

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XX—Number Five

May/June 2010

Building a Humane Community

The Central Vermont Humane Society has recently taken up residence at its new location on Route 14S at the site of the old Ruby's Run. The building underwent extensive renovations and the outcome is a modern, user-friendly facility for Central Vermont's displaced animals. Executive Director Mary Taylor showed my son and me around.

After leaving the roomy reception area, we went through The Commons—a central area giving access to the various portions of the building—into the feline wing. Here, five small rooms, with full glass doors and lots of windows, house five or six cats apiece. These rooms are designed with vertical space. A series of shelves allow the cats to choose their comfort zone. Some sleep in baskets on the floor, while others settle on their shelf of choice. Soft music, piped in on a generously donated sound system, adds to the calm. Each room also has a screened-in porch awaiting the warmer weather.

An HVAC air system purifies the rooms individually, keeping the atmospheres separate. This reduces the effects of airborne germs and keeps respiratory ailments to a minimum. The

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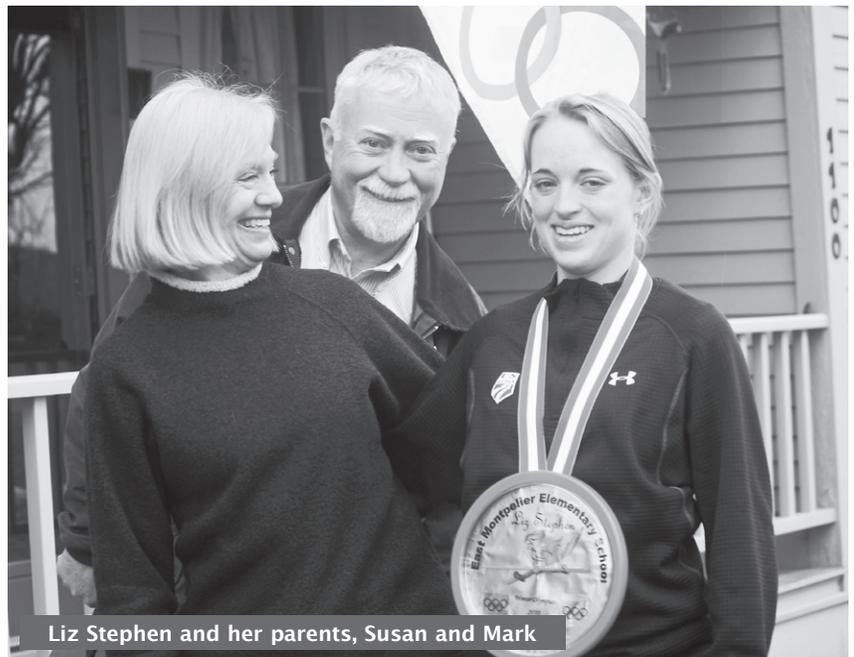
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Olympian in Our Midst: Stephen Cross-Country Skis to Vancouver



Liz Stephen and her parents, Susan and Mark

Liz Stephen was a 12-year-old kid the first time we met. My husband, Bill, and I had just moved into the Holden's grey cape on Templeton Road with our baby, Ben, and every day I walked him down the road in his baby jogger. One afternoon, a wind-flushed, friendly girl stopped her bike to say hello to Ben, explaining she lived just down the road on Lyle Young.

"You wouldn't be interested in babysitting sometime?" I asked.

To my surprise, she politely declined. She was, she said, in training. Had in fact just cycled from Lake Elmore or some other very, very distant place, over many hills that morning and would be headed back to Burke Academy on Monday, where she went to school during the week and trained to be a professional skier.

It was impossible not to see the strength, the promise, and Ben and I waved and cheered good bye, as if we'd just met Suzy Chaffee herself, as Liz sped away on her bike toward home. From there, you could say, she just

Continued on Page 4

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Signpost

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Top of the Signpost

Remember that beautiful weather we had back in March? It inspired many of us to start thinking about our gardens, and so we went to hear gardening expert Charlie Nardozi speak on "Eat Your Landscape." Charlie's presentation encouraged us to use food plants instead of ornamentals. For example, instead of planting yews or boxwood shrubs under your windows, put in blueberry bushes. They will not only give tasty fruit, but will show beautiful red-orange fall foliage.

According to Charlie's calculations, one in eight people in the US are at risk for hunger, but a 20' by 30' garden can produce more than 300 pounds of produce worth about \$600 for a cost of about \$70. On his web site newsletter, www.garden.org/ediblelandscaping, Charlie writes:

"It's almost predictable: when economic times are hard, people head to the garden. It happened in the early twentieth century with Liberty Gardens, in the 1940s with Victory Gardens, and in the 1970s with the back to the land movement. Similarly, with current concerns about food safety, global warming, carbon footprints and pollution, along with a desire to build a link to the Earth and our own neighborhoods, food gardening has become a simple and tasty solution."

There are lots of resources available to us here in East Montpelier for first-time gardeners or for old pros who want to try something new. One of the best ways I know is to stop and talk to someone working in a garden you admire. Look around. Some of the most interesting gardens may be in pots on the porch or those blueberry hedges under the window.

—Sue Clayton lives with her husband Put on Horn of the Moon Road

East Montpelier Green Up Day & Free Volunteer Lunch: Saturday May 1, 2010

Look around and you'll see that our roadside landscape needs a little spring cleaning. Join your East Montpelier neighbors—rain or shine—on Saturday May 1 to clean up our roadsides and public lands throughout town. After and during your Green Up work, join your fellow volunteers at a rewarding lunch in the school cafeteria courtesy of the Jean Cate Community Fund Committee.

Here's what to do:

- Pick up strong, plastic Green Up disposal bags at the elementary school, the East Montpelier Town Office, Dudley's Store, or the Riverbend Store, but if you don't have time, any bag or box will do.
- Choose a roadside area to clean up. Green Up Coordinator Paul Erlbaum welcomes knowing what area you'll work on, or ask him for suggestions at 223-3177 or garmlicmountain@gmail.com.
- Contact a "Green Up Buddy" and work together.
- Separate out recyclables and empty liquids.
- Bring collected trash to EMES ONLY between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you find items too large to pick up, drag to a visible place on the roadside and let folks at EMES know.

Volunteers are needed to make cookies for the community lunch. Call Deb Fillion at 229-1320.

For disposal of hazardous wastes, see article on page 6.

—Paul Erlbaum lives with his wife Rachael Grossman on Brazier Road



Mary Taylor, director of CVHS

feline wing has its own wash area for bedding, bowls, and litter boxes. Mary was beaming as she showed us these features, commenting on the overwhelming change from the previous location.

The dog kennels are off the Commons as well. Sixteen kennels line the wall of a long hall. They intentionally don't face each other as that has a tendency to drive dogs crazy. There are individual runs with doors that open with a pulley system from the central aisle. The heated floors are made of a hard epoxy that is attractive as well as practical. A wash room, again off the Commons, has a tub for bathing, commercial washers, large sinks to wash bowls, and numerous food bins.

Two major philosophies pervade throughout, one being the comfort, health, and safety of the animals. This new facility is designed to give the animals as smooth a transition as possible. There is an intake room separated from the main area. Here animals are screened for health and given a chance to settle into their situation. There is even a tiny room with a separate entrance for police or animal control personnel to leave stray animals at night. All the animals are vaccinated, wormed, and spayed or neutered if required. Please note that these services cost the CVHS far more than the adoption fees.

Another philosophy of the CVHS is to see that the animals, dogs in particular, are as well-mannered and well-matched to their new homes as possible. In the basement, there is a large, matted area specifically for training and exercising. Staff members assess the training levels and personalities of the dogs.

Volunteers then help with exercising them. Mary explained that all the programs, ongoing and upcoming, are designed to educate people and dogs alike: training classes, behavioral classes, training with guide animals, outreach programs in schools, volunteer training, and more. She was emphatic throughout our tour that the CVHS wants to be not just a rescue center, but a place of resources as well. Studies have shown that when a shelter moves and/or remodels, both the number of animals and the number of visitors increases dramatically. Already the place is abuzz with people adding finishing touches, showing visitors around, doing interviews (see the *Bridge*) and more. The official Open House was April 10.

We ended our tour in the administration offices on the second floor. Like the rest of the building, this area is open, sunny, and welcoming. An office tucked in the far side contained a bouncing Jack Russell terrier waiting for her mistress. Mary made a lap and the dog hopped up, looking very pleased with herself.

Mary has been with CVHS for about a year. She lives in Canaan, NH and calls the entire area one big neighborhood. She previously was the program director of the Upper Valley Humane Society and the Monadnock Humane Society. Making the trip to East Montpelier doesn't seem to faze her a bit. Plus, she laughs, it would be too hard to relocate her 18 rescued pot-bellied pigs!

The entire tour was very informative. As with most organizations there is a lot more than meets the eye. Vermont towns are responsible for their stray animals. Last year, in very small quarters, CVHS had over 1,100 animals pass through. The society is currently serving 27 towns and, as mentioned, usage is expected to rise. Each town pays a nominal fee for the services provided, but the majority of funding comes from donations, bequests, volunteers, and adoption fees. CVHS has a capital campaign ongoing to complete purchase of the property and the renovations. Mary seems confident that the goals are attainable. A big thank you and well done to the Central Vermont Humane Society for providing these resources.

—Jessie Taylor lives on Chickering Road with her two sons

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Liz Stephens, continued from Page 1

kept going. And then some. This winter, eleven years and thousands of training and racing hours later, Liz arrived, “a cardiovascular engine,” at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, as part of the U.S. Cross-Country Ski Team.

Liz was back in town briefly this spring to spend time with her mother, Susan, a physical therapist, and her father, Mark, an attorney, and to visit neighborhood schools and the invaluable sponsors that support her hard work and vision: Onion River Sports, Onion River Nordic, Morse Farm, First in Fitness, among others. Before heading off to meet President Obama, Liz took time to talk to her local *Signpost* volunteers on assignment, including Ben, long since out of the stroller and just shy of 12 himself, and his 9-year-old sister Frances. Just weeks earlier, our kids and their classmates at East Montpelier Elementary School had been coloring posters for an all-school assembly to watch Liz Stephen’s Olympic debut; Channel 5 News was on the scene to record their cheers. Not long before, Liz had spent a morning at EMES, talking to the students about her skiing. That was a big, run-off-the-bus-shouting news day. The last few winters, Ben and Frances, and many of their friends have skied the same East Montpelier trails as Liz—the Sibley loop, Horn of the Moon, and Morse Farm. Liz Stephen is, by any standard, a local hero.

Do you train at Morse Farm? Ben asks to get us started. Just how do our small-town trails measure up to Olympic standards?

“Morse has really fun trails!” says Liz, who’s wearing a black U.S. Ski Team track suit with a forget-me-not blue scarf that matches her eyes and brushes up against her shoulder-length blond hair. She sits comfortably on a couch in her parents’ living room—a snug, light space, with a fireplace, throw rugs, old LPs, and books lining the walls; a dramatic oil painting, newly restored, depicts a hardy-looking man and his dog considering a sheep stuck deep in the snow. “Over the past few years, it’s had really good snow. I definitely train at Morse Farm.”

“When did you start cross-country skiing?” Frances asks. “Liz was three when she first skied”, says her mom, glowing in an apple red, reindeer-decorated U.S. Ski Team sweater. She describes the early alpine ski schools Liz attended at Burke Mountain with her older brother Andy. As a middle- and high-school student, Liz divided her time between Burke, where she raced alpine, and U-32, where she ran cross-country.

It was in an effort to cross-train for running, in 2003, that Liz first tried skinny skis. There was no looking back. The next year, at 16, she won the junior national championship in 5km freestyle. Three years later, Liz tied for first place in the 5k freestyle at the U.S. Nationals. But it was in 2009, at the Nordic World Championships in the Czech Republic, that Liz raced herself into the category of world’s best, placing 15th overall. “It was the first race that I proved to myself that I could ski fast,” she says. At 5’2” and 110 lbs., Liz can dead lift 220 pounds. “Pound for pound,” says her U.S. Nordic team strength coach, “she’s in there with the guys.” Her technique, say coaches, is among the best in the country. It’s predicted she’ll reach her racing prime in four to five years.

At this winter’s Olympic Games, Liz placed 52nd in her 5k freestyle race. She says she’s disappointed. “I didn’t race the way I wanted to race. That was hard. I had a big expectation that I didn’t meet.” Even so, Liz stayed focused on the road ahead. “So, I got involved in cheering, and it was really nice to have my family there. You need them more when you’re not doing your best,” she says, looking at the kids. Liz’s dad stands beaming in the doorway, his red-checked flannel shirt another bright spot. “Being part of the opening ceremonies in that huge, massive stadium, the crowd cheering,” Liz says, “I wouldn’t trade that for anything. The Olympics were the highlight of my life.” In the meantime, she’s set her sights on the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

Liz has competed all over the world—Alaska, Slovenia, France, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Finland—but, she says, “I wouldn’t want to be from anywhere else. It’s comforting to come home to a small community.” She reminisces for awhile, remembering “watching a solar eclipse with [librarian] Ellen [Knoedler], nestling in the library”; kindergarten with Mrs. O’Hare; fourth grade with Mrs. Gannon. She loves skiing the VAST trails just out the front door, an Olympic flag waving from the porch, and gives her mom a lesson at least once a year. (“She’s a really good skier!”) Last winter, she skied with her golden retriever, Charley, to Morse Farm one dark night, without a headlamp. “It was crazy,” she cracks up, “with Charley running into me!”

Susan and Mark couldn’t be happier to have Liz home for as long as she’ll stay. She’ll be hitting the road again soon enough. Liz is headed to Utah for the summer to train and take classes at Westminster College; someday, she says, she might try nursing. She’ll work part time in a coffee shop, and hopes to sneak in a backcountry ski trip to Colorado. On the side? “I love to read. I love to be around people, my family, my friends. Oh, and I love ‘Sing Star.’ I do really well, not because of my voice,” she says of the karaoke-like computer game that scores the quality of each performance, “but because I really get into it.”

—Frances & Ben Kaplan and their parents Catherine Buni & Bill Kaplan live on Cummings Road. A Morse Farm trail, Frog Run, goes past their house and they ski it every chance they get.

To read more about Liz, or to get in touch with her, check out her blog, Full Sass, at lizhstephen.blogspot.com

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
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Surviving the Work at Home Experience

Stay Informed

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



When I first moved to North Montpelier in 2005, I had an antiquated Internet connection. Remember the modem sounds negotiating for dial-up service? I feel for those of you reading this who still hear those twentieth-century high-pitched squeals. Forty-two kbits/second isn't so bad if you don't mind waiting a few seconds to move between pages of email, but try downloading photos or, heavens to Betsy, watching YouTube. You might have time to go shovel the driveway before the video downloads. Working remotely for the University of Vermont Plant Science Department was completely out of the question.

After a brief, yet satisfactory love affair with Cloud Alliance wireless Internet service, I moved to East Montpelier and began with Comcast High Speed Internet. When I first ran a speed test, I was blown away – about 140 times faster than dial-up. YouTube videos would load up faster than I could watch them. (And yes, I'm one of those eco-hippie-yogi types who doesn't own a TV, but sneaks in a few online shorts every day. Seriously, who can live without the "JK Wedding" video?)

More importantly, the increased bandwidth has allowed me to work effectively over the UVM Virtual Private Network through which I can control

various servers. Much of my work is related to building simulation models of forest ecology. These models are computationally intense (they take a long-time), and at times I need more than my laptop's meager performance to finish in reasonable time. Over the high-speed connection, I can easily access UVM's High Performance Computing Cluster (VACC) and utilize dozens, even hundreds of processors at the same time.

Beyond benefiting me personally, being able to work primarily from home reduces my green-house emissions. I do still need to drive to Burlington for occasional meetings, but that's only a couple of times per month. Less fuel, fewer emissions. That's something I can take comfort in the next time I'm catching a clip of "Funny Talking Cats".

–Chris Ellingwood is an aspiring yogi, eco-modeler and non-violent communication teacher living in the North Branch watershed.

In addition to reading the *Signpost*, there are many ways to keep up-to-date on what's happening in town. Thanks to the wonderful volunteer work of Jennifer Boyer, the *Signpost* maintains a website with current and past issues of the newsletter, calendar information, local business supporters, town resource information including key town documents, and links to most elected and appointed community groups and resources, including EM Elementary School, U-32 Middle/High School, the Kellogg Hubbard Library, as well as many others.

Some groups send out copies of agendas and/or minutes via email to anyone who wishes to be notified. Sign up with the appropriate people to stay "in the know" about East Montpelier activities.

- Contact Jennifer Boyer at vtspots@gmail.com either to add an event to the *Signpost* website calendar or to be notified when new information is available on the website.
- Contact Craig Kleman, town administrator, at 223-3313 x 204 or eastmontadmin@comcast.net to receive copies of Selectboard minutes and/or agendas.
- Contact Dina Bookmyer-Baker, zoning administrator, at 223-3313 x 205 or eastmontza@comcast.net to receive copies of Planning Commission minutes and/or agendas.
- Contact Lesley Fitch at 229-0321 x 5127 or lfitch@u32.org to receive copies of U-32 minutes and/or agendas.

Drowning in Paper?

The *Signpost* is available online! You may go to emsignpost.com at any time to read the current and back issues of the newsletter. You may use this as a secondary resource or, if you are trying to accumulate less paper in your house and save on postage for the *Signpost*, you may sign up to receive the *Signpost* electronically ONLY. Contact Ted Allen at: tedallen05602@comcast.net, and let him know.

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eastmontadmin@comcast.net

Zoning Admin: Dina Bookmyer–Baker
eastmontza@comcast.net

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

Fire Warden: Jon Boucher 223-7902

First Constable/Animal Control Officer:
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2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

Listers: Ross Hazel & Renée Carpenter
eastmontlstr@comcast.net or 223-3313 x206

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

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Seth Gardner Bruce Johnson

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Ginny Burley
Emily Goyette

Elementary School

Janice Aldrich, Chair
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Andrea Colnes
Rosie Laquerre
Trevor Lewis
Appointment pending

Hazardous Waste Collections Begin May 22

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 at one of five sites sponsored in the District.

- May 22: Barre Town Garage
- June 26: Tunbridge Transfer Station
- August 28: Hardwick Town Garage
- September 11: Bradford Town Garage
- September 25: Montpelier – Dept. of Labor parking lot, off Memorial Drive

All events are held on Saturdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please see the District's web site for directions to the collections and more information on hazardous waste including disposal fees at www.cvswwmd.org; go to the Household Hazardous Waste section under the heading INFO. CATEGORIES. Businesses must call ahead to pre-register.

–Cathy DonohueMarketing/Communications Manager, CVSWMMD

Fire Station Almost Ready



If you happen upon Chief John Audy in the next couple of weeks, don't be surprised to see a smile on his face. We are nearing the completion of the new fire station and hope to start operations there by the first week in May. The first coat of paint is up inside, and siding work has begun on the exterior. Work continues on the mechanical systems in the building, and

planning continues on furnishing the space with furniture and equipment for fire operations. You will be proud of the finished project.

We are currently under budget and thanks to the efforts of Andy Shapiro, our partner in energy efficiency for the project, we have secured a grant for the wood pellet boiler through the Clean Energy Development Fund. Andy's efforts have helped design a most efficient building, saving us future energy costs. Thanks, Andy.

We are also pleased to have employed local businesses and residents in the project. Working under the supervision of our construction manager John Connor of Connor Contracting of East Montpelier, over 52% of the subcontractors and vendors working on the project are from East Montpelier, Calais, Barre, Stowe, and Montpelier. On the design and engineering side, including architect Joel Page of East Montpelier, well over 60% of the work is being done by local residents.

The fire department is also proud to have brought a significant financial commitment to the project. Through fund raising and some generous donations, we expect to bring over \$20,000 to the construction and furnishing of the station.

We hope you will visit the new facility after we move in during May, and we will proudly give you a tour of your new building!

–Lt. Toby Talbot, EMFD

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births

- Aevalyn Orilla Quesnel, daughter born on January 8, 2010 to Sara Lynn & Christopher Michael Quesnel.
- Macy Lee Allen, daughter born on January 13, 2010 to Karen Lee & Kristopher Robert Allen.
- Gregory Matthew Clark, son born on January 24, 2010 to Amanda Ayers & Arthur Edwin Clark.
- Ember Miel Byers, son born on February 10, 2010 to Devon Kerry & Joseph Miller Byers.
- Alexander Jacob Isabelle, son born on February 23, 2010 to Angie Lynn Pratt & Stephan Isabelle.
- Tessa Linden Scott, daughter born on February 23, 2010 to Emily Catharine Urquhart-Scott & Richmond Xavier Scott.

Deaths:

- Paul Konrad Manghi, died February 3, 2010, spouse of Elaine Manghi, father of Matthew Manghi & Marie Manghi Stoufer.
- Mary Ellen Kelton, died March 14, 2010, spouse of the late Dwight Kelton; mother of Annie H. Kelton Cosinuke of Charlotte VT.

Land Transfers

- Oldcastle APG Northeast, Inc. to The Hangar Building, LLC, 3.4 acres & commercial building, VT14 S.
- The Hangar Building, LLC to Ruben Bennett, easement, VT14S.
- Robert Phillips to Alan & Toni May, 11.4 acres, VT14N-Mays Way
- Anna Mekkelsen to John & Anna Mekkelsen, 9 acres, Lesage Rd.
- Steven Colangeli & Corrine Hayes Colangeli to John H. Totman & Sarah L. Cochran, 11.9 acres & dwelling, Gidney Rd.
- Frances Donaghy to Margaret Huseby, 44 acres, life estate, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- G. M. Catlin & Susan H. Catlin to Susan Catlin Revocable Trust, Susan H. & G. M. Catlin, Trustees, 11.1 acres & dwelling, Minister Brook Rd.
- David A. & Jenette I. Pickel to Christopher Pickel, Right of Way, VT214, Mabuhay Dr.
- Eileen C. Morrison to Patricia D. Welsh, 7.17 acres & dwelling, Dillon Rd.
- Carol L. Rose & James C. Bellino to Leighton E. Dalmasse & Julie A. Vogel, 5.10 acres & dwelling, Brazier Rd.
- Dain M. Gosbee & Christina L. Gay to Christopher L. Kiper & Katharine M. Phelps, 7.42 acres & dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.

**** Official minutes of town boards are available in the Town Office.**

SELECTBOARD

February 15, 2010

Motions Passed:

- to appoint Town Administrator Craig Kleman as the town's in-house Information Technology (IT) Coordinator.
- to create the DRB as amended with six not seven alternate members from the Planning Commission.
- to approve the Cartographic Associates, Inc. (CAI) Tax Map Maintenance Contract for 2010
- to sign the Certificate of Town Roads Mileage.
- to approve the Excess Weight permits as presented.
- to authorize Rob Chickering as backup payroll reviewer on behalf of the East Montpelier Selectboard.

March 8, 2010

Motions Passed:

- to adopt the Selectboard Rules of Transaction.
 - to elect Rob Chickering chair of the Selectboard for 2010–11.
 - to elect Peter Hill vice chair.
 - to continue to hold Selectboard meetings on the first and third Mondays and following the Rules of Transaction, the Public Hearing Notices will continue to be published in the Times Argus.
 - to appoint Sandy Conti the primary Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Elliot Morse the second ACO.
 - to approve the appointments to the Development Review Board (DRB) based on a resolution passed on 2/15/10 from the current members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission.
 - to take on the additional expenditures for the 3/8/2010 Project Update as presented.
 - to move the Land Conservation CD into a 60 day account and then a 30 day account.
 - to approve the VT State Police Contract for 4/1/10 to 5/31/11.
 - to approve the Excess Permits for Lejeunesse, Pouliot and Tomco and authorize the Town Administrator to process as necessary.
- Planning Commission

January 21, 2010

Motions Passed:

- to approve a waiver for Helen Witham to provide a survey of an area to be conveyed instead of an entire parcel survey in order to make a boundary adjustment.

U-32

December 16, 2009

Motions Passed:

- to adopt Foreign Exchange Students Policy F30.
- to approve winter coaches as presented.
- to approve the resignations of Kathy Segar, Lisa Burbach and Ashley Parizo.
- to approve the administration's recommendation regarding a student discipline matter.
- to approve the board orders.

February 17, 2010

Motions Passed:

- to accept with regret the retirement of Kathy Pelletier.
- to approve the Board Orders.

March 3, 2010

Motions passed unanimously:

- Board Reorganization – Chair: Ginny Burley; Vice Chair: Mark Berry; Clerk: Emily Goyette; Meeting Time and Day: first and third Wednesdays of each month @ 6:00 p.m.; Newspaper for official posting: Times Argus; Representative and Alternate to Washington Central Executive Committee: Ginny Burley, representative and Adrienne Magida, alternate; Three members to the Washington Central Full Board: Ginny Burley, Adrienne Magida, Conrad Smith; Policy Committee: Mike Stridsberg with Mark Berry as alternate; representative to Washington Central Transportation Committee: Allen Gilbert; Truant Officer: Dan Violette; Representative to Barre Technical Center Regional Advisory Board: Ginny Burley; U-32 Board Committee Members: Finance: Allen Gilbert, Ginny Burley, Conrad Smith, and Emily Goyette; Policy: Mark Berry and Allen Gilbert; Curriculum: Adrienne Magida and Emily Goyette; Personnel: Mark Berry and Ginny Burley; Negotiations: Mark Berry and Ginny Burley; Facilities and Capital Budget: Conrad Smith and Ginny Burley; Co-Curricular: Emily Goyette and Adrienne Magida.
- to adopt the Drugs and Alcohol, Co-Curricular Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco, and Tobacco policies.

Historical Society Year in Review

East Montpelier Historical Society made a successful change this past year, determining, with the Calais Historical Society, that we could benefit from combining our programs while remaining two separate organizations. This has greatly increased our attendance. For most of the year we alternate our monthly meetings—one at the Old School House in East Calais and the next one at the Four Corners School in East Montpelier—with the November meeting a joint pot luck supper at the Old Brick Church in East Montpelier.

Dave Coburn presented an excellent March program on the Celtic Calendar, and in April we all enjoyed a potluck in East Calais with sugar-on-snow for dessert.

Good springtime reading might include East Montpelier's history, *Across the Onion*, by Ellen Hill and Marilyn Blackwell or *Forever Calais* by Weston Cate, Jr. Another local product available is Elliott Morse's DVD, "Tour of East Montpelier Cemeteries".

In other news, we will participate in the Vermont Historical Society's History Expo 2010 in Tunbridge this summer; the theme is "Back to the Land." We were happy to receive a gift of \$1,017.98 and thank the donor, the disbanded Green Mountain Fife and Drum Regiment.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Dues (\$2) are appreciated. Upcoming programs are:

- May 17: TBA in East Montpelier
- June 21: Sen. Bill Doyle and student producers of DVD, "Washington County Voices" in East Calais
- July 19: old fashioned ice cream and croquet social at EMES

For more information visit our website, www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org.

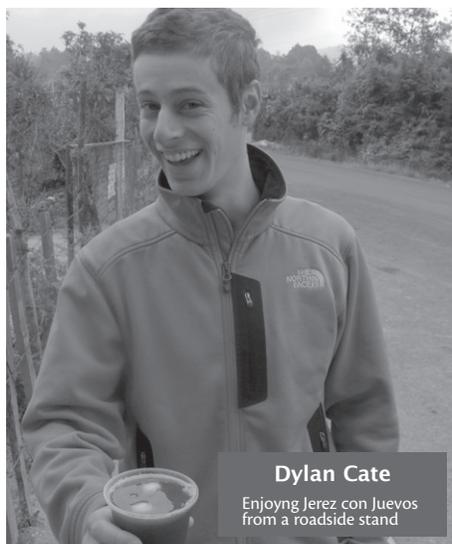
—Elliot Morse, EMHS

Traveling on Principle

Being a big advocate of environmentally-responsible travel, I decided to return from Christmas vacation in East Montpelier to my apartment in Guadalajara Mexico (where I've been living and studying since September) in the most carbon-efficient way possible: long-distance bus. More than anything, I wanted to prove that the 3,000 mile journey was possible, if not enjoyable, in a bus. I was tired of the hypocritical dissonance between my climate-change idealism and my insatiable appetite for travel (usually by plane). I wanted to prove that what I've always advocated theoretically—avoiding flying as much as possible—was practical for a long-distance trip in the real world. And, admittedly, I didn't want to back out on my roommate Andy's personal challenge to travel the 3,000 miles by bus. So off I went!

For the rest of the story, go to emsignpost.com and select Dylan's story.

Dylan Cate is a 23-year-old who grew up in East Montpelier, attended EMES and graduated in 2004 from U-32. He majored in Urban Studies at Vassar College, and is currently studying on a language-study fellowship in Guadalajara, Mexico. He'll return to Vermont this summer. You can check out his travel stories and photos from Mexico, and drop him a line on his blog, dylbeano.wordpress.com.



Dylan Cate

Enjoying Jerez con Juevos from a roadside stand

New Food Shelf in East Montpelier

The Old Brick Church has recently organized a food shelf to provide food assistance to East Montpelier residents. Located in the church at the base of Quaker Hill Road, at the intersection of Routes 2 and 14 near Dudley's Store, the food shelf is open on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The food shelf is open to all residents of East Montpelier, and all food is given away free of charge. If you have questions or would like to obtain food from the food shelf but cannot do so during regular hours, please call the church (223-1232) to make alternate arrangements. The East Montpelier Food Shelf welcomes donations of food or dollars. Here's an opportunity for East Montpelier gardeners to help your neighbors. Grow An Extra Row!

— Mark McEathron, Pastor OBC

Reduce That Footprint

The East Montpelier Energy Committee announces that those homes that were visited during the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project last year will be receiving an information packet from Efficiency Vermont about the new Home Performance with Energy Star incentives. The packet will include a \$150 rebate coupon for a full energy audit upon completion of qualifying energy improvements. This coupon is in addition to the \$250 rebate available under EV's existing program. Thus, VCEM participants can receive \$400 off the cost of an energy audit and retro work if they take advantage of the offer in 2010.

The Energy Committee continues to offer home energy visits to any East Montpelier resident or business. A trained volunteer will visit you, conduct a walk through, and give advice about how you can make your home or business more energy efficient. The Committee has a goal of making every building in East Montpelier as energy efficient as possible. Contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or at ddgrundy@comcast.net.

From the EMES Principal

Summer approaches, and we reflect on a year of great growth for both students and our school staff while we also build excitement for the many opportunities that lay ahead. Some notable upcoming changes include the hiring of replacement staff, shifts in some of our teaching roles, and examination of classroom configuration options. We regretfully say goodbye to Michele Leno and look forward to the appointment of a new school board member.

During the summer months, work on our school building will include, in addition to the normal, building-wide deep cleaning, a retrofit of the heating and ventilation system thanks to the \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (see Facilities Committee report).

I want to extend my gratitude to all of you who have extended such a warm welcome to me as I join your fabulous community. I wish everyone a most relaxing and sunny summer (hopefully, much sunnier than our last one). Please remember to contact us if you have any comments, questions, and/or concerns. Your participation and support for our work is greatly appreciated.

—Roddy Cooke, Principal EMES

Cultural Diversity Day at U-32

On Friday, May 21, U-32 will be transformed for a day into a remarkable collage of ethnicities. Representation from all around the world will be found throughout the school, and short demonstrations of foreign music, dance, and fashion are just some of the offerings that will be presented. U-32's Cultural Diversity Day (now in its third year), is currently being planned by the Cultural Links Committee—the same group who brought an Afghani film series, Films for Peace and Understanding, to the community during the month of February.

This event, with a day portion for students and an evening portion for the entire community, will be a festival ripe with appreciation, admiration, and insight into dozens of intriguing foreign cultures. From refugees to college professors, native peoples from all over the world will have a chance to join together and celebrate the unique beauty of their different worlds. Join us for an evening of song, dance, food, learning, and joy on May 21, at U-32 Atrium, 6:00 – 9:00p.m. Free admission. Ethnic foods will be available for purchase.

—Carolyn Shapiro is founder and director of Cultural Links

EMES Facilities Committee Report

Now in its third year, the East Montpelier Elementary School Facilities Committee is continuing to bring information to and gather ideas from town citizens with regard to needed repairs, renovations, and expansion to the school. After two autumn community forums, we created a "Frequently Asked Questions" brochure which was distributed at Town Meeting. You may view this brochure on the school website at www.emontpelierschool.org. Click on "Facilities Committee" from the home page, and you will find the brochure and the minutes from our bi-monthly meetings as well as the video presentation that was presented at the fall meetings.

One typical and very important question on the FAQ brochure is, "Why now, when everyone is so stressed about the economy?" The committee responds, "Many of the issues we propose to address have already been deferred for several years and the expense to correct them will only increase with continued neglect. On the upside, many construction jobs are coming in below budget right now, with contractors eager for the work."

Many citizens asked about the availability of federal stimulus money. In pursuing all avenues, the school applied for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We were fortunate to be awarded \$50,000, which EMES will use to install a Direct Digital Web Based Energy Management System. This system will create online computerized controls for the major components of the heating and ventilating systems of the school. Being able to control remotely the operational hours of these systems based on the school calendar and building occupancy will conserve energy, save costs, and reduce our carbon emissions.

The Facilities Committee is presenting two more community forums on Wednesday, May 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. At these forums, we will present phasing options and prices to address questions raised earlier. Please come to one of these forums and share your views and questions. It's very important that the community feel fully informed and involved in the decision making process.

The regular Facilities Committee meetings will continue to take place on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, in the school library, from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and get involved.

Fire District Committee Encouraged By Support

Customers of the Crystal Springs Water Company who formed an exploratory committee to investigate forming a Fire District are very encouraged by the broad-based support from the community. In response to the needs of the current owner, who seeks to retire and found no private party interested in purchasing the water system, community members have formed a committee and have volunteered their time to research all the options available. After meetings with committee members and State officials, and two public forums with water system customers, it was decided that the best opportunity is to form a Fire District.

By May, the committee will have presented a petition to the Selectboard, so this precious resource can continue to serve its customers and grow for the future of East Montpelier. We are looking forward to being on the Selectboard agenda in the very near future and encourage the community and our supporters to be present. For more information or to get involved, please visit our website www.emfiredistrict.org or contact any of the following committee members: Steve Gilman, Chair 223-0803 steve.gilman@comcast.net; Rubin Bennett 249-1101 rbennett@thatTguy.com; Bob Morey 229-0092 bmorey@cvps.com; Ed Burgess 229-6693 radgumbo2@aol.com; David O'Vitt 223-5557 dafydd@sover.net; Naomi Hatch 279-6339 campjoes@aol.com; Robert Bisson 223-6233 Ply34Bis@gmail.com.

Signpost Needs Your Ideas

The *Signpost* volunteers need your help to be sure we are writing about things that interest you. We would like your suggestions on the following:

- Local families to write about
- Local businesses to feature
- Local citizens serving in the military either currently or recently
- Young people who grew up in EM and want to update the people at home about what they've been doing
- People who use technology to do their jobs while living in EM
- Good neighbor stories (this is one major reason we all live here)
- Anything else that may be interesting to you and your neighbors

To summarize, we would like any of your ideas on how to make the *Signpost* more interesting, relevant, and useful to you.

Send all comments and ideas to Edie Miller at signposteam@comcast.net.

New Regulations and New Regulators

Acting on the recommendation of the Planning Commission (PC), the Selectboard voted in January to create a Development Review Board (DRB). The nine member DRB, which replaces the Zoning Board of Adjustment, is now the town's sole board to consider applications for development. The change enables the PC to focus its attention on planning matters and revising or amending the town's land use regulations when necessary. The Selectboard appointed the following members to the DRB: Jeff Cueto, Richard Curtis, Clifton King, Mark Lane, Stanley Pierce, William Gray Ricker, Ken Santor, Kim Watson, and Carol Welch. Each member was assigned a term between one and three years. At their organizational meeting, the DRB elected Richard Curtis chair and Kim Watson vice chair. Meetings of the DRB will take place on the first and third Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the municipal building.

During the winter, the PC completed its review of the land use regulations adopted by town voters in January 2009 and identified several sections that it felt should be modified. The proposed modifications reflect the existence of the newly established DRB and will help with implementing the town plan while helping applicants with the review process. Notable proposed changes to the regulations concern adaptive re-use of historic barns, provisions for large groundwater withdrawals, and compliance certification. The PC conducted a public hearing on the proposed changes in April. After the public hearing, the PC presented the modified regulations to the Selectboard for their consideration.

—Rick Hopkins, PC Chair

See Your Name in Lights

Here's a great opportunity to contribute to the town in a short-term spurt of effort—lead the team that organizes the very popular fall Rally Day Silent Auction.

All the kinks have been worked out of the process that produces this annual fundraiser for the *Signpost*. This is a team effort that everyone enjoys. All we need is an organizer who will take on the responsibility to see that everything runs smoothly. If you're interested, please call:

- Rhoda Chickering at 229-5005 or rhoderchick@myfairpoint.net or
- Barbara Brown at 223-2842 or bbrowntwo@aol.com.

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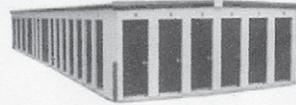
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 • Organizations in town

Volume XX–Number Five
 May/June 2010

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

EVENTS

Kellogg Hubbard Library
 In May and June, KHL will host programs and events for all ages. Visit its website at kellogghubbard.org or link to it through the *Signpost* website at emsignpost.com.

“Spring into Summer” Celebration: Sat. May 1 from 8:30 a.m. at Christ Church, Montpelier. Pie breakfast, silent auction, puppet show and workshop. By Orchard Valley Waldorf School. For info call 802-456-7400.

EMES Facilities Committee Public Forum: Wed. May 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at EMES. Explore the need for improvements to EMES.

EMES Facilities Committee Public Forum: Sat. May 8, 9 – 11 a.m. at EMES. Explore the need for improvements to EMES.

Cultural Diversity Day at U-32: Fri. May 21, 6–9 p.m. High School Atrium. Exhibits, performances, food. No admission charge.

Black Fly Festival: Sat. May 22, Adamant Village

PTNO Community End-of-the-Year Picnic: Thurs. June 3, 6 – 8 p.m. at EMES. Potluck, yard sale, cake walk, games and more!

Central Vermont Humane Society’s Walk for Animals: Sat. June 5, at the new shelter on Route 14 in East Montpelier. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Details are at www.cvhumane.com.

Volunteer trail work, Mallory Brook trail: Throughout June (except for 6/5 and 6/27).
 For more information, contact Greg Western at 802-498-0079 ext. 2

NOTICES

Green Up Day: Sat. May 1, EMES

- Drop off trash 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Lunch for volunteers, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mon. May 17 (5 p.m.): 2nd installment property tax due

Rte 2 commuter bus now running:
 See emsignpost.com for prices and schedules.

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: www.emsignpost.com
 E Montpelier announcements welcome.
 To be notified of new announcements, join the e-mail list. Look under “contacts” for Jennifer Boyer and give her your e-mail address.

It’s a great way to know what is happening in town.

Deadline for Next Issue: June 1, 2010, to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934, signpostbcp@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
	Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
	Development Review Board (DRB)	1st & 3rd Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
	U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School
	Elementary School Board (EMES)	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
	East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	Templeton Rd. Fire Station
	Recreation Board	3rd Wed	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
	Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
	East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Mon	7:00 p.m.	Town Office/East Calais
	Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners School
	East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative (EMSLI)	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
	EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	1st Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School