

# EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

Volume XXIV—Number Two

March/April 2014

## Town Meeting Day Issue

### Voting Dates & Locations

#### Voter Registration

Register at the Town Office, Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–noon

The deadline for the upcoming Town/School Meeting is Wed., Feb. 26, by 5 p.m.

#### Town/School Forum

**Sat., Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m.–noon, U-32 cafeteria**

Come discuss all School and Town Warning articles, including the budget items that are to be voted by Australian ballot (town, then school articles). The candidates for offices will be introduced. Remember to bring your copy of the Town Report.

#### Town Meeting Day

**Tues., Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m., U-32 Middle/High School Auditorium,  
930 Gallison Hill Road, East Montpelier**

The Town and School District Meetings are both warned for 9:30 a.m. The Town Meeting will be recessed until the completion of the School District Meeting.

**Australian Ballot Voting:** Tues., Mar. 4, 7 a.m.–7 p.m., U-32 atrium

**Town Meeting Day Potluck:** Tues., Mar. 4, around noon, U-32 cafeteria

**Early or Absentee Voting:** Available through Mon., Mar. 3. 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 7 p.m. on Tues., Mar. 4 to be counted.



Alex Brown



Alex Brown



Alex Brown

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## EAST MONTPELIER Signpost

East Montpelier's volunteer-run newsletter

PO Box 184  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

## Top of the *Signpost*

### The Future of the *Signpost*: In Your Hands

The *Signpost* has been delivered to you free of charge six times a year for nearly 25 years. The finances were simple: we were funded by donations from townspeople, advertising, and profits from the Rally Day silent auction, and with an all-volunteer staff, our costs were limited to printing and postage.

This formula has radically changed after two years without the Rally Day auction, which supplied about half the annual *Signpost* expenses. When word got out that our town newsletter was in jeopardy, we did see an increase in donations. Thank you, townsfolk, for your steadfast support!

Even with increased donations, however, the *Signpost* is at a financial crossroads. Production costs are approximately \$9000 per year. Advertising income is about \$1800 and donations average \$2000, leaving us far short of production costs.

We could attempt to sell more advertising, get more readers to switch over to downloading a pdf from our website, and perhaps reduce the paper quality again. Unfortunately, even doing all that would not generate all the money we need to keep publishing.

For nearly a year the *Signpost* staff has been considering next steps. There are three options. The first is to cease production altogether. The second is to go 100% online, and the third is to ask the town for funding.

The timing is not right for a shift to online publication. First, there are still many people in town who do not use the Internet, and second, we would need to drastically change our web page and production processes. Finally, our 2012 survey and informal canvassing indicate that a huge majority of readers prefer the paper format received in the mail.

The current issue has been funded by the selectboard which has generously offered to include an appropriation for the *Signpost* in its budget. However, one of the hallmarks of the *Signpost* has been its independence from town government; and so we are asking townspeople, directly, to determine the future of this community newsletter.

When you go to Town Meeting this year you will see that the *Signpost* is requesting that East Montpelier support the newsletter to the tune of \$9000. That covers all current production costs, presumes donations will tail off, and allows advertising income to form a reserve for cost increases. This is a lot of money, but in return we'll have a publication that helps us all learn more about our neighbors, our town, and what is happening in our community.

The *Signpost* strives to offer an open invitation for newcomers and long-time residents to connect with each other and to make our community richer, stronger, and closer. We hope you'll vote to fund it on Town Meeting Day.

—the *Signpost* volunteers



## Food, Fun & Conversation at Town Meeting Potluck

Town Meeting Potluck Lunch is a wonderful tradition in East Montpelier. It is a great way to meet new people, say hello to neighbors, talk, laugh, and catch up with family and friends.

This year, the potluck will be held at a new venue, U-32 Middle/High School in the cafeteria. On Tuesday, March 4th, bring a dish to share with your neighbors—salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert. Label your dish vegan, vegetarian or non-vegetarian and be sure to state if it contains nuts. A gluten free label, if appropriate, would be helpful too.

Bring enough food for four times as many people as in your group. Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen in the morning. Please remember to take your dish home with you. We cannot be responsible for dishes left at the school.

If you can't 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 be mindful of the line behind you when filling your plate!

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to help with set-up, serving, and clean up—we cannot pull this off without you. **To volunteer or get information, call Sue Racanelli at 225-6032.**



Alex Brown



Alex Brown

## Town Meeting 2014: Dollars and Sense

Most of the issues at Town/School Meeting revolve around how much money will be raised and spent by the Town and School District as they do their business. The Selectboard is asking taxpayers to raise \$1,483,545 for usual town operations, down 1.6% from \$1,507,365 last year. In addition, the board is recommending that \$75,000 be added to the Capital Reserve Fund.

In the area of school expenses, the EMES Board is seeking to adopt a budget not to exceed \$4,119,588, up from last year's \$4,037,415 (both figures include bond payments)—a 2.04% year over year increase which accounts for a net tax decrease, year-over-year, of 0.13%. U-32's proposed budget is \$14,833,463, up 5.2% from the current year's \$14,101,074, which will result in a 3.93% increase in net taxes.

There are several new important local articles in this year's warning. The town will vote whether to adopt its first charter (see *Signpost* article on page 9 and Town Warning article #6); whether to adopt a conflict of interest ordinance (article #9); and whether to fund the ongoing publication and mailing of the *Signpost* (page 2 and article #12). The town will also have the opportunity to discuss whether to ask the Vermont Legislature to create a Public Bank in Vermont (see article #16).

In addition, school-meeting attendees will review, once again, a critically important piece of our governance. Do we want to continue to discuss and determine our elementary school budget on the floor of the School District Meeting or shall we vote for that budget in the voting booth by Australian ballot?

All these items deserve full, thoughtful consideration. Check your Town Report and come to discuss these issues and others and also meet the candidates for office at the pre-meeting forum on Saturday, March 1, and then finally at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 4. Both meetings will be held at U-32 Middle/High School on Gallison Hill Road.

## Thank You *Signpost* Supporters

Richard & Alice Angney  
Laura Brown  
Sandal & Paul Cate  
James Cutler  
Janet Lee & James  
Goodall  
Ormsbee Living Trust  
Catherine Rader

Richard Raubertas  
Cynthia Tomaszewicz  
Alison Underhill  
Janice & Charles  
Waterman  
Doris Washburn  
Florence Young

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# Willing to Serve: Candidates for Town Offices

*Descriptions taken largely from the VLCT Resource Manual and Vermont Law*

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**Town Moderator (one 1-year term):** *The moderator is the presiding officer of municipal meetings and shall decide questions of votes taken, except if Australian ballot is used. The moderator shall preserve order in conducting business and meetings.*

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## Michael Duane



I am running for the positions of town and school district moderator because of my interest in supporting the continuation of local government traditions.

My wife Ellen and I have lived in Vermont since the mid-1970s, and have been residents of East Montpelier for over 30 years. I believe I have attended nearly every Town Meeting over that time. Our three children were born and raised in

Vermont, and when they turned 18, one of the very first things we had them do was to go down to the East Montpelier town clerk's office and take the Freeman's Oath.

I have been interested in local government for many years, and have served as president of the Washington Electric Co-op from 1991 to 1998 during which time I presided over the monthly and annual meetings. I have also served on the town ancient roads committee, a town committee to explore the effect of land conservation on the property tax rate, and more recently on the town charter committee. I am also a member of the East Montpelier Historical Society, and was a member of the board of the Hunger Mountain Co-op from 2008 to 2011, and served as president during my final year, again presiding over the monthly and annual meetings.

I would be honored to serve as the East Montpelier town and school district moderator, and I hope my experience can be of some service to our town.

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**School District Moderator (one 1-year term):** *Same as Town Moderator in the matter of school meetings*

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**Michael Duane:** see above

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**Selectboard Member (one 3-year term, one 2-year term):** *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.*

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**Casey Northrup, 3-year term:** no statement submitted

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## Steve Sparrow, 2-year term



I have lived in East Montpelier most of my life. My earlier years were spent at the Sparrow Farm. I have been employed by Lylehaven Farm for over twenty years, and I am owner of Back Forty Beef. I have experience in financial responsibility and long-term goals. It has been my privilege to serve on the selectboard for the past two years and I would be pleased to continue to be a part of this dedicated board.

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**Lister, (one 3-year term):** *Listers are responsible for determining the value of the real and personal property in town. This is the value the selectboard or the town will use 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.*

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## Robert (Rob) Chickering



I am a candidate for a three-year term for the position of lister. I am just completing my first term in that role. I served on the planning commission for five years, as chairperson for three years, and on the selectboard for three years, chairing that body for my last two years. I also worked on the *Signpost* for 12 years in various roles.

The job of lister is quite different from planning commissioner or selectboard member.

There are very few meetings with the public as a group and little "policy making." Few votes occur among the three listers. At least 90 percent of the work is performed on a computer and involves inputting data, drawing electronic sketches, and utilizing two large databases, which compute and store all of the assessed values. It has taken me quite a long time to learn

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## Candidates for Town Offices *(continued)*

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to use this specialized software. Having that knowledge and experience will make me a more effective lister in a second term.

I also have more than a decade of experience as a real estate broker. Although the method we use as listers in property valuation is different from typical real estate sales appraisals, this background occasionally comes in handy in working with property owners and appeals.

If you have questions for me, feel free to leave a message at the listers office, and I will get back to you. I would appreciate your vote on Town Meeting Day.

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**Auditor (one 3-year term)** *Town auditors are responsible for examining and adjusting the accounts of all town and 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 East Montpelier presenting an easy-to-understand picture of the town's finances.*

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### Charlotte (Cherie) Staples



Why am I running for auditor? Well, I wasn't going to, but someone came and asked way too nicely, and I finally said okay. I've held an auditor's position off and on during the past several years, serving as an appointee until the next election for auditors who resigned or, sadly, died, and then running successfully (hard to lose when you're the only candidate) for a

two-year remainder of a term.

I've been doing bookkeeping for small businesses for ten years in central Vermont, after returning from six years of Colorado living. Before moving to Colorado, I lived in town for 26 years, participating in the birth and childhood of the *Signpost*, and have been a member of the East Montpelier Senior Living Initiative since it began in 2005. I live on Clark Road, very near my daughter Katy Blow's family and unfortunately very far away from my son David Langer's family in Portland, Oregon.

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**\*\*Trustee for Public Funds (one 2 of a 3-year term and one 3-year term):** *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 in conjunction with the selectboard.*

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### No candidates

**\*\***These offices would be abolished under the proposed charter and any residual functions assigned to the selectboard.

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**\*\*Town Law Agent (one 1-year term):** *As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in EM. 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.*

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### No candidates

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**\*\*Town Grand Juror (one 1-year term):** *As in most Vermont towns, this is an inactive office in EM whose duties have been taken over by the State's Attorney. 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.*

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### No candidates

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**First Constable (one 1-year term):** *East Montpelier has voted to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority. The constables serve as animal control officers and may be called on to serve civil or criminal process and to aid first responders when necessary.*

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### Sandy F. Conti



I have resided in East Montpelier for more than 20 years. I have served the town as first constable as well as animal control officer for the past seven years. I love this town and am happy to continue to keep a watchful eye on things. I have responded to a variety of calls and

different situations and enjoy giving back to the community in this capacity and as a member of the East Montpelier Fire and Rescue Department. I would appreciate your support to continue serving as first constable.

*Continued on page 6*

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## 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:** Terri Conti  
eastmonttct@comcast.net

**Town Treasurer:** Don Welch  
eastmonttr@comcast.net

**Town/Zoning Administrator:**  
Bruce Johnson, eastmontadmin@comcast.net  
Hours: Mon–Fri 9 AM–5 PM

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

**Fire Permits:** EMFD 225-6247

**First Constable/Animal Control Officer:**  
Sandy Conti 479-3169

**2nd Constable:** Paul Haynes 223-1651

**Listers:** Rob Chickering, Putnam Clayton,  
Ross Hazel 223-3313 x206,  
eastmontlstr@comcast.net

**Health Officer:** Dave Grundy 476-4300

**Service Officer:** Rachael Grossman  
223-3177

### Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair  
sethbgardner@hotmail.com

Carl Etnier                      Steve Sparrow  
Kimberly Swazey              Casey Northrup

### Planning Commission

Rick Hopkins, Chair, 229-4375

### Development Review Board

Richard Curtis, Chair  
rcurtis841@comcast.net

### U-32 Jr./Sr. High School

Kari Bradley kbradley@u32.org  
Emily Goyette egoyette@u32.org

### Elementary School

Rubin Bennett, Chair  
rbennett@thatitguy.com  
Kimberly Kendall              Priscilla Gilbert  
Stephen Looke                  Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

Tony Klein, 793-6032  
twk@tonyklein.com

## Candidates *(continued from page 5)*

### Second Constable (one 1-year term): *Same as First Constable*

#### Paul Haynes



I have been a resident of East Montpelier for the last 16 years and I have been second constable for ten years. As second constable I have gotten to know many people in town and some of your pets even more. This is a position that is always interesting with every call and situation. I look forward to helping where I can in the years to come. Thank you for your support.

### Cemetery Commissioner (one 5-year term): *The cemetery commissioners are responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries.*

#### Gary Hudson



I have been a cemetery commissioner for East Montpelier since 1999. I have enjoyed working on the cemetery commission with the other cemetery commissioners, Pauline Coburn, chair; Frederick Strong, clerk; Elliott Morse, sexton, and Allen Ploof, assistant sexton. We make sure that proper care is given to the following cemeteries: Cutler, Doty, Tinkham, White, Quaker, Clark, East Montpelier Village, Wheeler, Cutler Farm Cemetery, and Peck.

I have enjoyed helping to establish a level-funded budget for the following season if possible. This includes payroll, fence paint and repair, tombstone cleaning and repair, Vermont Cemetery Association dues, parts, supplies, and equipment, and equipment repair fund, contingency/hogweed remedy, flags and markers, and tree cutting.

I would like to thank Pauline Coburn and David Coburn for allowing us to hold our cemetery commission meetings at their house, always with delicious refreshments. I

am asking for your support and vote on March 4, 2014 East Montpelier Town Meeting Day. Thank you! Think spring!

### Planning Commissioner (one 2 of a 3-year term; three 3-year terms): *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, historic, wetland and scenic preservation.*

**2 years remaining of a 3-year Term:** No candidates

**3-year term:** No candidates for one of the three, open 3-year terms

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## Candidates for Town Offices *(continued)*

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### Scott Hess, 3-year term



I am running for re-election to the planning commission. My first term serving on the commission was very rewarding. The commission recently completed a major revision of East Montpelier's Town Plan, which is mandated to be revised every five years. I was honored to be part of a great working group and am extremely proud of the 2013 plan. I found the participation and input of various town committees and residents invaluable.

After living in town for over four years, I truly feel at home here. I am a longtime 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 am currently the treasurer of the Hunger Mountain Coop council, a stewardship chair at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, and I serve on several other business-related boards.

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### Eugene (Gene) Troia, 3-year term



I have been a resident of East Montpelier residing on Vincent Flats Road for the past 28 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, craftsmen, and custom woodworking. 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 being able to work and apply regulations that are fair to the property owner and protect the rights of all townsfolk.

I have been an active member of our planning commission for the past six years and hope to gain your vote to continue as a commissioner in our endeavor to help provide a vision for East Montpelier's future.

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**School Director (one 3-year term EMES, one 2-year term EMES, one 3-year term U-32):** *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.*

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### Rubin Bennett, 3-year term EMES



Hi, Neighbors. It's been a busy 4 years since I joined the EMES board—we hired a new principal, we brought forward and ultimately passed a bond for school renovations, and we've kept tight reins on the school operating budget with each passing year. This year at your request, Onion River Community Access (ORCA) began recording (and broadcasting) our school board meetings each month, which I believe is a great way to bring even greater visibility and transparency to the "inner workings" of the board.

When I originally volunteered for the board, I brought my varied background as a small business owner, technologist, employer, and parent, plus a healthy dose of optimistic naiveté, as my offering of skills to the table. Now that I've been on the board for some time, I realize just how much there is to know. I have an improved grasp of how to run a meeting. I have a greatly improved understanding of the unbelievably complex system of school finance in Vermont, and I know there is much still to learn. I am even more firmly convinced of the connection between great schools and healthy communities than ever before, and equally certain that early childhood education is absolutely foundational to long term success for our children.

While I'm very proud of the board and the work that we've done, there's still an enormous amount of work to do in the coming years: we'll finish the school construction project and begin teaching in our newly renovated spaces. New laws and legislative directives will bring new challenges and opportunities for the children of East Montpelier and our school. And I will continue to work hard to be responsive to your voices and ensure that your school board continues to be an honest reflection of the community that elects us. I thank you for your support and input and offer my appreciation to you all.

*Continued on page 8*

## Let's Pick It Up! Sat, May 3

We need volunteers and your ideas to ensure Green Up Day success. For concerns, questions, or ideas please call Chris Racanelli at 802-225-6032.

## Candidates *(continued from page 7)*

### Priscilla Gilbert, 2-year term EMES



I am running for re-election to the East Montpelier school board. Reflecting on the past two years I am astounded by how much has been accomplished. We proposed a much-needed school renovation project, revised the project significantly to meet the wishes and financial capacity of the town, began construction, and locked

in financing for the construction bond at historical lows. This was not done by the board alone but with the support, challenges, and insights of our community. Throughout the course of the construction planning and execution, the curriculum of the elementary school has been undergoing a major overhaul to meet the needs of our current student population. This academic evolution is paramount to preparing our children to be successful in the world of today.

I believe that the most important service we can provide in East Montpelier is a quality education for our youth. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve on the East Montpelier School Board so that I can use my knowledge and experience as a financial adviser to bring the construction project to completion with the best interest of our students and taxpayers in mind. My actions on the Board are guided by my dual role of a taxpayer and as a parent of two second graders at EMES. My goal is to provide a quality education through which children learn not only necessary skills but also the ability to think, problem-solve, and innovate for the future success of our community. Thank you in advance for your vote.

### Emily Goyette 3-year term U-32



I've served as one of East Montpelier's two representatives on U-32's school board for the last six years. It has been an interesting, enlightening, and challenging experience. I'm running for re-election and would appreciate your support!

Over those years, I've served on U-32's Co-Curricular, Curriculum, Finance, and Policy Committees and WCSU's Special Education Task Force. I partici-

parted in the WCSU Interest Based Bargaining process for the current Educational Support Personnel contract. This past year, I've chaired the Finance Committee and served on the Facilities Committee and the Barre Tech Center Board. It's a tough learning curve and I'll bring that experience with me to another term on the board.

Our family has lived in East Montpelier since 1989. Both of our children are graduates of East Montpelier Elementary and U-32

and were well prepared for life after high school by their experiences at U-32. I'd like to continue contributing to our community as a member of the U-32 board and to help ensure that all families enjoy the benefits of U-32 as a place where students can find their passion and acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful and responsible adults.

I believe that providing our children with the best possible education is an investment in the future for us all, but I also believe that education must be kept affordable for the citizens of our communities who pay the bills. Thank you for the opportunity to serve East Montpelier. I hope I can count on your vote on March 4th.

## East Montpelier Town Website

*by Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator*

<http://eastmontpeliervt.org>

The Town of East Montpelier finally has an official website thanks to a grant from the VT Council on Rural Development's Digital Economy Project and assistance from the Snelling Center for Government.

On the site you will find an assortment of useful material: news, listings of town officials and methods of contact, and a calendar of town meetings with agendas when available. The documents section makes available meeting minutes, town policies, the town plan, zoning regulations, maps, and application forms. Included also are details on Town Meeting, community links, and much more. In addition, the site provides a link to a new interactive town map where you can zoom to your parcel, see tax map details, play with the various layers (including our zoning maps, flood hazard map, and conserved lands), draw on the map, add text, and print the end result.

The site itself remains a work in progress—please check it out and let us know what's missing and how we can improve it.

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# East Montpelier to Vote on First Charter

*By Edie Miller, Charter Committee Chair*

A municipal or town charter is, essentially, an amendment to state law applying to one town only with specifics about how that town governs itself. For that reason, a charter, and any changes to it, must be approved first by the town and then by the state legislature.

The EM Charter Committee created by the selectboard last spring is composed of Richard Brock, Ed Deegan, Michael Duane, Carl Etnier, Karen Gramer, Norman Hill, Rick Mastelli, Edie Miller, Jack Pauly, Julie Potter, and Kim Watson. The committee has proposed a charter that would make the following changes to East Montpelier's governing structure:

- *makes the position of treasurer an appointed position, accountable to the selectboard (SB)—section 3*

Because the office of treasurer requires specific know-how and financial skills and carries out the policies of the town, it seems prudent to allow the selectboard to appoint a person who can demonstrate the needed skills and be evaluated on results. In order to maintain community involvement in the treasurer's position, the charter creates a candidate-selection committee of East Montpelier citizens including some elected officials who work with the treasurer.

- *changes the term of the zoning administrator from a three-year to a one-year term—section 4*

The three-year term that is current state law complicates the town's ability to deal with a zoning administrator who is not up to the job. Having a one-year term allows the selectboard the flexibility to deal with problems while easily renewing the term of a competent ZA. Secondly, we currently have one person serving the positions of zoning administrator and town administrator and it will smooth administrative work to have those offices have the same terms.

- *abolishes the offices of town grand juror, town agent, and trustees of public funds and assigns any remaining functions of those offices to the selectboard—section 2*

In fact, the town grand juror and town agent have no specific functions these days. The role of trustee of public funds has been played by the selectboard in collaboration with the treasurer, which is what the charter proposes.

The committee developed criteria against which these and several other charter ideas were weighed. The criteria are considered very important guidelines and are included in section 1 of the charter itself.

Come to the pre-Town Meeting forum on March 1 for further discussion about the proposed charter which will be voted by Australian ballot on March 4.

# EMES Renovations



The EMES renovation and expansion project recently entered Phase III. At this point in the project we are on budget and on schedule. We owe a huge thank-you to Wright and Morrissey, TruexCullins Architects, our Clerk of the Works, Bill Ford, and support from the EMES and WCSU staff and administration.

## Phases I and II Work Completed (June 24–December 22, 2013):

- Preliminary site work to improve drainage around the entire building and existing parking lot, prep work on the temporary parking spaces, and addition of an additional parent drop-off loop and bus loop in the front of the building
- Renovation of the existing gym, including new bleachers, a new floor, asbestos removal, new bench areas, acoustic panels, mechanical, lighting, and a PE storage area
- Completion of the south addition which includes two new classrooms, a new music and art room, bathrooms, tutoring space, and a language room

## Phase III (December 2013–June 23, 2014):

- Relocated existing music room and the early primary classrooms to the new wing over the December break. Construction of the new library, the pre-K classroom, and the "admin suite," which includes guidance, health, occupational therapy, a conference room, staff room, and the principal's office, is underway
- Work on the kitchen and new cafeteria will include asbestos abatement which will happen during the February school break.

## Phase IV (June 2014–August 2014):

- Completion of site work begun earlier and all other work in the existing building: to include heating, mechanical, new windows, insulation, lighting fixtures, new built-ins, bathroom renovation, conversion of existing library into two classrooms. Work will be completed by August 2014.
- There are two safety requirements—a fire pond and a south exit egress path—that were not part of our original budget. We will continue to work on the details of these requirements, ensuring the board has all the information before final decisions are made.

Thank you for your continued support. This project would never have been possible without the East Montpelier community. Thank you for caring about our school and advancing the next generation!

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# Town Weathervane

*Due to lack of space in this issue, summaries of minutes from town meetings may be found on the Signpost website: [esignpost.com](http://esignpost.com). Complete minutes are always available in the town office or online at the new town website under "documents."*

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## MILESTONES

### Births

- Ezra Vander Pyl, son, born Aug. 30, 2013 to Bobic Vander Pyl & Erin Clark
- Leif Harman, son, born Oct. 22, 2013 to Charles Harman & Emily Levin
- Colton Michael Clayton, son, born Oct. 29, 2013 to Kylee Clayton
- Colten Durrell, son, born Dec. 12, 2013 to Aaron & Jenna Durrell

### Deaths

- Allen Butler died Oct. 6, 2013, longtime EM farmer, husband of Maybeth, father of Gary and Donna
- Zita Boardman died Oct. 11, 2013, mother of Michael Boardman
- Kenneth Clayton died Oct. 21, 2013 at the age of 104, father of Barbara Ploof & Putnam Clayton
- Sandra Sloane died Oct. 23, 2013, wife of James Sloane
- Charlotte Karr died Oct. 25, 2013, mother of Curtis Karr
- Dorothy Keough died Nov. 2, 2013, wife of Ernest Keough
- Marion Codling died Nov. 5, 2013, longtime EM resident
- Margaret Ormsbee died Nov. 15, 2013, mother of Linda Ormsbee
- Celia Clark died Nov. 22, 2013
- Jeffrey Santor died Nov. 22, 2013, son of Kenneth & Margery Santor
- Joy Vissering died Nov. 22, 2013, mother of Jean Vissering
- Helvi Parker died Nov. 25, 2013, mother of Elizabeth Morse
- Kendal Frost died Dec. 24, 2013, husband of Ruth Frost
- John Baird died Dec. 30, 2013
- Rachel Guyette died Jan. 3, 2014, wife of Robert Guyette and mother of Thomas

### Marriages

- Justin Sayers & Carley Coffey, Aug. 31, 2013
- Gabriel Chickering Ayers & Sera Barone Hyjek, Sept. 14, 2013
- Robert Coates & Adelaida Elli, Sept. 25, 2013
- David Webb & Jessica Kobb, Oct. 5, 2013

- David Schilling & Marilla Hewitt, Oct. 12, 2013
- David Mullett & Martha Tucker, Dec. 27, 2013
- Nelson Morales & Ashley Badeau, Jan. 8, 2014

### Land Transfers

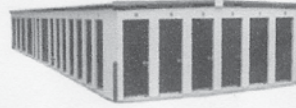
- Robert & Constance Spaulding to Daryl Sherman, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr Pk
- Washington Elctric Coop to Jeff & Linda Cueto, r.o.w, Murray Rd
- Foster Rd LLC to Jeremy Dodge, single family home &16 acres, Foster Rd
- Ormsbee Living Trust to Susan Anderson, single family dwelling &1 acre, Center Rd
- Thomas & Carol Pierce to Thomas & Merry Schmidt, single family dwelling &10.2 acres, Deronde Rd
- Gail Gove to James Anderson, single family dwelling & 3.4 acres, County Rd
- David LaFlower to Scott Tassey, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr Pk
- Robert Whittaker & Kristine Pozatek to Bernard Noe & Maureen Davis, single family dwelling & 12.5 acres, VT14
- Harold & Amber Megrath to Federal Home Loan Coop, single family dwelling & 2.67 acres, County Rd
- Ryan Case to Sharon Plumb and Mark Keffer, single family dwelling & 3.21 acres, Sugarhouse Rd
- Kim Watson to Todd Whitehead & Lauren Padilla, single family dwelling & 6.3 acres, North St
- Monica Kulp to Seth Gardner & Kim Watson, single family dwelling & 13.59 acres, Old Trail Rd
- David & Pauline Coburn to David and Pauline Coburn & Thomas Coburn, single family dwelling & 82.5 acres, Daggett Rd
- Lindy Biggs to Stephen Knowlton, single family dwelling & 13.9 acres, Sparrow Farm Rd
- Richard Desmarais to Tina Desmarais, single family dwelling & 8.12 acres, Gray Rd
- Marion Miller & Amber Fulcher to Eyrich Stauffer, single family dwelling &10.5 acres, Putnam Rd
- Janet Matzelle to Richard Harrington & Anne Mixer, single family dwelling & 0.52 acres, North St
- John Graves to Scott Graves, single family dwelling & 1.4 acres, Old Railroad Lane
- Christina Bigras to Steven Bigras, single family dwelling & 11.16 acres, Jourdan Rd
- Millicent Seguin to Millicent Seguin & Paula Perry, single family dwelling & 2.3 acres, County Rd
- Christopher Ellingwood to Gertrude Ludlow, condominium, White Rock Dr
- Pauline Lee to Isaac & Eri Chavez, single family dwelling & 0.62 acres, Johnson Rd
- Wallace & Claire Hinch to Bonnie Corcoran, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr Pk
- Maybeth Butler to Gary Butler & Maybeth Butler, single family dwelling &186 acres, Center Rd
- Peter & Mary Ellen Hill to Seth Gardner & Kim Watson, 7.2 acres open land, Snow Hill Rd
- Wayne & Helen Clark Trustee to East Montpelier Trails & the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, easement, trail corridor south of Wheeler Rd
- Wayne & Helen Clark Trustee to Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, easement and development rights, Wheeler Rd
- Donald Pedrozo to Donald Pedrozo LivingTrust, single family dwelling & 12.3 acres, Barnes Rd
- Estate of Althea McLeod to Raymond McLeod, 39 acres open land, Muddy Brook Rd
- Robert & Lindsey Beall to Robert Beall, single family dwelling & 5.6 acres, Center Rd
- Liane Bennett to Kylee Clayton, mobile home, Sandy Pines Tr Pk
- Barbara Blackman & John Buckley & Patricia Buckley to John & Donna Bouthillette, single family dwelling & 14 acres, Perkins Rd
- Kenneth and Jennifer Ferno to Thomas Swenson, mobile home & 1.94 acres, Pine Ridge Rd
- Victoria Hebert to Valarie Roberts, mobile home, Mugford Rd
- Hugh & Susan Hawkins to Land Care Services LLC, farm buildings & 3.23 acres, Towne Hill Rd
- Andrew Kline & Nadelle Fishman to Jessica Taylor, 7.7 acres open land, Chickering Rd
- Gertrude Ludlow to Gertrude Ludlow & Maryann Ludlow, condominium, White Rock Dr
- Margaret Ormsbee to Conrad Ormsbee, 171.75 acres open land, Center Rd
- John & Kathleen Audy to State of Vermont, 0.06 acres, r.o.w.
- US Bank Association to Jamie Billings, mobile home & 1.57 acres, Pine Ridge Rd



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- ✓ **Dump Truck:** Delivery of Topsoil, Manure, Compost, Gravel, Slate
- ✓ **Excavation:** Site Work for Sonotube and Floating Slabs; Digging Under-ground Utility Lines; and Much More!

## Twin Valley Senior Center is moving to East Montpelier

TVSC is moving to 4583 US Route 2 (Blueberry Hill) in East Montpelier by March 31st, providing we can raise money to install a kitchen at that location.

TVSC serves towns of East Montpelier, Woodbury, Calais, Marshfield, Cabot and Plainfield. There are no membership fees at TVSC. We offer free door-to-door transportation and hot, nutritional lunches each day we are open. Activities include exercise classes, foot, blood pressure and flu clinics as well as movies, games, speakers and day trips. We operate a large Meals on Wheels program with food cooked, packaged and delivered from the center by dedicated volunteers. Please contact 426-3447 or ritacope@myfairpoint.net for more information.

## Growing Your Own Veggies

The East Montpelier Seed and Onion Plant Co-op offers the opportunity to order seeds from FEDCO Seeds in Maine and onion plants for summer gardening. Even though we are in the middle of winter, now is the time to start planning (and dreaming about) our summer gardens. In addition to reducing the average 1500 miles our store-bought food has to travel to get to us, there's no comparison in taste and quality between what you can pick fresh from your garden and what is picked miles away and shipped to you. The other advantage is cost savings. Participants have saved between 20 and 25 % on the cost of seeds, and onion plants can bring savings of up to 75%.

Take advantage of the workshops on starting and/or improving your gardening experience offered by the Four Corners Schoolhouse Association—see the calendar below. Contact Dave Grundy at ddgrundy@comcast.net to obtain more information and ordering instructions.

### CALENDAR

**Thursdays in Feb & Mar, 7:00–8:30 p.m.** 4-C Schoolhouse, interactive photography workshops; all levels welcome

**Sun. Mar 2, 1:00–3:00 p.m.** 4-C Schoolhouse, Gardening Roundtable for experts & novices

**Sun. Mar 16, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.** 4-C Schoolhouse, Gardening with Raised Beds

**Tues., Mar 18, 7:00 p.m.** 4-C School Historical Society's meeting open to all. Bring an antique and tell us about it.

**Thurs. Mar 27, 6:30–8:00 p.m.** Orchard Valley School tour. Register at 802-456-7400 or morgan.i@ovws.org

**Sat. Mar 29, time TBA** Muddy Gras at the Old Meeting House

**Sun. Mar 30, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.** 4-C Schoolhouse, Pruning Workshop

**Sat. May 3, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** EMES parking lot, Green Up Day

### NOTICES & IMPORTANT DATES

**Sat. Mar 1, 9:30 a.m.** U-32 cafeteria, Town/School meeting forum

**Tues. Mar 4, 9:30 a.m.** U-32 auditorium, Town/School Meeting

**Tues. April 1, until 5 p.m.** town office, Animal Registration: \$8 for spayed/neutered; \$12 other, plus current rabies

**Thurs. May 15, by 5 p.m.,** town office, property tax installment to avoid 8% penalty

### Deadline for the May/June 2014 Issue:

April 1, 2014

Send to Barbara Ploof: 223-6934,

signpostbcp@hotmail.com

**Don't forget to submit your calendar items for the next issue!**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Conservation Fund Advisory Committee	as needed	7:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
Development Review Board (DRB)	1st Tues	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) Board	3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School
East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD)	Every Tues	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Fire District No. 1	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	EMFD Community Room
East Montpelier Historical Society	3rd Tues	7:00/6:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse/E. Calais
East Montpelier Sr. Living Initiative	2nd & 4th Tues	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Bldg
Four Corners Schoolhouse Association	2nd Wed	7:00 p.m.	Four Corners Schoolhouse
EMES Parent Teacher Neighbor Org. (PTNO)	2nd Wed	6:30 p.m.	Elementary School, Art Room
Planning Commission (PC)	1st & 3rd Thurs	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Recreation Board	2nd Mon	7:15 p.m.	Elementary School
Selectboard	1st & 3rd Mon	6:30 p.m.	Town Office Building
U-32 School Board	1st & 3rd Wed	6:00 p.m.	U-32 School