were inspected, measured, and reassessed by the Vermont Appraisal Company in an effort to assure that all properties are valued equitably across town. The goal of this reappraisal was to determine fair market value based on real estate sales in East Montpelier over the past three years, ending on April 1, 2009. This should bring East Montpelier's property values up to between 95% and 100% of the statewide Common Level of Appraisal or CLA.

Overall, before grievances, the average increase of the new appraisal grand list was 84.4% above the previous value; about half the properties came in above, and half below, that average.

The listers encouraged property owners to come in to discuss their new values and the method used to calculate them. At least 109 property owners scheduled informal meetings during the two weeks immediately after July 10th when the town-wide reassessment values were mailed. Many others dropped in (and continue to do so) to gain understanding about their new values. Most people agreed that this new method was fair; that the computerized and systematic approach used to recalculate property values was equitable and will continue to serve the town into the future. Following these informational sessions, listers made at least 50 changes of assessment based on errors caught in the process.

About 100 property values were grieved. While most values were lowered as errors were corrected, some values stayed the same, and others were increased when omissions were corrected as a result of the grievance process. After grievances, the average increase of property values was 84.2%.

The new grand list is \$299,722,200, up from last year's \$162,688,065.

—East Montpelier Listers

ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The East Montpelier Selectboard is seeking East Montpelier Citizens to serve on the new Advisory Budget Committee. This committee will review town budgets. This will assist the Selectboard in preparing the next FY2011 Budget and in addition provide the Town with effective budgeting. Interested citizens should have a strong financial background. Should you desire to be on this committee, contact Town Administrator Craig Kleman by phone: 802-223-3313, ext. 204, or email: eastmontadmin@comcast.net.



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With A Better Plant.

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East Montpelier, Vermont 05651



TOWN WEATHERVANE

MILESTONES

Births

- Abbagail Marie Hurley-Bresette, daughter born on May 31, 2009 to Ashley Rosaland Sage Bresette & David William Hurley

Civil Union

- Margaret Louise Bardossi and Mary Beth Alderman, April 3, 2009

Marriages

- Donald Murchison MacLean and Wilemena Sharon Hall, May 14, 2009
- Barney Sharpe Sandoval and Erika Sarah Devincenzi, May 31, 2009
- Brent Joseph Kievit-Kylar and Sara Lynn Stridsberg, June 27, 2009
- Philip Joseph Davidian and Willa Ruth Darley Chapin, July 11, 2009

Deaths:

- Clyde Otho Holt, died June 20, 2009. Spouse of Evelyn M. Holt and father of Charles Holt.
- Lawrence E. Reed Jr. died July 2, 2009. Son of Cynthia & Lawrence E. Reed Sr.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Robert McDonald to Karen K. & Frederick A. Pallas, mobile home Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Durward & Linda Lamb to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.05 acres, US2, village.
- Jason Lawrence DBA Jason's Electronics to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.02 acres, US2, village.
- Joy Madrona to Shellie R. Suan, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Town of East Montpelier to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 6,360 sq. ft., Town Highways 25 & 39 and US2 and VT14.
- Peter Duhamel to Robert Phillips, 44.02 acres, Elisha Smith Rd.
- Ross Nadeau to Ross Nadeau & Wendy Cagwin, Trustees, 7 acres, Center Rd.
- Billie Lynn Corrette to Weston's Mobile Home Park, LLC, moved to Town of Berlin
- Rita Buglass & Elyse Hubacker to Rita Gluck & Elyse Gluck, 1.4 acres & dwelling, Lylehaven Rd.
- The Grundy Living Trust to David & Darlene Grundy, 14.9 acres & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- David & Darlene Grundy to Grundy Home Trust, 14.9 acres & dwelling, Clark Rd.
- William & Virginia Shannon to Joanne Dunster & Amy Cooper, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr. Pk.
- Janet P. MacLeod to Eric Ryea & Donna Smyers, 14.8 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.

- Hasland, LLC to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.073 acres, US2, village.
- David P. O'Vitt to State of VT, Agency of Transportation, 0.17 acres, Kelton Rd.
- Estate of Lorraine C. Raymond, Elizabeth Garvie, Executrix, to Victoria Hebert, mobile home, Mugford Rd.
- I. tarin chaplin to Trees-Ah Moretti Elder, 0.94 acres & seasonal dwelling, Dodge Rd.
- I. tarin chaplin to Tamara Chaplin, 0.46 acres & dwelling, Center Rd.
- Christopher J. & Kristi A. Flynn to Peter Duhamel, 0.5 acres, easment, Elisha Smith Rd.
- Armonia Cueto to Jeffrey R. & Linda S. Cueto, 116 acres & dwelling, Murray Rd.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

June 16, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to grant Conditional Use Approval for application #09-040 submitted by U-32 Jr/Sr High School to expand the middle school parking lot on its property.
- to grant Conditional Use Approval of application #09-034 submitted by East Montpelier Elementary School to install a modular classroom and a portable storage structure on its property.
- to grant Conditional Use Approval of application #09-036 submitted by Jim Grundy to install a 110-foot high, off-grid wind turbine on his property located at 1750 Clark Rd.
- to grant conditional use approval for applications #09-041 & 09-042 submitted by Donald Cote to place 11,000 cubic yards of fill on 2 lots he owns just off of US2 near Delair's Carpet Barn as amended by limiting the fill to 5,500 cubic yards total on both lots, project subject to the following condition: No fill may be placed within the mapped floodway.
- to grant authority to the Zoning Administrator to sign the FEMA Community Acknowledgement Form.

PLANNING COMMISSION

June 18, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to appoint Kim Watson Acting Chair for this meeting.
- to continue the Israel Preliminary and Final Subdivision Plat Review to Aug. 6, 2009.

SELECTBOARD

May 18, 2009

- Mary Stone from East Montpelier Trails, Inc asked the SB to sign and approve a letter drafted by EM Trails to VAST to initiate plans for trail repair on the Sparrow Farm section. By consensus the SB agreed to do so and suggested that if the responsible parties do not complete the work, they will no longer be permitted to use these trails.
- Austin Cleaves provided the board an update on the Hawkins' property that EMSLI wants to use for a senior housing development. As soon as EMSLI receives the \$30,000.00 check from Vermont Community Development, Central VT Community Land Trust will assist with this project.

Motions Approved:

- to sign the Grant Agreement for EMSLI.
- to purchase the Volvo loader and to get the 5-year extended warranty for \$4,100.00.

U-32 JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

June 3, 2009

Motions Approved:

- to accept the Fall 2009 NECAP Proposal.
- to accept the Co-Curricular Advisor Contract
- to accept the resignations of Lori Ann Wilson, Administrative Assistant and James Chartrand, Paraeducator
- to accept the appointments of Aanika Devries, 1.0 FTE Science Teacher, and Juda Abbiati, 0.1 FTE Physical Education Teacher
- to accept the board orders
- to table further discussion of front door monitor
- to accept the salaries for the non-bargaining contracted employees as discussed and within the parameters of the FY10 budget



A DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD—IS IT “RIGHT” FOR EAST MONTPELIER?

On Thursday, July 16, 2009, members of the town’s Planning Commission (PC), Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) and the town’s Zoning Administrator (ZA), along with a few interested townspeople, attended a workshop conducted by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). The session helped those present better understand what a Development Review Board (DRB) does and is responsible for and to learn more about the process involved if the Town of East Montpelier were to switch over to using a DRB.

East Montpelier has followed the PC/ZBA model since interim zoning regulations were adopted in 1968. Under this model, the PC (9 members elected by town voters for the last 25 years) prepares the town plan and proposes bylaw amendments affecting zoning and subdivision. The PC also reviews site plan and subdivision applications along with commercial change of use and signage. The ZBA (9 members appointed by the Selectboard) reviews conditional use applications and variance requests and hears appeals of ZA decisions.

If the town were to decide to switch to the PC/DRB model, the ZBA would be replaced by a DRB. The DRB (5 to 9 members appointed by Selectboard) would become the sole board in East Montpelier responsible for deciding land use matters including appeals of decisions made by the ZA. This means the DRB would review all applications (site plan, subdivision, signage, commercial change of use) and hear requests for variances. The PC (remaining as 9 elected members) would, in turn, devote its time to planning matters affecting the town (for example town plan, water/sewer planning, village center issues, capital plan and budget). The PC would continue to develop and recommend amendments to zoning or subdivision bylaws.

Under a DRB, the ZA would continue to apply the bylaws and issue permits and refer permit applications to the DRB when necessary. The ZA may also take on a greater staff role supporting the DRB. The ZA, however, may not be a member of the DRB.

Nearly 100 towns across Vermont have created a DRB. Towns near East Montpelier that have done so include Berlin, Calais, Duxbury, Fayston, Marshfield, Montpelier, Morrystown/Morrisville, and Stowe. A recent survey done by VLCT of towns using the DRB/PC model found that adoption of a DRB proved beneficial with respect to both planning and zoning matters. They noted improved public participation in town planning matters, improved permitting process, and progress made on planning “back burner” issues.

The decision to create a DRB rests with the Selectboard. Before such a decision occurs, however, it will be important for the Selectboard, the PC, and the ZBA to meet and further discuss the implications of such a change. Some issues that deserve consideration include: a DRB is likely to be busier than a ZBA (but streamlines the review process and avoids issuance of conflicting decisions); the PC risks drafting future bylaws in a vacuum (but risks can be minimized if some PC members serve also on the DRB); DRB has no party status in Act 250 hearings (but PC and Selectboard do); the movement to a DRB may be politically difficult but is procedurally simple.

At the time of this *Signpost* article, no date has been set for a joint Selectboard/PC/ZBA meeting. The PC and ZBA are hopeful that such a meeting can occur in the near future. In the meantime, persons in East Montpelier having any interest with the creation of a DRB are encouraged to contact any member of the PC, ZBA, or Selectboard.

—Rick Hopkins, PC Chair
—Richard Curtis, ZBA Chair

East Montpelier Churches

Crossroads Christian Church

Rev. Bob Walton, Pastor
Worship and Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 476-4843 & 229-9389

Lighthouse Christian Church

Sue Salameh, Pastor
Worship and Children’s Church 10 a.m.
Phone: 461-6856

Old Brick Church

Mark McEathron, Pastor
Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.
Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House

Rev. Rona Kinsley, Interim Pastor
Rev. David Connor, Assoc. Pastor
Worship & Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 229-9593

Thank you to these *Signpost* supporters

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THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

On behalf of all of us at East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) I want to extend to you all a warm welcome to the 2009–2010 school year! It has been a busy summer at school, to say the least. With hiring, cleaning, the installation of a modular building, summer programs, and lots of planning, the school has been a hub of activity.

As the new principal of your school I want to share that I am deeply honored to be joining such a wonderful community. While a brief introduction was printed in the *Signpost* in the spring of '09, here's a quick look at the recent past... I arrived from Portland, Oregon on a beautiful day in July (was it to be the one day of summer?). Not unfamiliar with wet weather as I spent my last 23 years living in the Portland area, my webbed feet landed on the ground ready to swim to work if necessary. For the last 14 years of my time in the Rose City I have been an elementary educator—10 years as a teacher and 4 as an administrator. With a family home close by in New Hampshire, I come to Vermont with great anticipations—for the seasons, the communities, the beauty of New England, and for the great value placed, by all of you, on the importance of elementary education.

As I get settled, learn about different structures for conducting the business side of schools here, and meet many new faces, my excitement grows and grows. My partner in the office is vice principal Kate Torrey. Both of us look forward to meeting all of you, and we are hopeful that EMES will always be a place of great pride for the community. Should you have any questions, comments, concerns, or if you want a tour or visit, please do not hesitate to contact the office and set up a time to stop by. Our school website will be updated in the near future, and I hope you will find it a useful source of information for the “happenings” at EMES.

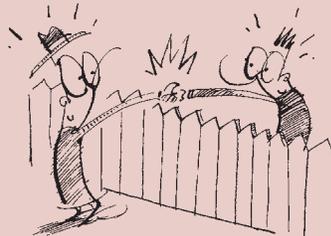
—Roddy Cooke, EMES principal

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.



PAULIE'S RECIPE

Sour Pickles in Jar—Winnie Persons

Fill jar with cucumbers. In every quart jar put:

1 tbsp. salt

2 tbsp. sugar

1 tsp. [dry] mustard

Then fill jar with boiling [cider] vinegar, and seal.

Paulie's comment.

Contrary to popular belief it is sour pickles that go with sugar-on-snow, not dill pickles.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOLHOUSE: EAST MONTPELIER LEGACY

Heating the Four Corners Schoolhouse (FCSH) has required community effort since the beginning. When the Four Corners school district was established in 1794, each scholar was required to furnish his or her share of wood— $\frac{1}{4}$ cord. In 1802, the school, with 60 students, must have had warmth to spare! Eventually this requirement was replaced with a tax on the scholars, simplifying the delivery of wood. Of course, heating with wood can also be problematic in other ways: today's schoolhouse is the third such structure on this site, the first two schoolhouses having burned to the ground.

As befitting a building erected in the 1930's, the FCSH is a “stick-built” structure—it is composed of 2 x 4 studs at 16 inch spacing, wrapped with tongue-and-groove boards, and covered with clapboards. The hollow bays between the studs remain just that today—hollow. No insulation was used at the time of construction, firewood being more plentiful than insulation in those days!

The FCSA Board has undertaken steps to modernize the building's “thermal shell.” The cost of heating the building is our single biggest expense, regardless of whether oil costs \$2 or \$4. Along with decreasing heat loss through the walls, we'd like to also tackle the moisture problems that cause the paint to peel. Last winter, we completed updating the attic insulation and air-sealing with materials obtained through the ever-generous Carlton Smith Fund and volunteer effort from Board members. Hopefully, this fall will see the foundation undergo similar work. Once additional money is raised, we will complete the last piece of the puzzle, insulating the exterior walls. To say that we've got many sticks in the fire might push the analogy a bit far...

Donations to help with the cost of improving energy efficiency will be much appreciated. They may be mailed to Four Corners School, P.O. Box 63, East Montpelier, VT 05651.

—Hobart Guion, FCSH Board of Directors

ADAMANT CO-OP INTRODUCES NEW AND IMPROVED MEMBERSHIP

This is the perfect time to join Vermont's oldest food cooperative! Whether it's the Black Fly Festival, Friday Night Cookouts, wintertime workshops, or just stopping off to pick up some supplies, East Montpelier residents make good use of their local co-op. Now, 25 years after the last revision, the Adamant Co-op has updated its membership options.

Joining the Adamant Co-op costs \$15 per household per year and provides members with benefits including a vote in the annual meeting, access to Member sales at Adamant, Hunger Mountain, and Plainfield Co-op, free dessert coupon for a Friday night cookout, free use of meeting rooms and outhouse (okay, maybe we don't usually charge for the outhouse...), free advertising for your business on the Co-op website and in-store bulletin board, free Adamant Co-op e-mail address, and free debit service.

The most important part of membership, though, is a chance to participate in creating a strong, idiosyncratic, neighborly, and fun Coop. The goal is 100 members by the Annual Meeting in October. You can pick up your form at the counter at the Adamant Co-op (while you're there, check out the building's new addition of running water) or e-mail Board member Karen Kane at karen@parisbydesign.com.

If you want to stay in the loop on Adamant Co-op happenings, sign up for the e-newsletter at: <http://www.adamantcoop.org/>

—Karen Kane, Adamant Co-op

BUTTON UP FOR WINTER

The East Montpelier Energy Committee will sponsor the second Button-Up workshop sometime in October. Last year, over 50 residents learned some simple steps toward making their homes more energy efficient. This year's program will feature a presentation by a home energy expert, testimony from local people on how they save money on their energy costs, and hands-on activity on accomplishing the suggested changes. There is no cost for the 2 hour workshop. Please contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or ddgrundy@comcast.net to make a reservation.

In addition to the Button Up workshop, the Energy Committee will be making available an hour long DVD that shows how you can make your home more energy efficient. The DVD will cost \$2.00 and can be ordered using the same contact information given above.

—Dave Grundy, Chair East Montpelier Energy Committee

IMAGES FROM COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SUMMER 2009



East Montpelier's own Michael Hoffert, kayaking the Winooski River just below Bolton Falls. He was one of nine local students who were in the Community Connections Winooski River Sojourn Camp, June 22–28. They kayaked the entire length of the Winooski in partnership with the Friends of The Winooski.

Community Connections summer programs for middle and high schoolers had an outdoor theme and included camping trips, hiking, mountain biking, and tennis.



Community Connections campers played lots of tennis and games like "pass the racquet" and "tennis fun" at tennis camp July 20–24 with tennis pro Paul Dayton. Lots of fun was had by all!

Deb Wolf, Community Connections

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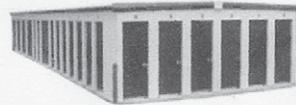
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Volume XX–Number One
 September/October 2009

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink

EVENTS

October 3 at 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Chicken Pie Lunch/ Dinner at the Old Meeting House. Call 223-6548 for more information and required reservations.

Kellogg–Hubbard Library
 September 10 at 7:00 p.m. Vermont Soldiers in the Civil War with David Book,
 September 16 at 7:00 p.m. A Conversation with author Archer Mayor
 September 17 at 7:00 p.m. Kick-off of the Third Thursdays program with Transition Town.
 September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Champlain’s Legacy: A Pilgrimage to Ste. Anne de Beupre: Celebrating the Quadricentennial with Dorothy Tod.
 September 23 at 6:30 p.m. Flow: For the Love of Water: Movie followed by discussion led by Bruce Sargent
 September 30 at 7:00 p.m. Poetry Reading with Phyllis Rachel Larrabee

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.
 Check it out: www.emsignpost.com

NOTICES

September 7, 2009 – Town offices closed in observance of Labor Day

November 16, 2009 – First installment of property taxes due to Town Treasurer by 5:00 p.m.

Deadline for Next Issue: OCTOBER 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