

# EAST MONTPELIER SIGNPOST

Volume XXVI—Number Five

May/June 2016

## The Weeding Edge

by Marlene Betit

In 1984, eight months pregnant with their first child, Loring Starr and her husband Michael Dworkin moved to Powder Horn Glen Road in East Montpelier. Today, Loring is employed by the Office of the Legislative Council from January through mid-May. May through November Loring operates The Weeding Edge, her gardening business. In addition, Loring is Master Gardener for the Statehouse garden.

Loring attended the University of Vermont Extension Service Master Gardener course via Vermont Interactive Television. The course was excellent and provided valuable information from a variety of lecturers. The topics included garden design, pruning, building soil, and fertilizers.

Loring's previous employers include the Governor's Commission on Women, Vermont Center for Independent Living, and Vermont Institute for Science and Math Technology (VISMT). Ten years ago Loring was laid off from VISMT due to lack of funding. As she contemplated unemployment benefits, a friend asked if she would be interested in working on her

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Photo: Cheryl Ewen



Photo: Sydney Hopkins

## Ginger and Rick Hopkins

by Nona Estrin

If people make a town special, Ginger and Rick Hopkins, who've called East Montpelier their home since 1992, are a big part of what we hold dear about our town today. They seem to be everywhere, both as volunteers and in their work. I was happy to pull into their door yard on County Road one recent afternoon at dusk. Sam and Amalfi, their two dogs, came wagging out to greet me. Soon we three and the dogs were settled comfortably around the kitchen table by the wood stove, and here is what I learned.

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## Top of the *Signpost* Green Up East Montpelier



*Photo: Alex Brown*

Welcome to the 46th Green Up Day on May 7, 2016—a day that sets Vermont apart from the rest of the United States; it is a day on which we pay respect to our towns and our state. More than a political gambit, it is hard work, often dirty, performed by many hands, lending credence to the real possibility that Vermont is the most pristine state in the US. That reputation is earned in many ways, but Green Up is one reason for this accolade. It starts with two hands, a pair of gloves, and a trash bag. Spend a few hours cleaning your road and maybe the next one too.



Grab a bag from Dudley's store, the Town Office, or bring your own. Separate recyclables such as cans and bottles as you go. After collecting a few bags of trash, bring them to the East Montpelier Elementary School (EMES) parking lot between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and other volunteers will either recycle or dispose of your findings. Come rain or shine, let's do our civic duty and make East Montpelier proud!

A few pointers –

- 1) Wear bright clothing, sensible shoes, gloves, and sunscreen.
- 2) Be tick smart—wear long pants, avoid tall grass, and check for ticks when you arrive home. Contact Chris Racanelli for a copy of the “Be Tick Smart” booklet issued by the Department of Health.
- 3) Be aware of toxic and hazardous materials. Do not pick up needles or suspicious materials, especially containers with liquids still inside.
- 3) Drag heavy items to a visible spot by the side of the road and let us know the location so we can arrange pick-up.
- 4) Inform us of areas with significant trash so we can direct volunteers to these spots.
- 5) Street trash only, no hazardous waste or household litter, please!

After dropping off trash at EMES, refresh yourself with sandwiches, homemade cookies, and beverages provided courtesy of the Jean Cate Community Fund at the school cafeteria between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you are interested in contributing cookies or brownies or volunteering with the group, give Paul Cate a call at 223-6466.

As you know, Green Up Vermont is a non-profit. An easy way to support the organization is by making a tax-deductible donation. Donations can be made securely at [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org) or by sending a check to Green Up Vermont, P.O. Box 1191, Montpelier, VT 05601-1191.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Call Chris Racanelli, Green Up Coordinator, 225-6032

## Celebrate 50 years at the Old Meeting House

2016 marks the 50th anniversary since a small group of East Montpelier Center people decided to hold weekly services once again at the Old Meeting House. Richard and I were recruited to the help in this effort when we moved to East Montpelier in November 1965. On Sunday, May 22, 2016, exactly 50 years to the day of the 1966 re-opening, the OMH Sunday service will include a special service and joining ceremony in the style of the service that took place fifty years ago. The evening before, Saturday, May 21, we are hosting a celebratory dinner and show. Everyone is invited to all events. (see calendar on back for times and reservation information.)

The Old Meeting House (OMH) was built in 1823, its timber coming mainly from the grove of trees taken down to clear the site. The rock ledge on which it was erected has been a solid foundation for 193 years. The early congregation dwindled over time, and there were approximately 80 years when services were infrequent and conducted by itinerant ministers. In 1965, 43 charter members of the East Montpelier community, 13 of them alive today, decided to resurrect the church and hold weekly services once again. In order to afford this, the OMH yoked with the Old Brick Church and contributed 30 percent of the support for the minister, Reverend Reginal Illingworth, who lived in the house in North Montpelier where Celina Moore and Eric Esselstyn now reside.

In 1966, the church had no electricity, and the only heat was provided by two box stoves which had to be lighted by 5:00 a.m. in order for the sanctuary to heat up by 9:30. Everyone went to church well bundled up. Many repairs and updates occurred in the first decade. The chimney was rebuilt, plastic was installed under the floor, insulation put over the ceiling, and storm windows installed. The building was wired for electricity, and space was dug out under the church for a furnace, which still needs to be supplemented by the box stoves on very cold days. Outside, the church was scraped and repainted. The twenty-first century was kicked off by building the new Parish House, providing welcoming space for many church and community events, including showers, wedding receptions, and the Wednesday Cafe. The current pastor, the Reverend Elissa Johnk, is the ninth since 1966.



*Photo: Alex Brown*

The OMH is a special historical building, loved and cared for by its members. Its true worth, for me, lies in the church community and its values—inclusivity, nurturing everyone, especially children, supporting a broad mission, arts as a form of worship, and appreciating history while focusing on the future. Many local citizens know and appreciate OMH for wonderful concerts held in its acoustically lively sanctuary.

Fifty years ago the members of the OMH all lived within three miles of the church. Today members come from next door to many miles away. OMH thrives and grows and remains a key part of the East Montpelier community. Please help us celebrate on May 21 and 22, as we kick off the next 50 years.

*— Alice Angney and her husband, Richard, are the sole charter members of the 1966 congregation who remain active members today.*



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

### Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity is Building in East Montpelier

Volunteers (supervisors, laborers, technicians, and more) needed to build a house this spring and summer. Also seeking board members with financial skills.

Contact Debbie Goodwin, Executive Director, Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity at 802-522-8611 or [cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com](mailto:cvhfh.execdir@outlook.com)

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## Singing Together in East Montpelier



photo: Erika Mitchell

On the third Sunday evening of each month, you can hear voices raised in song at the Four Corners Schoolhouse in East Montpelier. Our monthly community singalong grew out of a community production in October 2010 which brought together neighbors of all ages and walks of life to celebrate the life and messages of Pete Seeger through song and story. Erika Mitchell and Amy Torchia emerged from that event with the commitment to continue community singalongs in the East Montpelier/Calais area, and they have been organizing and leading monthly singalongs ever since. The reason is captured best by a quote from Pete himself:

*Families can sing together; strangers can sing together;  
people who think they hate each other can sing together.*

The power of communities singing together is clearly alive in our little corner of the world. Anywhere from five to 40

people, toddlers to elders, come to sing. Monthly gatherings have included carol sings in December and a tribute to Pete after his death in 2014. The Four Corners Schoolhouse Board supports the singalongs by graciously accepting donations for use of the building.

Come sing with your neighbors on third Sundays from 6–8 p.m. at the Four Corners Schoolhouse in East Montpelier. Singalongs are relaxed and welcoming to all and guided by leaders with instruments who skillfully keep us headed in the same direction. Bring your voices (and don't worry about being on key), your *Rise Up Singing* books (there are always a few extras), and snacks to share if you wish. You'll leave feeling rejuvenated and inspired by the power of singing together!

*"Participation. That's what's going to save the human race." —Pete Seeger*

— Amy Torchia & Erika Mitchell are leaders of EM Sings.

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## Murphy's Law at Town Meeting Potluck

The annual potluck always appears to go without a hitch, so in sending thanks to all the volunteers and businesses who support this event, I thought I'd share a little of the "behind the scenes" action. This year's potluck fell into Murphy's popular adage, "whatever can go wrong, will!"

Two days before Town Meeting, I received an email from a volunteer letting me know she was out-of-state, unsure she'd be back in time to help, and would try to find a friend to replace her...and this came to pass. Thank you, Cate Wirth.

That evening, another email: Susan Olander from EMES, on vacation in California, saying she was unable to place my food order online for milk cartons, butter pats, and recyclable paper trays. Butter pats in the freezer, that would have been available, were not, because the refrigerator had not been plugged back into the right outlet for a few days and contents had to be tossed. So it was on to Dudley's for milk gallons, block butter from the walk-in freezer, and a quick decision to use EMES plastic cafeteria trays. The last choice meant there would not be enough time to recruit additional volunteers for clean-up. Thank you Paul Cate and Paul Erlbaum.

Town Meeting Day: we head to Capitol Grounds Roasters in town and load the Subaru with three large canisters of coffee, drive up Quaker Road to EMES, and start to unload. Surprise, one

of the canisters had not been secured and spilled more than half its contents in the car. Quick thinking from Rachael Grossman had me desperately finding a spot with cellphone reception to call Bob Watson, who gave us two bags of coffee beans.

Ginny Callan, working away in the kitchen an hour before lunch, asked if there was anything else that needed to be done. I said, "Yes, could you please cut the ham?" Mea culpa, and thank you Ginny!

And when it was all done and people were collecting their dishes, one dish was missing. We looked here, there, everywhere. Oh where, oh where could it be? Fifteen minutes later, found it! Tucked in a corner of the refrigerator, it had not made its way to the lunch tables. Thank goodness for our very nice neighbor who said she'd just have the dish and its contents for dinner.

So, the next time it appears that the potluck goes without a hitch, all I can say is there's more than meets the eye!

A shout of gratitude to Curdie Gardener, Carolyn Pastore, Barbara Ploof, Sandal Cate, Apple Faulkner, Rachael Grossman, Todd Hill, Brenda Clark, Steve Watson, Susan Olander, Hunger Mountain Coop, Capitol Grounds, Panera Breads, and Shaws Supermarket. It takes a village!

— Sue Racanelli, coordinator extraordinaire, provided residents, once again, with the best lunch in town.

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# May is National Mental Health Month: How to Volunteer

It happened again Monday, March 21: a mentally ill man was shot and killed by Burlington police, this time inside his own apartment. In 2001, Robert Woodward was killed by police in the Brattleboro UU church where he had retreated, weeping and begging for sanctuary, armed with a pocket knife. My husband David and I were very upset by this hair-trigger (literally) response to someone in mental distress, so when I came across a reference to Mental Health First Aid, I set out to discover what it was all about. We then volunteered to take the course.

Most of us are familiar with Red Cross first aid and may even have received some basic training. In first aid courses, we learn how to provide emergency help to injured or sick people until professional medical help arrives. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) has the same inherent goal but a more difficult task. Physical injuries are clearly evident—they arouse compassion and the urge to help. In contrast, mental illness often involves bizarre behavior, arouses fear and avoidance rather than compassion, and stigmatizes the sufferer. Thus, a major goal of mental health first aid training is to educate people: what common mental health problems are, how often they occur, and how they impact the lives of sufferers and their family, friends, and community. The training is designed not only to share knowledge and teach skills but to help participants understand more fully and be able to react with concern rather than fear to those who are experiencing such problems.

Thank goodness for the Internet and Google for pointing me to detailed information. Thanks also to Vermont's mental health service network, because they brought the national MHFA organization to Vermont in order to train mental health workers to become in-state trainers. When I looked on the website for courses near me, Lamoille County Mental Health office had scheduled a course. My husband, David, and I signed up.

The course was excellent, offered over four two-hour sessions facilitated by a psychotherapist and a social worker. My husband and I were joined by six others, most of whom worked in human services. We all received a copy of the manual, *Mental Health First Aid USA*, a 136-page volume. The sessions covered (1) overview and introduction to mental health issues in the US; (2) depression, anxiety and trauma; (3) psychotic disorders, including schizophrenia and bipolar (4) substance abuse and eating disorders. First, a video introduced and laid out details of

each topic, followed by discussion, presentation of appropriate ALGEE responses (see inset) and then role-playing an actual encounter.

I could think of a personal example or local situation for each and every session. In East Montpelier, we have lost two women to suicide within the last few months—a tragedy for their family, friends, and the whole community. How many people reacted, “How could she do this to her family?” with little or no understanding or compassion for the person who took her own life? My best friend in Ithaca has two sons diagnosed with schizophrenia. And who of us has not had friends or family members affected by substance abuse or by eating disorders?

In other words, despite the many positive aspects of East Montpelier, we all have witnessed or experienced mental health problems in our homes and community.

May is National Mental Health Month. We may go to events or watch documentaries, discuss the heroin problem, or debate marijuana legalization. We talk to our teenagers about substance abuse and consult therapists about our own issues. Beyond hearing bulletins about mental health issues one month a year and addressing our own issues, what can we do? We can

volunteer to participate in mental health first aid training.

I spoke to Laurie Pontbriand, the program director of Washington County Mental Health's Community Support Program, who co-facilitates the MHFA course in our area. Ordinarily these trainings take place in workplace settings. Luckily, the facilitators are open to working with a group of community members. The only cost is for the manual (usually \$15 but currently on sale for \$8). They do trainings on Thursdays and Fridays only and would need to have interest and commitment from at least six people (maximum group size is 15 or 16).

I will serve as the point person, so if you would be interested in participating in Mental Health First Aid training, please contact me via email at [profstanton@aol.com](mailto:profstanton@aol.com) or call 223-5321 and leave a message with your contact information. Taking the training does not require that you intervene if you see a problem, but it does mean that you will be more educated and compassionate toward mentally ill people and their family members and, in that sense, a positive contributor to our community.

—Ann Stanton is an active EM volunteer.

Ginger's family had been coming to Vermont from Virginia, where she was raised, every fall for bird hunting, and Rick had discovered skiing in Vermont while growing up in Connecticut. They met on Martha's Vineyard in 1987 when both were working there—Ginger at the *Vineyard* newspaper and Rick with the Martha's Vineyard Commission, where he got an in-depth look at land-use and water resources planning for six towns and several islands.

After meeting on a boat in late August, everything changed quickly in their lives. Ginger and Rick were engaged by Christmas of 1987 and Rick landed a job with the Vermont Agency of National Resources where he has made a lifelong career. And most importantly, he persuaded Ginger to move north with him. They were married in May of 1988 and bought a fixer-upper home in Montpelier. Rick started to car-pool to work, which he still does with more or less the same group. People have come and gone from that car pool, but my husband, Charles Johnson, was part of it for years, and I remember well the year they went to Waterbury at least once, by every possible method, bike, running, canoe, and even train. What a bunch they were. They would have roller-bladed to work, but Rick was the only one who knew how. Oh, yes, and he was still volunteering on the ski patrol at Mad River Glen during winter which he does to this day.

No moss was growing under Ginger's feet either, as she set right to work on the Montpelier house—remodeling, sanding floors, redoing walls. The twins—son Austin and daughter Sydney—were born in 1990. Ginger was part of a group of new mothers in Montpelier, making friends and getting to know the area. But their home on East State Street was beginning to feel a bit small for their growing family. After looking all over central Vermont they were thrilled to find their current home on County Road, large enough for their growing family, land for animals, move-in ready, and affordable: a fine old farm house, well cared for, with a large light-filled living room. They loved it right away. As Rick said, "We felt like we had hit the motherlode!" They packed up their family and moved to East Montpelier in the fall of 1992. Alden was born a month later, and the family was complete.

Settled in the new house, life in East Montpelier swept them along with kids, school, friends, sports, and volunteer activities. As Ginger says, "With the kids we were going, going, going. Your kids are the ones that really anchor you." She volunteered with the *Signpost* where she became friends and worked with Sylvia Tosi, Paulie Coburn, and Margaret Ritchie. By 1997 Ginger was drafted to be the part-time assistant town clerk. She also spent a number of years as secretary of the Board of Adjustment. She then served on the BOA itself, and volunteered in the PTA, the Recreation Board, and other local activities.

This is an out-of-doors family which enjoys New England camping, skiing, and many other sports. Their sense of adventure found a nice fit with sports and camping trips here and in Maine, and they have thrived on the mix.

Rick still found the energy and time to volunteer in areas close to his professional field in planning and land use with the East Montpelier Planning Commission, Cross Vermont Trail and East Montpelier Trails boards, the latter of which he and I have worked on together for years, and for MAMBA, the Montpelier Area Mountain Biking Association. He has been particularly attentive to how regulations are written and perceived at the State Agency, compared to how they are translated and enacted at the town and citizen level.

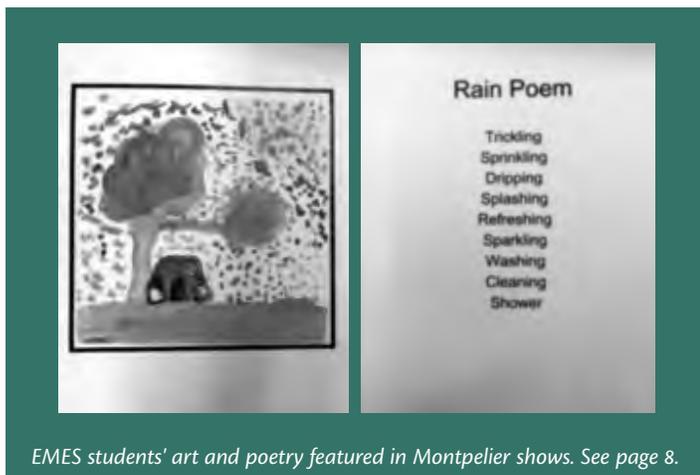
They had long dreamed of having animals on their land. After adding a new garage/barn and new fencing, they were ready for beef cows and sheep. They continue to host a few cows each spring 'til fall, providing grass for tasty treats known as "backyard" beef.

Nowadays the kids are launched: Sydney is a pre-K teacher in Boston, Austin and Alden live in Jackson, Wyoming. Austin works for a film company and Alden, newly out of college, works at a local ski shop. Ginger is both a hospice volunteer and the administrator at the Old Meeting House, where her knowledge of and interest in our town and its residents makes her a perfect fit. Rick continues to work full time at the Agency of Natural Resources and to volunteer actively following his many planning and land use interests from a variety of perspectives. This year he complemented his work on trail development when he and an old college buddy hiked the Long Trail in September in 28 days.

When asked about what they would like to see in the future, Rick described their interest in working on completing trail networks, maintaining our town's rural character while attracting more business and commerce, all while maintaining a thriving EM community.

Whatever the future brings, Ginger and Rick are powerhouses of energy for recreation, community, and friendship in East Montpelier. It was a pleasure to hear their story and enjoy Ginger's kind, thoughtful, and direct ways, and Rick's ready smile and ideas.

— Nona Estrin is a grandmother, naturalist and watercolor journalist. She and her husband, Charles Johnson, authored *In Season: A Natural History of the New England Year*. She is founder and board member of East Montpelier Trails.



EMES students' art and poetry featured in Montpelier shows. See page 8.

## Town Offices

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

**Town/Zoning Administrator:**  
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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:**  
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**Assistant Animal Control Officer:**  
Elliott Morse 839-8723

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

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

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

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Kimberly Swazey              Casey Northrup

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### Development Review Board

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Emily Goyette, egoyette@u32.org

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Lindy Johnson                      Kimberly Kendall  
Stephen Looke                      Flor Diaz-Smith

### State Representative

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twk@tonyklein.com

*The Weeding Edge, continued from page 1*

garden. This first job created a referral, and another; within two weeks Loring was earning more than the maximum unemployment compensation.

The Weeding Edge continued to grow steadily to thirty clients in central Vermont requiring Loring to hire up to five employees during the season. The primary service is maintaining gardens, i.e. planting, pruning, weeding, and fertilizing. Loring is now receiving requests for garden design, which she also enjoys (landscape design requests are referred to Jean Vissering). Some garden designs include hardscaping, i.e. pathways, stone walls, and monuments.

The challenge for Loring is obtaining skilled gardeners who are able to work a seasonal schedule. Loring has had many talented employees who have become good friends. She has formed friendships with many of her clients as well. Currently, The Weeding Edge has an impressive cadre of seasoned gardeners, many of whom have attended the Master Gardener course.

Loring's favorite perennials are peonies, New England asters, crocosmia, daffodils, and phlox. See the *Signpost* website at [emsignpost.com](http://emsignpost.com) to learn about Loring's comments and tips for growing these beauties.

We discussed dealing with garden pests. While Loring prefers organic methods, she is pragmatic and seeks a variety of effective methods. Some clients will use only organic, others a mix. See sidebar.

Loring noted gardeners often believe perennials are their only option, however, she has been inter-planting annuals to add continuous color throughout the season. Additionally, Loring has been interspersing more native bushes, vines, flowers, and trees into gardens. Future endeavors include dabbling in dahlias. Contact her at [lstarrvt@gmail.com](mailto:lstarrvt@gmail.com).

—Marlene Betit is an avid gardener who lives on Horn of the Moon Road with her husband, Ken Lorden, their two daughters, 5 dogs, and 3 goats. She is Director of Corporations and Administrative Services in the Secretary of State's office.

## Pest control

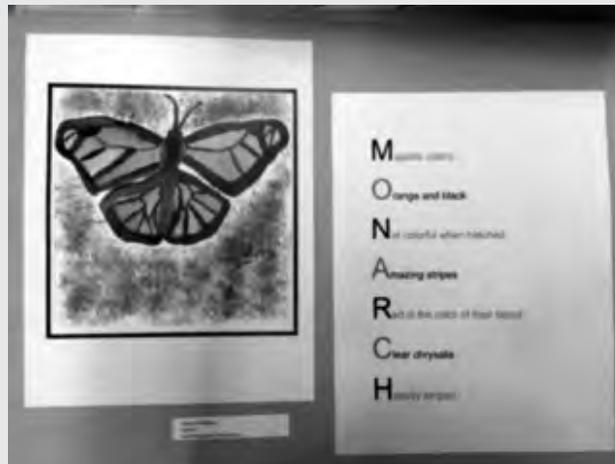
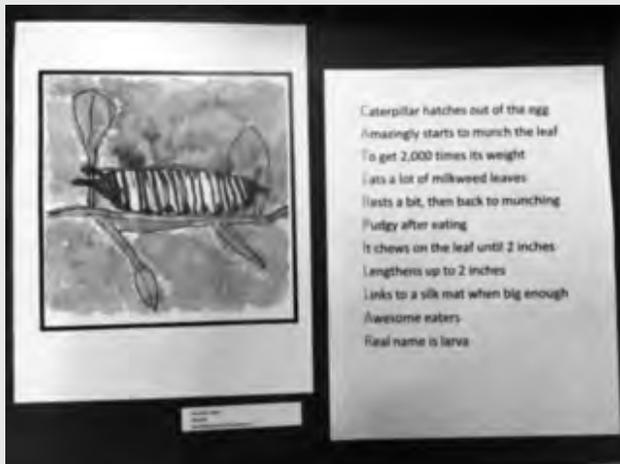
**The Red Lily Beetle** voraciously feeds on Asiatic and oriental lilies. Organic methods include daily diligence picking the beetles off plants and scraping eggs off the undersides of leaves. Some gardeners find that Neem oil (organic) is an effective pest control, however, that has not been Loring's experience. Sevin is one non-organic pest control that is very effective in controlling the Red Lily Beetle.

**Deer** – Loring maintains many shade gardens which include Hosta, and they need to be protected. Fencing can be used, although not always attractive. Loring uses an organic spray called Liquid Fence. She dilutes and sprays it around the perimeter of the garden. The first day the odorous aroma is quite strong, however, this dissipates as the spray dries. Loring reapplies monthly as potency decreases over time.

**Chewing tobacco** – made into a “tea,” this is an effective pest control for houseplants. The “tea” is prepared outside as the smell is strong.



EMES students' art and poetry



This spring saw the poetry and artwork of many East Montpelier students out in the community. Over 40 EMES students participated in PoemCity, Montpelier’s celebration of National Poetry Month. Mrs. Zeilenga’s first-grade class’s poems were featured in a Budding Poets Garden displayed at the Hunger Mountain Coop. Each of their original poems was attached to a wooden flower created by Montpelier High School students and placed outside of the Coop. When PoemCity was over at the end of April, the poems came to live in the gardens of EMES.



The original poetry and artwork of EMES fifth graders in Mrs. Shedd’s class was exhibited in the Hayes Room of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library for the month of April as well as at the 12th annual City Center art exhibition in downtown Montpelier. As in previous years, the Artist Resource Association graciously gave students from East Montpelier, Calais, and Doty Elementary Schools space from April 4th to May 7th, 2016 for their show, “... It’s Elementary Art.” All the students from Mrs. Shedd’s class contributed a watercolor image and a poem of a particular point and place in nature, or a personal experience. Other work featured came from the third and fourth grades. The reception for their work will be Friday, May 6th, 2016 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. at City Center.

We hope you got to see some of the work of EMES students at the City Center, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, or even in the windows of Woodbury Mountain Toys where the poetry of EMES fourth graders was featured. In all, the poetry and artwork of nearly 60 students was displayed in Montpelier this spring. Congratulations to these young artists!

— Michelle Singer is co-coordinator of PoemCity 2016 and an active EM volunteer.

### Don’t Forget Those Taxes

The second installment of the 2015–16 property taxes is due no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 16, at the Town Office. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 13, to give more time for in-person payments. You may make payments by **1)** credit/debit card (3 percent convenience charge) or **2)** eCheck (\$1.50 convenience charge) from your computer by accessing the Town’s website [eastmontpeliervt.org](http://eastmontpeliervt.org).

- Use the ‘Make Payment’ tab, select ‘Noble Pay Portal’ and follow instructions.
- Using the link near the bottom of the page, you will be directed to the submission page.
- At the top of this page, you will see a place to enter your tax payment amount. As soon as you enter your card number, the convenience charge amount (approximately 3 percent of your payment) will be calculated, at which time you can decide whether to continue, or not.
- Under ‘Select Payment Method’, you may select the eCheck option for direct withdrawal from your specified account. The convenience fee for this option is a flat \$1.50. Be sure to enter your ‘Parcel Number’ just below the card/account information.

— Don Welch, Town Treasurer (223-3313 ext 207)

## Always Busy

The East Montpelier Trails board sends a huge “thank you” to the voters for once again approving funds for trail construction and improvement projects. Top of the work list for this summer is the construction of moveable boardwalks on the new Clark Trail. These will provide protection for the delicate wet soils on the approach to the new bridge, our connection to the U-32 trail network. The boardwalks need to be moveable to allow for passage of the U-32 ski trail groomer. We are all counting on a colder, snowier winter next year so that we can ski on the new loop the U-32 ski team roughed out last fall. In the meantime, please

note that the trail is not yet complete and will be closed during wet conditions. This trail is not ready for bicycle traffic.

We will also be extending the new section of the Mallory Brook Trail and improving parking at the Cherry Tree Hill

access point. Be on the lookout for signs on how to access the trail from the Johnson Road parking area. The field at the start of the trail will be used as a log landing sometime during the year, and we will provide instruction on how to safely enter the trail.

Another project long overdue is a trail map update. This is a work in progress and we will post the new map and trail description on our website. We are making new signs and placing them in locations where it is particularly difficult to follow the trail.

We had a wet summer last year, but we were very fortunate to avoid a serious deluge such as the two floods that hit in the summer of 2011. Those events caused major damage to several sections of our trail network, and were very expensive to repair. Our goal is to establish a recovery fund so that we are ready when the next natural disaster hits the trail.

We are grateful to the many trail users who make occasional or annual personal donations to our construction and maintenance costs, and to the folks who come out to help with projects. We always have a list of jobs, light or heavy, ready for our annual National Trail Day, always the first Saturday in June. This year it is June 4 and you can visit our website at [emtrails.org](http://emtrails.org) to download a map, get on our volunteer mailing list, or contact us. In the meantime, take a hike today, and send us your trail photos!



— Mary Stone is an active member of EMTI.

## Town Weathervane

### MILESTONES

#### Births

- Hayden Robert Reed, son, born Aug 12, 2015, to Emily & James Reed
- Alden Cameron Leon, son, born Dec 15, 2015, to Maria & Bennet Leon
- Lincoln David Premont, son, born Dec 30, 2015, to Jessica Hutchins & Craig Premont
- Sebastian Matthew Brown, son, born Feb 1, 2016, to Julie & Robert Brown
- Anna Ruth Renner, daughter, born Feb 22, 2016, to Kristin & James Renner

#### Deaths

- Wayne Mailhotte died Jan 22, 2016
- Ananda Wall died Feb 25, 2016, mother of Lucy Ferrada

#### Marriages

- Gary Kreis & Andrea Hussey, Feb 14, 2016
- David Huck & Celeste Beyer, Feb 27, 2016

#### Property Transfers

- James Shea to Harriott Shea, single family dwelling & 10.21 acres, Old Trail Rd
- Sarah Thompson to Norman Carter, single family dwelling, farm buildings & 23.7 acres, Templeton Rd
- Mark Sargent & Marcia Hall to Matthew Swenson, single family dwelling & 5.5 acres, Brazier Rd
- David & Enid Angstreich to Angstreich Family Trust, mobile home & 1.34 acres, Fair Rd
- Stephen & Lola Clarke to Kevin, Corey & Kristopher Clark, single family dwelling & 0.88 acres, Quaker Hill Rd
- Elaine Manghi Buck to Seth Gardner, 50.69 acres open land, Markham Rd
- Timothy Bingham to David Hill & Linda Wheatley, mobile home & 1 acre, Rock Rd
- Simone Fitzgerald to Simone, Matthew, Thomas & Mark Fitzgerald, Louise Lynch, Christina Schumacher & Laurie Daniels single family dwelling & 2.7 acres, Maplewood Rd
- William Craig to Riley E. Craig Trust, single family dwelling & 26 acres, North St
- Lisa Rice to Casey Wolf & Barbara Eniti, 3.01 acres open land, Old Farm Rd
- Allen & Barbara Ploof to Allen, Barbara, Randall & William Ploof, single family dwelling & 3.6 acres, Barnes Rd
- William & Mary Porter to William Porter & Mary Porter Revocable Family Trust, single family dwelling & 90.07 acres, Cherry Tree Rd
- Stephen & Deborah Gilbert to Andrew & Marianne Perchlik, mobile home & 2.5 acres, VT14N
- Susan Tarshis to Susan Tarshis & Julie Blackwell, single family dwelling & 7.2 acres, VT14

Thank you, *Signpost* supporter

Elaine Manghi Manchu

## Selectboard

### January 18, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to interpret the resolution creating a Development Review Board to mean that any Planning Commission member who is not a member to the DRB is ex officio and alternate member to the DRB
- to adopt the amended FY17 capital planning budget
- to approve the FY17 budget as presented
- to set the warning for the 2016 Town Meeting

### February 15, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to authorize the purchase of the Mack truck with the Tenco body, an extended warranty, and the trade-in, as presented
- to authorize chair, Seth Gardner, to sign the Agreement for Planning Services with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to complete a Village Master Plan
- to authorize Town Treasurer, Don Welch, to open a savings account on behalf of the Town of East Montpelier at North Country Federal Credit Union. Signatories on the account shall be: Town Treasurer Don Welch, Town Clerk Terri Conti, Municipal Assistant Denise Brown, Town Administrator Bruce Johnson.
- to authorize Treasurer Welch to use \$21,500 of the initial deposit to take out a NCFCU certificate of deposit on such terms as he deems appropriate with a maximum of two years

### February 29, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to adopt Obligor Resolution (Exhibit D) authorizing taking of loan from KS State Bank for the purchase of a new 2017 Mack 10-Wheeler
- to go into executive session and to invite Planning Commission Chair, Jean Vissering, into the session

## Planning Commission

### January 21, 2016 — Motions made:

- to file a motion to intervene in the BDE EM Lazar Solar project
- to accept the BDE EM Lazar Solar project motion to intervene letter and amend at this meeting
- to accept the draft of the East Montpelier Signpost article as amended

### February 4, 2016 — Motions made:

- to approve the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission "Proposed Scope of Work" with the amendments discussed
- to authorize the chair to sign the Agreement for Planning Services by and between the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont

### March 3, 2016

- the chair congratulated the newly re-elected commissioners.
- with regard to the application of BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC (500 KW solar array on the Cassani property on south end of EM Village) for a certificate of public good from the Vermont Public Service Board the following motions were passed:



photo: Gary Ann Lewis

- to find that because this case is in a negotiations phase and that premature general public knowledge of the town's contract with BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC would place this board at a substantial disadvantage, this case should be discussed in executive session
- to enter into executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the town's contract with BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC under the provisions of Title I, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont statutes
- after exiting executive session at 8:35 p.m. to reject the terms and conditions of the draft proposal of BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC

### — Other motions passed:

- to appoint Ray Stout as the PC representative to the Laperle Farm Study Committee
- to appoint Kim Watson as PC representative on the Capital Improvement Committee

## Development Review Board

### February 2, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to accept Application #15-040 as presented by Armand J. Laquerre
- to approve the conditional use permit #16-001 with the square footage amendment

## EMES School Board

### January 18, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to approve the 2016-17 budget recommended by the Administration for a total of \$4,176,552. This motion passed with three in favor and two opposed
- to approve the Town Meeting Warning as presented
- to set the tuition rate for EMES at \$19,322.00 for fiscal year 2016-17

## U-32 School Board

### January 6, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to approve the FY17 Budget Draft #4
- to approved the U-32 School District warning as presented

### January 20, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to approve the use of ballot counting equipment for the U-32 School District voting

### February 3, 2016 — Motions passed:

- to go into executive session at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a student hearing. The board came out of executive session at 6:35 p.m. by consensus
- to set the U-32 tuition rate for 2016-17 at \$16,557.00
- to transfer \$41,573 from the fund balance to the general fund for unanticipated HVAC repairs
- to approve the end of year retirement of Vicky Palmer and part time resignation of Erin Galligan-Baldwin

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## CALENDAR

**Sat May 7**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Green Up Day drop off, EMES

**Sat May 7**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. free luncheon for Green Up Volunteers, EMES

**Sat May 7**, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sweet 'n Savory Pie Breakfast, Trinity Methodist Church, sponsored by Orchard Valley School

**Sat May 14**, Mayfest, community celebration of spring, Orchard Valley School, free

**Mon May 16**, The history of No. 10 Pond in Calais; "Cannon Balls and Drownings." Calais Recreation Center 6 p.m. for pot luck dinner.

**Sat May 21**, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Old Meeting House, dinner 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. show at 6:30. By donation. Dinner reservations required: 498-5562.

**Sun May 22**, 9:30 a.m. Commemorative service, Old Meeting House

**Sun May 22**, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Second Annual Spring Gala and Silent Auction, Vermont College of Fine Arts' Gallery, to benefit the Orchard Valley School. For tickets and information, go to: [www.ovws.org](http://www.ovws.org)

**Sat June 4**, National Trail Day, workday on EM Trails, go to: [www.emtrails.org](http://www.emtrails.org)

**Wed June 8**, Senior Community Outreach Project 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. U-32 students will do chores for EM residents needing some help. No job too large or small. Contact us at 229-0321 ext 5991 or [u32scop@gmail.com](mailto:u32scop@gmail.com) and leave a message.

**Sat & Sun June 18 & 19**, EM Historical Society has a booth at the History Expo in Tunbridge all day from 10:00 – 5:00 p.m. For more information go to: [www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.eastmontpelierhistoricalsociety.org).

*Please see [www.emsignpost.com](http://www.emsignpost.com) for a list of recurring committee meetings.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Mon May 16**, no later than 5p.m. Town Office, taxes due to avoid penalty (see page 8 for details on payment options)

**Mon May 30**, Memorial Day, Town Office closed

**Mon July 4**, Independence Day, Town Office closed

*The deadline for the next issue of the Signpost is June 1*