



EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXI—Number One

September/October 2010

Hike, Bike, and Stroll!

The following townspeople responded to the Signpost's call for sharing information on favorite places in East Montpelier to hike, bike, and stroll.

When my family first discovered the East Montpelier trails a few years ago, shortly after moving to town, it was as if a previously hidden layer of the community had suddenly been revealed to us. "Really?" There are miles and miles of beautiful and peaceful trails open to everyone right here in our town? We couldn't believe our luck. As an outdoorsy family used to driving a distance for a hike, we suddenly found great trails featuring all kinds of terrain practically outside our back door, quietly waiting for a visitor (or a family) to explore the woods beyond the trailhead.

We try to get out on the trails as much as we can now. Our feeling, like many of our neighbors I'd guess, is that by providing our young kids with regular time in their local woods, it will help teach them all kinds of valuable life lessons, including

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Rally Day 2010

New Format—New Activities—Don't Miss it!

Bill Merrylees, 2010 Rally Day Coordinator

This year's Rally Day, on September 11, will be one to remember. Activities at school begin at noon this year, so you have time to do your morning chores and still not miss anything! But if you have time, stop by the informal open house at the new village fire station from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. New activities this year include a canine agility demonstration from the Humane Society, a community walk for all ages, a huge potluck supper, storytelling by Willem Lange, and something very special—fireworks by Northstar!

Noon–3:30...Lunch & Snacks anytime—Benefits EMES food service program. Food donations and helpers needed.

Noon–6:30...Signpost Silent Auction—Bid all day to benefit our local free newsletter.

12:15–1:00...Bike Decorating for the Parade—At the Four Corners Schoolhouse.

1:00–2:00...Home Grown Parade—Join in or cheer for friends, family, and our Citizen of the Year.

All afternoon—Pick-up Volleyball & Ultimate Frisbee games.

2:00–3:30...Canine Agility—The Central Vermont Humane Society will have dogs demonstrating this exciting sport!

2:00–3:00...Veggie Decorating—For kids and the inner child in all of us! Donations of any garden surplus will be much appreciated, even those XL zucchinis!

2:00–3:00...Memory Hour—in the EMES Gym.

3:00–3:30...Water Balloon Toss — If you're not doing it, you gotta see it!

3:30–5:00...Community Walk — Everyone invited to walk any distance on a beautiful and well marked course starting right at school. Rest stops along the way. Or, pin on a number and race the entire 3.5 mile loop! There will be a StoryWalk along the first half mile for the younger set.

5:30–6:30...Community Potluck Harvest Supper — Perhaps the biggest potluck supper our town has ever seen! Dessert provided by a VT ice cream maker!

After Dinner...Local writer/storyteller Willem Lange — Come hear a few tales.

7:00–8:00...Silent Auction: Pick-Up & Pay — Don't leave without your purchase!

At full darkness (7:30 or 8:00)...Fireworks display by Northstar Fireworks.

There's something for everyone at Rally Day, so come spend a few hours with your friends and neighbors. Check your tax bill for the complete Rally Day flyer. For general information or to volunteer to help, please call Bill Merrylees or Lucy Patti at 223-4951.

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EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

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Top of the Signpost

East Montpelier Volksmarche

Lucy Patti & Bill Merrylees

Rally Day—September 11—features a new activity this year which fits perfectly with the *Signpost's* walking/biking theme. At 3:30 in the afternoon everyone in town is invited to join together and walk or run up to 3.5 miles on beautiful roads starting at the elementary school.

Noncompetitive community and club walks are popular in Europe, particularly in Germany, where they are called Volksmarches (meaning “peoples’ march”). Walkers keep track of their distance and collect pins from marches in many countries.

We would like to get a tally of how many participate on Rally Day and how many miles we cover in total; we think the numbers will be impressive. In order to do this, each participant will receive a “passport” card. There will be markers at each one-half mile along the way, and folks will stamp the passports, indicating that they’ve reached that checkpoint. At the end of the day we will announce how many walkers and runners we had and how far we travelled as a group.

Since some of us just need to go at full throttle, this course can be run as a footrace. Runners will be given race numbers and the top finishers will be recorded and posted by supertime. Runners and walkers alike will enjoy the water stops and front porch “rest areas” at several places along the way.

Younger kids will love the StoryWalk along the first portion of the course. They will find a page at a time of a fun children’s book, each laminated and mounted on

stakes at intervals along the way. Kids (and adults too) enjoy following the story so much, they forget they’re exercising!

The route is designed for all ages and abilities. If you take a look at the map, you’ll see that you may turn around at any half-mile point. Once you’ve gone one and one-half miles though, you might as well keep going forward and do the entire three and one-half mile loop! The average person can walk this distance without stopping in under an hour. Your reward will be beautiful vistas, conversations, and the satisfying feeling that comes from exercise.

Mother Teresa said, “It is impossible to walk rapidly and be unhappy.” Come join us at the Rally Day community walk, and go rapidly or as slow as you’d like. You’re guaranteed a happy time.



Hike, Bike, and Stroll *(continued from page 1)*



The O'Donnell Family

taking responsibility for and appreciating our natural surroundings, learning how to follow a trail by searching for the blue paw trail blazes, and figuring out how best to hide behind a tree in order to scare your little brother. All good lessons!

—Patrick O'Donnell

My favorite hiking spot is anywhere I can get to on foot from my house on Templeton Road, with the minimum exposure to roads. The length of the town trail that is on Templeton Road itself is about as much as I want to tolerate! —Martha Holden

The first time I wandered down an East Montpelier trail (a.k.a. The Logging Road) was shortly after we built our house on Dodge Road in 1983. We noticed the trailhead right across the road from our property and decided to venture down it. We had three young children, one of whom was in a back carrier at the time, and when we got to the spot where the woods opened up to the fields of Fairmont Farm, we stood there for several minutes and just inhaled the sight. My oldest daughter, who was just seven at the time, quietly remarked, "I feel like I'm dreaming." I think that summed up our feelings quite aptly. Here we were, in the midst of this stunningly beautiful landscape of fields framed by woods, with mountain peaks far in the distance. That day, in the early fall of the year, had the additional benefit of a clear blue sky with the reds, oranges, and yellows of the sugar maples interspersed with the pines.

I have been down that road many times since then in all of the many seasons that Vermont has to offer and each one has its own particular beauty. I am so appreciative of the fact that the trails are available to everyone and that they are places for

reflection, observation, and conversation (as well as exercise). I love being able to snowshoe and ski those trails and go for miles feeling privileged to be living in a community where such things are valued and where landowners have made it so accessible. The trail near us is well traveled by dogs and their owners alike, and it has a small parking area with large boulders blocking the entrance to motorized vehicles.

—Jamie O'Hare

We get exercise playing tennis, walking the dog, and doing garden and lawn work, but it's bicycling the hilly East Montpelier roads that gives us our real aerobic workout. We live off Towne Hill Road, so all of our rides begin and end with a hill! One of our favorite rides involves going up Bliss Road to Center Road where we turn right and continue on Center Road to Templeton. We take a left on Templeton and ride out to County Road where we turn right and a mile or so later take another right onto Haggett Road. That brings us down into Adamant. Could there be a more beautiful or welcoming hamlet in all of Vermont? We can count on conversation and a snack at the Co-op before we hop back onto our bikes for the peddle home. We usually take Sodom Pond Road in hopes of spotting some Adamant wildlife and then turn left at Sibley Road continuing past the Four Corners School and EMES before veering off onto Cherry Tree Hill Road which brings us back to Towne Hill Road.

This loop is about 15 miles and is mostly on gravel roads. The views are incredible and peddling along at a modest bicycle speed enables us to admire the homes and gardens along the way.

—Rob and Rhoda Chickering

The East Montpelier Town Forest is a little gem that I am hesitant to share with you. I selfishly want to keep it to myself, keep it a secret, but it really is your forest. The trails crisscross throughout the forest, long trails and short, offering options depending on your desire for the day.

There are pine woods, hardwoods, mosses, fungi, unusual woods plants, swamp, and an old pond. Of course, there are many varieties of critters in the woods, and we value each of them—birds, deer, skunks, porcupines, bear—so please keep your dogs on leashes if you take them with you. The Trails Committee has done a great job of keeping the trails open and marked—Janet's (MacLeod) small animal track markers will keep you from getting lost. We have also been lucky to have East Montpelier/Adamant resident Leon Harris keep much of the forest paths clear of fallen trees.

There is a magical feel to the woods while you are in there, lost from the sounds of civilization. When my now-grown son was little, he used to say that it was like the land of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Maybe it is.

—Alison Underhill

Continued on Page 4

I don't think a day goes by when I don't appreciate how lucky I am to live right next to the amazing East Montpelier trail system. At the moment, my favorite spot is about 100 yards from our house. I discovered it in early July. Fern, our dog, and I were heading out on the trail that takes us to Mallory Brook. Fern suddenly stopped and I could see her cautiously smelling something. I began praying it was neither a porcupine nor a skunk.

When I reached the spot it took me several seconds to see a fawn lying on her side, her unblinking eyes open, totally still except for the flaring of her nostrils. She was so still and so well camouflaged I doubt I would have noticed her without Fern's help. I quickly decided she was near death and headed back home with Fern at my side. I wanted to ask my husband, Mark, who's a large animal vet, to look at her and determine if she should be euthanized. He told me he is not allowed to treat "wild" animals, but that he'd give her a look. As we headed back down the path, I was holding out the slightest hope that the fawn would somehow survive whatever injury had downed her right next to the path.

Maybe you've already guessed the happy ending to my story. We're pretty sure the mom heard Fern and me on the path and told her baby to lie down and play dead. My happy conclusion is we were all in the right place, at the right time, doing just what we were supposed to be doing, and until my next adventure on the East Montpelier Trail, that's my favorite spot!

—Charlie Catlin



Charlie Catlin & Fern

East Montpelier Trails & Trail Usage

The East Montpelier Trails Committee hopes all *Signpost* readers have been able to get out and enjoy some of the many miles of its trail network that are found in town. The map of the trail network can be found on the web site at <http://emsignpost.com/Trail%20Map-2.17.08.pdf> and there are copies at the Town Office.

The Trails Committee reminds everyone that use of ATVs or other motorized vehicles is NOT allowed on any of the trails. The trails in our network were not designed for such high impact uses and, in most areas, the trail is actually on land that remains privately owned. Property owners of these lands have not allowed use by ATVs or any motorized vehicle. Please respect our trails and this prohibition. Use of ATVs on any public highway or town road (class 1, 2, or 3) is illegal according to state statute. Persons owning ATVs wanting to know of places that are legal to ride should contact the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association by calling the association at (802) 477-5075 or by visiting VASA's web site: <http://www.vtvasa.org>.

Persons noting trail maintenance needs or observing prohibited uses on any of the trails may contact any member of the East Montpelier Trails Committee. Enjoy the trails—a wonderful resource that helps to make East Montpelier such a great place to live.

Editor's Note: The following are members of the EM Trails committee. Our grateful thanks on behalf of the town for their persistence and hard work in acquiring, designing, maintaining, and expanding East Montpelier's wonderful trails.

Rick Brock, Treas. 223-7029

Sue Chickering 229-6232

Rick Hopkins 229-4375

Sue Rikken 223-4262

Mary Stone, Pres. 223-2319

Nona Estrin, Sec'y 223-7745

Patrick O'Donnell 223-3934

Jamie Shanley 223-4856

Sandy Woodbeck 229-0734

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

Contributions are always welcome. Please mail them to:
PO Box 184, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Naomi Almeleh

Maurice/Barbara Brown

Abby Bruce

EMFD's New Station: We're In!

Toby Talbot, EMFD



The department began moving in and operating out of the new fire station on May 15, 2010. We have settled in and are finishing up small details and getting used to operations in the new building. It is a pleasure for all us volunteers to have such a well-organized and efficient workspace.

The building is spectacular and has lived up to all our promises to the voters. It is an extremely "green" building. Wall insulation values are R-35 and roof insulation is R-60. The windows are triple-glazed energy savers. All our lighting is energy-efficient (and we received a credit from Efficiency Vermont for \$5,700 for all the fixtures). The pellet boiler is set for use, and we received a Clean Energy Development Fund grant of \$38,700 to help pay for it.

We are still finalizing the project cost, but early estimates indicate a total less than \$2 million. Due to the great pricing by all the contractors and countless hours of volunteer efforts, we have saved taxpayers money and have added over \$50,000 worth of upgrades to the project.

We are proud of the community room and kitchen space, which are available for use by town

residents and community groups. We have capacity for up to 30 people in a meeting and an available warming kitchen if food is to be served. So far, the Planning Commission, a village group, and the Fire District have held meetings in the room. Both selectboards had an Emergency Management training session at the station. Department member Steve Chase has made beautiful tables from trees harvested near his home. Come use the space.

We have also worked with Charlie Hoffert who planted a community garden on the land behind the fire station. He is growing fresh produce for the community food shelf. We applaud his efforts.

We are planning a major open house for Saturday, October 2—rain date Sunday, October 3. Official dedication/ "wetdown" is at 1 p.m. with open house from 2:00–5:00 p.m. In the meantime, stop by, and we will proudly show you around!

And most of all, thanks to all of you who supported us in this project. With the ambulance service, we have grown into a full-service fire department and desperately needed a new space to operate from. The new station will serve us well into the future.

You are invited, also, to visit the new station on the morning of Rally Day, September 11, 9 a.m. to noon.

Drowning in Paper?

The *Signpost* is available online. Read the current and back issues of the newsletter at emsignpost.com any time. If you are trying to accumulate less paper in your house and save on postage for the *Signpost*, sign up to receive the *Signpost* electronically ONLY. Contact Ted Allen at: tedalleno5602@comcast.net, and let him know.



RALLY DAY FIREWORKS

Northstar Fireworks owners David and Deedee Swenson are generously donating a fireworks display to our town's Rally Day celebration. We'd like to help pay some of their out-of-pocket costs.

Please send a tax-deductible contribution in any amount to:

"East Montpelier Fireworks Fund"
c/o Town Clerk
P.O. Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

— Rally Day Committee

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

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eastmonttct@comcast.net

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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:
Sandy Conti 479-3169

2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

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

Health Officer: Dave Grundy 476-4300

Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

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rchickering2009@gmail.com

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Seth Gardner Bruce Johnson

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Seth Gardner Mark Lane
Jamie Laquerre Jack Pauly
Gene Troia Kim Watson
Ken Santor Jean Vissering

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Emily Goyette

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Andrea Colnes
Rosie Laquerre
Trevor Lewis
Rubin Bennett

Paulie's Recipe Corner

Corn Relish

This recipe from Mrs. R. Wheeler was in The Community Cookbook. Sponsored by the Friendly Circle – North Montpelier

4 large onions 4 green peppers 18 ears uncooked
2 red peppers 1 head cabbage corn

Put all through food chopper

1 quart vinegar 2 tbsp. dry mustard
½ cup flour 2 tsp. salt
3 cups sugar 2 tsp. turmeric

Cook all together, then add onions, peppers, cabbage, and corn.
Simmer one-half hour in a Dutch oven.

Paulie's comment.

This is good on hot dogs, hamburgers, or as a side dish. Can be put in sterilized jars and sealed.

The George Allen Memorial Forest (aka Town Forest)

Historical Perspective

In 1915, the Vermont General Assembly authorized the expenditure of town funds to procure land for town forests. If the property totaled 40 acres or more, the state forester would offer free advice on management. At first, town forests were to be school endowment forests, but a 1917 revision in the law changed this to municipal forests. There were many advantages to such a plan: such a forest would protect the watershed, promote reforestation and other good forestry practices, as well as provide income to the town through the sale of marketable timber.

By 1951, the Legislature required towns to vote on the establishment of their town forests and every year thereafter until there was an affirmative vote.

The 1960 East Montpelier town report listed members of the newly formed Town Forest Committee: T. Raymond Clark, Lyle Young, Bradford Lane, E. Warner Shedd, Jr., and George Allen. In 1962 and 1963 the town purchased three parcels of land for \$2100, creating a 110 acre town forest. Located off Haggett Road between the County Road and Adamant, much of the land had recently been cut over, and the rest was covered with seedlings only.

Between 1967 and 1970 Boy Scouts pruned white pine and planted 1,000 red pine seedlings. In 1971, 20,334 board feet were taken out of a small portion of the forest, and the town received \$305.31 in stumpage income. Again, in 1979, the thinning process continued and the town received \$540 in stumpage. The forest was named the George Allen Memorial Forest in 1991, in honor of the many hours George spent establishing a forest management plan.

The 2010 Town Report shows \$25,985.81 in the Town Forest account. In recent years, money from the account was used to purchase a wood chipper for roadside trimming that's done periodically in town. East Montpelier's trail system is enhanced by passing through the forest. Town Forest Committee members are appointed to three-year terms by the Selectboard.

—Anne Ormsbee, EM Historical Society

Town Weathervane

MILESTONES

Births:

- Alivia Ann-Rose Hurley Bresette, daughter, born on May 24, 2010, to Ashley Rosalind, Saage Bresette, and David William Hurley.
- Emarie Noelle Brown, daughter, born on June 14, 2010, to Kimberly Sarah & Michael Anthony Brown.

Marriages:

- Brooke F. S. MacDonald and Andrew Justin Morse, married June 21, 2010.
- Matthew Ian Pelkey and Heather Joan McLane, married July 10, 2010.
- Jennifer J. Taylor and Cole V. Bliss, married July 16, 2010.
- Elyse A. C. H. Gluck and Rita Rene Gluck, married July 17, 2010.
- Sandra Elaine Deforge and Larry Linwood Holt, married July 17, 2010.
- Jordan Michael Dunkling and Krystle Lynn Garand, married July 17, 2010.

Deaths:

- Edward Valentine Zuraw, died May 27, 2010, father of John Zuraw, Roanoke VA.
- Bruce Allen Butler, died June 21, 2010, son of Allen & Maybeth Butler.
- Jann Grow Bradley, died July 7, 2010, mother of Karen Bradley.
- George Roy Andrus, died July 9, 2010, spouse of Leona Davis Graves Andrus.
- Evelyn M. Holt, died July 23, 2010, mother of Charles Holt and spouse of the late Clyde Holt.

Land Transfers:

- Robert W. Phillips to Marc Fontaine, 29.5 acres, Mays Way (off VT14N)
- Helen B. Witham to Robert & Linda Hall, 3 acres, Bliss Rd.
- Barbara C. Hull to Douglas R. & Mary T. Hull, boundary line adjustment, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Chris S. Grimard to Duffy & Krista Gardner, 7 acres and dwelling, Horn of the Moon Rd.
- Harry I. Morse Jr. to Thomas P. Morse, 27 acres, Center Rd.
- Harry I. Morse Jr. to Harry I. Morse Jr. & Elizabeth P. Morse, 116 acres, County Rd.
- John & Lisa Burbach to Naomi Almeleh, 43.2 acres & dwelling, Chickering Rd.
- The Mary Ellen Kelton Trust /The Dwight H. Kelton Trust to John F. Stone, 4.5 acres and farm buildings, Bliss Rd.
- Mary Ellen Kelton Estate to John F. Stone, 1.5 acres, Bliss Rd.
- John F. Stone to John F. Stone, combining acreage to 6 acres, Bliss Rd & Green Rd.

- Virginia E. Keefe to Virginia E. & David H. Keefe, 10.3 acres, & dwelling, Taylor Rd.
- Dennis Hawkins, Hugh M. Hawkins, & Susan W. Hawkins to Barbara & James Eniti, 3.4 acres, Old Farm Rd.
- Richard H. & Dixie S. Blake to North Country Federal Credit Union, 1.03 acres, Carleton Blvd.
- Robert W. Phillips to Norman Shawn, 5.10 acres, Mays Way (off VT14N)
- Dennis P. & Sherry S. Carver to R & J East Montpelier, LLC, 3.31 acres and commercial building, US2

SELECTBOARD

June 7, 2010

Items discussed: (For more information on these topics contact a member of the Selectboard.)

- Application for the formation of the East Montpelier Fire District No. 1 within part of the town constituting the service area of Crystal Springs Water Co.

June 21, 2010

Items discussed: Zoning issues presented by Hugh Hawkins; protocol for taking and signing Selectboard minutes; liability issues and background checks relating to Recreation Committee; Act 250 issues and the EMFD; bids for winter sand and roadside mowing bids; a tree that blocks visibility on VT14S; possible paving plans for this summer; job descriptions for highway maintenance personnel and road foreman; a contract between the town and the Dufresne Group for pre-development services to investigate the potential of the Jon Winston property as a location for the EMSLI senior housing facility; the options of carrying over a possible \$130,000 surplus budget for fiscal year 2010 or spending the money; KeVa Co, the company developing the town's website, requested a list of town businesses.

Motions Approved:

- to accept the Selectboard 2010 minutes of 4/19, 5/3, 5/17, 6/7.
- to accept the roadside mowing bid of Peter Clark.
- to allow Road Foreman Campbell to purchase a remanufactured engine for the 2005 truck to be billed after 7/1/10.
- to authorize the board chair, Rob Chickering, to sign the 2010-2011 Central VT Humane Society service agreement.
- to authorize chair to sign the ESF financing agreement.

- to accept Rob Chickering's offer to remain as chair of the Selectboard through Town Meeting 2011.
- to authorize chair to sign the Dufresne Group contract once the grant amendment is approved.
- to approve the assumption of the Stone Tax Abatement Agreement as presented.
- to authorize Selectman Welch to sign the tax refund warrant.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

June 1, 2010

Motions Approved:

- the application of Randy Demers for motor sales/service business located in the flood plain for site plan, change of use and conditional use with the following conditions: 1) hours of operation are 8am-5pm, Monday to Saturday; 2) future lighting plan to be provided to DRB for approval prior to installation; and 3) construction will meet all state and local codes.
- the application Mikeljohn Mascitti to construct a 2nd dwelling on a 10.8-acre parcel in Zone B and the Aquifer Protection Area S.

June 15, 2010

Motion Approved: application for a new accessory building and associated deck and stairs to serve as additional space at the Orchard Valley Waldorf School as a conditional use.

U-32 JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

June 2, 2010

Motions Approved:

- to table a vote to approve a transfer from the fund balance to the Capital Fund until more information is received about the new state Challenge for Change laws.
- the blanket authorization for Board Orders
- 2010-2011 Action Plan Draft
- the summer meeting schedule
- to accept with regret the resignation of Steven Colangeli.
- the appointment of Erin Galligan as Theater Arts & English Teacher and Performing Arts Director.
- Board Orders for general spending and athletic officials

Remembering Rally Day 2009



Rally Day started off with a few showers, but by mid-morning it was a perfect day for a parade! We had a great turnout for this annual day of community fun and togetherness.

Thanks to Terry Allen for the great photos!



The *Signpost* Needs You

Rob Chickering, Business Manager

For over twenty years the *Signpost* has appeared in your mailbox every other month due to the voluntary support and effort of our neighbors. Six issues a year, sent to all 1,075 East Montpelier households, cost about \$6,000. Seventy-five percent of our revenues come from the Rally Day Silent Auction and individual contributions.

Your support of the Silent Auction and your contributions are critical to the ongoing success of the *Signpost*. Come out and bid at the Silent Auction on September 11 and send donations to PO Box 184, East Montpelier 05651. We welcome comments and feedback as well.

Finances for Aug. 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010 are as follows:

- EXPENSES: Printing: \$4,591.80; Postage: \$1,301.28.
- INCOME: Advertising: \$1,380; Auction: \$2,987.50; Contributions: \$1,555; Interest: \$20.38; Subscribers: \$135.

Town Office Display

The historical window at the Town Office, managed by Conrad and Anne Ormsbee, includes old photographs of "Haying and Summer" with many pictures from 1905 through 1953. The oldest picture is of a horse and hay rake taken in 1905. Also standing at attention is a three-tined pitch fork waiting for someone to take on the job of pitching hay! You'll also find a recipe for switchel, an old-time thirst quencher to get you through a hot day of haying. Photos include picnicking, camping, swimming, and climbing Camel's Hump, all good rewards for the hard work of haying season. Take note of this interesting display next time you are in the Town Office.

East Montpelier Churches

Crossroads Christian Church

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

Lighthouse Christian Church

Sue Salameh, Pastor
Worship and Children's Church 10 AM
Phone: 461-6856

Old Brick Church

Mark McEathron, Pastor
Adult Sunday School 9 AM, Worship 10 AM
Phone: 223-1232

Old Meeting House

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

At the Elementary School

Roddy Cooke, EMES Principal

There are a number of staff changes that you will notice this fall. Arlyn Bruccoli, our new Librarian/Technology Integrationist, recently served in the same capacity with the Vermont Department of Education. Former librarian Ellen Knoedler will be teaching 5/6 grade. Kacie Cordia returns as our part-time school counselor (she was a long-term substitute last year). Alicia Lyford, former special educator in the Montpelier School District, is our new Assistant Principal. She replaces Kate Torrey who is the new principal of Waterville Elementary School. Karin Martin, replacing the retired Linda Royce, will be administrative assistant/head secretary. Karin's recent work includes over twenty years at National Life and a few with Retirement Solutions. Jillian Zeilenga will teach first grade after the retirement of Carolyn Pastore. She most recently taught first grade at the Union Elementary School. In the newly wed category are Jenn Fitch (formerly Macharg) and Nadya Santiago-Schober (formerly Womeldorff). I hope that you have the opportunity to welcome and congratulate all of them in the near future.

Last year, as the new principal, my focus was to work with staff to create a deeper sense of collaborative culture. Educational research expert Mike Schmoker notes that, "The complex work of teaching cannot be accomplished by even the most knowledgeable individuals working alone." This year, we will continue this focus as research has proven that working together is directly linked to increased student achievement. In addition, our staff will investigate innovative, research-based strategies that have been proven to meet the needs of a diverse community of learners.

With the building spruced up and ready, our doors opened on August 26 to our most important community members—the kids! Each year they enter, on that first day, with a range of emotions. Most are excited to launch into a great year, some are a bit apprehensive, full of unanswered questions such as, "What will my classroom look like?" "What will our days be like?" and, "Who is in my class?" Others show a mix of emotions—for a summer past and for the learning ahead. On behalf of all of us at school, thank you for your continued support!

Orchard Valley School— New Partnership

The Child's Garden of Orchard Valley Waldorf School (OVWS) is the latest partner with the Montpelier school district for publicly funded, pre-Kindergarten programs for eligible three- and four-year-olds. Orchard Valley Waldorf School and the Montpelier school district have secured a grant to publicly fund the 2010–11 school year at The Child's Garden. The grant will contribute up to \$2,000 toward the cost of tuition. Eligible children reside in Montpelier and will be 3 or 4 years of age on September 1, 2010.

Kellogg Hubbard Library

The KHL has interesting and exciting programs for everyone with many new offerings starting this fall. See their website for complete listings. A small sampling is as follows:

Children's department

- Story times: Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and for older children 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.
- After-School Activities start Sept. 13: Journals/Scrapbooking on Mondays, Craftacular on Tuesdays, Lego Club on Thursdays, and the Comic Club on Fridays.

For Adults

October International Series

- Peter Galbraith, Wed., Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
- What War? Testimonies of Maya Survivors, Wed., Oct 13, 7 p.m.
- China in 2025: a Country more Powerful than the USA? Wed., Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
- Terrorists and Insurgents – Wed., Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

For additional information please call (802) 223-3338 or check the link to the KHL website from the *Signpost* website: emsignpost.com.

Girls/Boyz First Wants You

Wendy Farber, Girls/Boyz First

Are you an adult who wishes you had an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a young person? Would you like to feel more connected to the young people in your community and have loads of fun while doing so? If you have a minimum of two hours a week available and the desire to act as a healthy role model for a young person, Girls/Boyz First wants you. We provide training and on-going support to help you along the way. Currently, we have a list of children who are waiting for mentors.

Girls/Boyz First Mentoring matches adult mentors with young people in central Vermont. There are both school and community based mentoring programs.

For more information about becoming a mentor:

- Check out our website at communityconnections.us (click on mentoring programs) or
- Contact Wendy Farber at 229-4798 or wlsubar@aol.com.

Planning Commission Plans

Rick Hopkins, PC Chair

The Planning Commission (PC) is scheduling meetings with representatives of community committees and boards in town with two goals in mind: to lay the groundwork for an updated Town Plan that will be completed in 2013; and to begin to develop a comprehensive capital plan that will reflect the future needs of East Montpelier. This latter approach was strongly suggested at informational meetings held this spring by the School Board with regard to upgrades at the elementary school.

The PC will meet on September 2 with land use and natural resources-related committees and on September 16 with public services-related committees. Both meetings will start at 7 p.m. in the new EMFD Fire Station. The PC will use information gathered at these meetings to develop a questionnaire to solicit input from EM townspeople. The PC met with community resources-related committees on August 19.

Town Road Projects

Work on the new intersection of Routes 2 and 14 has finally begun. Wires have been moved, and construction started on August 10.

The Selectboard has approved paving Towne Hill Road from Brazier/Gallison Hill Road to Cherry Tree Hill Road. The town received a Class 2 paving grant from the state that will pay for 80% of this work. The paving (shim and overlay) will start sometime in mid-August.

US 2 Commuter: On the Road to Success

Tawnya Kristen, Community Relations Manager

In April of 2010, the Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the new US 2 commuter service to provide connecting service between Washington and Caledonia counties. Now as summer ends and routine travels to work and school begin, many residents seem to be looking at the US 2 as a transportation option. "When we started this service, the hope was to meet the first year goal of 37 boardings per day," said Tawnya Kristen, GMTA Community Relations Manager. "Now after only 2 months of ridership, the route has already very nearly met this with a recorded 36.6 riders per day. The communities have quickly embraced this alternative and we couldn't be happier."

The US 2 offers convenient and affordable service to Twinfield School, Goddard and CCV, along with connections to Montpelier, St. J, and other GMTA commuter routes like the Link Express and Waterbury Commuter.

New Fares:

\$1/One-Way

\$.50/Discount youth/senior/disabled)

\$8/Ten-Ride Pass \$33.50/Monthly Pass

For a complete schedule and fare listing see the link on the *Signpost* website at emsignpost.com or call 802-223-7287.

Fire District Formation in Final Stages

Steve Gilman, Chair, EM Fire District Organizational Committee

The East Montpelier Selectboard has given preliminary approval for the creation of the East Montpelier Fire District #1 culminating six months of work by a volunteer group composed of current customers of the Crystal Springs Water Company. This group is working to complete the groundwork necessary to ultimately negotiate and purchase the water system from the owner who wishes to retire.

As part of this approval, the Selectboard has a 60-day window in which to define the district borders. Residents within the proposed boundaries of the fire district have been notified by the Selectboard that they will be part of the fire district. At the end of the 60-day period, on September 10, 2010, the Selectboard will finalize and record the resolution establishing the fire district.

After this date, the SB will warn the first official meeting of the fire district, which will likely be held on or around October

18, 2010. At this meeting, presided over by the SB, the legal voters of the district (not necessarily the property owners, but rather the legal voters of the town who reside within the district) will elect a prudential committee (essentially a selectboard for the district) and various other officers and adopt by-laws for the district. At this point the fire district will become a functioning municipal corporation for the purpose of providing water service to the district should it be able to negotiate a fair price to purchase the water system.

For more information, please visit the municipal building where there are maps showing the area encompassed. You may also visit the committee's website at www.emfiredistrict.org. Please contact any committee member, Selectboard member, or the Town Administrator with questions or concerns. As a community-based effort, we always welcome any and all input.

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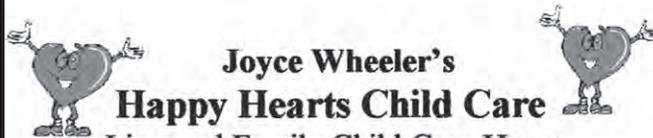


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- Up-to-date calendar listings
- *Signpost* archive
- Organizations in town

Volume XXI–Number One
 September/October 2010

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

EVENTS

Planning Commission meeting with town committees, EMFD station, Thurs., Sept. 2, 7:00 p.m.
Rally Day, EMES, Sat., Sept. 11, 12:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Planning Commission meeting with town committees, EMFD station, Thurs., Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m.
EMFD Open House for new station, Sat., Oct. 2, 1:00 p.m.–5 p.m. Rain date on Sun. Oct. 3.
Singing Together: Celebrating the Life, Music, and Messages of Pete Seeger, Sat., Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. – to get involved before or during the pageant, contact Janice Walrafen at jwalrafen@myfairpoint.net or 223-1242.

At the Kellogg Hubbard Library

Extending the Growing Season & Putting the Garden to Rest, Thurs., Sept. 16, 6:00 p.m.
Vermont Archaeology Month: Pre-Historic Pottery Vessels, Sat., Sept. 25, 1:30 p.m. Ages ten and up.
Old-Fashioned Fall Carnival, Sat., Oct. 30, 12 p.m.–2 p.m.

NOTICES

Labor Day –Town Office closed, Mon. Sept. 6
 Absentee ballots for general election available – Mon., Sept 20, Town Clerk’s Office
Last date to register for the general election – Wed., Oct. 27, Town Clerk’s Office
General election at EMES, Tues., Nov 2, polls open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Property tax (first installment) due – Mon., Nov. 15 by 5:00 p.m., Town Treasurer’s Office

WWW.EMSIGNPOST.COM

Check it out: www.emsignpost.com
 East 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: October 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	2nd Mon	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