EAST MONTPELIER
Signpost

Volume XXVI—Number Two November/December 2014

ALEX BROWM

Open Sash: Windows by Chris Pratt

by Alex Brown

Chris Pratt is the prototypical capable and independent Vermonter. He built his own house, is equally at home in the woods or in the community, and he's started a business that's both financially successful and environmentally conscientious.

He fits right in, but like many of us he must admit to a flatlander's origins—Connecticut, to be precise. Chris, 57, arrived in central Vermont in 1982 with a forestry degree from Yale and an interest in organic farming. He was one of the original partners in the Cate Farm and settled here after purchasing a large tract

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Community Contributors

Catherine Rader & Ken Hertz

TERRY J. ALLEN

by Karen Saudek

What a pleasure to have had the opportunity to sit down with Kate Rader and Ken Hertz in their lovely home on Towne Hill Road. Their spacious living room looks out onto a beautiful Vermont view, which right now is in full foliage splendor. In the middle of this view is Kate's extensive vegetable garden. It is a garden I have been admiring for years as I drive by. Today, I not only got to enjoy the garden and meet the gardener and her husband, but I also got to admire the leeks from the garden as Kate put them into the oven to bake for supper.

When I arrived at their door I was met not only by both Ken and Kate, but also Sally and Posey, two beautiful dogs, one yellow, one black, and both friendly, charming, and well behaved. These two dogs are well-loved companions and very fortunate dogs. Posey is a rescue dog from South Carolina. Sally was adopted from the humane society. Both dogs got very lucky.

Ken and Kate told me they had retired to Vermont from Massachusetts where Ken had worked at Raytheon. But, prior to settling in East Montpelier they took off on a 6,000-mile road trip around the country. After some months and a great trip they came back to New England and were ready to settle in to East Montpelier. At once they began to connect with new friends and neighbors, to identify ways to contribute, and to involve themselves in the life of their new community. At their first town meeting, on being introduced to Dave Grundy, Ken asked about volunteer opportunities in town. Dave immediately signed him up as a volunteer driver for the Green Mountain Transit Agency.

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Deadline for the next *Signpost* is Dec. 2

Top of the *Signpost*

The *Signpost* is the most local of publications—for and about East Montpelier, its institutions, governance and people. Contributing to this mission, we are initiating in this issue two new series of articles which we hope will shed light and provide insight and pleasure to residents. We're expanding our long-time recipe feature from Paulie Coburn to include coverage of residents who raise and fabricate food. We're calling our local farm-to-table corner **East Montpelier Eats.** Secondly, we're taking advantage of the broad interest in our newly renovated and expanded school building to take a look inside these handsome-looking new walls and understand better what's happening there. With **Inside EMES,** we hope to create a new understanding of what and how our children are learning today, what's the same or different from our own education, and how we can best prepare them for the rest of their lives. As these two new series unfold, we hope we'll hear from you about whether we're providing what you'd like to know about.

— Edie Miller

Help Design New *Signpost* Logos

As the *Signpost* launches two new series—**East Montpelier Eats** and **Inside EMES**—in this issue that will continue for the foreseeable future, we need your help in creating an identifiable graphic logo for each. Please read our explanation of these series in Top of the *Signpost* and then the features themselves. Then come up with an eye-catching graphic that will direct readers' attention to these features month after month. An example of what we're looking for is the logo that accompanies EMES renovation updates in recent months. You will be rewarded with the sincere thanks of your community and the pleasure of seeing your idea published month after month in the *Signpost*. Send your ideas to Edie Miller at signposteam@comcast.net by Nov. 15, 2014.

Help Layout the *Signpost* in Adobe InDesign

The *Signpost* is seeking an individual with expertise in publication layout and design and familiar with InDesign software to share responsibility for this important part of its preparation. If interested in working with a group of enthusiastic locals, please contact Edie Miller at signposteam@comcast.net.

Thank you *Signpost* supporters

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

Joyce Bean

Nancy & David Couch

JanetLee & James Goodall

TERRY J. ALLEN

Holiday Turkey Advice from Steve Stoufer

TERRY J. ALLEN

I am a backyard farmer who raises hens, meat chickens, pigs, and turkeys primarily for our own consumption. We have been raising and selling 10-15 turkeys for the last three years. For me, growing food is an extension of being a chef. I have been inspired by my neighbors, Erica Zimmerman and Kevin McCollister of the Center Farm. Each works at a career outside the home while operating their farm and raising chickens, sheep, and pigs. They provide a wonderful example while making invaluable contributions to the community.

I aspire to be a positive presence in our community. As I learn more about raising animals and produce, I expect that my small "backyard" operation will slowly grow. I hope that even if my children do not continue raising food here at their childhood home in years to come that they will have the tools, the desire, and the nature to do it wherever their lives may take them.

Anyone who has space and time can produce food for personal use and/or for those in need. While farmers are serving our communities well through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), I have been thinking in terms of LASC (Local Agriculture Supporting Communities). Feel free to stop by and talk to me about what communities can do to be agriculturally self-supporting. Farming is such a good use of our land and it keeps Vermont what it is—a beautiful farm-rich state.

To Prepare the Turkey: A simple preparation of salt, pepper, and a few herbs are all you really need to bring out the wonderful flavor of these turkeys.

Let the turkey stand at room temperature for 30 minutes; then, rub it well with salt and sprinkle on a tablespoon or two of dried sage, oregano, and thyme along with 10 good cranks of the black pepper mill.

Cooking the Turkey: Pastured, ranging birds tend to be leaner than penned animals; because of this the traditional start-your-turkey-in-the-oven at 6:00 a.m. is not necessary. Cut up a lemon and one or two small onions and throw them in the cavity. Arrange three or four carrots, washed but unpeeled, and four or five stalks of celery on the bottom of your roasting pan. This will act not only as a roasting rack but will add some aromatic favors to the drippings.

Place the bird in a preheated 350 degree oven. A good cooking guide is 15 minutes per pound, but do check your bird after 1 ½ to 2 hours. Check the temperature between the leg and the thigh and remove from the oven at 175˚. Let it set for 30 minutes before you cut into it.

Stuffing – Inside or Outside the Bird? The stuffing inside the bird retains moisture levels and encourages rapid growth of bacteria. When the cavity of the bird is clean there is less risk of that growth. Let me be clear that safe and hygienic handling of any food no matter its preparation is critical. You can certainly stuff and then cook; you must simply be quick in taking apart and cooling the bird after enjoying the meal—no leaving the carcass on the counter for hours or, even worse, overnight before putting it up for later meals.

• Contact Steve: 802-223-5841 and stoufers@comcast.net

Paulie's Recipe: Cranberry Sherbert

4 cups cranberries
1 cup cold water
2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1 heaping tbsp. gelatin and juice of 1 lemon

Cook cranberries in boiling water until very soft, then put through a sieve.

Stir in sugar. Soak gelatin in the cup of cold water for five minutes. When sugar has dissolved add the gelatin and lemon juice to the sauce. Cook and freeze.

This makes delicious change from cranberry sauce to serve with poultry.

Inside East Montpelier Elementary School

by Michelle A.L. Singer

TERRY J. ALLEN

Kathy Christy and students

At a recent *Signpost* planning meeting, one volunteer noted, "I haven't been inside an elementary school classroom in years!" Another agreed, "I've only been inside the school to vote." As the construction vehicles roll away from the newly remodeled East Montpelier Elementary School building, we have a perfect opportunity to peek inside both the new building and the workings of a twenty-first-century education. What has changed and what has stayed the same?

The *Signpost* is kicking off a series of articles aimed at answering that question. In the next year, we will visit the new library and see how media literacy blends with the ink-and-paper books we know and love. We will take a closer look at how the administration and staff work to meet the new challenges of the age of technology. If there are particular topics you'd like to hear about—food services, physical education, nursing, counseling, or any of the many functions that happen under the new roof of EMES—let us know. The *Signpost* has an opportunity to shed light on the changing face of education, both the building itself and what happens inside.

We begin our tour with Kathy Christy, a teacher of 33 years who has been at EMES for 25 of them, arriving just in time for the 1989 renovation. She spent her first months at EMES teaching in the gym while the new wing was under construction and notes that this year, teaching in the 2014 wing, has come "full circle."

"I don't live here," says Christy, "but I choose to be here." She's made EMES her choice for enough years to begin teaching her second generation of students. "I'm honored to work here," she says. "It's the community that makes it special, and that's why I am still here."

She remembers classrooms without sinks or enough electrical outlets, and a heating vent that rattled so loudly the kids took turns sitting on it to keep it quiet. Some changes in the new building are simple, like having a sink in each classroom so kids can wash their hands in our modern germ- and allergy-conscious society; also having plenty of outlets and a choice in lighting. Other changes are bigger, like mold and asbestos remediation, modern and efficient heating and ventilation systems, and upgrades in security, technology, and handicap accessibility.

When I asked her what has changed in the way she teaches, Mrs. Christy described walking into her first classroom where desks were all in straight rows and she was advised to give each student a number and refer to them by it for the rest of the year. "My first classroom was very different," she says. "Desks in rows, chalkboard…it was 1982 and that was the 'expected configuration.' It was thought that if kids were quietly working and/or the teacher was lecturing in the front of the room, that was best practice."

"For me," she continues, "over the course of my career the typical style of the day has changed immensely from 'stand and deliver' to a facilitator role. We teach now with very focused intentions, often using mini-lessons in reading and writing, and conferring with small groups of students or individuals. Students are frequently involved in their own goal setting, measuring their own learning, and making plans for their next steps."

The classroom itself may also look quite different from the rows of desks and blackboard at the front that many of us remember. "Today many of our classrooms have tables (mine actually still has desks) or desks configured in clusters to promote student interaction, problem solving, collaboration, and teamwork," she says. "Classrooms often also have places where students can work independently if they wish. If kids need to, they can stand up in class, or sit on a variety of chairs or seats to meet individual needs. In my own classroom we have 'crate seats' that allow us to configure small groups in a variety of ways."

The modern incarnation of a blackboard is a "Mimio-Board," an interactive white board that can be written on with dry-erase markers or used as a projection screen for computers and other technology. "The nice thing about Mimio-Boards," says Christy, "is that they allow the whiteboard to be used as an interactive surface, providing a versatile classroom tool. They allow students and staff, at the touch of a few buttons, to bring resources beyond our school walls into the classrooms and allow students to present work they have completed."

As federal and state mandates come and go, and testing requirements change, Christy says they are still always asking the question, "What do kids need?" Many of those answers haven't changed. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are still the founda-

Residents including Gov. Shumlin enjoyed the October 2 ribbon cutting/ open house/spaghetti dinner at the new EMES.

TERRY J. ALLEN

tion. "Days will certainly vary for all students and teachers," says Christy, "but the goal is to have blocks of uninterrupted learning time for students in literacy and math. Students also have art, music, PE, library/technology classes, and Spanish."

Kathy Christy spends half her time in the classroom team-teaching a grade 3/4 combo. During the rest of her school time she utilizes her skills, background, and advanced professional development degree as she coordinates EMES's effort to meet the expectations of its School Improvement Plan. She works with teams of teachers to provide a cohesive experience for the students and meet the needs of the school community. "Investing in the future is so big," says Christy. She and her colleagues are passionate, dedicated, and see themselves as stewards of the building who are entrusted with the future of our children's education.

— Michelle Singer lives on Cherry Tree Hill Rd with her parents and husband and three children who are students at EMES

Annual Gifts for Giving at EMES

The Annual Gifts for Giving event sponsored by the Parent Teacher Neighbor Organization (PTNO) at East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) is held each December. It is a highly anticipated day of craft activities during which students create gifts for their friends and family. Each class goes to the gym to participate in four craft projects. Students wrap their masterpieces and bring them home to give as gifts for the holidays. PTNO members and other volunteers provide assistance to the children as they carefully prepare the final presentation of their gifts.

The PTNO community organizes and assists throughout the day as the children complete their creative masterpieces. This is a great time to meet and greet neighbors of all ages. If you are interested in participating please contact Marlene Betit at mabetit@aol.com.

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Friday 9 AM–12 PM

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eastmonttct@comcast.net

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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

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2nd Constable: Paul Haynes 223-1651

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Service Officer: Rachael Grossman 223-3177

Selectboard

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Kimberly Swazey — Casey Northrup

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Stephen Looke — Flor Diaz-Smith

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Town Weathervane

Below are summaries of important issues at meetings. Complete minutes are available in the Town Office or online at the town and school websites.

Milestones

BIRTHS

- Jaxon Trombley, son, born July 26, 2014, to Kelsey Lyford & Jason Trombley
- Malaya Edson, daughter, born July 30, 2014, to Heather & Thomas Edson

DEATHS

- Gertrude Ludlow died Aug. 29, 2014, mother of Mary Ann

MARRIAGES

- Timothy Klein & Emily Trono, Aug. 9, 2014
- Christopher Connor & Emilie Clark, Aug. 9, 2014
- John Pecor III & Rebecca Pedriani, Aug. 16, 2014
- Glenn Bamforth & Janice Degoosh, Aug. 31, 2014

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Angie Pratt to Stephan Isabelle, single family dwelling & 10 acres, E. Montpelier Rd
- Estate of Jeffrey Santor to Chad Santor, single family dwelling & 1.8 acres, Haggett Rd
- Hugh & Susan Hawkins to Land Care Agri. Services, 41.02 acres open land, Towne Hill Rd
- Sherrie Brewster to James Reed, single family dwelling & 1.5 acres, Powder Horn Glen Rd
- Estate of Alberta Pacini to Gary & Lori Delphia, easement, Guyette Rd
- Gary & Lori Delphia to Katherine Nelson, single family dwelling & 7 acres, Guyette Rd
- Dana Barber to Janet Matzelle, single family dwelling & 7.2 acres, North St
- Ford Marden III & Dianna Montague to Daniel Bruce, single family dwelling & 0.54 acres, Quaker Rd

Selectboard

July 21, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to discontinue Town Highway #9 (Barstow Driveway) at 980 Sodom Pond Rd
- to discontinue Town Highway #10 (Johnson Driveway) at 894 Sodom Pond Rd
- to reclassify to "legal trail" the Class 4 portion of Foster Rd
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the contract to have Whitcomb Co. shim Gallison Hill Rd and add 1 1/4" top course and shim Quaker and Vincent Flat Rds plus add 1 1/4" top course using up to a maximum of $300,000 of town monies, and authorize Bruce Johnson to sign contract
- to accept Dubois Construction bid of $69,286 for work on Dodge Hill Rd to repair and reset a 90" metal pipe culvert and construct a new, full headwall with 4' long wingwalls
- to sign the warrant to impound unlicensed dogs
- to adopt the rule of procedure for vicious dog/wolf-hybrid hearings
- to declare the Town of East Montpelier does not and will not invest in fossil fuel firms
- to sign the letter to Maple Corner Community Center and the Town of Calais regarding camping on the island at Curtis Pond
- to sign the tax anticipation note (line of credit), adopt the resolution for tax anticipation borrowing (line of credit), and sign the non-arbitrage certificate, tax anticipation borrowing (line of credit)
- to accept the quotation from Office Systems of Vermont for a 60-month lease on an e-Studio 3055 copier/scanner/printer

August 4, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to set the resident (homestead) tax rate at 2.3642 and non-resident tax rate at 2.0964
- to waive the late filing penalty for the declaration of homestead for tax year 2014-15
- to authorize the use of $29,734.45 in East Montpelier ambulance service revenue to facilitate the purchase by EMFD of a new Life Pak 15 defibrillator
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to complete the agreement with Canon for replacement of the town copiers
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the agreement with F.W. Whitcomb for the paving of Gallison, Quaker and Vincent Flats Rds
- to accept the GIS Services Maintenance Agreement with CAI Technologies
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to sign the VTrans Better Backroads Grant to fund ditch work on Center Rd

August 18, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to authorize the expenditure of $4,699 for the purchase and installation of an 8' Fisher heavy duty power angle plow from Formula Ford
- to authorize the signing of the two commercial appraisal service agreements with Martin Appraisal Services, Inc.
- to approve Access Permit Application 14-045 subject to the following condition: this permit will be void if Subdivision Permit Application 14-047 is not approved by the Development Review Board
- to authorize Town Administrator Johnson to sign Excess Weight Permit Application EW-14-44 for Francis Pion Trucking

September 8, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to sign Fairmont Farm, Inc.'s permit 14-053 for a curb cut on Lyle Young Rd
- to allow EMFD to spend up to $4,398 of bond fund to purchase and install new server
- to authorize Bruce Johnson to accept the RB Technologies proposal for server replacement, installation, and migration
- to adopt the revised website content policy as amended

Planning Commission

July 17, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to approve the draft letter on "Flood Hazard Regulations with River Corridor Protection"
- to have the chair draft an article on the Planning Commission update for the *Signpost*

August 7, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to leave 9.3B as written in the 6-19-14 draft version of Article 9

September 4, 2014

Discussion items:

- need for an Administrative Action Procedure
- flood Hazard public forum preparation
- selectboard comments on proposed zoning amendments

September 18, 2014

- Kim McKee from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission gave a Flood Hazard presentation

Development Review Board

June 3, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to accept Application #14-027, submitted by K&A Leasing LLC to add a second used motor vehicle sales use to its mixed use property located at 4423 US2
- to go into deliberative session to discuss applications #14-024 and #14-029
- to approve Application #14-029 Delphia subdivision as presented
- to approve conditional use Application #14-024, submitted by East Montpelier Elementary School to construct a 61,000 gallon fire pond with associated piping and fencing with conditions

August 5, 2014

Motions Passed

- to approve conditional use Application #14-040 submitted by East Montpelier Elementary School to construct a 24' x 24' storage shed
- to approve reviewing the Danforth, Olmsted, and Lylehaven property subdivisions as three separate minor subdivisions, as well as not requiring the applicant to survey Lot 2 of subdivision #1 at 355 VT14S

September 2, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to approve permit for subdivision of the Olmstead property #14-047 as presented
- to approve permit for subdivision of the Rappaport party #14-048 as presented
- to approve permit for subdivision of the Rappaport party #14-049 as presented
- to approve permit for subdivision of the Rappaport party #14-050 as presented
- to approve an amendment to conditional use Application #14-051 of Fontaine to build a 20' by 20' addition on the east side of the sawmill to house a chipper as presented
- to elect following DRB officers: Rich Curtis, Chair; Carol Welch, Vice Chair; Bruce Johnson, recording secretary for administrative duties; Kristi Flynn, to take minutes

East Montpelier Elementary School Board

August 18, 2014

The board discussed pre-school planning and passed minutes and board orders

U-32 School Board

August 13

Motions Passed:

- to approve 2014-15 department heads' stipends as presented
- to approve the following resignations and appointments: Stephanie Wicks 0.5FTE world languages/0.2 English; Kendra Christiana 0.5 math; Susan Pryce paraeducator

August 20, 2014

Motions Passed:

- to approve a leave of absence request from Paula Emery
- to approve the following appointments: Rebecca Kelley, 0.5 FTE, world Language; Kyle Cushman, 0.2 FTE, English

September 3, 2014

- The board noted with sadness the death of member Conrad Smith from Calais. Scott Thompson, appointed Calais representative was introduced.

Motions passed:

- to approve Class Size Policy-G16
- to accept the resignation of Stephen Balch, Maintenance & Mechanic

September 17, 2014

Motions approved:

- to go into executive session for student hearing
- to approve administration's recommendation regarding the student matter
- to designate Emily Goyette vice-chair of U-32
- to designate Adrienne Magida as alternate for WCSU Executive Committee
- to designate Katie Winkeljohn as the third voting member for the WCSU full board
- to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues (session included Steven Dellinger-Pate, Jen Miller-Arsenault and Jeff Rubin)
- No action taken after the final executive session

Zoning Regs Under Review: Get Involved

The Planning Commission has engaged in an extensive review of the Land Use and Development (Zoning) Regulations to ensure that the regulations are clear, comply with State law, and are consistent with the goals and recommendations of the Town Plan, which was updated and renewed in June, 2013. Among the changes that the Planning Commission is currently considering are:

1. Revising the existing Conservation Overlay District to ensure adequate protection of wetlands, high elevation areas, public water supply areas, and ground water resources;
2. Revisions to existing Flood Hazard regulations (article 9) to reflect current data on flood hazard areas, address new flood hazard provisions consistent with state and federal law, and enable town to take advantage of enhanced state disaster assistance;
3. Revisions to groundwater withdrawal regulations that would require DRB review for proposed withdrawals exceeding 20,000 gallons per day;
4. Encouraging preliminary review of development plans before applicants invest a lot of time and money into engineered drawings; and
5. Adding a provision allowing the Zoning Administrator to approve minor changes to projects previously approved by the Development Review Board. A public hearing will be held for any proposed changes prior to consideration and approval by the Select Board.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the town office building. Residents are encouraged to attend our meetings.

— Jean Vissering, Planning Commission chair

ALEX BROWN

of land. You may well have hiked a bit of it, because 500 acres of it are now conserved land containing the Mallory Brook trail.

Since his 30s, Chris has worked as a carpenter in Vermont and, for a time, in Portland, Oregon. It was there he began to notice that there was a steady stream of customers in need of window restoration. He became skilled at removing windows and performing a host of repairs: reglazing, stripping paint, planing and sanding, replacing sash cords—whatever the window needed to look and work like new again.

He couldn't overlook the quality of the tight-grained hardwood used in older windows. There was no question these windows were made of better materials and with better craftsmanship than modern ones. There was only one problem. Old windows have a single pane of glass and virtually no ability to retain heat. Today's energy-efficient windows are double- or triple-glazed with an inert gas like argon between the panes. That "dead air" acts as insulation.

Since Chris was already removing windows to restore them, he realized it would cost relatively little more to improve their energy efficiency. One of the typical approaches is to add a pane of glass, usually by routing a slot for it in the window's muntins (the wood strips holding panes of glass in a window of divided lites). This weakens the wood and isn't acceptable when historic preservation standards apply.

Chris tackles the problem differently. He adds a piece of low-E coated glass as large as the entire sash to the exterior, sealing it with a fin to the top of the frame and with fasteners along the bottom. This glass energy panel is surrounded by an aluminum frame and can be removed for future restoration or maintenance.

He's perfected the design, and his business, Open Sash, is now in its fourth year of repairing windows for residential and commercial clients. One of his current projects is for the Vermont College of Fine Arts, whose largest window sashes are 5 x 10 feet and will weigh nearly 200 pounds with their new energy panels installed.

What made VCFA hire Open Sash? They had to balance the rising cost of heating and cooling their buildings against window replacement or restoration. Many people instinctively believe they'll make the biggest energy improvement by buying new windows, even though their existing ones are of higher quality materials. Chris believes his system achieves 85% of the energy efficiency of the best new windows, basing the figure on tests made by another retrofit company that adds a pane of glass. For VCFA and Open Sash's other customers, the chance to retain historic windows while cutting energy costs is the best of both worlds.

There's no shortage of older windows throughout New England, and Chris has traveled to Boston, New Haven, and throughout Vermont with his "window wagon" to bring his skills on site. His trailer is outfitted with a table saw, chop saw, compressor, and a HEPA vacuum system that enables him to remove lead paint safely. "Instead of sealing off a room in the building to handle the lead removal safety standards," he says, "I can bring the window into the wagon and do the job with less intrusion."

He's hired three people but still works hands-on alongside them. There is no end to the windows that would benefit from his combination of refinishing and energy improvement, and Chris usually works on 20 houses a year. The possibility for expanding the business to additional crews is much on his mind.

It will always be a customized service. "All old windows are different," he says. "You can't standardize. But I can be cost efficient because I've made the jigs and have the specialized tools. I can compete with factory windows, and what I'm selling will last longer. And the windows will be more beautiful."

Chris still finds time to pursue his keen interest in theater. He has appeared in many plays, most recently in *Blithe Spirit* at Unadilla this past summer. He studied acting with Shakespeare & Company and has performed in New York City and around Vermont.

When he's not memorizing lines, he's hard at work on the future of Open Sash. "I look at the news and see all the problems in the world," Chris says. "It's not like I'm fixing them, but what I'm doing is some kind of response to climate change, to buying local, to design aesthetics, to energy conservation, to job creation, to preservation." He envisions adding higher paying jobs beyond the basic skilled labor now on his crew, and above all he expects to grow a business that can give old windows a chance to perform for the hundreds of years of life in their fine wood.

— Alex Brown is a novelist and the theater reviewer for Seven Days.

Montpelier-Wells River Railroad

by David Coburn, East Montpelier Historical Society

It was a great day when the railroad finally came through town in 1849. Now it was no longer necessary to travel by horse and buggy. A day trip to Montpelier to shop and socialize became a real possibility. You could even go to Boston, New York, or Chicago in relative ease.

The local creameries depended on the railroad to ship their milk, butter, and cheese to the Boston market. Local farmers had animal feed brought in that way, and they were now able to ship their produce to a wider market. Even the Dudley Music School depended on the frequent trains to bring people from Boston for its annual concerts.

The railroad ran from Montpelier Junction, east through the city on the north side of what is now US2, past the roundabout and along the river, crossing near the power dam. In East Montpelier it followed a course that is now buried beneath US2 near the landfill and then crossed VT14 near the animal shelter. Here there was a passenger and freight station named "Fairmont." From there it continued east into Plainfield, Marshfield, and Cabot and on to Wells River. Much of the route north of Fairmont crossing is now a snowmobile trail.

There were mishaps, however. The picture shown here is of a collision between two engines on August 29, 1876. It took place near the entrance to the landfill. No one was injured, fortunately, but the engineer had to jump for his life.

The last train ran on November 15, 1956, a casualty of easier and more flexible means of transportation. While it was in operation, it helped the citizens of East Montpelier feel much less isolated.

EMES RENOVATIONS

After a year and a half of construction, the renovation of EMES is, essentially, complete. Bids for a maintenance shed will go out soon. The project—undertaken with school in session—was very complex yet ran smoothly and was completed on budget. Final numbers will be in soon.

The people and organizations whose expertise, hard work, cooperation, and good spirits made this project possible include school staff and students, architects, construction leaders and crew, town and school officials, as well as many community members. We can't adequately express the thanks due to all these people. A full list of names is on our website at http://emesfacilities.blogspot.com/.

Finally, thank you, East Montpelier community, for your support to create this fine result. With your support we will continue to work hard on maintaining the school in fine shape for years to come.

— Flor Diaz-Smith Oversight & Facilities Committee
East Montpelier School Board

Make a Difference: Volunteer

Girls/Boyz First Community Based Mentoring is looking for healthy, active, and fun adult role models.Youth who have mentors are less likely to engage in risky behaviors, and more likely to do better in school and get along better with their parents and siblings. If you have two hours a week and want to make a difference in the life of a child, please contact Wendy Freundlich, GBF program coordinator at 229-4798 or wendy.freedom512@gmail.com for more information about becoming a mentor.

Thanks for Community Support

My son Garett Peace and I (Ginger Franks) send sincere, heartfelt gratitude to the community, the EMES Girl Scouts and leader Sara Garland, the Fire Dept. and driver Toby, and all who attended and/or donated their support, time, and money to the pancake breakfast this summer. Also an extended thanks to all from Garett's grandparents Robert and Sylvia Franks. Bless each and every one.

TERRY J. ALLEN

Ken has been driving for the agency ever since. He told me he is grateful for the chance to meet new people who he might otherwise never know, and at the same time be able to help others who may not have the means or ability to get to their medical appointments without some help. Ken now drives four mornings a week delivering people to their appointments. He has driven all over the state, sometimes as far away as Brattleboro.

Ken and Kate are both active volunteers. They donate both their time and efforts working on issues and for organizations that are important to them and important to the community.

Kate arrived in East Montpelier having been a very active member in the League of Women Voters in Massachusetts. When she arrived in Vermont she found that the Montpelier Branch of the League had been dissolved in 1998. She threw herself into working for both the Montpelier and Vermont chapters and had a strong hand in bringing the Montpelier chapter back to vibrant life. The chapter was recognized as fully active in 2004 with Kate serving as its president.

Kate is proud of the work done by the League. In 2008, ground water was a major issue in East Montpelier. In response to proposals to bottle water from a spring in East Montpelier, the League conducted a study and was able to inform the debate and help local residents understand the best ways to protect our groundwater.

Kate is passionate about the role the League plays in our democracy and very articulate about the mission of the organization. She stressed to me that the League is a political organization which strives to encourage informed participation in our political life. It is nonpartisan and endeavors to inform public policy through education and advocacy. Kate is proud of the events that will be sponsored by the League prior to the election this fall. The League will be hosting a candidates' forum for Washington County Senate candidates, a debate among candidates for Lieutenant Governor, and a debate between the candidates for Washington County State's Attorney. Look for these debates on Public Access Television.

In addition to driving for the Green Mountain Transit Agency, Ken is a member of the Green Mountain Club, the group that protects and maintains the Long Trail. He is an active member in the Montpelier section of the club. He volunteers his time working with others on trail maintenance. He also leads hiking groups on outings along the trail. The club offers weekly opportunities to the public to come out for a hike and experience the pleasure of hiking the Long Trail. If you do sign up for one of these hikes (and this is a good time of year to get out into the woods and do some climbing) you may find that Ken Hertz is your guide. Recently he led a group of six up Belvidere Mountain in Lowell. Should you find yourself on a hike with Ken you will be in good hands. He stresses that as an outdoor guide his major objective is to assure the safety of all participants while facilitating a positive outdoor experience.

When I said goodbye to Ken and Kate I took home with me a bottle of Ken's homemade wine vinegar as well as Kate's recipe for baked leeks. Ken and Kate are very generous and give so much back to the community. We are lucky they have chosen our little town for their "retirement."

— Karen Saudek and her husband Richard raised their three kids in their home near E. Montpelier Center. Recently retired as director of Human Resources for ISC, she is an HR consultant.

Twin Valley Senior Center in East Montpelier

Since May, Twin Valley Senior Center has been in its new location at Blueberry Commons, 4583 Route 2 next to the Plainfield Hardware Store. All seniors are welcome from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Lunch is served at noon ($4 suggested donation) preceded by bone-building exercises.

Twin Valley Senior Center is always looking for ways to earn money to help support the center and our programs. Our new space is available to rent for parties, meetings, and other events, and we can provide catering as well.

Twin Valley Senior Center has partnered with the SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) to train anyone over age 55 in food service. SCSEP will pay a trainee who will work at TVSC while learning food preparation. So if you are 55+ and seeking employment please contact Joanne at 828-0036 or call 800-439-3307 to learn more about the position at TVSC. •

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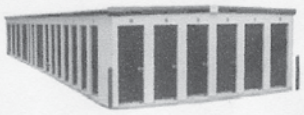

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Calendar

Sun. Nov 2, 1-3 p.m. Vermont Boiled Dinner, Twin Valley Sr. Center 4583 Rte 2, 223-3322

Mon. Nov 10, 12:15 p.m. Special Lunch for Veterans (and others), TVSC, RSVP 223-3322

Sat. Nov 15, 5 a.m.-11 a.m. Hunter & Community Breakfast, TVSC, RSVP 223-3322

Sat. Nov 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fall into Winter Fair, Orchard Valley Waldorf School, Rte 14 N, 456-7400 or www.ovws.org

Notices

Tues. Nov. 4, 7 a.m.-7:00 p.m. General Election, EMES

Mon. Nov. 10, Veteran's Day, Town Offices OPEN

Mon. Nov. 17, Property Tax installment due by 5 p.m. to avoid 1% late fee

Thur. & Fri. Nov. 27 & 28, Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office closed

Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 25 & 26, Christmas Holiday, Town Office closed

Thurs. & Fri. Jan, 1 & 2, 2015 New Year's Holiday, Town Office closed

Mon. Jan. 19, 2015 Deadline for Petitions for Town Meeting Day Articles

Mon. Jan. 26, 2015 Deadline for Petitions for Elected Positions

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	5:30 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 Building
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