

EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST



Volume XXI—Number Four

March/April 2011

Town Meeting Day—March 1

Voting Dates & Locations

Voter Registration: Register at the Town Office Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–noon. The last day to register to vote in the upcoming Town/School Meeting is Wed., Feb. 23, by 5 p.m.

Pre-Town Forum Breakfast and Information: Sat., Feb. 26, 7:45 a.m. at EMES. Learn how Town Meeting works; better understand the process.

Town Forum: Sat., Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m.–noon, EMES gym. This will be your only opportunity to discuss all school district and town warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted on by Australian ballot. The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report. The town articles will be discussed first, followed by the school articles.

Town Meeting Day: Tues., Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m., at EMES. The Town and School Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The School Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the Town Meeting. Babysitting will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the kindergarten room.

Australian Ballot: Tues., Mar. 1, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., at EMES.

Early or Absentee Voting: Available through Monday, February 28. Call the Town Clerk's Office at 223-3313 or go to the office to obtain ballots and vote. All ballots must be returned by 7p.m. on Mar. 1 to be counted.



How Does Town Meeting Work?



For those who are new to the Town Meeting concept or who would like to brush up on process, or who simply want to enjoy a good breakfast with friends, the Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund will sponsor a breakfast beginning at 7:45 a.m. at the elementary school prior to the Town Forum on February 26.

There will be a short presentation that will include how Town Meeting works, the difference between floor voting and Australian ballot voting, and what can be brought up under “other items eligible to be brought before the meeting.” There will be plenty of time for questions. Come for the breakfast and the information and then stay for the Forum and participate in the discussion of the issues.

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EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

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Top of the Signpost

Ginny Burley

I didn't set out to become a "public servant." Several East Montpelier folks helped me along the way. I was a mom with young children, fairly new to East Montpelier, when Jean Cate tapped me to serve on the board of the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association. She thought I would like to be more involved in the doings of the town, and she was right! Nona Estrin and Carolyn Shapiro then enlisted my help on some trail work with school children, and that led me to membership on the board of the East Montpelier Trails group.

As a parent, I was committed to the work of the public schools, and I ran for the board of U-32 when my oldest child was in seventh grade, with encouragement and tutorials from Weston Cate Jr. Sixteen years and six elections later, I am still serving on that body, the last several years as chair. Board service is educational, challenging, meaningful, frustrating, exhausting, and incredibly interesting. I've learned about education, institutions, finance, human relations, organizational systems, youth development, and leadership. While it has been under attack lately, I believe public education remains the core of a democratic society and the key to equity and access. I'm happy to be a part of the process as the educational system meets current challenges and moves into the future.

That's what public service is all about: giving people the chance to have a real and lasting impact on the systems and structures that make up our society. You don't need special expertise to find a way to serve. Bring an open mind, a willingness to listen and learn, and plenty of time, energy, and commitment, and you can make a positive difference in your community.

—Ginny Burley is one of EM's reps on the U-32 School Board and serves as Board Chair.

Join Us for Lunch on Town Meeting Day

Town Meeting potluck lunch has become a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. Join us and catch up with old friends and meet new neighbors. Here's how it works: Bring a dish to share—salad, main dish, bread, or dessert. Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. This is a true potluck. If you can't possibly bring a dish to share, \$5.00 will buy you the best lunch you'll eat all year! We haven't run out of food yet, but please be mindful of the line behind you when filling your plate. Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning. Being part of the kitchen crew is a great way to meet your neighbors or catch up with old friends. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Rachael Grossman at 223-3177.

Town Meeting 2011: Dollars and Sense

The issues at Town Meeting revolve around the amount of money to be raised and spent by the town and school to do their business. The Selectboard is asking taxpayers to raise \$1,214,222 for usual town operations up from \$1,147,484 last year. In addition, they are recommending that \$200,000 be added to the Capital Reserve Fund while withdrawing \$170,000 from that fund for repaving expenses. The School Board is seeking to adopt a budget not to exceed \$3,183,814 down from last year's request of \$3,193,881.

Check your Town Report and come discuss these issues and many others, and also meet the candidates for office at the pre-meeting forum on Saturday, February 26, and then finally at Town Meeting on March 1.

Ready to Serve in 2011: Candidates for East Montpelier Offices

Descriptions taken largely from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Resource Manual

Town and School District Moderator (1-year term: elected separately; may be one or two individuals): The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal and school meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in the conduct of business and meetings.

No candidates

Selectboard Member (one 3-year term, one 2-year term open): Selectboard members are responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the Town and are responsible for seeing that all duties, not assigned by law to any particular officer, are carried out. The Selectboard convenes Town Meetings and may enact ordinances and rules that regulate areas such as roads, traffic, waste disposal, animals, and nuisances.

Casey Northrup (3-year term): I am running for the Selectboard in order to have more involvement in my community. I have lived in East Montpelier with my wife and two children for nearly eight years. We own and operate two successful businesses on Route 2 east of the village. I trust my 11 years experience operating my own auto repair shop will help me to bring some fiscal responsibility and accountability to the town.

I desire East Montpelier to be an affordable and vibrant place to live and do business. I am also concerned about infrastructure improvements, especially high-speed Internet and cell service. In the current high-tech environment, I know that a community needs these services to be consistent and reliable in order to thrive.

As a hard-working Vermont businessman, I believe I can bring some valuable insight to the Selectboard. Thank you for considering me for the open 3-year Selectboard seat.

Carl Etnier (2-year term): East Montpelier is a vibrant town with many assets. The Selectboard has the opportunity to position us to be even stronger in the future.

The town needs to explore imaginative ways for providing essential services while keeping taxes down in these difficult economic times. Coordinating town investments is one way, as well as investing in high-payback areas, like energy efficiency for municipal buildings. Attracting and retaining strong town employees and consultants is a similarly smart investment.

I've worked to bring to East Montpelier Vermont's PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program, which allows the town to assist property owners in installing energy—efficiency and renewable energy—at no up-front cost. The program has hit snags in Washington, and I'll be monitoring the efforts in Montpelier to fix the problems, so East Montpelier property owners have access to it.

I moved to East Montpelier in 1998 (full-time in 2001). I've served as sewage officer and a member of the Selectboard's wastewater advisory committee and am currently a member of the Energy Committee. I've also been part of the Fire Department Auxiliary and assisted the Department with on-scene support.



Auditor (one 3-year term open): Town Auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all Town and Town school district officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the Town treasurer. Secondly, they are to report their findings in writing to the legal voters of the Town.

No candidates



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Candidates for East Montpelier Offices (continued)

Lister (one 3-year term open): Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. The Selectboard or Town uses this value to set a tax rate necessary to raise the money to operate the town in the next year. It is also the basis for the determination of the property wealth of the municipality for purposes of setting state education property taxes.



Renée Carpenter: In June '08 I began to assist Ross Hazel to organize files for the town-wide reappraisal. I was appointed a few months later by the Selectboard, and elected at Town Meeting. We've come a long way in the office since then.

As I've learned listing responsibilities and software to maintain the Grand List and troubleshoot issues as they come up, I've also been working with Hazel (and, more recently, Putnam Clayton) to organize office files and develop efficiencies in the various functions required to maintain the Grand List equitably throughout town. We're just starting to feel like a collaborative team.

Hazel says it takes at least five years to fully understand the job, and still complications and questions come up as state tax law and processes change and properties change over time. We have several projects underway to bring the grand list into the highest state of equity yet. It's been an interesting experience for me, and complex since each time we update files and systems, we find past errors and inconsistencies that need correction (typical, I should add, for a town with about 1,300 parcels).

I'd like at least another term to finish what I've started and to document what we've done for future listers and others to understand the process. Thank you so much for your support.

Rob Chickering: After serving seven years on the Planning Commission and just finishing a three-year term on the Selectboard, I am ready to take on a new challenge and continue to perform a useful service to East Montpelier. I enjoy being involved in town activities and making a contribution to the workings of our local government.

I am not knowledgeable about all the details of the listers' responsibilities and, if elected, am looking forward to learning exactly how these important functions are carried out. I do have some background that may be useful in the lister role. I was a lister briefly many years ago when I lived in the town of Orange. Things seemed pretty informal at that time, but the basic tasks were the same. Probably more significantly, I was a central Vermont realtor and principal real estate broker during the decade of the 1980s. This job put me in the business of counseling sellers and buyers of real estate regarding the factors that influence property values. During this time I also taught real estate courses in Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Oklahoma.



If the voters elect me to the position of lister, I promise to discharge that responsibility fairly and conscientiously.

School Director: School Directors are responsible for managing the general affairs of the school district by developing policies and hiring able administrators to assure the soundness of the physical assets as well as the educational content and methods presented in student classrooms. They are responsible for convening School District Meetings.

East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) (one 3-year term, one 2-year term open)



Rubin Bennett (3-year term): I am seeking re-election to the EMES board. Originally from Northfield, VT, I've spent the past 14 years in East Montpelier. I am actively engaged in the community and the school, teaching the perpetually-popular after school stilt-ing course for Community Connections. I serve on the Board of Directors for Central Vermont Community Action Council, and am also on the Prudential Committee for the newly-formed East Montpelier Fire District #1.

In addition to my community involvement, I own rbTechnologies, LLC. rbTech is located in the former East Montpelier Airport hangar building on Route 14 South (formerly Arthur Whitcomb). We provide computer networking support to nearly 100 business in Vermont and around the country. As a business owner, I place great value on responsible

Candidates for East Montpelier Offices (continued)

spending and efficiency throughout an organization. I'm aware of the challenges that come from a great diversity of incomes in our community and will continue to work hard to balance everyone's needs fairly.

I am the proud father of Justin Bennett, a fifth-grade student at EMES, stepfather to Calen Kirkpatrick, a third-grade student at EMES, and a new father again to Lacey Melina D'Aoust Bennett, who is four months old, learning how to drool and eat her hands, and looking forward to an excellent time at EMES several years in the future. Last, but not least, I extend my gratitude to my fiancée, Shaline for putting up with my many commitments and obligations, and to the community for your support. I welcome (and hope for) your input and feedback, and can be reached at rbennett@rbtechvt.com.



Stephen Looke (2-year term): Originally from Maine, I came to Vermont to attend Norwich University. Following my graduation in 1976 I served four years in the United States Marine Corps then returned to Vermont to pursue postgraduate work, continuing my military service in the VT Army Guard. I have worked at Norwich University for over 30 years, primarily as an athletic coach and most recently as the Transition and Academic Success Coach. My wife, Mary Ellen Simmons, is a middle school math teacher at U-32, and our son Stephen is a fifth grader at EMES.

My willingness to serve on the EMES School Board is motivated by a sense of civic responsibility instilled by my parents. I have several years of school board experience having served on the Northfield and the Washington South Supervisory Union boards. I have first-hand experience in teacher contract negotiations and in the principal and superintendent hiring process. Educational performance expectations and school funding will both be undergoing changes in the near future, and I feel compelled to participate in that process. I feel a dual responsibility to our community, both to insure that our children receive the best educational experience possible and to see that the experience remains affordable.

The *Signpost* has been notified that **Phillip Heinz** is running a write-in campaign for the 2-year term.

U-32 School (one 3-year term open)

Emily Goyette: no statement submitted

Marijke Russo: I would like to have the opportunity to serve the East Montpelier community and firmly believe that I could best do this by being part of the U-32 High School Board. In times of economic austerity, it is often the minorities, or the ones with the weakest voices who are put aside first. It is a very complex task to represent all the voices of a community; however, this is exactly what I would like to try to do: ensure the best education and support for all students.

It will take the ability to think outside of the box to safeguard the balance of the entire school community. Preparing our young people for a quickly changing future is now more important than ever. I am a creative problem solver and would bring many perspectives at the same time.

I am a mother of three school-aged children, have eighteen years of experience working in high schools both in regular education and special education, and have served for two years on a gifted and talented school committee. I have a Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from UVM and a Master of Science in Assistive Technology.



Trustee of Public Funds (one 3-year term open): The Trustee is given responsibility for managing public funds. In actuality this is an inactive position in East Montpelier and other towns. In EM the position has been commonly held by the Town Treasurer who exercises this responsibility as Treasurer.



Sylvia Tosi: Having held this position in the past, I feel it helps me to keep in touch with our voters. Assuring that information on our non-tax funds such as the Cemetery funds, Carleton Smith funds, and the Forest funds is available and accurate keeps the voter informed. Voters can vote either by Early Voter or Absentee Voting or come to Town Meeting and vote at the polls in person.

Continued on Page 7

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

Acting Zoning Admin: Gene Troia
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

Rob Chickering, Chair
rchickering2009@gmail.com

Peter Hill	Don Welch
Seth Gardner	Bruce Johnson

Planning Commission

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

Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair
rcurtis841@comcast.net

Jeff Cueto	Clifton King
Mark Lane	Stanley Pierce
Gray Ricker	Ken Santor
Kim Watson	Carol Welch

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
Trevor Lewis
Rubin Bennett

Town Weathervane

To allow space for all the Town Meeting-related information, the minutes from various public meetings and the land transfer information has been posted on our website this month. Go to www.emsignpost.com.

MILESTONES

Births

- Rowan Jacob Gardner, son, born on Nov. 24, 2010, to Krista Patricia & Duffy Jacob Gardner
- Anya Eileen Codling, daughter, born on Jan. 13, 2011, to Sheldon Codling & Danielle Huston. Granddaughter to Town Clerk, Terri Conti

Marriages

- Ronald Thomas Morris to Sharon Marie Boguzewski, Dec. 31, 2010
- Mary Elizabeth Whyte to William Herbert Mattil, Dec. 31, 2010
- Matthew Bailey Andrus to Megan Michal Taylor, Jan. 1, 2011
- Peter Dean Shattuck to Brenda Mamisango Nsambu, Jan. 4, 2011

Deaths

- Martha Gertrude Unsworth, died Nov. 6, 2010, mother of Lily A. Deforge
- Marshal Joseph Miller (aka Mike Miller), died Dec. 1, 2010, brother of Lawrence Miller of Barre & Linda L. Hall of E. Montpelier
- Agnes Viola Thibault, died Dec. 12, 2010
- Jeanne Marie Casella, died Dec. 23, 2010, mother of Robert D. Casella & companion of Charles Karpatis
- Charles G. Bell, died Dec. 25, 2010, father of Nona Bell Estrin & Delia Robinson of E. Montpelier & Charlotte Bell Samuels of Fairfax, CA
- Edward George Lane, Sr., died Jan. 11, 2011, father of Edward G. Lane Jr. of White River Jct., Allan C. Lane of Plainfield, Linda L. Lane of E. Montpelier, & Vickie A. Adams of Middlesex
- Carol Staples, died Jan. 21, 2010, sister of Cherie Staples and Molly Wingersky of E. Montpelier

The EM Planning Commission Wants Your Opinion!

East Montpelier Survey Enclosed
– Fill Out And Return!

The East Montpelier Planning Commission needs your help! We will be updating our Town Plan over the next year, and we want to know what East Montpelier residents think about the future of the Town. The Town Plan describes who we are as a community and our goals for the next five years. It provides a guide for town officials as they develop and administer zoning and subdivision bylaws as well as capital and operating budgets. The Plan is also important in the Act 250 process. The first town survey was done in 1988 with 18% of the town responding and another completed in 2001 with approximately 10% of the town responding. Help us increase our response rate and make the 2013 Town Plan reflect residents' vision for the future. Complete your town survey today. You may download additional surveys at www.emsignpost.com or pick up additional copies at the Town Office.

Please fill out and mail or drop off your completed survey to the Town Office. You can also leave it at Town Meeting in the designated box. Please return your completed survey by April 1, 2011. If you have any questions, contact a Planning Commission member; names and numbers are on the survey.

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Candidates for East Montpelier Offices (continued)

Planning Commissioner (three 3-year terms and one 2-year term open): The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current Town Plan and Zoning regulations. It makes recommendations on issues including land development, transportation, economic and social development, and historic, wetland and scenic preservation.



Scott Hess: I am running for Planning Commissioner because I am excited about what's been discussed for the development of East Montpelier. This town has a lot of potential, given the great people who live in this community, the area's natural beauty, and the fact that it is situated on a major crossroads. I'd be honored to have a role in shaping its future.

I am a relative newcomer to East Montpelier, moving here from New York in July 2009. I am a long-time business owner who recognizes the delicate balance between zoning and opportunity. I have practical experience in several industries, including organic foods, oil and metals futures, commercial real estate, and retail stores. I spent a decade serving on the Board of Directors of the New York Mercantile Exchange, where I helped steer the company on its path to public ownership.

I am currently a council member of the Hunger Mountain Co-op and a Stewardship Chair at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier.

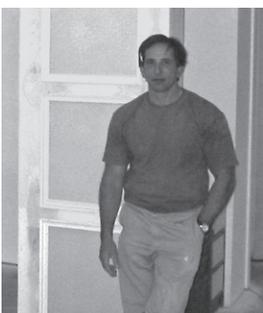


Richmond (Rick) Hopkins: I have been a resident of East Montpelier since 1992. I have been a member of the East Montpelier Planning Commission for the last nine years. During that time period, the Planning Commission has many accomplishments ranging from but not limited to: preparing two town plans (2003 and 2008); updating the town's land use and development regulations (2009); reviewing dozens of applications for development; securing grant funding; and recommending the creation of a Development Review Board. The establishment of the DRB has enabled the PC to focus its attention on a host of planning and town growth-related matters. It has been a real pleasure to have worked alongside fellow PC members and to have made such progress. It is my hope to continue to serve and be a part of the PC for the next three years. We have much work to continue and begin. I would appreciate your support on March 1, 2011.

Tom Pierce (2-year term): I am a native Vermonter and have lived here all my life. Following graduation from Norwich University, I went to work for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, retiring in 2000 after 42 ½ years. The last 13 years I was an Administrative Civil Engineer in charge of the Construction Division, and prior to that I was Chief of Contract Administration for 10 years. From 1960 to 1963 I was the Assistant District Engineer for District 8, which encompassed Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. I worked primarily with town selectboards and road commissioners on layout and construction of State Aid and Town Highway construction projects.

During my tenure as chairman of the Montpelier Recreation Board the following was accomplished: built athletic complex for Montpelier High School, including running track, football field, baseball field, softball field, and four tennis courts; built four other lighted tennis courts and five ball fields.

I have lived in East Montpelier on Deronde Road for the past 21 years and currently serve as one of the Trustees for the Old Meeting House. Since my retirement, I have had the opportunity to work with four different town planning commissions on subdivision and building projects and have gained an appreciation for the value of good thoughtful planning and zoning to preserve the desires and needs of town citizens. I hope that my statewide experience might be of some value to the Planning Commission and that I also would have the opportunity to expand my knowledge as a member of the Planning Commission.



Gene Troia: I have been a resident of East Montpelier residing on Vincent Flats Road for the past 25 years. My wife Anne and I have raised two sons and been active community members. During this time I have served on the Board of Adjustment and as the Town Zoning Administrator. I also have experience as the chair of the zoning board.

I own a small construction firm, Quaker Hill Building, specializing in energy efficient new home construction with an emphasis on using native wood species, local suppliers and craftsmen and custom woodworking, to produce our homes. Through my business I regularly have the experience of being an applicant in the permitting process. Having the insight of what our zoning laws look like from both sides of the table is important in developing wording and creating regulations that are fair to the property owner and protect the rights of all townsofolk.

Continued on Page 8

Candidates for East Montpelier Offices (continued)

Gene Troia (continued) I have been an active member of our Planning Commission for the past three years and hope to gain your vote to continue as a Commissioner in our endeavor to update the Town Plan and provide a vision for East Montpelier's future.

Cemetery Commissioner (one 5-year term open): Cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the Town's cemeteries.



Allen Ploof: I have been a resident of East Montpelier for more than 30 years and for the past eight years I have assisted Elliott Morse in maintaining the cemeteries of East Montpelier. Working under the direction of the members of the current Cemetery Commission, and with Elliott's guidance, I have gained an appreciation for the history of our town as represented in the cemeteries maintained by the town. I would like the opportunity to assist in insuring that the town cemeteries continue to be maintained in a manner that honors our former citizens and is a credit to our town.

Constables: The First and Second Constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary. East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority.

First Constable (one 1-year term open)

Sandy Conti: I have been the First Constable for the last four years and have found it interesting and challenging. Because I am the animal control officer, I receive a variety of calls and find myself in varied situations. I have even chased pigs and horses and searched for lost dogs. I average two calls a week. It takes a lot of time, but I know this is a needed service so I am willing to do it again.



Second Constable (one 1-year term open)

Paul Haynes: no statement submitted



Town Law Agent (one 1-year term open): As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier. Although statute provides that an agent to prosecute and defend suits shall be elected, no statute provides the agent with any independent authority to act.

No candidate

Town Grand Juror (one 1-year term open): As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in East Montpelier whose duties have been taken over by the State's Attorney. The grand juror is responsible for inquiring into and providing information to the proper authorities of criminal offenses that may occur in the town in which he or she has been elected.

No candidates

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Update from EMES

Roddy Cooke, Principal EMES

Budget season is here! With a tight economy, the school board has committed to presenting a very responsible budget. As in any line of work, reductions in staff are difficult as we have to consider that wonderful and highly skilled people are losing their jobs. That being said, there is no “easy” button for us to push, and our dedication to teaching and learning will continue.

You would never know by walking through the building that a couple of big renovations have been completed. The installation of a web-based DDC HVAC control system (a computer-based system that monitors and allows us to control the heating and ventilation systems throughout the school) was funded by Federal ARRA grant money (the Recovery Act) and is the backbone for future work to our heating and ventilation system. While you can't see into the walls, each room and heating unit is connected to this system, allowing us to improve air quality and regulate heat throughout the building. The individual unit heaters (dating from 1965) still need to be replaced, but the foundations for an energy-efficient building are now in place. The second big project was the replacement of the obsolete control system for the wood chip boiler that regulates the feed and burn rates for the boiler.

Next is the development of a complete list of necessary repairs and renovations that the community of East Montpelier can consider for future school investment. This estimation project was advertised and the work awarded to Truex Cullins (one of six bidding firms). They will submit a report to the board at the beginning of March. This information will serve only to provide information regarding the needed repairs and will be a stepping stone for a deeper look at the vision for our town's school.

On the academic front, our intense focus on literacy continues. This is our second year of implementing research-based teaching methods for literacy in all grades. You may hear terms such as “90 minute literacy block” and “flexible groupings” and “The Daily 5”. These terms refer to practices that research has proven to be effective for increasing student achievement in reading and writing.

As always, if you'd like more information, a building tour, or if you'd like to volunteer, please don't hesitate to call and schedule a time with us. Thank you for your continued support!



PTNO Soup Night

East Montpelier Elementary School

On Friday, March 18, from 5–7 p.m., the Parents, Teachers and Neighbors Organization (PTNO) will hold a Soup Night fundraiser at EMES. The menu will include a vegetarian and a meat soup, bread, beverages, and desserts. You may eat in or take food out. So take a break from cooking and come on over to EMES to support the work of the PTNO and enjoy some delicious homemade food and good company. Any questions, call Kim at 223-4856 or kendallka@comcast.net.

From U-32

Ginny Burley, Chair U-32 Board

At our January 5 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a budget of \$13,123,665 for the 2011–2012 year, which represents an increase of less than 1%. The next steps are in your hands. We are preparing the budget report that will be sent to all households in February. Look over the budget and the articles. We will hold our budget meeting on February 28 at U-32 at 6:00 in room 131. Board members will be there to answer questions. Please come. Representatives will also be present at most of the pre-town meetings for towns that hold such events. Attend your local meeting. At any time, you may call a board member to ask questions about the budget. Pick up the phone. A budget like ours is a big, complicated animal, and we're happy to help you wrap your head around it! Finally, the most important thing you can do about the U-32 budget is to vote on March 1, 2011, at your local polling place. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for the many ways you support U-32.



Snowmen in the Night

By Blaine Moore, Mrs. Gannon's 4th-grade class

Snowmen, snowmen, snowmen
As happy as can be,
Smiling, never changing,
Nor singing a melody,
But at night they do the opposite
That I have just told,

They prance and sing and party
In the morning cold,
When you are not looking,
Out of the blue,
Your innocent snowmen
Will make a face at you.

At the KHL

Robin Sales, KHL Librarian

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library has been “preserving yesterday, informing today, and inspiring tomorrow” since 1894. It changes and evolves, offering exciting new resources and services, along with those that have been provided for years. Come enjoy the collection of more than 78,900 books, movies, CDs, audio books, games, magazines and newspapers, use the new and improved public Internet stations, or enjoy a great program. The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is happy to serve East Montpelier, and we appreciate your support! Link to the KHL website from the *Signpost* website at www.emsignpost.com.

Cutler Library Welcomes EM Residents Too

Librarian Loona Brogan wants East Montpelier residents to be aware that they are welcome to use the Cutler Library in Plainfield without charge and to attend any of the interesting events they present, which are detailed on their website at www.cutlerlibrary.org.

East Montpelier Fire District #1

Steve Gilman, Chair, East Montpelier Fire District #1

The Fire District held its first annual meeting on January 12. Members present unanimously approved by-laws. We sincerely thank everyone who attended despite the snow storm. We have just started working on a RFP (Request For Proposals) that will be sent to engineering firms so we can ultimately select a company to evaluate the condition of the water system.

We are continuing to act as an interested party in the discussions regarding the VT145 bridge replacement, which may impact the water line that crosses the river. The Fire District believes neither the town nor the newly created Fire District bears any financial responsibility for costs related to design or construction as we do not currently operate the privately owned water system. This is a State of Vermont construction project and until such time that an agreement is reached for purchase of the water system and the Public Service Board approves the transfer, it will remain privately owned and operated by Crystal Springs Water Co. The water line in the river is out of the VTrans right-of-way, so any cost to relocate the water line for the temporary bridge should be borne by VTrans, if they need to move it to facilitate bridge construction. We are aware of some precedence regarding such an issue, in which the state assumed the cost of relocation for a similar project. This is a complex matter that we continue to monitor. Thank you to the Selectboard and the Village Committee for including us in their discussions on the topic.

As always, we welcome input from anyone interested in the work we are doing. Please visit our website www.emfiredistrict.org for more information.

What is the Future of East Montpelier Village?

Let Us Know Your Ideas at The East Village Public Forum Thursday, March 24, and Thursday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m. East Montpelier Elementary School

The East Montpelier Village Committee will sponsor two important public forums to provide an opportunity for local residents, business and property owners to explore ways in which East Village could grow and develop. East Village (on Route 2) is our Town’s primary business and cultural center and the home of many residents. In recent years there has been a lot of interest in the village with discussions of new businesses, senior housing, a new town common, public transportation, water and wastewater supply, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and many other opportunities. There are also many challenges. The Town just received a municipal planning grant that will allow us to use computer generated maps and 3-D sketches to illustrate potential growth and enhancement options for East Village. The first meeting will offer an informal opportunity to brainstorm ideas; a second will follow up on common interests to develop specific goals and working plans for the future. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact: Jean Vissering, 223-3262, jeanviss@attglobal.net or Alice Smith at AliceSmith51@comcast.net

US2 Commuter—Getting You Where You Need to Go

Tawnya Kristen, GMTA Community Relations Manager

In April of 2010, GMTA and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the new US Route 2 Commuter service, providing transportation along the Route 2 corridor between St. Johnsbury and Montpelier during peak commuting hours. The route includes stops in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, West Danville, and Danville. The service provides rides for all including individuals with disabilities and includes transfers to/from the Waterbury Commuter, Burlington Link Express, Montpelier Hospital Hill, and City Commuter routes, as well as the Jay-Lyn Shuttle. Fares are \$1/One way, .50/Discount, \$8/10 Ride Pass, \$33.50/Monthly Pass.

The US 2 commuter continues to demonstrate its success through increasing ridership numbers and rider utilization of connecting services to locations beyond Montpelier. FY11 YTD (July–December) trips per day are 41, which exceed the first-year ridership estimates of 38 trips per day, and are on pace for >10,000 annual rides!

For information on the US2 Commuter and all other GMTA services, please contact us at 802-223-7287 or go to www.gmtaride.org. Thank you for your support!

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

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 March/April 2011

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NOTICES

- Wed. Feb. 23, 5 p.m.** at town office, Last day to register to vote
- Mon. Feb 28**, Last day to obtain absentee ballot from Town Clerk
- Thurs. Apr. 1**, Last day to register dogs with up-to-date rabies
- Mon. May 16, 5 p.m.** Second property tax installment due

EVENTS

- Sat. Feb. 26, 7:45 a.m.** pre-Town Forum breakfast followed by informational session on the mechanics of Town Meeting, EMES
- Sat. Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon**, Pre-Town Meeting Forum, EMES
- Tues. Mar.1, 9:30 a.m.** School/Town Meeting Day, EMES, Australian ballot voting from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Fri. Mar. 18, 5-7 p.m.** Soup Night at EMES; eat-in or take out
- Thurs. Mar. 24, 7-9 p.m.** Forum on future of East Montpelier Village, EMES
- Thurs. Apr. 28, 7-9 p.m.** Forum, part 2, on future of East Montpelier Village, EMES

PROVISION YOUR TABLE

The East Montpelier Energy Committee, with cooperation from the Jean and Wes Cate Community Fund Committee, announces an opportunity to learn about how to raise and preserve some of your own food. Either personalized assistance or group workshops will be offered to anyone, at any level of "expertise," from the very beginner to the advanced gardener. Anyone interested is invited to contact Dave Grundy at 476-4300 or at ddgrundy@comcast.net.

Girls/Boyz First!

The Girls/Boyz First mentoring program is seeking both male and female mentors for elementary school children.

We are looking for adults who love kids, have at least 2 hours a week to give, and have the desire to be a healthy role model.

For more information, check out:
www.communityconnections.us and click on "mentoring programs" or contact **Wendy Farber** 229-4798 or wlsubarua@aol.com.

Deadline for Next Issue: April 28, 2011 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
East Montpelier Fire District #1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
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